



Museum Matters

the newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

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

Summer 2021

WELCOME BACK!

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society is pleased to announce that the History Museum will be opening to the public this month. The pandemic has changed the way people interact and has brought many changes that we might not have considered had it not occurred. First and foremost, ERAHS will begin offering in-person historical presentations. In the past, we scheduled one program a month from May through October for a total of six.

Due to the late start this year and, at the same time, the availability of superior program offerings through the Historical Society of Michigan, we will be live-streaming a total of eight programs on a weekly basis in July and August. The only exception will be August 11th which is the day we will begin setting up for our returning Annual Garage Sale on August 13th and 14th.

Tuesday programs will be at noon and Wednesday programs will be at 7:00 p.m. Check the complete schedule on page 6. The programs will also be available to our members online.

In addition, the Museum will be open to the public for an hour following each of the Tuesday programs for self-guided tours of the exhibits. Appointments for guided tours of the building can be made by leaving a message on our answering machine (231) 264-5692.

At all of the eight programs, Jackie Weber, local Genealogist and Elk Rapids Historian will be available to answer your individual questions about your Elk Rapids area family history, so bring your family histories.

The theme for our summer exhibit at the History Museum will be "SCHOOL DAYS", featuring MEMORIES from former students who attended and current students who now attend Elk Rapids schools.

*** Annual Membership Renewal Reminder ***

Our annual membership renewal mailing was done in mid-May. Memberships extend from July 1st of each year to June 30th of the following year. If you have not yet paid, you may receive a reminder letter this month. Membership dues makes up one of the three legs of the financial stool that supports Museum operating expenses. Our Garage Sale in August and Annual Appeal in September are the two other legs of the stool. We have been operating in the black for four years and want to continue to do so. This is especially important considering the impact that the pandemic has had on many Historical Museums like ours. We are fortunate to have a community with members, businesses, and donors who share our mission to preserve the history of the Elk Rapids community.

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

ERAHS Board of Trustees:

Dan LeBlondPresident
Florence WettlauferSecretary/Treasurer
Judy Hahn FishbeckTrustee
Don GaskellTrustee
Craig HandleyTrustee
Marcia GrahamTrustee
Dave LienTrustee
Kathy PetersonTrustee
Adam SchulerTrustee
Daniel WettlauferTrustee

History Museum
301 Traverse St. (corner of Pine)
Open on program dates
See page 6 for listings and times
(231) 264-5692
Admission by donation
Free to members, children and students

President's Report:



Dan LeBlond

Welcome back!

The pandemic has been a learning situation for everyone and the Historical Society is no exception.

We have adapted to the unexpected and found that change is a good thing.

One major change we made was offering historical presentations online in lieu of in-person presentations. This allowed our members and friends to enjoy learning about history in a new setting, the convenience of your home. As a result, we are going to continue to offer these presentations online YEAR ROUND as well as this coming summer in-person. See p. 1 for more information.

Our Garage Sale is scheduled to take place August 13th and 14th as planned. We have many items stored from last year's cancelled event and will be collecting more. See p. 3 for details.

Finally, we are looking into qualifying for a Milestone Award from the Historical Society of Michigan for 50 years of operation. With proper documentation we may receive a 16" x 20" cast aluminum plaque authenticating our golden jubilee celebration in 2022. Seems just like yesterday! We've come a long way and look forward to the next 50 years.

Once again – **WELCOME BACK!**



The Annual Village Market Community Cash campaign came to an end Memorial Day. With the help of our members and friends, we collected \$48,851 in receipts.

Last year, Village Market distributed 2% of the value of the receipts collected to our organization. This means that we could receive approximately \$976 from Village Market if they distribute at the same percentage as last year. Thank you again to everyone who took the time to remember to save Village Market receipts from Labor Day to Memorial Day for us.

Didjano?

On June 15, 1905, The S.S. Illinois was the first ship to land at the new Elk Rapids City Dock. Mr. C. A. Wayland of Chicago, President of Elk Cement & Lime Co., had the honor of being the first passenger to set foot on the new dock.

HISTORY MUSEUM GARAGE SALE

Fri Aug 13 & Sat Aug 14
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
301 Traverse St.



Donations are being accepted every Tuesday from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Museum. Please call Marcia Graham at 248-542-4208 to discuss special donations or questions about donations.

