

FRIENDS OF THE GILBERTVILLE DEPOT

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President's Letter

I enjoy writing the President's Letter for a lot of reasons, but one of the best is that we'll be opening the depot soon. We expect to open for the season at the end of April and stay open until early November.

Last year brought a huge improvement to the depot: windows you can see through. We received a grant from the Van Miller Charitable

Family Foundation that allowed us to replace all the defective window glass in the 1st floor windows. The 17 windows were permanently clouded over, and we were able to save the window frames and sashes by replacing just the glass. All labor was provided by the Friends of the Gilbertville Depot.

This year we are hoping to replace the sidewalk in front of the depot with an 8-foot-wide antique brick paver walkway. The new walkway will serve all three doors and be flush with the depot floor. It will be about 10 inches above the yard which will create a sustainable lawn.

Last year at this time a large section of trail was washed out north of the depot and wasn't repaired until last summer. That repair had some problems and will be fixed again this spring. Needless to say, maintaining the trail is an ongoing job for the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. 2019 promises to be another great year and I hope to see you at the depot and on the trail.

Dick Dewater, President, Friends of the Gilbertville Depot

Right: Motor Car at the Gilbertville Depot circa 1950s. Below: Freight Train circa 1950s; Shriners Special circa 1930s; Locomotive derailment circa 1930s.

Wolf Creek Bridge Update

Funding for the Wolf Creek Bridge has been secured. Mike Hendrickson, Director of the Black Hawk County Conservation Board has announced that a combination of Federal, State, County and Private funds have been earmarked for the bridge replacement. The bridge is on the Cedar Valley Nature Trail in La Porte City and has been closed since the fall of 2015.

Preserve the Cedar Valley Nature Trail group has been very active in raising private dollars for this project. The group has done extensive fundraising and getting the word out about the importance of the bridge and trail.

Bids for construction of the bridge will be let this fall and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2020.

WCF&N HISTORICAL PHOTOS

