



Facebook



eBay



Instagram



Email



YouTube

In this edition of the newsletter:

- **Optimae, RFTC to host Historic East Village association social**
- **Spring sale: 20% off Railway Express Agency cart display**
- **Video tour: Trader Todd's room**
- **Wapello Jim's pick: Majolica**
- **New inventory: Fainting couch, Model T buzz coil, tube radio**

Optimae to host Historic East Village social at RFTC

Optimae LifeServices will host the Historic East Village association's monthly social on May 17 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Raccoon Forks Trading Company (621 Des Moines Street).

The social will feature complimentary food and beverages from Plain Talk Books & Coffee and Railroad Bill's Dining Car, which, like RFTC, are Optimae microbusinesses. The event will also include tours of Optimae's East Village campus.



Optimae LifeServices provides comprehensive, customer-driven services that encourage choice, empowerment and community integration for individuals with mental illness and disabilities. The microbusinesses create job opportunities for individuals served by Optimae.

The Historic East Village association works to lead the preservation and development of the East Village and ensure the East Village is a welcoming, diverse, and prosperous community.

The monthly social is open to the general public.

Spring sale: 20% off Railway Express Agency cart display

Raccoon Forks Trading Company is offering its newsletter subscribers 20% off items from the Railway Express Agency cart spring display, which includes tins, bottles, books, sporting equipment and more. To claim the discount, please show a printed or e-version of the newsletter to the cashier, or tell the cashier your favorite springtime activity.



Video tour: Trader Todd's room

Trader Todd brings a wide selection of architectural salvage items, and funky retro, vintage and antique finds to Raccoon Forks Trading Company. To take a quick video tour of Trader Todd's trading room, please click the image below.



Wapello Jim's pick of the month: Majolica

Wapello Jim ("The Agent"), a direct descendant of the Indian Agent Joseph Street, who traded with the Winnebago Indians of Wapello County, specializes in select "smalls" glassware, pottery and china. Each month, Wapello Jim highlights an intriguing item in Raccoon Forks Trading Company's carefully curated inventory.

Majolica is a general term for pottery glazed with a tin enamel and decoration on the glaze before firing. The glazing creates a brilliant white, opaque surface for painting.

The colors are applied as metallic oxides or as underglazes to the unfired glaze, which absorbs pigment and makes errors impossible to fix but preserves the brilliant colors. Sometimes the surface is colored with a second glaze (called coperta) that lends greater shine and brilliance to the wares.



Majolica pottery has been made since the 14th century, and by the late 15th century, several places, mainly in northern and central Italy, were producing sophisticated pieces for luxury markets in Italy and beyond. The name Majolica is derived from the medieval Italian word for Majorca, an island along the shipping route from Valencia to Italy.

At the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London, Minton & Company exhibited a new line of ceramics. The firm called it Palissy ware after 16th-century Frenchman named Bernard Palissy, who had inspired Minton's new art director, Léon Arnoux. The ware was also described as Majolica, since it had features similar to the Spanish and Italian ware. Palissy ware was a more accurate description, but it quickly became known as Majolica.

Before long there was a Majolica renaissance in Europe and the U.S. A great deal of it was made by Italian firms like Ginori and Cantagalli. In Germany, the Royal Porcelain Manufactory was known for its Majolica.

Today's collector is most likely to find Victorian Majolica. Some famous makers include Minton; Griffen, Smith and Hill; and Chesapeake Pottery, although the heavy, colorful ware is rarely marked.

By the 1890s, the Majolica craze was ending in the U.S.—Majolica looked a bit too baroque compared to ascending Arts and Crafts and Art Nouveau styles. While Majolica persisted in Europe, pieces from the 20th century are thinner and feature less dramatic relief than those from the century before, making them less interesting to collectors.

New inventory: Fainting Couch, Model T buzz coil, tube radio



Victorian Fainting Couch—Victorian Fainting Couches were popular among the upper classes and used mainly by women. Women of the Victorian era wore tight corsets, which is one theory behind how the couch got its name. The corset was so tight, it is said, it cut off blood flow to the brain and caused fainting spells. Women would then have to go to the couch for

a break.

-Submitted by Leroy Laredo

Ford Model T buzz coil—The buzz coil was used in Ford Model T cars to generate spark to the engine ignition. Introduced by Ford Motor Co. in 1908, buzz coils were found in Fords until 1927. The buzz coil innovation helped the Model T become practical and affordable transportation for the common man, prized for durability and ease of maintenance.



-Submitted by RFTC staff

Zenith tube radio — Tube radios were quite an innovation for their time and very popular with consumers. The tube radio was designed in 1939 by Commander Eugene F. McDonald, a naval officer who later used it on his yacht. Production was halted during World War II, but resumed after the war until the invention of the transistor radio. Due to a growing market for vintage portable electronics, tube radios are highly collectible. The tube radio has a deep bass-like sound with a distinct tone that still sounds great today.



-Submitted by Hank Hemingway

Founded in 1812 by Emile Dobby (a French Canadian-Scots Irish fur trader) at the forks of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, our mission for over 200 years has been to bring choice goods in from the wilderness to trade with the local population for whatever valuables they possess (including cash, checks, and credit/debit cards).

Emile immigrated to the U.S. in the early 1800s after being driven out of Scotland for his rogue and wile ways, which had led to charges that included horse thievery. After spending many years fur trapping in the American West, he started the original RFTC near our current location, at 621 Des Moines St. (in the NE corner of the East Village).

In our present incarnation we pledge to provide our loyal customers with high quality, carefully researched and curated antique and vintage furniture, furnishings, art, prints, etc., etc., etc.



Raccoon Forks Trading Co. is an Optima^e LifeServices small business. Optima^e creates jobs for individuals with disabilities and mental illness by developing and operating small businesses that provide high quality goods, services and economic benefits to communities. For more information, please click here:

<http://www.optimaeliveservices.com/our-services/raccoon-forks-businesses/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/RFTCo/>

 Forward

Copyright © Optima^e LifeServices, Nov. 2016. All rights reserved.

Store hours:

Sun: 12 pm to 6 pm

Mon: 10 am to 6 pm

Tues-Sat: 10 am to 9 pm

Our mailing address is:

621 Des Moines Street

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Raccoon Forks Trading Co. · 621 Des Moines Street · Des Moines, Iowa 50309 · USA

MailChimp