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MORGANTOWN HISTORY MUSEUM

useum News

Fall 2014

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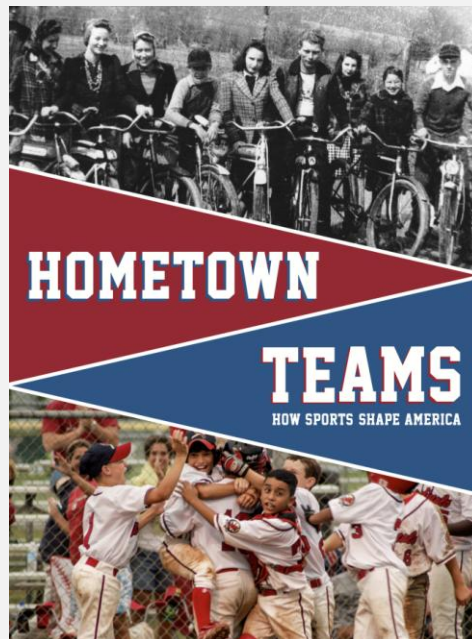


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Sports Exhibit to Open

The Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit *Hometown Teams*, which has been touring the Mountain State since the beginning of the year, will make its final stop in the state at the Morgantown History Museum from October 5 to November 15. The exhibit, sponsored by the West Virginia Humanities Council, examines the role of sports in American culture in the past and present.



To complement the exhibit, the museum will provide companion displays and supplemental programs focusing on local teams and sports traditions. Besides lectures and informal discussions, the activities will include a marble contest for children and bocce and cornhole tournaments for adults. A program schedule can be found on page 3 of this issue.

The exhibit will officially open with a reception held at the museum on Saturday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. Musical entertainment and refreshments will be provided. The reception and the exhibit are free and open to the public.

For more information about the exhibit call (304) 319-1800 or visit us on Facebook or at www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org.

**Morgantown Museum
Commission**

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Pamela A. Ball

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Richard McEwuen, Secretary

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Representative

James Snyder

Christy Venham, Co-chair

**Assistant Coordinator/
Museum News Editor**

Michael Mackert

The Morgantown History Museum is the first city-sponsored museum in the Greater Morgantown area. Its mission is to preserve the history of the region for the public by collecting and displaying local cultural artifacts.

Morgantown History Museum
175 Kirk Street
Morgantown, WV 26505
(304) 319-1800

info@morgantownhistorymuseum.org

Tuesday – Saturday
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Greetings from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Fall is in the air, and WVU football season is here! Morgantown has been considered a sports town for many years. There is a great deal of sports history in the Greater Morgantown area going back to the late 1800s.

As you know from reading the cover of this issue, the Morgantown History Museum has been working very hard to capture part of the interesting Monongalia County sports history for the upcoming Smithsonian/WV Humanities Council exhibit *Hometown Teams*. We have been combing the area to find old and new photos and artifacts that tell our sports history. It has taken us over a year to come up with many wonderful photos and artifacts that reflect football, basketball, rowing, soccer, bicycling, fishing, marble playing, bocce, cornhole, cheerleading, bowling, archery, skiing, ice hockey, horseshoes, and many other sports too numerous to mention.

This upcoming exhibit has created a need for enhanced collaboration between the Morgantown History Museum and many organizations, individuals, and sports leaders in the area. In the past year we have developed working relationships with the following organizations: the WVU Center for Service and Learning, the WVU Public History Program, the Preservation Alliance of WV, AmeriCorps Preserve WV, the WV Humanities Council, Main Street Morgantown, the Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau, Your Community Foundation, the Monongalia County Commission, the City of Morgantown, BOPARC, the Monongalia Arts Center, the Morgantown Arts Collaborative, Arts Monongahela, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Service, Museum on Main Street, Mountaineer Country Tours, the WV State Archives, the WV Regional & History Collection, and the Children's Discovery Museum of WV.

Additionally, we have developed working relationships with the following Monongalia County schools: Morgantown High School, University High School, St. Francis High School, Trinity Christian School, and Clay-Battelle High School. One of our most valued Morgantown History Museum volunteers, "Swifty" Shaver, has been leading the charge to develop working relationships with these schools. It has been a very labor-intensive job to accomplish, but "Swifty" certainly did earn his nickname by racing around from school to school and place to place to accomplish our mission of obtaining Monongalia County sports history artifacts for the *Hometown Teams* exhibit. Way to go Swifty! You have made a home run!

Lastly, I would like to thank the following individuals for their needed help in reaching our goal of capturing our sports history: Betty Wiley, Julie Bryan, William Scudiere, Charlene Marshall, Robert Beach, Joe Statler, John Duarte, Tony Fragale, Chip Wamsley, Fred Horton, Nick Hein, Chester Brooks, and Tom Hart.

Thanks so much to all of you. YOU make all the difference.

Pamela A. Ball
Chairperson, Morgantown Museum Commission
Coordinator, Morgantown History Museum

Hometown Teams Program

Friday

October 3, 2014 – Museum representatives will participate in West Virginia University's Homecoming Parade.
6:30 p.m.

Friday

October 3, 2014 – Invitation Only Preview of *Hometown Teams* Exhibit
7:00-9:00 p.m. Musical Entertainment will be provided.

Saturday

October 4, 2014 – Public Opening of *Hometown Teams* Exhibit
7:00 p.m. Musical Entertainment will be provided.

Sunday

October 5, 2014 – Bocce Tournament: Semifinals (organized by Tony Fragale)
1:00 p.m.

Saturday

October 11, 2014 – Children's Marble Tournament, hosted by the Children's Discovery Museum of West Virginia
10:00 a.m.

