

GCHS Newsletter—September 2017

Dear Friends,

This is an exciting month!

Next Tuesday we'll resume our monthly meetings. We'll present "Exploring the National Parks of Arkansas," at **noon, Tuesday, September 19**, at the Garland County Library.

This introduction to the National Park Service (NPS) units of Arkansas reveals the difference between a National Park, National Military Park, National Memorial, and National Historic Site—all of which Arkansas has, as well as a National River. Hot Springs National Park Guide Kary Goetz will explain when and why each NPS unit in Arkansas was established and show images from historic records and scenic vistas at each site.

On Friday, Orval Allbritton, our beloved author and volunteer, wielded the shovel at a ceremonial groundbreaking for the expansion to the archives building. He, needless to say, did so splendidly! Actual construction will begin next week, but the archives will stay open, as usual, 9 – 1 pm, Monday through Friday.

As you know, GCHS has run out of room to house and protect its irreplaceable photos, documents, and artifacts at the archives building. The expansion project will add more archival storage space, create a larger reading/research room, and add a clean fire-suppression system for archival areas. We're very grateful to the Oaklawn Foundation for its generous \$200,000 expansion grant, which will fund about two-thirds of the project.

We'll be reaching out to the community this fall for help with the rest of the funds needed. Part of that effort is a fundraising party that Visit Hot Springs is kindly hosting for us. So please save this event on your calendar: **Wednesday, October 18, 4 – 6pm**, Room 207, Convention Center. That's the time and place of our "**Make Room For History**" **Expansion Party**.

The party will be a lot of fun. It will feature an exhibit of photos and memorabilia of famed mid-century local architect I. Granger McDaniel, an exhibit of gaming artifacts from our gambling era, a terrific silent auction, and more!

If you have any items to donate to the silent auction, please get in touch or come by the archives. We have some historical items that have been donated, along with art work, gift certificates, and gift baskets, but we need more. Thank you for your help—anything that people might want to bid on would be very much appreciated! (Donations of objects are tax deductible.)

Please help us spread the word about the expansion drive as we reach out to the community for donations. The society will acknowledge all donors in next year's issue of

its journal, *The Record*. Those who give \$250 or more, \$1,000 or more, or \$5,000 or more will have pavers or plaques acknowledging their contributions installed at the archives.

So many people, like wonderful supporters like you, have brought the society a long way since 1960. Thank you for helping us move forward as we preserve the past.

Sincerely,
Liz

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Leave a legacy. Please remember GCHS in your estate planning.