

# JOIN FRIENDS OF THE DEPOT

## Annual Memberships:

Individual..... \$15  
 Family..... \$25  
 Business..... \$100  
 Benefactor..... \$250

## Lifetime Memberships:

Individual..... \$500  
 Family..... \$750  
 Business..... \$1000

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer to help with:

- \_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_ Building/Grounds Maintenance
- \_\_\_ Events
- \_\_\_ Grant Writing

Send checks payable to:  
 Friends of the Gilbertville Depot  
 P.O. Box 2124  
 Waterloo, IA 50704

Or visit our website  
[www.gilbertvilledepot.org](http://www.gilbertvilledepot.org)  
 to use Paypal for membership

We will not share your contact information



PO Box 2124  
 Waterloo IA 50704  
[www.gilbertvilledepot.org](http://www.gilbertvilledepot.org)

**ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF  
THE GILBERTVILLE DEPOT**

The Friends of the Gilbertville Depot is made up of a great group of supporters, a Board of Directors, and very skilled and loyal volunteers.

<p><b>Board of Directors</b>                  Larry Klein - Treasurer                  Dottie Wear                  Pat Morrissey                  Lisa Gernant                  Bill Dotzler                  Dick Dewater - President</p>	<p><b>Building and Grounds Committee</b>                  Terry Schares                  Bruce Givens                  David Givens                  Ken Bormong</p>
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# FRIENDS OF THE GILBERTVILLE DEPOT

Newsletter Volume 9, Issue 1

April 25, 2021



The Gilbertville Depot has witnessed several major events in U.S. history since it was built in 1912. Certainly, the COVID pandemic of 2020 is one of them.

Many trail users escaped the harsh realities of the virus this past year by walking, biking, and enjoying the simple pleasures of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Recorded trail use has more than doubled since last March.

The depot lobby and restroom opened later than usual last year but we made every effort to make it safe and convenient. There were only two small events during the season, but as things start to get back to normal, we plan to have the restroom open sometime in April this year and schedule more events.

The Friends of the Gilbertville Depot try to have a building improvement project every year. This year, the plan is to restore the lobby by exposing the original bead board ceiling. The 108-year-old ceiling will be repaired and repainted along with the walls and floor.

In the mid-1980s the old depot was remodeled and the original lobby ceiling was left mostly intact and a new plywood ceiling was installed below it. The new ceiling was heavily insulated and that insulation in recent years was causing a buildup of moisture and mold in some areas. The decision to remove the insulation led to the decision to expose and restore the old ceiling. There is a tangle of wiring and ductwork in addition to the plywood ceiling and wood framing that needs to be removed.

We anticipate the project will take several months and could limit the use of the lobby, but every effort will be made to keep the restroom open. Feel free to stop and check out our progress.

Thanks for your support. Dick Dewater - FGD Board President

## RAGBRAI

The Friends of the Gilbertville Depot invites all RAGBRAI riders leaving Waterloo on Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup> and taking the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to stop at the historic Gilbertville Depot on their way to Anamosa.

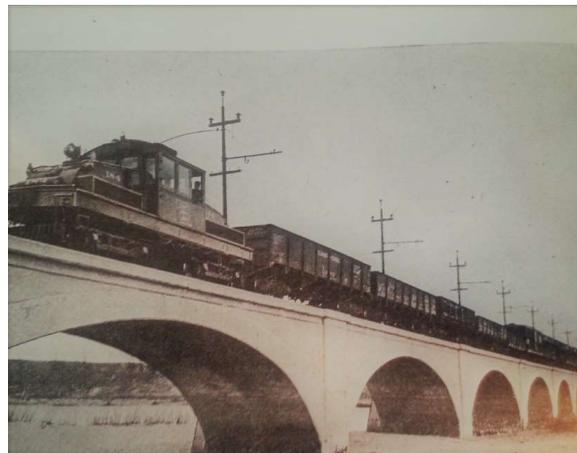
Free juice, fruit, coffee, and fresh water will be provided from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. The restrooms will be open all day.

The Depot will have displays of railroad artifacts and the history of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail.

Also, on display will be a rare Velocipede, which is a railbike used by the railroads in the early 1900s. The Velocipede will be on a full-size set of tracks, and riders are welcome to take a photo on rail bike.

## WCF&N HISTORICAL PHOTOS

These photos show the all-electric WCF&N Railway in the 1940s & 1950s. By the 1950s, passenger service was declining with far fewer trolleys running. Passenger service was discontinued in the mid-1950s. The freight business was good, but the days of electric locomotives were numbered. They were phased out in the mid-1950s replaced by Diesel locomotives.



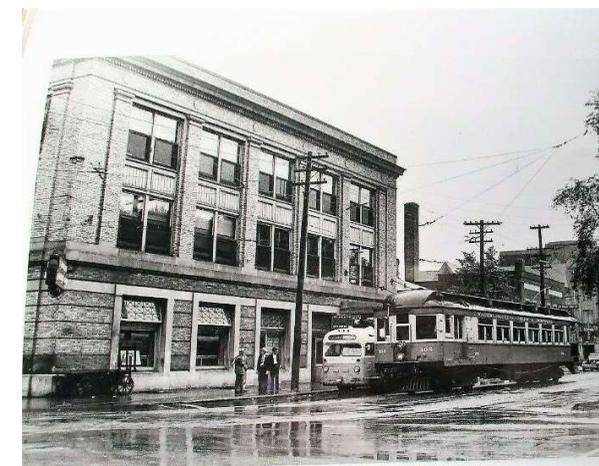
Freight train over the Cedar River



Trolley #100 in downtown Waterloo



Freight train working through town



WCF&N Headquarters in Waterloo