

# THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

JANUARY 2015



Middle Belt and Ford Rd. 1940s

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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](mailto:Straight.farmhouse@yahoo.com)

## Meet the 2015 FGCHM Board of Directors

At the January Meeting of the Board of Directors, the following individuals we elected to the Board for a one year term:

### Officers:

Nicole Pickeral– President  
Carol Hill– Secretary  
Sharon Hassett– Treasurer

### Directors:

Mark Hammar  
Penney Klei  
Mike Lawrence  
Jerry Marquette  
Nancy Quinn  
John Santeiu Jr. (Honorary)

## Garden City DDA Shares Proceeds from 2014 Chili Cookoff with Straight Farmhouse



For the third year in a row, the Garden City Downtown Development Authority (GCDDA) designated the Straight Farmhouse as one of four recipients of the net proceeds from their annual Chili Cookoff. Volunteers Jerry Marquette, Michael Lawrence and Mark Hammar served as "beeristas" during a two hour time slot at the beer tent. At a Garden City Council meeting, Mayor Randy Walker, on behalf of the GCDDA, presented the Friends with a check for \$2,226.00.

To date, the GCDDA has donated over \$5,000 to the Friends in the form of shared proceeds from various fundraising events. This has earned them an engraved bronze plaque at the **Curator** giving level on the Major Donor Wall at the entrance to the Straight Farmhouse.

We are truly appreciative of their support of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum and Straight Farmhouse.



## **As My Term As President Ends...**

At the January 14, 2015 Board Meeting of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum (FGCHM), a new President and Treasurer was appointed by the board. It has been my honor to serve as President of FGCHM for the past 6 years and also serve as Interim Treasurer for the past 3 years. I will remain on the board as a Director and will serve as Business Manager for our 501(c)(3) to assist in various business matters as needed.

Please know that the Friends has a very dedicated core of volunteers who care deeply about this organization, and work hard to see that it continues to thrive in the coming years. As a valued member and supporter of the Friends, you can be assured that the Board of Directors are committed to the mission and vision statements that will lead this organization to a sustainable future as a museum and educational center.

Sincerely,  
Mark A. Hammar



*Head Lawn Ranger– Jim Doddie*

## **Thanks to our "Lawn Rangers"**

As we close out the 2014 year at the Straight Farmhouse, the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum want to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of our special grounds crew, Jim Doddie and Todd Cleary, who continue to keep the grounds around the Farmhouse mowed and manicured this past year.

Jim and Todd volunteer their time and equipment and the lawn has never looked better. We appreciate your service!

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## **Invitation to Attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum**

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 5:00 pm for the Annual Meeting of the FGCHM Board of Directors at the Straight Farmhouse. In addition to conducting normal business relating to our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, there will be the opportunity for you to meet the new Board members.

As a member and supporter of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum, please make your voice heard and tell us what we can do better in the way of offering exhibits, programs, museum hours, communicating with our members, etc.

## Volunteers Rebuild the Straight Farmhouse Handicap Ramp

Many thanks go out to volunteers Marshall Hill, Joe Street, Bob Taylor, Mike Lawrence and Mark Hammar who spent a couple days in early October to tear out the old handicap ramp decking and understructure at the east entrance to the Straight Farmhouse and replace it with a structurally sound and weather-resistant deck surface. As you can see from the photo, the old ramp had seen better years. The result is a brand new handicap ramp that will allow handicap visitors to access the museum and banquet hall in a safe manner. The materials for this project was donated by a FGCHM member and **Garden City Rental** donated the use of one of their weighted rollers for this project.



Thank you to everyone; a great team effort.

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## Membership Campaign



The past year marked the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum's 10th Anniversary. Successfully reaching this point has been due to the heroic efforts of our dedicated volunteers and loyal members. Our most pressing need at this point is to widen our circle of financial support. We have succeeded thus far through the contributions of our members, corporate supporters and rental of the Grande Parlour.

### How can you help?

Make a list of businesses that you frequent (grocery, auto care, etc), professional services (medical, dental, legal) and friends and relatives. Then, the next time you see them, take a few minutes to present them with one of our membership envelopes. Explain to them that you are involved in supporting the Garden City Historical Museum and were hoping that they would see fit to join you. No hard sell is necessary; just a sincere invitation. One of the old adages of fundraising is that "People give money to people".

While you are at it, invite them to visit the museum to see firsthand what we have accomplished. Our goal is to **double our membership** this year; with your help we know this will be a successful campaign.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Kathy Atkins           | John Buck     |
| John & Nancy Dunnigan  | Kerry Partin  |
| Dennis & Irene Patlock | Jeannie Smith |
| Diane Thurner          |               |

We appreciate your support of our organization's endeavors!

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### 2014 Skeletons on Review– Huge Success

This year's Skeleton Exhibit-*Then and Now* was a great success. The exhibit featured the skeletons depicting various scenes comparing life in Garden City in 1930s verses today. Many visitors toured the exhibit during regular museum hours. The exhibit was also open three nights in October, and many more guests attended then.



We would like to thank our 17 sponsors of this exhibit:

**Rose Freeman, Garden City Café, Garden City Garden Club, Mark Hammar, Sharon Hassett and Mike Lawrence, RG & GR Harris Funeral Home, Hershey Shoes, J & J Taxes and More, Pam and Dick King, Penny Klei, Betty Mann, The Marquette Family, Nancy Quinn, The Santeiu Family, Servpro, Mayor Randy and Linda Walker & Family, and The Wild Iris Floral Boutique.** Please be sure to frequent these businesses and remember to thank them for their support of the GCHM.

**Thanks to everyone that helped make this event possible.**

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FGCHM  
6221 Merriman Rd.  
Garden City, MI 48135

*Thank you for your support!*