YES

Antiques
Baskets
Bicycles
Books and Audio Books
Children's Toy in good condition
CD's/Cassette tapes
DVD's/VHS tapes
Collectibles
Crafts
Costume Jewlery
Home Decor
Kitchenware
Lamps
Small appliances
Small furniture (that one person
can carry)
Sports gear

NO

Appliances (large)
Child car seat
Damaged items
Christmas trees/lights
Clothes
Computers/Electronics
Exercise equipment (large)
Furniture (large)
Infant cribs
Mattresses
TV's
Shoes



We are looking for volunteers who have four hours to spare on the days of our Garage Sale. You can work 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Work will involve showing shoppers what we have on display on tables and helping pack purchased items outside behind the Museum building.

Extra volunteers will be needed Thursday, August 13 to help set items out for sale and on Sunday, August 15 to help pack up items any time from 9:00 am to 6 pm.

Call Judy Hahn Fishbeck at 231-942-8270

or email: jihahn@charter.net. Please indicate day(s) and time(s) that interest you as well as your phone number and email address.

TWO TROPHIES REUNITE

by Tim Peterson

Two basketball trophies were reunited in March 2021. They were last together 92 years ago. The smaller trophy belongs to Elk Rapids, runner-up in the 1929 Class D Michigan High School tournament championship game. The taller statue went to champion Bridgman High School after defeating Elk Rapids 39-19.

The game was played at Detroit's two-year old Olympia Stadium. The trophies were courtside in 1929, waiting to see what team would claim them. The township hall where Elk Rapids played basketball home games until 1954 remains, but the high schools and championship venue are long demolished.



The players and fans are all deceased. Once held high and fawned over, these trophies rest in the older sections of their school trophy case.

This year they sat together again, nearly a century having passed since they were next each other. Imagine the history witnessed and all they had to talk about since they split up in 1929!



HUGE SUCCESS!

February "Replace Our Windows" Project

Words cannot describe our gratitude to the many members, donors, and businesses who generously contributed to the recently completed "Replace Our Windows" project. The fundraising response was so successful that we were able to replace the 17 double hung windows in the lower level AND also able to complete repair and energy upgrading of the four remaining upper level non-stain glass windows (see photos) that were not addressed when we did our stain glass window restoration 4 years ago. A total of \$15,850 was raised in four months which included a major grant of \$3,774 from Great Lakes Energy to cover the cost.

As you read this newsletter, every non-stain glass window in the Museum has been replaced with energy efficient low-E glass. Installation was scheduled for late June. We are expecting significant energy savings in our gas and electric bills as a result of this project. **Thank you – Thank you – Thank you!**



The Haretta Area Honeybees were the first group in 2021 to take a guided tour of the of the History Museum. The Honeybees are a group of mature ladies who live near Cadillac, Michigan, and get together once a month for a field trip. They visited our Historical Museum on June 15 for a PowerPoint tour of the building. This field trip was originally scheduled for 2020, but postponed because of the pandemic.



First Visitors of 2021

This tour represents our first for the 2021 Summer season and is a prelude to reopening the building. Group walking tours take about 45 minutes and are limited to 8 people who can manage stairs. PowerPoint tours cover the same information, in the same amount of time, while seated in the main area upstairs. Call 231-264-5692 to request a tour.

Visit with New York Times Reporter

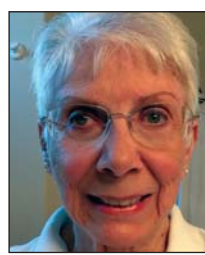
Neil MacFarquhar, Pulitzer Prize reporter from the New York Times, met with Jackie Weber and Flo Wettlaufer on May 13 to gather information on the history of Antrim County. It seems that recent political developments during and after the presidential election in Antrim County, as well as national news about the actions of a Traverse City Commissioner at a ZOOM meeting, caused the New York Times to consider an in-depth article about the area and people. Jackie and Flo shared history about the early settlers and industries that contributed to the area's growth and popularity. The article was published on the front page of the New York Times on June 7, 2021. Although our interview was not mentioned in the article,



Neil MacFarquhar



Jackie Weber



Flo Wettlaufer

we feel confident that we were able to give background information to Neil in his effort to understand the Antrim County area and its people in order to write the article.