Sunday

October 12, 2014 – Bocce Tournament: Finals (organized by Tony Fragale)
1:00 p.m.

Wednesday

October 15, 2014 – *Biking in Morgantown*, presentation by Chip Wamsley
7:00 p.m.

Saturday

October 18, 2014 – Printing demonstration with vintage printing blocks featuring sports images and advertisements
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

October 22, 2014 – *Playing Sports Growing up in Morgantown*, presentation by Harold "Swifty" Shaver and Fred Horton
7:00 p.m.

Saturday

October 25, 2014 – *Morgantown Baseball*, presentation by Chester Brooks
Time pending/WVU football game

Saturday

October 25, 2014 – Cornhole Competition
Time pending/WVU football game

Thursday

November 6, 2014 – *Morgantown Bowling*, presentation by Thomas Hart
7:00 p.m.

Saturday

November 8, 2014 – Sports Movie Presentation: Title to be announced
2:00 p.m.

To stay informed about the latest events and exhibits at the Morgantown History Museum, visit our website at www.MorgantownHistoryMuseum.org or our page on www.facebook.com.

New Acquisitions

Vintage License Plate

The state of West Virginia began issuing automobile license plates in 1905. Municipalities were also allowed to issue their own license plates. The plate recently donated to the museum belonged to Morgantown resident Charles Plummer Pride (1886-1948), who worked as a chauffeur in his teenage years in the Morgantown area. The plate, marked as number 1, was issued in Morgantown in 1907 and is now the oldest one in the museum's collection. It is currently on display in the museum's automotive memorabilia section.



First Day Covers

These covers commemorate important events in the history of local aviation. The oldest cover was released for the dedication of Morgan Airfield on September 27, 1929. It was signed by then City Manager W. E. Brooks. The second cover, dated May 12, 1939 and signed by Morgantown Postmaster John Fortney, celebrated the inauguration of experimental airmail pickup. The most recent cover was issued for the official dedication of Hartfield on September 23, 1973. Approximately 10,000 of these 1973 covers were sold.

Evolution of Monongalia County

This painting by Diane Lenhart documents the evolution of the boundaries of Monongalia County from 1776 to the present. The county was originally formed from the District of West Augusta when Patrick Henry was governor of Virginia during the early stages of the Revolutionary War. By 1780, the county's size had increased through the addition of parts of Augusta County. Thereafter, nineteen counties in what is now West Virginia and all or parts of three Pennsylvania counties were carved out of the territory of Monongalia County. Its current boundaries were established in 1847.



Thank You for Your Support!

We would like to thank the following individuals, families, and organizations for their volunteer work and/or their generous contributions to the Morgantown History Museum:

Dr. and Mrs. Gene Ball	Richard Phillips
Pamela A. Ball	Kathy Powell
Donna J. Biess	Edward C. Pride
Susan Braid	Regina Pride
Mike Breiding	Pride Family
Chester Brooks	John and Charlotte Pyles
Julie Bryan	Rodney Pyles
Allison Carline	Clark Ridgway
City of Morgantown	Kathy Rowan
Glenn Dalton	Heidi Saffel
Jennifer Dalton	Harold and Helen Shamberger
Roger Dalton	Harold Shaver
Robert L. DeSantis	Ronald L. Shaver
Norma DeWeese	Jesse Shepherd
Joyce Dineen	Brenda Shinkovich
John Duarte	David Spencer
George Duffer	Anne McCloskey Stanton
Tony Fragale	Joe Statler
Friends of the Morgantown History Museum	Judith Stitzel
Thomas Hart	Amy Swan
Emory Kemp	Ivy Tauber
Chris Kidwell	Bill Titus
Samuel R. Larsok	Fred Truban
Marion County Historical Society	Deanie Van Camp
Charlene Marshall	Pauline Wachtstetter
Kimberlie May	Chip Wamsley
Richard McEwuen	Henry and Jill Ware
Monongalia County Commission	Betty Wiley
Monongalia County Historical Society	Francine Yarborough
Jane A. Moore	Trin Yarborough
Sandra Panrell	Thomas E. Zinn

Membership Application

The Morgantown Museum Commission invites you to join the Friends of Morgantown History Museum to help promote and preserve the rich history of Morgantown and the surrounding area.

Annual Memberships

\$25.00 Individual _____

\$30.00 Family _____

\$50.00 Corporate _____

Additional Contributions:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (h) _____

(w) _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to:

Friends of the Morgantown History Museum

175 Kirk Street

Morgantown, WV 26505

To donate objects or to volunteer some time, please contact the Morgantown Museum Commission at (304) 319-1800 or at morgantownmuseum@yahoo.com.

To make a monetary donation, go to <https://npo.justgive.org/nonprofits/donate.jsp?ein=26-0859732>.

Greater Morgantown Area History Roundtable – Fall 2014

This second roundtable will again take place at the Morgantown History Museum at 175 Kirk Street on Thursday, October 23. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and will feature short presentations about ongoing history projects in the area. Participants will have the opportunity to get to know each other and to learn about other local history-related organizations.

Help Build the Boat! Are you, or do you know, a carpenter familiar with using tools of the past? We are looking for volunteers to help build our flatboat in the old-time fashion on location at the Morgantown riverfront. Funding is also needed for this project. Major sponsorships are available, and donations of any amount are welcomed. Call (304) 319-1800.

Due to the preparations for the upcoming *Hometown Teams* exhibit, the Morgantown History Museum will be closed from Tuesday, September 23 to Monday, October 6. The museum will resume regular hours on Tuesday, October 7. However, the museum will be open for *Arts Walk* on Friday, September 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and for the public opening of the *Hometown Teams* exhibit on Saturday, October 4 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Preserving Morgantown's Cultural Heritage