

From the Beginning...

Perseverance Community



In 2011, when this building was run down and just an empty concrete shell, we had over 300 volunteers who believed in our mission to bring our community's history back to life.

It was the community who pushed for the old clock tower materials, which were the face of Squires Building downtown for over 120 years, to be on display in our museum. Ken Eaton's dream was to keep his collection together and available locally for the public to continue to appreciate; bringing Homeville Museum into the CNY Living History Center made that happen. Without the help from our volunteers, past and present, and the surrounding community as a whole, the CNY Living History Center would not exist today.

Getting Involved

Cowboy Days, Civil War Encampment, Boy Scout Camporee, and more...



We make an effort every day to get involved with the surrounding community as a way of giving back for all of their support. As a museum, there are a variety of different ways we can achieve this. We recently have held two living history weekends in National Cowboy Days and the Civil War Encampment events. These provide our community with educational and engaging re-enactments about important points throughout history. We also recently hosted the local Boy Scout district with their annual Fall Camporee. Kids ranging anywhere from 10 to 18 years old experienced some real 'living history' with several re-enactment stations set up here on the museum grounds. Community is important to us and these are just a few ways we try and give back.

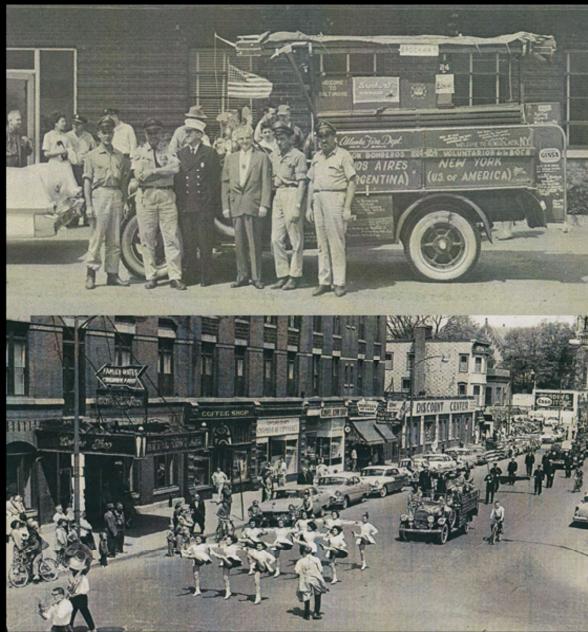
Moving Forward in 2016

Completing the 'Barn Project' Community and volunteers



Fast forward to 2016. Those same two themes can still be seen hard at work in the museum today. For example, our recent 'Barn Project' has been a huge success. The success can be solely attributed to the community members who helped us raise over \$25,000 for the much needed renovations to the old 1930's dairy barn. And that's not even the best part. Out of that \$25,000 we raised for the renovations, \$0 was spent on contractors. Our volunteers stepped up their efforts to a whole new level and have been working non-stop to finish those renovations. With the help from the surrounding community and our amazing volunteers, we were able to preserve hundreds of years of agricultural history, something that has been a part of Cortland's story all the way back to its founding in 1808.

Perseverance



Just like those four Argentinian firemen who persevered and kept moving forward to get their old 1925 Brockway Firetruck up here to Cortland over 40 years ago, we here at the museum are also persevering to keep moving forward and enhance your experience through history.

What's Happening

New & Upcoming Features

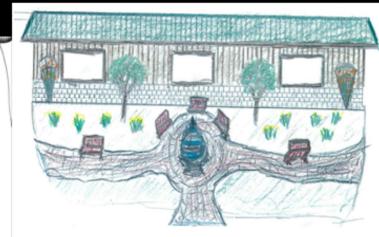
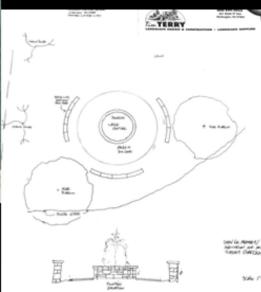
- New LED light fixtures
- Barn accessibility renovations
- Digital sign out front
- Renovated back porch w/ river front feature

Wish List/Potential Features

- Route 11 revitalization
- Repaved parking lot
- Restore tank & deuce n' half
- More digital/interactive displays



Image provided by Taylor E. Ritter Design Consultants
An artist's rendering of what part of the Route 11 corridor may look like after a proposed enhancement. A study was released Tuesday on the possible changes.



In 2016, we made a big step forward and replaced all of our fluorescent lights with LEDs. These are safer for the environment, will cut energy costs and protect the artifacts from ultra-violet rays. We will be adding a digital sign out front to help spread the word about our events to the surrounding community. We are also starting a new renovation to the back of the building, which will eventually feature a porch that will connect the café, theater, and car port and allow us to host a wider variety of special events such as weddings, family reunions, etc.

We also have a few things that we would like to see happen. First, we would love to see the revitalization of Route 11 that was planned back in 2013. That has the potential to bring a lot of foot traffic to this part of the county and in turn to our museum. With increased traffic, we are going to need a new parking lot. As I'm sure you've noticed if you've stopped by or driven past, our parking lot has seen better days. We would also like to restore our tank and deuce n' half truck out front since they are a main focal point of the museum for people driving by.

How You Can Help

Cortland Community Foundation In Celebration of National Philanthropy Day

November 15th

The Cortland Community Foundation is again offering all Cortland County charitable organizations a chance to win a prize in one of two categories.

<u>Highest Total Dollar Amount</u>	<u>Most Individual Donations Received</u>
1 st Place - \$10,000	1 st Place - \$7,000
2 nd Place - \$4,500	2 nd Place - \$3,000
3 rd Place - \$2,000	3 rd Place - \$1,500
4 th Place - \$1,000	4 th Place - \$1,000

Here's How it Works:

1. Make donations to the Cortland Community Foundation for the benefit of your favorite 501(c) charities. Minimum \$100.00 and maximum \$5,000.00 donation per charity; there is no limit per donor. Donations must be received or postmarked no later than November 15th. Donations may be mailed or delivered to:
Cortland Community Foundation
P.O. Box 466
3334 NYS Route 215
Cortland, NY 13045
2. Charities will be eligible to win one prize. The results will be tallied and posted in the Cortland Standard and on the Foundation's website at www.cortlandcommunityfoundation.org.



Your donation today will help us to continue to fulfill our mission, and enhance your experience as you 'take a walk through history' with us.



Attendance has gradually been on the rise ever since we've opened. In 2015 we recorded 3594 visitors and as of mid-October 2016, we've had 3100 visitors. We are working hard to double the number of visitors in 2017. However, contrary to popular belief, admissions are not the biggest source of funds for small museums like us. In 2015, our admissions only counted for 13% of our total income, not even enough for daily operations. As with most museums, donations represent the biggest portion of our income. Without funds, the history we have worked so hard to preserve will begin to fade away.

This is where you can help. By donating \$100 or more during the Cortland Community Foundation Philanthropy Day Challenge, you can help us keep moving towards our goals of a better museum and a better community. The non-profit organization with the most donations will receive the Foundation's first place prize of \$10,000. Just mail a check with the museum's name in the memo line to the address shown above before November 15th, and it will go directly towards our efforts. We came in second last year, and with your help, we can take the top spot! On behalf of the CNY Living History Center, we would like to thank you all for your support.