

# PRESERVE PELLA

November 2014

Volume Twenty Two

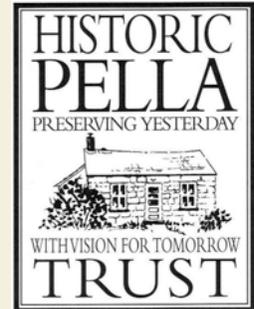
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## Pella wins prestigious national Outstanding Achievement Award for Heritage Preservation



### 2014 AMERICA IN BLOOM AWARDS

On October 4 in Philadelphia, PA, the America Bloom Awards were announced and the city of Pella received a 4 bloom rating and a prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award for its efforts in the area of Heritage Preservation. This national award is given to only one AIB participant each year.

Leslie Pittenger and Bruce Riggs, two specially trained AIB judges, visited towns of similar populations and spent two days touring each town, meeting municipal officials, residents, and volunteers. Other competitors in the 10,001 to 15,000 population category were Coshocton, OH; Morro Bay, CA; and Washington, MO.

### ON-THE-SPOT RECOGNITION

The America In Bloom judges visited the city of Pella on July 14 and 15 to evaluate Pella's residential, commercial, municipal, schools, institutions, and historical sites. Wayne Stienstra, Historic Pella Trust Board Member, and Melynda Van Zee, Historic Pella Trust Executive Director, led a tour for the judges of various historical sites the Trust has worked to preserve.

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*Outstanding Achievement Award for Heritage Preservation from America In Bloom*



*America In Bloom Judges Visit Tuttle Cabin*

*Only one city  
from the nation  
across all  
population sizes  
was given this  
award.*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ENTIRE  
COMMUNITY OF PELLA FOR THEIR HARD  
WORK, DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION.**

## A Letter from Our President:

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST PRESIDENT: BOB ZYLSTRA

The past few months have brought changes at the Historic Pella Trust. With sadness our board has accepted the resignation of Melynda Van Zee as she prepares to relocate with her family in the next few months. The board is very appreciative of all of Melynda's contributions during her brief tenure. We wish the very best for Melynda and her family. HPT is very pleased to announce the selection of our new Executive Director, Lynn (Hinga) Branderhorst. Lynn brings extensive experience in working with non-profit organizations and a passion to help maintain Pella's distinctive historic

charm. She will fully assume her duties the week of November 10, 2014.

All of us at the HPT board are excited with the work done by the Historic District ad hoc committee and their presentation to the Pella City Council. We are eagerly anticipating the remaining steps to put in place a new ordinance that will create the first official historic district in the City of Pella, the Collegiate Historic District. Two of our board members, Jim Mansueto and Rhonda Kermode, were actively involved on the ad hoc committee.

The HPT work to restore the old G.F. Stegeman Store at 1110 Washington and convert it to our new Historic Pella Trust office has gone slowly this summer. Next steps involve redoing the footing for the northwest corner of the house, replacing the west roof and rebuilding the northeast porch.

You are invited to visit our website ([www.historicpellatruster.org](http://www.historicpellatruster.org)) or stop by most mornings and meet Lynn at our offices at 615 Main Street.

Het aller beste, Bob Zylstra

### A Note from Executive Director: Melynda Van Zee

I would like to thank each one of you who have made my time as the Executive Director of the Historic Pella Trust such a memorable experience. My husband has recently accepted a new job and this fall my family and I will be relocating. The last year and a half that I have served as the Executive

Director of the HPT has been a rich and educational experience. I've been delighted to work closely with so many interesting people who make Pella the special place that it is. It has truly been a joy for me to serve as the Executive Director of the Trust.

I want to encourage each of you to consider supporting the efforts of the Trust- join or renew your membership, offer to volunteer, and make every effort to do your part in preserving this beautiful community.

### A Note from New Executive Director: Lynn Hinga Branderhorst

I am delighted to accept the position of Executive Director for the Historic Pella Trust. I grew up in Pella and spent many a Saturday standing beside my mother at estate auctions. In

those years, I learned to love not only the possessions and rituals that define life for this city's residents, but also for the historic homes that have sheltered Pella families for generations.

I am honored to have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the community that I call home.

## RHONDA RESTORES BY: RHONDA KERMODE

If you enjoy history and architecture, it's easy to get excited about historic preservation. There is a wealth of information about preservation and many communities where it is occurring. Some people believe that historic preservation is impractical. I've learned that my feelings about preservation are really not that impractical. The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office has documented the other side of the story: "National studies demonstrate that historic property rehabilitation projects do the following:

- *Save Costs: It costs 4 percent less to rehabilitate an older building than to construct a new one. If demolition of an older building is required before construction of a new one, the savings can be as much as 16 percent.*
- *Create more jobs, because it is labor intensive.*
- *Use local suppliers, stimulating local markets.*
- *Result in attractive buildings, creation of commercial space or housing, attract new residents and businesses, and increase visits, business, sales and tax revenues.*

- *Contribute to the revitalization of traditional commercial and residential areas that were once part of 'walking communities'."*



The Historic Pella Trust has undertaken a project to define Pella's first historic district. Once the work is completed, this district will be eligible for placement on the National Historic Registry. The houses in the district have fascinating stories. So, if the houses were lost, we would still have the stories, right? Yes, we would. However, one of the stories the houses have in common is that the Dutch didn't build Pella to look just like their homeland. They incorporated some Dutch design into architectural styles that were popular in America at the time. This area provides tangible evidence of American housing with a Dutch flair. It shows the progression of housing styles and tastes from 1856 to 1956. That's 100 years of Dutch heritage and that is something for people to see!

