

Popular Historic Jail Open During Potato Days



The Barnesville Jail was one of the first permanent buildings to be built in Barnesville. It is located just west of the Old City Hall and police station on Highway 9. The jail was constructed at the turn of the 20th century and served the community for 80 years.

It was retired from service in 1979 and the would-be occupants of the cells have since been transported to the Law Enforcement Center in Moorhead. There is a new facility there to house prisoners and law enforcement staff.

Barnesville has had a long history with no serious crime. It has been over 80 years since the last murder occurred in the city in 1936. But Barnesville grew up as a rough and rowdy railroad town when it was chartered in 1882.

As a railroad hub with a lot of saloons, there was more than enough drinking going on to see a regular flow of customers through the old jail. Like Sheriff Andy's Mayberry, most of the jail's occupants got the chance to



sleep it off and then go home the next morning.

The Barnesville Jail is one of the few structures with that type of character that still exist across the State of Minnesota. The jail is listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings. Stop by, snap a few pictures from inside a jail cell and then enjoy the rest of Potato Days as a free man, woman or child.

And of course not! . . . No matter how bad the behavior of kids, spouses, or in-laws, we're not keeping them in our jail.

SPUD JOKE

How do you know if a potato has no money?

Answer: He won't chip in for dinner.

It is hard for a kid - or an adult - to pass up walking inside a jail cell - especially if you're not being forced to go in!

The Old Barnesville Jail will be open during both days of the Potato Days Celebration, Friday and Saturday, August 23 and 24.

Actually the jail will be open, but not for business. There will

be no jailer or police officer on duty.

There are no tour guides and no fees or fines to go to jail. The doors won't lock but it's a great opportunity for a photo op.

The cells doors swing both ways so you can see what it looks like to see the world from both sides of the bars.

FIREHALL LIQUORS

BARNESVILLE, MN

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Friday, August 23rd

4:00-7:00 pm

2DOCKS POTATO VODKA

OFFICIAL VODKA OF POTATO DAYS

*SOME SAY POTATO,
WE SAY VODKA*



NATIONALLY AWARDED. LOCALLY DISTILLED