

Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 4, No. 8; Summary of Kasson Alliance for Restoration Activities in 2010

Kasson Alliance for Restoration

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(Now accepting donations online at the above website)

December 26, 2010, Kasson, MN

Dear Friends, Members, and Supporters of KARE,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you. The non-profit Kasson Alliance for REstoration (KARE) had a very successful year in 2010. The organization continues to grow and prosper. This is a look at the year in review:

January 2010: KARE elected a new board of directors. Melanie Leth, Karen McClamroch and Margaret (Maggie) Lien were welcomed as new board members while Diane O'Brien Berge and Lorraine Spading were re-elected. A number of board advisors were also appointed to further strengthen our citizen advocacy. See <http://www.kassonalliance.org/events.htm>

As an outgrowth of KARE's 2008 partnership with the City, the City Council appointed a Citizen's Task Force which began meeting in January to explore the reuse of the historic 1918 Kasson Public School.

February 2010: KARE arranges to join the **Kasson Chamber of Commerce.**

March 2010: KARE hosted its second annual Kasson historic preservation booth at the Dodge County Expo in Dodge Center.

April 2010: Artist and KARE member Pennie Eisenbeis lead a Community Education Class that painted replicas of the school's original tall windows on plywood panels.

The Citizen's Task Force distributed a survey to Kasson's residents requesting input on the reuse of the 1918 School.

May 2010 (National Preservation Month): KARE hosts an activity each year in honor of this. On Sat. May 22, KARE hosted an event to hang the replica windows that were painted in April on the 1918 School. The event included free popcorn, beverages, old fashioned games and antique/vintage cars on exhibit. KARE member Levi Livingood, dressed as Ben Franklin, entertained the large crowd and gave tours of the 1895 Water Tower.

The Citizen's Task Force presented the 1918 School Reuse Survey to the City Council. 58% of the respondents favored rehabilitating/reusing the 1918 school.

June 2010: The City offered KARE a financial partnership in the 1918 School provided KARE raise \$3.9 million dollars by 01 August 2011. KARE responded that any discussion regarding attracting financing was impossible prior to the city adopting a well-defined reuse plan. KARE encouraged the city to consider the input it has received from its citizens and adopt a plan. KARE reminded the city that, after a plan is adopted, KARE's members and supporting business partners stand ready to assist with the process within the confines of their stated missions. See http://www.kassonalliance.org/kassonschool_reuse-study.htm

July 2010: KARE hosted its 4th annual Historic Preservation information booth at the 153rd Dodge County Fair. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the booth. See <http://www.kassonalliance.org/events.htm>

August 2010: Representatives from KARE's board and some KARE members attended the Library Board meeting on August 4th to express KARE's support for the libraries' quest for a larger facility.

At the Council meeting on August 25, the Mayor asked the council to form a library building planning committee to carry on the work of the Citizen's

Task Force. The committee is exploring the 1918 School site for an expanded library.

Sept. 2010: KARE hosted a booth at Mantorville's Marigold Days. The booth promoted Kasson's businesses and Minnesota's Main Street Program.

The Library Building Committee met for the first time to begin the process of investigating the reuse of the 1918 School.

Oct. 2010: The Library Building Committee toured the Pine Island, Zumbrota, Cannon Falls and St. Peter Libraries to learn about how local libraries utilize their spaces. The Pine Island is in an historic building. Additional committee meetings will occur in early 2011.

Dec. 2010: A KARE member met with the Library Building Committee Chair Earlene King. Information on Minnesota's Legacy Funds was provided to her. National Register Buildings, like the 1918 School, automatically qualify for Legacy Funds. The library committee was encouraged to pursue this funding source in order to secure funds for planning purposes.

Thank you to the following businesses who expressed their support for Kasson's history and historic preservation by advertising in the special history insert in the May 19, 2010 Dodge County Independent/Republican.

- 1. Baker & Borgstrom-Durst Accounting**
- 2. Camp Companion Cat Shelter**
- 3. Carriage House Animal Hospital/Dodge Vet Clinic**
- 4. Community Education**
- 5. Crest View Villa Senior Housing, Hayfield**
- 6. Dibble Funeral Home**
- 7. Earl's Small Engine Repair**
- 8. Eastwood Bank**
- 9. Expressions Hair Studio and Tanning**
- 10. Fluff and Puff Pillow Cleaning**
- 11. Habitat for Humanity, K-M Committee**
- 12. Hardware Hank**
- 13. Home and Business Expo**

14. Hubbell House
15. Jimmy's Pizza
16. Kasson Dollar and Video
17. Kasson Eye Care
18. Kasson Variety Store
19. Kasson State Bank
20. KM Girls Softball Association
21. KM Telecom
22. Kramer Insurance Services
23. Kronebusch Fire Safety
24. Mantorville Theater Company
25. Mantorville Restoration Association
26. Massage for Everyone
27. Mayo Family Clinic
28. Meyer Chiropractic Center
29. 1-Stop Reality
30. Seasons Hospice
31. Speed Wash and Dry Cleaning
32. Stevens Insurance
33. T&K Towing Service
34. Weber and Leth Law Office
35. Ziebel Law Office
36. Zumbro Valley Landscaping

Thank you to all the member volunteers and businesses that have helped KARE this year. We look forward to another successful year advocating for Kasson's history and historic resources.

KARE Now Accepts your Tax-Deductible Donations On-Line: You can join KARE or donate on our website at <http://www.KassonAlliance.org> or mail your tax-deductible donations to the address listed below

Thank You for your ongoing support.

The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization formed in January 2007. KARE's membership includes both citizens and supporting businesses.

KARE's mission is to preserve Kasson's history, historic buildings and historic structures to serve as landmarks to Kasson's heritage

while being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation.

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John Lauber's School Reuse Study Team's Website:
<http://kassonschoolreuse.net>

KARE is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places in Kasson that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from the cities' history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, **KARE** helps revitalize the community, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. The **Kasson Alliance** provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to citizens and organizations committed to saving historic places, connecting them to Kasson's history and collectively shaping the future of the communities' stories.

Note: The media is welcome to use all or portions of this announcement and any attachments.

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