



# Museum Matters

*the newsletter of the*

## Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Exploring the past... Understanding the present... Envisioning the future

*Fall 2022*



## LET'S START YEAR 51 WITH A BANG!

October 1st marks the beginning of our 51st year of service to the Elk Rapids community. Thanks to members, businesses, and friends like you, the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society continues to operate in the BLACK. However, we don't want to just survive, we want to flourish.

Operating expenses like utilities, insurance, and maintenance never decrease or go away. You can help us continue our commitment to preserve the history of the community by giving to our 2022 Annual Appeal now. This is the best way to assure that we

will be in operation for another 50 years. You may fill out and send in the donation card on page 7. Thank you for your support and belief in our mission.

## Sump Pump Replacement

It just like owning your own home. There is always something that eventually needs repair or replacement. ERAHS has two sump pumps, one in front of the building and one in back of the building. During a routine monthly check of the pumps, it was discovered that the front pump was squirting water below ground.

Rather than repair an eleven-year old pump that probably works 24 hours a day during the summer months, a new pump was installed August 1st by K & K Plumbing with the help of Dan Wettlaufer, Trustee. Just one more step toward preventing potential flooding.



**Elk Rapids Area Historical Society**  
**Mailing address: P. O. Box 2**  
**Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002**  
**www.elkrapidshistory.org**

**ERAHS Board of Trustees:**

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**History Museum**  
**301 Traverse St. (corner of Pine)**  
**Open by appointment**  
**for 45-minute building tours**  
**May through September**  
**\$15 first person, \$5 each additional person**  
**(231) 264-5692**

## Community Cash

Once again, ERAHS participated in Village Market's Community Cash Program. Thanks to Mike Szymanski, who tabulated all the eligible receipts submitted by ERAHS members, volunteers and friends, we collected \$44,452 in receipts. We ranked 6th out of 34 organizations participating. As a result, we were awarded \$989 which included a \$100 bonus. Thank you to all the people who helped make this collection a



success and a special thank you to Village Market for sponsoring this event.

We will again be collecting receipts for purchases made between Labor Day and Memorial Day. You can drop off receipts in the drop box mounted on the back door of the Museum at any time.

## President's Corner:



Dan LeBlond

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding volunteer member of our History Museum. It seems just like yesterday instead of 10 years ago that Karen Szymanski visited the History Museum to view a Christmas toy display and volunteered to work "a couple hours a week."

Since that eventful day, Karen has progressed from arranging displays to joining the Museum Committee, chaired by Glenn Neuman at that time, to most recently serving as Museum Committee Chairperson.

In those ten years, she learned what it takes to run a Museum efficiently and effectively, from receipt and care of artifacts to absorbing and sharing the history of Elk Rapids with visitors. Her coordination in opening the Museum doors to the public every Wednesday in July and August this year is a result of her many years of experience. See p. 5 for photos of Karen helping visitors this summer.

Karen and her husband, Michael (who has been collecting and tabulating our Village Market Community Cash receipts) will be moving back to the Macomb County area in the coming year to be with family.

Karen says that she will miss the creativity and problem solving from putting together exhibits and displays and enjoying the wooded view while sitting on her back porch with a cup of coffee. The History Museum will not be the same without her enthusiasm, organization, and sense of humor. We wish her well.

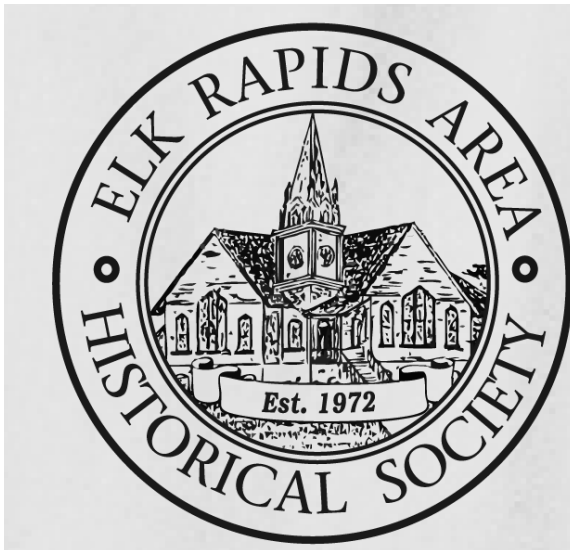
# 50 YEARS AND GROWING STRONGER! ELK RAPIDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## ERAHS History - Part IV – 2012 to the Present