## Historic Preservation District Update: Jim Mansueto, HPT Vice-President

Recently, a group of homeowners came to the Historic Pella Trust with concerns over the demolition of homes along a section of Main Street. The homeowners were worried about what may be built in place of the family homes that had lined the street and what affect it might have on the fabric of their neighborhood and home values.

These homeowners reside in the area bordered by Main, West 1<sup>st</sup>, Union, and Independence Streets --the area the HPT is working to get designated as the Historic Collegiate District. After surveying the neighborhood, HPT found nearly 75% of the people were open to having their neighborhood considered as a historic preservation district with construction and development guidelines for the area.

In February, a group of citizens and HPT presented the concept of a historic preservation district to the Pella City Council. The council gave the approval for the formation of an ad-hoc committee to research and draft a possible ordinance for Council's consideration. The ad-hoc committee consisted of HPT members Rhonda Kermode and Jim Mansueto as well as Patsy Cody, Bruce Schiebout, Derek Bradfield, and Julio Chiarella. The committee met a total

eight times over a period of five months and with the help of city staff drafted a proposed ordinance that would:

- *Create a Historic Preservation Commission to promote historic preservation and to safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage through the preservation of buildings, sites and districts of historic and cultural significance.*
- *Create a council that would be responsible for reviewing and issuing certificates of appropriateness for construction requiring a building permit, if a historic overlay district is adopted by the city.*
- *Refine preliminary design guidelines that were outlined and developed by the ad-hoc committee.*

The HPT will be very involved in the next steps in the process. Before the proposed ordinance can be taken to the city council, 60% of the homeowners in the proposed district must approve of the guidelines being developed for the area. HPT will launch a series of educational meetings for members of this neighborhood as well as any Pella resident interested in preserving the historic character of their neighborhoods.

Please stay tuned to future announcements made by the HPT as we undertake this important initiative to preserve Pella's historic buildings and neighborhoods.

# 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF HISTORIC PELLA TRUST

## 2014 HPT ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT PELLA OPERA HOUSE

The Historic Pella Trust hosted the 2014 Annual Meeting and the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Trust on Thursday, September 11 at the Pella Opera House.

Horse-drawn Trolley Tours of Collegiate Historic District led by HPT board member, Rhonda Kermode, toured through the streets and past the historic homes of Pella's first Historic District.

An evening program was held featuring presenters on a variety of topics important to preserving Pella. Bruce Boertje shared 20 historic Pella postcards from his collection in honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trust. Will Page, Des Moines historian, shared architectural information about the homes in the Collegiate Historic District and the Tuttle Log House. Wayne Stienstra presented about the process of the ongoing restoration at 1110 Washington.



*Tours of the Collegiate Historic District, presentations of historic preservation awards and a delicious meal were highlights of the celebration.*



The 2014 Restoration Awards and Architectural Significance Awards were presented to local property owners.

## 2014 RESTORATION AWARDS



*Tom & Karla Steven  
315 Franklin St.*



*Lila Turnbull  
401 Union St.*



*Bruce & Gina Jansen  
200 E. 9th St.*



*Linda Petit  
408 Main St.*



*Kent & Valerie Van Kooten, Colin & Auburn Van Kooten  
412 Lincoln St.*



*Jim & Jan Vanden Berg  
917 N. Main St.*



*Arnold & Nancy Gritters  
600 E. Third St.*



*Arlyn & Cherilyn Klyn  
805 W. Third St.*

2014 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AWARDS



Ken & Joan Haman  
707 Union St.



Bill & Florence Slycord  
314 Washington



Vince & Vicky Klyn  
1337 Main St.



Jocelyn De Jong  
514 W. 1st. St.



Roy & Jeanetta DeHaan  
907 University



Dale & Evelyn Baarda  
1826 Washington



Larry & Patricia Plate  
1000 Broadway

A quilt commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the HPT and featuring 10 historic Pella properties was on display. The quilt was won by Duane Rempe.



Horse-Drawn Trolley Tours

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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The America in Bloom judges were taken on a driving tour of Pella's Collegiate Historic District, the Strawtown area, the Rock House, the Soul Sleeper Church and the central business district. The judges were also able to take interior tours of the home at 925 Broadway and the Tuttle Log House.

While the judges were in Pella in July, the Historic Pella Trust was awarded an "on-the-spot" Door Hanger award from the America In Bloom thanking the Trust for the exceptional quality, beauty, and care of their properties.

On October 4 in Philadelphia, PA, top honors for the prestigious 2014 America in Bloom national awards program were announced at the annual awards ceremony with Pella awarded the prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award in Heritage Preservation. Only one city from the nation across all population sizes was given this award.

The judges said, "Congratulations to everyone in Pella on earning a four-bloom award in just your first year of participation in America in Bloom. We were very impressed by many of the things that are being done in Pella and look forward to seeing what you do in future years. Your city, staff, and volunteers deserve recognition for what has been completed and all the hard work we observed."

# PRESERVE PELLA

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FROM:

HISTORIC PELLA TRUST

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## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Historic Pella Trust Membership Renewals for 2015 are underway now. We'd love to keep you updated on the current activities of the Trust. Your support is crucial for us to continue the work of preserving and protecting the rich architectural resources of Pella. We deeply appreciate your support. Please complete the form in the membership brochure included with this newsletter and mail it with your contribution to the Historic Pella Trust office.

Historic Pella Trust  
PO Box 1  
Pella, IA 50219

## KEEP IN TOUCH ALL YEAR

**EMAIL:** If you would like to be added to our email list so you receive current updates, please send your email address to us at [office@historicpellatrust.org](mailto:office@historicpellatrust.org).

**ONLINE:** For ongoing and up to date information (including historic Pella photos), follow us on Facebook at [HistoricPellaTrust](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricPellaTrust) or on Twitter [@HistoricPella](https://twitter.com/HistoricPella).