

Subject: Kasson Alliance Email News, Vol. 4, No. 5; 1918 Historic School, Main St., Grants

Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) Supporters:

A. 1918 School Reuse Task Force Update: The 1918 School Reuse Task Force members distributed a survey in April to Kasson's residents. On Wednesday May 12 the Task Force presented the survey results to the City Council. Survey forms were distributed to Kasson's residents thru multiple sources (utility bills, web, newspaper etc.). 581 forms were returned. 58% of the respondents favored rehabilitating/reusing the school. Suggested uses for the building include library (211), community center (173), government offices (74), office space (58), apartments/condos (55), and shopping/dining (10). Similar reuse ideas and rankings were generated during the Reuse Study community workshop conducted in June 2009. One of the respondents indicated an interest in purchasing the building. The October 2009 Historic Properties Reuse Study Report and additional information can be viewed at:

http://www.kassonalliance.org/kassonschool_reuse-study.htm/ and <http://kassonschoolreuse.net> <<http://kassonschoolreuse.net/>

Based on this input from citizens gathered over the past year, the Kasson City Council can now initiate the process to identify a Reuse Plan for the school, communicate that plan to Kasson's residents and ask for their support.

B. May Is National Historic Preservation Month:

The Kasson Alliance for Restoration (KARE) sponsored its third annual Historic Preservation Month activity on Saturday May 22. The event was held at the historic 1918 Kasson Public School. The main activity included the installation of 16 window panels that cover the existing modern windows to mimic the look of the school's original tall multi-paned windows. Numerous antique/vintage vehicles were on display to include a 1924 Chevrolet school bus. KARE members dressed in vintage clothing presented a program. Lawn bowling and food and refreshments were provided. Levi Livingood dressed as Ben Franklin described the Historic Water Tower (which was open for tours). The tower sits on the school's playground. Over 20 Kasson businesses supported KARE's event by advertising in a special Dodge County Independent Newspaper special four page insert.

C. Kasson Alliance Dodge County Fair Booth: KARE will again have a booth this year at the 153rd annual fair held on July 14 thru 18. Look for our booth in the ice arena building.

D. Kasson's Main Street: (source: <http://www.mnpreservation.org/>):

Minnesota Main Street is being re-launched as a program of the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota after dozens of communities statewide called for its reinstatement. As such, Minnesota Main Street will competitively select local Main Street programs for participation as designated Main Street communities, provide technical assistance,

training, and networking to participant communities, and act as the Minnesota liaison to the National Trust Main Street Center®. The program assists and promotes local revitalization efforts based on the national Four Point Approach® developed by the National Trust's Main Street Center®. This local economic development program, established in 1980 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has totaled \$48.8 billion dollars in reinvestment activity leveraged by its more than 2,200 participating communities across the nation. In this time of economic challenge, the National Trust Main Street Center® can proudly report that this program has created almost 400,000 new jobs, almost 88,000 new businesses, and returned \$25 for every \$1 spent in its history.

PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA HIRES PROGRAM COORDINATOR TO RELAUNCH MINNESOTA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Saint Paul, MN (May 10, 2010) – The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (“Alliance”) is pleased to announce that Emily Northey has been hired as its first Minnesota Main Street Program Coordinator. Emily brings to the position a wealth of on-the-ground experience having organized the local Brainerd Main Street program for three years after being hired by the Brainerd Lakes Chamber as Brainerd’s first Coordinator. Her excitement for the opportunity to lead the nation’s newest statewide coordinating program is evident. “I have been passionate about understanding and revitalizing historic commercial districts since my senior thesis at Macalester,” said Emily in applying for the position. “Historic downtowns are the heart of their communities. These downtowns are central to a town’s identity for residents, visitors, and prospective businesses. For the future health of a community, it is critical that they have a vibrant downtown true to their unique history.” For more information contact Emily Northey, Program Coordinator, Minnesota Main Street, (651) 293-9047 extension 04, or enorthey@mnpreservation.org

E. GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (source: <http://www.mnpreservation.org>):

On April 1, 2010, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law the Minnesota State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit which is an incentive to stimulate green job growth, increase local tax base, and revitalize urban and main street communities through reinvestment in historic properties. This provision is estimated to create between 1,500 and 3,000 construction jobs annually if Minnesota is consistent with other state programs.

Minnesota’s state historic preservation tax credit will allow a state income tax credit equal to 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating a qualifying historic property. The program mirrors the federal rehabilitation tax credit, a provision that has been in place since 1976. Projects are eligible to claim the state credit if they are allowed the federal credit, a program which requires properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Preservation to qualify (Kasson’s 1918 School is on the Register). Minnesota’s law also creates innovation in the tax credit market by allowing a developer to choose either a certificated, refundable credit or a grant, which will stimulate nonprofit use of the

incentive, and also can be used against the insurance premium tax widening the investor pool.

Historic rehabilitation creates more jobs because it is inherently labor-intensive instead of material intensive. At a time when unemployment among members of the construction trades is at a high level, this measure provides good-paying jobs in areas where employment is desperately needed.

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, structures and properties to serve as landmarks to Kasson's' heritage while being a source of education in the importance of historic preservation.

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KARE Website: <http://www.KassonAlliance.org>

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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