



Eagle Grange #1

Route 15 & East Blind Road
Montgomery, PA 17752



July, 2020

A Picture Worth 1,000 Words?

Then here's about 15,000 "words" to tell you about the amazing progress made recently in renovations to the Eagle Grange Hall.



The new and improved entrance to the historic Eagle Grange Hall; note the accessible ramp and the reserved handicap parking area.

See more pictures of the transformation of the hall into a modern welcoming facility on the following pages.

(Photos courtesy of Beth Downey & David Troutman)



(April 2020) Grange president David Troutman helps with the initial task of emptying all the kitchen cabinets for the upcoming renovation.



(June 2020) State Grange president Wayne Campbell, along with members from several other Granges, tackled the job of installing beautiful new laminate flooring.



(April-June 2020) Work continued with cleaning, painting, removing old carpet, trashing and re-organizing the entire first floor of the hall. State Grange leaders Jenn Nauss and Doug Bonsall were among the helpers each workday.



(June 2020) The floor project began at 8 a.m. and for almost 15 hours the measuring, fitting, cutting, hammering and sweeping continued non-stop by these volunteers.



(June 2020) Of course, every Grange gathering means food and a wonderful lunch was provided to all workers.



(April 2020) Local contractor Miles Reynolds and his crew were initially hired by the Grange to install two new restrooms. However, local municipal building codes required additional work to be done before a permit would be issued: the installation of an ADA-compliant handicap ramp, emergency interior & exterior lighting and specially marked reserved parking for the handicapped.



(June 2020) The results of a long day of work - by 11 p.m. that evening, the floor was finally finished in the dining hall and kitchen.



(2019-2020) An appeal approved by the State Grange resulted in about \$3,500 of donations to Eagle Grange from interested individuals and sister Granges across the state.



(June 2020) Above is a panoramic view of the completed handicap accessible restroom. About \$35,000 plus countless hours of volunteer labor has been invested in the renovation work. Large donations came from Valley, Perry Valley & Red Lion Granges.



(June 2020) Some of the finishing touches were displaying historical items, including the charters of Eagle Grange and several Granges that have merged into Eagle over the years. The funds from the sale of those former Grange properties provided a good portion of the finances for the major overhaul done this year.



(June 2020) The dining room is ready for its first event with new tables and curtains added.



(June 2020) The kitchen is now clean, bright and well equipped with stainless steel work counters. All the cabinets were painted to create this fresh and welcoming look.

You can help financially.....

Grange members and friends who may not have been able to help with the volunteer work of the renovation are invited to consider making a voluntary donation to finance additional property improvements.

Send your contributions in any amount and made payable to Eagle Grange #1 to:
Karen Williamson, Treasurer
900 Nichols Place, Apt. 205
Williamsport, PA 17701

The installation of a ductless air conditioning unit would make the Grange Hall an even more attractive venue for year-round small to mid-size event usage. Cleaning and painting of the stairway and second floor also must be funded. We are looking into several grant possibilities.

With the completion of the first phase of property renovation, now Eagle Grange is turning its efforts to more activities to serve the community. Read about some of these plans on the following page.

Next Grange Meeting – Tues., July 7, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.

This will be a business meeting to continue finalizing plans for the events below.

Usage Agreement – In a time when even service groups like the Grange must be concerned about liability issues, the State Grange is very strongly recommending that local units have a written policy for the use of their facilities. As a non-profit exempt from property taxes, Eagle Grange does not technically “rent” the hall/grounds, but donations for the use of the property are accepted and are an important source of revenue. A major reason for all the renovations done this year was to make the hall a more functional and attractive place for local residents to hold special occasions – gatherings to celebrate birthdays, graduations, retirements, bridal showers, baby showers, family holiday meals, etc..

At the last meeting, a draft usage agreement was reviewed and will be updated with some revisions for adoption at the July meeting. Among changes from the current “handshake” usage practice:

- *Events at the hall may include the serving of alcohol, provided a \$1 million liquor liability insurance policy is provided (a change in Grange law at the National level now makes the alcohol decision the right of the local Grange)*
- *A 50% discounted rate will be available to Grange members who wish to use the hall (fee waived for member funeral meals)*
- *The second floor of the Grange Hall is not available for usage except by special arrangement*
- *The suggested donation amounts when alcohol is NOT served: \$100/day for the public and \$50/day for members*
- *The suggested donation amounts when alcohol IS served: \$150/day for the public and \$75/day for members*

Printed copies of the agreement will be distributed at the 7/7/20 meeting for review.

Coming Events

July 4 – Use of hall for wedding reception

July 7 – Grange meeting at 6:30 p.m.

August 4 – Special recognition for local fire volunteers at 6:30 p.m. Eagle Grange will present \$500 donations to each fire company serving the area – Montgomery, Clinton Township and Washington Township

September 1 – Grange meeting at 6:30 p.m.; election of officers ??, planning for installation and other business

September 5 – Community yard sale; spaces will be available outdoors for individuals or groups that wish to sell their wares. As a fund raiser for operational expenses, the Grange will sell some items no longer being used and will serve soup, sandwiches, beverages and perhaps offer an advance order take-out only meal.

September ?? – Possible picnic or meal event to thank groups that gave major support to the recent renovation project

Contact to Schedule Use of Grange Hall

David Troutman 570-220-1685

Save the Date

The first event to celebrate Eagle’s 150th anniversary will be held Saturday, April 17, 2021. We are planning an open house brunch event from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Grange Hall, followed by Eagle Grange playing a major part in the kick-off luncheon for the State Grange’s 150th anniversary. That luncheon will begin at 1:30 p.m. at Country Cupboard, Lewisburg.

Home of Eagle Grange #1

*Route 15 & East Blind Road
Montgomery, PA 17752*

First Grange organized in the state of Pennsylvania - 1871



Amazing Fact – Eagle Grange #1 has been continuously active for nearly 150 years and has never been dormant, despite having its share of up's and down's over the years.