Adjutant’s Report

By Galen Ewing

The Civil War Encampment will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22. The Holmes Brigade, 4th Missouri Cavalry, Western Bluecoats Field Hospital, and 3rd Kansas Light Artillery, Battery B will be here providing Living History and Historic Weapon's Demonstrations. In addition, for this year’s Special Event, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. retired park historian Arnold Schofield will present a program on General James Lane’s Frontier Guard. We could use some assistance with counting visitors and event support from our park volunteers. If you would like to help, give me a call at 620-223-0310.

Small arms training will be on Sunday, April 8 and Artillery training on Sunday, April 15. Both trainings will begin at 1 p.m. Contact me if you are interested in any of these trainings.

On another note regarding the warmer weather, we have set up a day for digging dandelions in our park. Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 31 from 830 am – 12 pm. Call Museum Technician Tiffiny Durham at 620-223-0310 if you can assist.
News From the Bear’s Den

By Barak V. Geertsen

Greetings everyone. Looks like spring will soon be upon us. I just must say that the groundhog was right. He saw his shadow and since then we have had many days of cold weather and a few ice storms since then.

For those of you who had not heard, Holly Baker left Fort Scott for an internship in the legislative affairs office in Washington, DC. Until we get a permanent chief of interpretation back in, I am acting until the end of May, and then Galen resumes those duties starting June 1.

We have been working on seasonal hiring and we have three returning seasonals this year. Paul Goodman, Ryan O’Connell, and Skip Thomas. Ryan and Paul were both here last summer season and Skip, well everyone knows Skip, or they should. He has been working here seasonally since 2008 and has volunteered for a number of years prior to that. We are pleased that they are all coming back; they will all be starting in April, just in time for school programs.

Speaking of school programs, we could still use some volunteers to help with logistics, (greeting buses, etc.). We have our stations covered with staff and volunteers: Matt Wells, Reed Hartford, and Rondi Anderson will all be helping us with stations. Thank you so much in advance. Education program dates this year are April 27, May 3, 4, 10 and 11.

Dottie and Tiffiny have been working on Good Ol’ Days programming. Our theme is the Great Outdoors. So far, we have raptors coming to the event; between three-five live birds of prey will be on display, so you might want to leave your pet mice at home. We will also have an archery range set up, a storyteller to provide insight and entertainment, and Buddy the Bison will be making an appearance for a photo op with the kids and all those who are kids at heart. We are waiting to hear back on other programs for that event.

One more item of note, I guess I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the volunteers who participated in and won the community’s Dancing with the Stars competition in February. If I remember right, the team consisted of Matt Wells, Tim Wells, Barrett Young, Wyatt Keyes, Bridger Keyes, Frankie Ruggero, Brett Dawson, and Scott Allen. Good job, guys. Also thanks to Dee Young for organizing the dance team.

Well that’s about all I have for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at our spring and summer events.

Safety Sense

By Galen Ewing

Smoke Alarms

Three out of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Test your smoke alarms every month and replace the battery at least once a year. If the alarm makes a “chirping” sound, replace it immediately.
Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom and in the common areas on each floor of a home. Mount them at least 10 feet from the stove to reduce false alarms, less than 12 inches from the ceiling and away from windows, doors and ducts.

Smoke alarms can be interconnected wirelessly. That means, when one sounds, they all sound. A Consumer Product Safety Commission survey found this is the best way to notify everyone in a home if there is a fire. Be sure to purchase smoke alarms with the label of a reputable testing agency, like Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Anything that burns fuel can potentially become a source of carbon monoxide, an invisible, odorless gas that can kill. CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each bedroom and on every level of the home. The safety tips for CO detectors mirror those of smoke alarms: change the batteries, test them and interconnect them, if possible.

Also, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove and furnace) are free and clear of snow or debris.

Article courtesy of the National Safety Council

Good Ol’ Days Volunteers Needed

Fort Scott National Historic Site will be participating in the annual town Good Ol’ day’s parade and celebration. We are in need of volunteers to help out with the Parade on Friday, June 1, 2018 at 6:00 pm. In addition we are looking for help with various tasks on Saturday, June 2 from 8:00 am in the morning until 4:30pm. If interested in helping out Fort Scott NHS for one or both of these events, please contact Dottie Messer or Tiffiny Durham. Email: dottie_messer@nps.gov or tiffiny_durham@nps.gov Phone: 620-223-0310

Friends of Fort Scott, Inc.

By Reed Hartford

The first quarter of 2018 have been full and busy for our organization. In March the Friends again sponsored a team for the Rotary’s “Dancing with Our Stars” event. Prior to the event we baked 22 dozen “King Cake” cupcakes as fundraiser. Our fundraising table the evening of the event, with several prize drawings, was a success. In total we raised over $680, and our team received the “Judges Choice” trophy.

As part of the fundraising, Landmark Bank donated to the Friends a print of the water color painting “Fort Scott Soldier” by Dean Mitchell. The painting artistically depicts a member for the First Kansas Colored Regiment. The painting was offered in a silent auction. The winning bidder donated the print back to the Friends. During the March Board meeting it was decided to mat and frame the print and donate it to the National Historic Site.

Our annual “Friends Fest” is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 at the Liberty Theatre. The program this year will be Randy Otto portraying Winston Churchill. The doors open at 6pm. Tickets are available at the Fort Scott Area Chamber of Commerce.
The Friends cordially invite you to the Civil War Camp Dance on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 7 pm to 10 pm at Historic Memorial Hall in Fort Scott, KS. Come dressed in 1860s Civil War/western/pioneer attire. Long trains, spike heels, hobnails/heel-plates, spurs/swords/side-arms, pipes/cigars/chewing tobacco, and liquor are **prohibited**. Refreshments include cookies, punch, and cold water. **For dance information contact Dee Young at:** 913-557-1632, 913-269-1632, or waynendeyoung@hughes.net. Find us on Facebook at Fort Scott NHS “Friends” Grand Ball.

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**Civil War Encampment, April 21 & 22, 2018**

The schedule of activities is listed below:

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21**

9:00 a.m. – Flag Raising  
10:00 a.m. – Cavalry Drill  
11:00 a.m. – Infantry Drill and Weapons Demonstration  
12:00 p.m. – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration  
1:00 p.m. – Guided Tour  
2:00 p.m. – Infantry Drill and Weapons Demonstration  
3:00 p.m. – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration  
4:00 p.m. – Flag Retreat  
6:30 p.m. – Lane’s Frontier Guard

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22**

9:00 a.m. – Flag Raising  
10:00 a.m. – Church Service  
11:00 a.m. – Bake House Demonstration  
12:00 p.m. – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration  
1:00 p.m. – Cavalry Drill  
2:00 p.m. – Infantry Drill and Weapons Demonstration  
3:00 p.m. – Artillery Drill and Weapons Demonstration