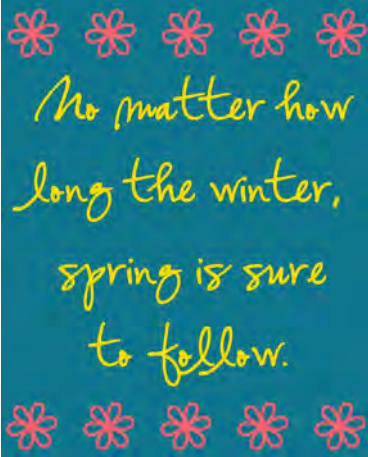


THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

FEBRUARY 2017



In this issue:

President's Report	2-3
150th Resolution	4
New Board Member	4
New Board	5
Baking with Bev	6
New Banquet Chairs	7

Straight Farmhouse Celebrates 150 years!

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum opened the doors to the public on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm to commemorate 150 years of the Straight Farmhouse at its original location. Guests were treated to entertainment provided by *The Boogie Woogie Kid* while munching on snacks and beverages.

A special exhibit entitled "Life in the 1800's", created by museum curator Kim Marquette, was on display for public viewing, and visitors were encouraged to wander through the 4800 square foot 1866 farmhouse.



Visit us online at:
WWW.SFHONLINE.ORG

The Garden City Historical Museum is offering a unique opportunity to make your mark in your City's history by purchasing an engraved brick paver in the Memorial Walkway (which now connects the City sidewalk in the front to the parking lot in the back of the Straight Farmhouse. Visit www.sfhonline.org for more information and to download a brick form.

Rose Freeman Appointed to FGCHM Board of Directors

We are very happy to announce the appointment of Ms. Rose Freeman as our newest board member effective November 9, 2016. Rose has been a cherished volunteer at the Straight Farmhouse for the past nine years and retired as a teacher at Henry Ruff Elementary school in 1993. She and her late husband Bert moved to Garden City in 1956 and raised three sons, all products of Garden City schools.

Welcome to the Board, Rose!

If you would like to submit articles or announcements for consideration in the *Farmhouse Crier* please submit them via email to: Straight.farmhouse@yahoo.com



Presidents' Annual Report



The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum Board of Directors began 2016 by negotiating a new 25 year fixed rate mortgage on the Straight Farmhouse with Santeiu Development Corporation that provided the organization with a manageable monthly mortgage payment of \$1,021.90. It is important to note that prior to the new mortgage, our current balance owing on the Farmhouse property was \$242,030.71.

Mr. John N. Santeiu, Jr. generously forgave \$17,030.71 of that amount, offering the Friends a new 25 year mortgage with a starting principal of \$225,000 at a rate of 2.61%. That transaction allowed the Friends to commit to a maintenance program in 2016 on the farmhouse property that could not be deferred any longer without resulting in more costly repairs in the future. The Friends spent over \$17,000 in 2016 to power wash, caulk and paint the entire exterior of the building, paying close attention to the intricate wood "eyebrows" over the farmhouse windows. Several volunteers donated their time and skills to replace the shingle roof over the front porch roof of the museum entrance. The asphalt parking lot was in need of crack sealing and asphalt seal coating in lieu of a complete reconstruction at a cost of \$50-\$60,000, and new parking stall striping was completed after the surface was seal coated. Inside the farmhouse, volunteers continued to switch out old fluorescent light fixtures with more energy-efficient LED lights to help the Friends reduce their monthly utility bill on the 4,800 square foot building. The Friends were able to generate over \$44,000 in various revenue streams in 2016 including memberships, support plan payments, Summer Flea Market, fundraisers such as the Valentine Tea, Irish Tea, Baking with Beverly, memorial brick paver sales, donations and merchandise sales in the Lathers General Store, to name a few. The Grande Parlour Banquet Room continues to take first place as the largest revenue stream for the Friends as it brought it over \$21,000 in rentals in 2016. To help market the warm and cozy atmosphere of the facility, one of our Board members, Penny Klei, donated 70 new burgundy fabric banquet chairs that complement the colors of the carpet in the room. The former blue fabric chairs were 10 years old and we were able to sell them to a private party for \$240. The memorial brick paver walkway was finally completed in 2016 at a cost of \$2,904 with the remaining leg of the walkway being constructed in late October. Visitors can now traverse the walkway from the parking lot to the Merriman Rd. sidewalk to access the handicap ramp entrance to the museum.

Annual Report (cont.)

The Friends are committed to aggressively market these additional memorial bricks in 2017 to generate additional revenue and fill the walkway with engraved pavers.

Our historian, Jack Kerstetter, was instrumental in organizing and cataloguing numerous museum archives in 2016. Our new Research Room #2 on the second floor is a wonderful resource for visitors looking for information on the history of Garden City. Jack took on the task of relocating the typewriter exhibit to another space on the second floor to make room for Garden City school bronze markers within the Research Room. And Jack has spent many hours on the roof of the Straight Farmhouse replacing the porch roof and installing heat tape in the building gutters. Many thanks for all your contributions!

Kudos to all of our dedicated volunteers at the Straight Farmhouse who have donated numerous hours in 2016 to keep the place running like a well-oiled machine. Those folks include Carol Hill, Sharon Hassett, Penelope Klei, Rose Freeman, Beverly England, Michael Lawrence, and our handyman Marshall Hill. And of course our very knowledgeable docents, Jack Kerstetter and Bill Brooks, who make tours of the Garden City Historical Museum a special experience. Special thanks to museum curator Kim Marquette and husband Jerry for their many hours in designing, setting up and taking down our museum exhibits throughout the year. Words cannot express the valuable contributions these folks make at the Straight Farmhouse.

