



## Brunch to benefit Padgett Museum in New Albany

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— Jim and Beverly Padgett enabled Floyd County to have a place to store some of its historical treasures by donating a house in 2006 — a site at 509 W. Market St. now known as the Padgett Museum.

Now it's up to the Floyd County Historical Society to find ways to keep the museum running. And that's not always easy when utility bills alone account for \$3,500 annually, according to Floyd County Historian David Barksdale.

Society membership fees of \$5 and donations to the museum by its patrons only go so far, so fundraisers such as a brunch and open house planned for noon to 1:30 p.m. April 26 are crucial.

"If you think of some of the other historical buildings in town, most of them have a financial partnership," said Pam Peters, recording secretary for the society and main organizer of the brunch, which will be held at the museum.

The Carnegie Center for Art and History teams with the New Albany-Floyd County Library, for example.

"We don't really have a financial backing like that," Peters said. "The [fees and donations] just don't begin to cover what we need to maintain this building."

Grants from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County provided funds to rehabilitate parts of the museum, and Peters and Barksdale are grateful for the latest round of boosters that have stepped up to help.

The Sunday brunch will be catered by Carl Holliday and Steve Goodman — co-owners of the Culbertson West Mansion. Their services will be free of charge to the society.

"They have both done so much for New Albany in the way of restoration," Peters said. "They're very supportive of our Floyd County Historical Society and our museum and they've wanted to do something special for the society."

The event is open to the public, with a cost of \$10 at the door. All funds collected will go toward museum activities and overhead.

"We're hoping for about 100 people," Barksdale said, adding that Peters deserves credit for getting the brunch organized. "She's really been instrumental in getting this event going."

Peters said it should be a perfect time for people to stop by after church services or before they enjoy their Sunday afternoon activities. Chairs will be spread around the museum to accommodate the expected crowd.

Peters added the society is pleased with how the museum is looking. The Horseshoe funding allowed for shingle replacement to the exterior of the building, among other upgrades made recently.

"It really looks wonderful," she said.

While the grants and donations are a benefit, Barksdale said there's one source that will always be revered by the society.

"Really, none of this would be possible without Jim and Beverly Padgett," Barksdale said.

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Photos



The Padgett Museum is set for brunch and open house on April 26 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. It is located at 509 West Market Street, New Albany. All proceeds will fund preservation of history for New Albany and Floyd County. (Photo by Trisha Dunn)



Antiques inside the Padgett Museum. (Photo by Trisha Dunn)



(Photo by Trisha Dunn)