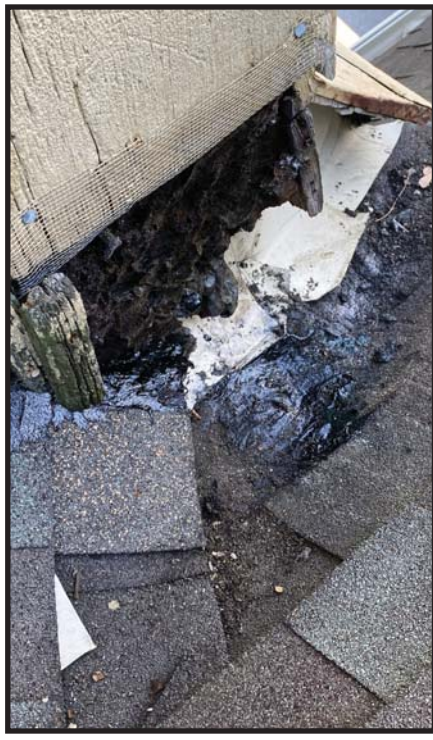
Steeple Repair Update



Late last fall, temporary repair was done to the roof area around the steeple on the History Museum building.

At the time of the temporary repair, we were alerted to the need for more extensive repair of the steeple area in the spring without having to replace the entire roof. Guardian Roofing from Traverse City is scheduled to complete the repair July 16.


As you can tell, the Historical Society has been responsive and proactive in addressing structural issues concerning the History Museum building. We feel a sincere obligation to preserve a historic building that houses a great deal of the Elk Rapids area history.



*** Business 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	P.O. Box 157 7993 State Street Central Lake, MI 49622 (231) 544-3300
---	--	---

*** Program Sponsors ***

We thank the following businesses who are supporting our 2021 programs!

All Smiles Dentistry American House Wood Fired Pizza Anthony Wittbrodt, Attorney Bayfront Beach and Bike Blackmore Property Maintenance Burnette Foods, Inc. Camille Campbell, Associate Broker Chef Charles	Cone Corral & Pizzeria Bill & Diana Cooper Country Hermitage B&B Elk Lake Floral & Greenhouses Elk Rapids Animal Hospital Farmer White's Fischer Insurance Agency Fitzpatrick Insurance Agency	Gill-Roy's Hardware & Lumber Guntzville's Spirit of the Woods Museum Kellie Sargent Century 21, Northland Ken's Body Shop of Elk Rapids Kolu's \$5 Meal Deal Michigan Lake Products Mullaly's 128 Gallery Pine Hill Nursery	Rockne L. Paige, CFP Raymond James Re/Max of Elk Rapids River Pharmacy The Place Tom Shelder, Financial Advisor Edward Jones TCF Bank - Elk Rapids Larry G. Wilson, CPA Wittbrodt Waterside Properties
--	---	--	--

*** Program Lineup for 2021 ***

At the Museum and Online

Tuesdays at Noon

- July 9 – Our Fieldstone Heritage
- July 20 – The Page Fence Giants
- Aug 3 – The Monroe Monster
- Aug 17 – Gangsters? Up North?
- Aug 31 – Documenting Racism – The Jim Crow Museum

Wednesdays at 7 pm

- July 15 – Infamous Unsolved Crimes
- July 28 – Fire in the White House
- Aug 25 – The Great Navy Birds of Lake Michigan

Stair Lift Inspections

Every six months, we are required by the State of Michigan to have our stair lift inspected and repaired, if necessary, by an outside contractor.

In addition, every two years, the State of Michigan requires an inspection by their personnel in order to receive a certificate showing that we are complying with their requirements.

In June, the State of Michigan sent their inspector and Otis Elevator send their inspector. We were declared to be in compliance and received our two-year certificate. These are part of the operating costs of keeping the Museum running.



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

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

I would like to support the Elk Rapids Area Historical Museum

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 _____

I would like a letter acknowledging my gift Yes No

Please include a note with acknowledgement information

**Make checks payable to
ERAHS**

and mail to:

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

**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

Post Office Box 2, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629-0002

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

Deliver to:

WELCOME ABOARD!

Nathan Pearson (left picture) and Wyatt Miracle (right picture) have joined the History Museum as our newest high school volunteers. Both students are baseball players and band members. Their interests are in the mechanical and technical fields and they will be helping us live-stream our weekly presentations. We look forward to having them work with us for the next two years.

