President’s Message

After the summer heat with all of our gardens needing water, our museum gardens are getting ready for winter. Experience the autumn and take a walk in our gardens. And come and celebrate our “Farmhouse Christmas” with us:
- Heslin House Friday, December 14, 4 to 8 pm and Saturday, December 15, noon to 5 pm
- Zimmerman House Fridays November 30, December 7 and December 14, noon to 5 pm; and Saturdays December 1, December 8 and December 15, noon to 5 pm

We are always looking for volunteers to help us restore and preserve our museums; if you have an interest, please let us know. Thank you.

-Peggy Olin
polin@echohistory.org ~ 503-666-4083

Smithsonian Day

September 22nd was a very big day at the Zimmerman House! Admission was free for all who had tickets (but many put something into the donation box anyway). We had more than 125 adults and 20 children attend. It was at times a hectic crush, but we have learned a few lessons so that next year will flow better. Hopefully we have gained a few new members and/or volunteers, too!

Speaking of volunteers, as our President mentions above, the Zimmerman House will be open extra days for the holidays (including Fridays), so we need your help! Become a docent now and be a pro by November 30th! Contact Alice Duff at aduff@echohistory.org or 503-618-0946.

To all our volunteers who are sharing their Saturdays with us, thank you!
We Dig History Update
By Laura Smith

Greetings! Let’s recap some of the items found metal-detecting this summer that are now displayed at the Zimmerman House: Suspender clips, square nails, bullet shells, horse tack, and farm and dairy tools or equipment parts. We found the Colt 45 Long Bullet shells in the basement dirt; they are dated from 1870-1911. Many square nails were found. Square nails with the rectangular shank are usually dated from 1800-1880, but one was found with a true square shank, likely made before 1800!

Hopefully the fall rains will make it easier to detect and dig, and more promising areas will be clear soon.

[Please note that only authorized individuals are allowed to metal-detect at the Zimmerman House.]

Why I Became an ECHO Volunteer
By Alice Duff

I became involved in ECHO many years ago, when it was still Fairview-Rockwood-Wilkes Historical Society. This was before many of the repairs/upgrades to the Zimmerman House had been made, and cataloging of artifacts had just begun. I attended board meetings and was a docent on tour day; I also helped out during Dairy Days (which I hope can be brought back sometime – it was a lot of fun). I strongly believe in historic preservation, and the Zimmerman House is an uncommon “time-capsule” historic resource for Gresham. After a hiatus of numerous years (during which I served on the City of Gresham’s Historic Resources Advisory Committee), I have become involved again. Because ECHO’s volunteer pool is so small, I felt sure I could help out in some ways, and I was right! I have become both Volunteer Coordinator for the Zim House and Newsletter Coordinator. Glad to be back!
At-Risk Media Project Update

John Bootes, a newer volunteer, took the lead on this project to transfer audio cassettes and VHS tapes at the Heslin House to digital format. With the exception of one 8mm video, all are finished! At the next Board meeting, it will be decided how best to share these treasures.
Membership and Year-End Donations
As we head into the always-busy holiday season, we want you to know that we strongly value your support of an East County Historical Organization (ECHO)! Your continued financial support is crucial to our success, and we hope you will consider renewing/extending your membership, and/or donating before the end of 2018. Your contributions are fully tax-deductible, and deeply appreciated.

Consider a donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust as well, and receive a state tax credit of up to $500. If you donate to a cultural nonprofit (like us!), and then to the Oregon Cultural Trust, you'll get that same amount back as a tax credit. For more information, please contact your tax professional and visit https://www.culturaltrust.org/resources/faq/.

If you have any questions, please call 503-618-0946 or e-mail info@echohistory.org.