We sincerely hope our work on your behalf as members and supporters of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum has been worthy of your support. We feel honored to be stewards of this wonderful organization and hope 2017 will be another banner year for the Friends and the Straight Farmhouse.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Hammar, President
Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum



**Happy Valentines Day from the
FGCHM!!**



Mr. Jerry Marquette Leaves Board

Former Board President Jerry Marquette submitted a letter indicating his intent not to run for re-election to the FGCHM Board of Directors. Jerry has been an important voice in all matters before the Board and his expertise in construction management has been invaluable as the Board endeavors to maintain the 1866 Straight Farmhouse. Jerry will continue to assist the Board with the publication of the Straight Farmhouse Crier newsletter, Webmaster of our website, and will offer assistance to his wife, Kim, our museum curator, with the design and setup of exhibits at the Straight Farmhouse. Many thanks for his dedication to the Friends organization!

Wayne County Commissioner Presents FGCHM With Resolution on 150th Celebration of the Straight Farmhouse

FGCHM President Mark Hammar accepts Resolution from Wayne County Commissioner (District 12) Glenn S. Anderson acknowledging the 150th Celebration of the Straight Farmhouse, built in 1866, on Saturday, October 1, 2016.



Former Board Member Returns Home!

We are delighted to inform our members that former Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum (FGCHM) board member Beverly England has returned from her extended stay in Stanwood, MI to her longtime home in Garden City and has rejoined the Board. Bev brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board and we are so happy she has returned to the Straight Farmhouse to serve on the FGCHM Board once more!

Board of Directors Re-appointed at FGCHM Annual Meeting

It is with great pleasure to inform our membership that at the recent FGCHM Annual Meeting on Wednesday,

Board
Of
Directors



January 11, 2017, the following volunteers agreed to serve another year as Directors with the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum; *Beverly England, Rose Freeman, Mark Hammar, Sharon Hassett, Carol Hill, Penelope Klei, and Michael Lawrence.* Mr. John N. Santeiu, Jr. has offered to remain an Honorary Director for 2017. Officers for the Board will continue for another term in their current capacity: *Mark Hammar - President, Sharon Hassett - Treasurer, and Carol Hill - Secretary.*

Volunteers and Banquet Hall Hosts/Hostesses Needed!



If you would like to volunteer at the Straight Farmhouse, please contact us at (734) 838-0650 or send us an email at straight.farmhouse@yahoo.com.

The Friends welcome help in staffing the Lathers General Store, assisting with general housekeeping duties throughout the farmhouse (dusting exhibits, etc.), and hosting events in the Grande Parlour Banquet Hall, which includes checking guests in and out for various events.

These tasks do not involve long amounts of time, you'll enjoy meeting new folks, and take pride in knowing you have contributed to the ongoing success of our Museum!! You can even pick the days you would like to volunteer.

Please join us!

Baking with Beverly Offered Delectable Delights!

Our resident pastry chef, Beverly England, presented another delightful demonstration of worldly baking skills to twenty nine guests that attended our most recent fundraiser at the Straight Farmhouse. "Baking with Beverly" was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Attendees were treated to an entertaining evening as Beverly and her able assistant and granddaughter assisted with the preparation and tasting of chocolate eclair pastries. A 50/50 raffle was held, and each guest received a museum calendar at the end of the evening.



Board Member Penny Klei Donates 70 New Banquet Chairs for the Grande Parlour

Thanks to a generous gift from Ms. Penny Klei, the Grande Parlour can now offer 70 brand new burgundy fabric banquet chairs to guests who rent the banquet facility for showers, birthday parties and other events. Penny has been instrumental in recent years in helping the Friends acquire needed services, equipment and furnishings for the Straight Farmhouse and we are extremely grateful for her contributions.



GCDDA Donates Chili Cookoff Proceeds to the Straight Farmhouse



For the fourth year in a row, the Garden City DDA (Downtown Development Authority) has selected the Straight Farmhouse as one of four local charities to share in the proceeds from their Annual Chili Cook-off, held on Saturday, October 8, 2016. Kim Dold, Executive Director of the GCDDA, presented a check in the amount of \$3,795 to the Friends, which included both the proceeds from the event as well as hours served at the Chili Cookoff by several volunteers who donated their time on behalf of the Straight Farmhouse. Many thanks to the GCDDA for their continued support of our organization!

Mark your calendars for the 2017 Chili Cook-off: October 14, 2017!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Bill and Barb Bicknell - Garden City Mini Golf

Bruce Boland - Boland Florist

Michelle Jarrait

Don Nicholson

Mindy Spiridon

Craig and Denise Tillman

Wild Iris Floral Boutique

We appreciate your support of our organization's endeavors!

2016 Skeletons on Review

Our 2016 Skeletons On Review Exhibit was a huge success. We saw record numbers attend during our extended evening hours! We would like to once again thank our Sponsors:

Barsamian Family Dentistry, Barsons Greenhouse, Jeff and Kim Dold, Rose Freeman,

Garden City Mini Golf, Mark and Lorene Gutman, Mark Hammar, Hershey's Shoes,

J & J Taxes and More, John D. Kerstetter, Penny Klei, Mike and Sharon Lawrence, Betty Mann,

Kim and Jerry Marquette, Pat McKarge, Morrison Animal Hospital,

Livonia Historian- Joseph Neussendorfer, Orin Jewelers, Chuck Skinner, Party Animal Travel,

Nancy Quinn, Rogala's, The Santeiu Family, Arlo and Judith Straight, Sports Venue Bar and Grill,

Dorothy Sweda, Susan Trottier, and Wild Iris Floral Boutique

FGCHM
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Garden City, MI 48135

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