

The Seattle Times

EASTSIDE LIVING

History lesson: Eastside residents have many ways to delve into the area's past

For the past several decades, living on the Eastside has been mostly about looking forward. Cutting-edge technology firms, award-winning public schools and ultra-hip retailers have kept the region ahead of the curve for innovation and new ideas.

Amid all of this progress, dedicated groups and individuals have worked just as hard to make sure that Eastside cities never forget their pasts. From Bellevue to Bothell to the foothills of the Cascades, the region's roots aren't being forgotten.

Here's a closer look at the efforts of just a few of those Eastside groups.

Eastside Heritage Center

Then: The Eastside Heritage Center was established in 2001 through the merger of the Bellevue Historical Society and the Redmond-based Marymoor Museum of Eastside History when the latter was cut from King County's budget.

Now: The group operates out of two historic Bellevue houses, the McDowell House at 11660 Main St. and the Winters House at 2102 Bellevue Way S.E. It owns a collection of more than 30,000 objects stored offsite.

The McDowell House serves as the administrative offices. Curatorial and education staffers are generally available during weekdays.

The Winters House, a designated site on the National Register of Historic Places, is the group's public research center. It is open to visitors during select hours. Docents are available to offer historical background on the fully restored building and its setting.

The Winters House is currently hosting "Canoes to Warships," an exhibit of photos and items related to the history of boatbuilding and boat transportation



on Lake Washington and its surrounding waterways. The exhibit continues through November.

On Oct. 8, the group will host a special event at Fraser Cabin, built in 1888 and now located at Kelsey Creek Farm Park, 410 130th Place S.E., Bellevue. As part of the city's Farm Fair event, Eastside Heritage Center staff and volunteers will be on hand from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to present activities and describe what it was like to live in a log cabin 100 years ago.

Bothell Historical Society

Then: The Bothell Historical Society was formed in 1967. It operates and maintains the Bothell Historical Museum and its research collection, which includes bound volumes of early newspapers, photograph displays and changing exhibits.

Now: Located at The Park at Bothell Landing, the museum is housed in the 1893 William Hannan house. The building, donated to the city by the original North-

shore Bank, was moved from its Main Street site to Bothell Landing in 1978.

Each room in the two-story house has been restored and furnished with turn-of-the-century items.

Bothell's First Schoolhouse, located just behind the museum, is a former one-room school for grades 1-8 and includes a bell tower. Also nearby is the Beckstrom Log Cabin, built in 1885 with hand-hewn logs and home to a pioneer family of 10.

The city has undertaken a massive revitalization of its downtown, including work at The Park at Bothell Landing. This has forced the temporary closure of the Bothell Historical Museum.

During the closure, appointments can still be made for research at the museum and use of the group's "treasure boxes," which are available for loan to schools and youth groups. Each box contains turn-of-the-century household items such as a cheese grater, washboard, mechanical bank, butter churn, chalkboard and clothing.

Issaquah History Museums

Then: Formed in 1972 as the Issaquah Historical Society, the group has been known as the Issaquah History Museums since 2004. It operates the Gilman Town Hall Museum at 165 S.E. Andrews St. and the Issaquah Depot Museum at 50 Rainier Blvd. N.

Now: The society hosts a presentation on Oct. 8 by Guy Faussett about his great-grandfather, Eastsider Al Faussett, who gained fame in the 1920s as a daredevil and showman. Faussett built innovative canoes and other craft in which he successfully tumbled down waterfalls in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The event begins at 11 a.m. at the Issaquah Depot Museum.

For those looking for an up-close look at Issaquah's history, the society has maps available for download on its website for self-guided historical tours of downtown. The tour passes 20 sites that date to the city's earliest years, including the Alexander House, built in 1902 and relocated to 155 N.W. Gilman Blvd. in 1986. It now serves as the city's visitor center and is the starting point of the tour.

Keeping the past alive

These organizations work throughout the Eastside to preserve the area's history.

BOTHELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Bothell Historical Museum at 9919 N.E. 180th St., Bothell, is temporarily closed, but appointments can still be made.

Info: bothellhistoricalmuseum.org

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER

Winters House is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays at 2102 Bellevue Way S.E., Bellevue. Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

McDowell House is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays-Fridays at 11660 Main St., Bellevue.

Info: eastsideheritagecenter.org

ISSAQUAH HISTORY MUSEUMS

Gilman Town Hall Museum is open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays at 165 S.E. Andrews St., Issaquah. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Issaquah Depot Museum is open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Fridays-Sundays at 50

Rainier Blvd. N., Issaquah. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

Info: issaquahhistory.org

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY

Heritage Hall is open 9 a.m.-noon Mondays and 2-5 p.m. Wednesdays at 203 Market St., Kirkland.

Info: kirklandheritage.org

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Old Redmond Schoolhouse is open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 16600 N.E. 80th St., Redmond.

Info: redmondhistoricalsociety.org

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY MUSEUM

The museum is open 1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays at 320 Bendigo Blvd. S., North Bend.

Info: snoqualmievalleymuseum.org

WOODINVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

The next general meeting takes place Nov. 19 at Brittany Park Retirement Center, 17143 133rd Ave. N.E., Woodinville.

Info: woodinvilleheritage.org