

# GARNER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 6, Number 3 – August 2024

*Our mission: Preserving the history of Garner and nearby crossroads, educating youth and promoting Garner's story in and outside of the community.*



## Voices of the Past at New Bethel

Mark your calendar for the afternoon of Saturday, September 21st. That is the date of our second annual Voices of the Past event, this year at New Bethel Baptist Church. The theme for this year's event is "A History of Service," with costumed players celebrating the lives of several "residents" of the New Bethel Cemetery. This year there will also be short guided tours of this pretty, historic church building. The church has stood on this site since 1860. New Bethel Baptist Church is located at 2110 Benson Road in Garner. Advance tickets are not required, but donations will be accepted at the event. Please check our website ([Garner-area-historical-society.org](http://Garner-area-historical-society.org)) and Facebook page (@Garner History) for more information. Rain date will be Sept. 28.

## Caboose Restoration Update

The Garner Area Historical Society continues to work towards the goal of restoring our vintage caboose to its original condition as a working railcar. Our June "Red Hot Caboose Tea" event was a great success. Held at the lovely, historic Banks Bed & Breakfast in downtown



Garner, the event was chaired by Mary Smalling and Carol

Gupton, assisted by several Historical Society Board members and other volunteers. Folks enjoyed a beautiful and delicious spread of food provided by some

talented GAHS

cooks, as well as games, door prizes, and a raffle for some



great gifts provided by local businesses. Over \$2,600 was raised toward the goal of restoring the Caboose, which is estimated to cost approximately \$15,000.

Thanks to all those who participated! Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for other fundraising



activities toward this goal. You may also donate by credit card on our webpage and

when you stop by to visit the Museum. Your donations are tax-deductible.

## Coming Events:

- **"Got To Be Garner" – Main Street: September 28 & October 26, 2-4 p.m.**
- **Garner Firemen's Day Annual Celebration: Saturday, October 5. Look for our tent at Fire Station One and visit the Museum during extended hours.**

## Congratulations to Joe Sample!

Joseph Sample has been selected as the 2024 recipient of the James Stevens Service to Garner Award. Among his many other community activities, Joe has been an active member of the Garner Area Historical Society since its inception. He has served on the GAHS Board of Directors since 2019. Well-deserved, Joe!

## Remembering Our Friend, Wayne Brooks

We were sad to learn of the passing of lifelong Garner resident Wayne Brooks on July 24, 2024. Wayne was a great friend and supporter of the Garner Area Historical Society, serving as a founding Board of Directors member. Wayne also worked with the early group which began restoring the Depot in the late 1980's, when it was placed back on Main Street.

Folks who knew Wayne Brooks were fully aware of his love of his hometown. He was active in the community as a Mason, a Shriner and with the Garner Volunteer Fire Department, among other activities. Wayne loved to regale folks with humorous stories of growing up in Garner and tales of his childhood. As a kid he was in and out of his dad's business, Bennie's Barber Shop on Main Street, and running all over downtown playing with his buddies. Wayne was a joy to be around, and his stories always made folks laugh. He will certainly be missed. Our condolences to the Brooks family.

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**Garner Area Historical Society/  
Garner History Museum at the Depot  
is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.  
P. O. Box 156, Garner, NC 27529  
Museum location: 106 Pearl St., Garner, NC**

**The Garner Area Historical Society/  
Garner History Museum at the Depot is  
staffed by volunteers and supported by  
donations. We would welcome your  
assistance as a volunteer in these efforts.  
Contact us today!**

Photo credits this issue:  
Page 1 Joyce Stephens, Page 2 Judy Bass

## Garner History Museum at the Depot Hosts Summer Tours

Thanks to our Docents who volunteered to host tours for several groups recently. The Saint Andrews United Methodist Church Joy Club (retirees/senior citizens) visited in June and the Community of Hope Summer Camp kids visited in July. (Thanks also to our wonderful Garner Fire Department for their help with the student tours!) As you can see, we love to share Garner's history with visitors of all ages!

These tours were in addition to visitors who stopped by during regular Museum hours. If you are interested in helping with tours, please contact us. You can be trained as a Docent/Tour Guide, or just serve as a "backup" person, directing the groups from one location to another and being on standby as needed. We usually need four people on hand for large groups, and would be delighted to have more volunteers.



*Above, COH students visit the Garner History Museum at the Depot. Below, they learn about fire safety at the Garner Fire Department and enjoy meeting Moose the Fire Dog!*