The final phase of ERAHS' history starts with the 2012 move to its new home on the corner of Traverse and Pine Streets (the former First Methodist Episcopal Church). Although in excellent condition for a 110-year old building in 2011, it need updating. Being on a high-water table, the basement often flooded. Volunteers trenched around the building and laid new tiles. The French drain around the interior walls were cleaned and new sand added. A second sump pump was added. A new water main was installed due to poor water pressure. The two restrooms were renovated and one was converted to handicap accessible. Air-conditioning was added with two new furnaces. A kitchen work area was added for student food demonstrations. The existing stairlift was expanded to reach the lower level of the building where 50% of the displays are located. In 2017, signage designating the building "Elk Rapids History Museum" was mounted. In 2018, the 13 stained glass windows were restored. In 2020, the interior walls were re-plastered and repainted. In 2021, 17 double hung windows were replaced on the lower level of the building. This year, 2022 ERAHS completed payment for a roof replacement that was done the previous fall and a generator was installed.

Preserving the History Museum building has been a passion for ERAHS. As a result of its efforts, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 29, 2015. In February 2017, the Michigan Historical Commission approved a Michigan Historical Marker for building. Reasons for historic recognition included its 13 stained glass windows, use of locally-produced yellow brick, and its curved and tiered seating arrangement.

The mission of the ERAHS is to be a center that inspires people to explore the past, understand the present, and envision the future. This is accomplished through Historical Preservation, Community Collaboration, Educational Programs, and Research Documentation.



\*\*\*\*\*A Few of Our



**Bob & Nicole Samuels**  
Hamilton, MI



**David Swanson**  
College Station, TX doing research



**Jeannine Jackson**  
Foster City, CA



**The Almer Family: Tom & Andree - Lansing, MI**  
with Larkin & Jake - Grand Haven, MI



**Jim Grey**  
Farmington Hills, MI



**Loree Skidmore - Novato, CA**  
with brother Joe - Sedona, AZ



**Manal & Greg Franklin**  
Highland Hgts, OH



**Janet & Stefan Rentsch**  
Elk Rapids

# Summer 2022 Visitors \*\*\*\*\*



*Denise Trenary  
Bloomfield Hills  
with her father  
Raymond Ziegler  
Northville*



*Karen with Barb Drummond (Illinois) and  
Becky Winning (Colorado)*



*Roger & Kim Lewis  
Columbus, OH*



*Doug & Mary Lakin  
Elk Rapids*



*Kristina Knurek and family*



*Tom & Karen Keefe  
Kewadin*



*David Mason  
New York, NY*



*Karen helping Elsa (MA), Meizhu (Hawaii) and May  
(PA) with research questions*




*Jana Carney and family*

## \*\*\* Museum Partners \*\*\*

Alden State Bank and the Village Market have annually made generous donations to our operating budget.  
We are grateful for their support!

**LOBBY HOURS:** M. - Th. 9:00 to 4:00 / Fri. 9:00 to 5:00 / Sat. Closed  
**DRIVE THRU:** M. - Th. 8:30 to 5:00 / Fri. 8:30 to 6:00 / Sat. 9:00 to 12:00



*Alden State Bank*  
www.aldenbank.com

**MAIN OFFICE:** P.O. BOX 39 • ALDEN, MI 49612 • (231) 331-4481  
P.O. BOX 717 • ELK RAPIDS, MI 49629 • (231) 264-6900  
P.O. BOX 1169 • BELLAIRE, MI 49615 • (231) 533-9400  
P.O. BOX 515 • CENTRAL LAKE, MI 49622 • (231) 544-8237

## VILLAGE MARKET FOOD CENTERS

P.O. Box 455 250 Ames Street Elk Rapids, MI 49629 (231) 264-5629	P.O. Box 280 9556 Rapid City Road Rapid City, MI 49676 (231) 331-6111
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## \*\*\* Business Sponsors \*\*\*

We thank the following businesses who are supporting our 2022 programs!

