

# Fitchburg Historical Society



HISTORY IS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

MAY 2008

## FHS SOCIETY NEWS

The Annual Meeting for the Fitchburg Historical Society was held on February 24, 2008. During the business meeting an election was held for positions on the Board of Directors. The board for 2008 consists of twelve members: Richard Blaney, Laverne Brummel, Richard Eggleston, Kathleen Harty, Adrienne Imilkowski, Carole Kinney, Winnie Lacy, Janet Maves, Ann O'Brien, Diane Reynolds Muriel Stoneman, and Roger Tesch. The program for the meeting featured stories and pictures of WWII. Members and guests shared tales about their experiences during those troubled times. The make-do attitude displayed by the storytellers exemplified the solidarity of the time. Al Bach and his wife, Elsie, had been married the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Their stories were at once humorous and poignant. Richard Blaney told of employees at Blaney Seed Farm who went off to war and how he has recently made contact with their families. Other attendees reminisced about Block Wardens, rationing, what their parents did for the war effort, prisoners of war camps, and many other things. The next general meeting will be held in October.

## FITCHBURG IS 25

Fitchburg as a city is 25 years old! As a community it is much older, having been established as the Township of Greenfield in the 1830s. The name Fitchburg came several years later in the mid 1850s. Although city status was granted in 1983, several years of pros and cons went on before it became a reality. The FHS display case at the Community Center is being changed to depict this. Newspaper articles outlining the trials and tribulations of becoming a fourth class city are highlighted.

The City of Fitchburg is doing several things to celebrate the occasion. Banners were hung along major thoroughfares earlier this spring. A lapel pin has been designed and is being distributed to Fitchburg employees, Council members, committee personnel, and various other people. The Fitchburg Historical Society has been given a number of these pins to distribute to their members. If you would like one please contact one the Board of Directors to make arrangements to receive one.



The City of Fitchburg is planning several events throughout the year to commemorate the occasion. They have already sponsored Fitchburg Days, which included trolley rides that pointed out Fitchburg's origins. FHS members narrated the trips. Memorial Day was observed at the Fallen Soldier Statue at Gorman Wayside. Interviews with former Mayors will be televised on FACT cable channel and an ice cream social will be held in conjunction with a Farmers Market in August. Fitchburg will participate in the Good Neighbors Parade in Middleton, business appreciation luncheon will be held in late summer, and the Fire Department Open House will include 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary displays. Last but not least the October meeting of the FHS will center on the progression of Fitchburg from Township to City.

## WHERE WE HAVE BEEN SEEN

Several FHS members staffed a table on the Capitol Square during a recent Farmers Market.

The event was sponsored by the Dane County Historical Society. It was a cold day and only a few people stopped to look at our brochures but the consensus of the other societies represented thought it might be to the various societies' advantage to plan joint efforts to spread the word about local historical societies.

The Fitchburg Historical Society joined other groups on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> in the Cultural Tent at Fitchburg Days. Many people stopped and checked our table and purchased the two history books which feature Fitchburg. A video presentation of early Fitchburg ran during the day. On Sunday three trolley tours of Fitchburg took people through the city looking at historic spots from the past. Those who took advantage of the tours were very pleased with what they saw and learned of Fitchburg.



FITCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
c/o Fitchburg City Hall  
5520 Lacy Road  
Fitchburg WI 53711

## AROUND THE AREA

Here are some activities occurring around the area in the upcoming months.

- Concerts in the Park The second Monday of June, July, and August. 6:30 McKee Farms Park
- Dane County Historical Society Annual Meeting June 7 MATC Downtown Center. "I Remember Central High School"
- Attic Angels Parade of Homes with the Dean House of the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society open for refreshments June 23
- Local History Convention and Historic Preservation Conference Sept. 26 and 27, Radisson Hotel Madison WI
- October 26 General Meeting of the Fitchburg Historical Society, Fitchburg Community Center.