All Smiles Dentistry Bayfront Beach and Bike Blackmore Property Maintenance Burnette Foods, Inc. Camille Campbell, Realtor Cherry Suite Assisted Living The Dam Shop Edward Jones (Tom Shelder) Elk Lake Floral & Greenhouse	Elk Rapids Animal Hospital Elk Rapids Marina Farmer White's Fitzpatrick Insurance Agency Gill-Roy's Hardware Great Lakes Power Generation Guntzviller's Kellie Sergent Realtor Ken's Body Shop Kolu's \$5 Meal Deal	Michigan Lake Products Mullaly's 128 Gallery Pine Hill Nursery The Place Rockne L. Paige, CFP (Raymond James) Re/Max of Elk Rapids River Pharmacy Short's Brewing Company Wittbrodt Waterside Properties
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## \*\*\* Upcoming History Hounds Online Programs \*\*\*

to Register call 1-800-692-1828 or go to:

<https://hsmichigan.org>

Click on "Learn", then "Program", then "History Hounds"

### Tuesday 12 noon – 1 pm

October 11 – Michigan Avenue: A Journey Along the "Old Chicago Road"

October 25 – Rutherford? Hayes and the 1876 Presidential Election

November 8 – Highway to History: Detroit's Middle Rouge River

### Wednesdays 7-8 pm

October 5 – All Hope is Banished: Andersonville Prison in the Civil War

October 19 – We Bought a WWII Bomber: Students and the War Effort

November 7 – Ancient Pottery, Cuisine, and Society at Northern Great Lakes

# Our Long Serving History Guide

This fall, the ERAHS awarded a \$3000 scholarship to Meredith Perron, our longest serving high school History Guide. Meredith started volunteering at the Museum as part of her eighth grade Community Service obligation. Now, four years later, she has graduated from high school and is attending NMC. Unlike other History Guides, Meredith worked both in the winters and the summers helping Karen Szymanski with various tasks associated with the Museum. This involved organizing old Elk Rapids High School yearbooks, inventorying the Museum's tool display, and setting up display cases for exhibit. Most recently, she learned how to use our PastPerfect computer data base and assisted in conducting our ten-year inventory. There are indications that she may pursue a career in archive research as a result of her experience with us. We know that she will be success in whatever she chooses to do and wish here the best in her future endeavors.



## ***Yes! I want to support The Elk Rapids Historical Museum!***

Gift amount: \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$1000 \_\_\_ Other

I would like to donate to the 2022 Annual Appeal

I would like to support the Elk Rapids History Museum in any way that is needed.

*Please print clearly*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to give my gift \_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_ in memory of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No I would like a letter sent to decedent's family acknowledging gift. Please include name/address of family.

**Make checks payable to  
ERAHS**

**and mail to:**

**ERAHS, P.O. Box 2  
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002**

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**Credit Card Payments  
Now Accepted!**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Card Number**

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Three digit code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP code:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature**

***Thank you for your support!***



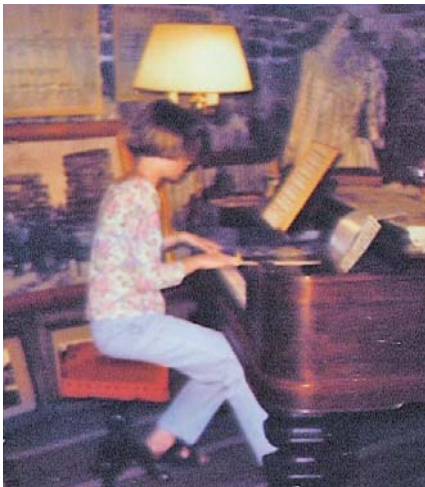
# Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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Contact: Dan LeBlond, President (231) 264-5692 Email: [president@elkrapidshistory.org](mailto:president@elkrapidshistory.org), Web site: [www.elkrapidshistory.org](http://www.elkrapidshistory.org)

*Deliver to:*

## Piano Girl



In 1987 Jack Abfalter donated a Woodward & Brown Boston square grand piano to the Historical Society. When ERAHS was located in the basement of the Township Hall, the piano was played every Saturday and Sunday in the late 1980's and early 1990's for 4 hours while the Museum was open to visitors by a young girl named Samantha Graves.

On August 17, 2022, Samantha Tengelitsch (Graves) visited the History Museum to see if the piano was still in the possession of ERAHS. Low and behold, the piano was on the front stage area of the Museum. It was a surprise and happy reunion. Today Samantha is president of the Hoosick Historical Society in Hoosick Falls, New York.