

THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

OCTOBER 2015



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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

2015 Skeletons on Review!

It's that time of year again. The air is cool, fall colors are emerging, and the skeletons are coming out of the basement at the Straight Farmhouse! The skeletons will be on display October 3rd through 31st this year at the Straight Farmhouse.

Also, back by popular request, is our “Evenings with The Skeletons” when the Farmhouse will be open select evenings in October for families in addition to regular Museum hours. Those dates are October 21st, 23rd, and 27th from 6:30-8:00p.m.



There is no charge for these events; come enjoy an evening with your family.

This event is child friendly (our skeletons **SCARE EASILY!**)

Major Donor Wall

You may have noticed the Major Donor Wall at the top of the stairs when you enter from the parking lot. This ‘wall’ recognizes those who have made large donations to the support of the Farmhouse. Thank you to following recent ‘Major Donors’:

Preservationist Level (\$1,000):

David Valdivia
Arlo Straight

Archivist Level (\$3,000):

Penelope Hope Klei, George & Janet Green, John “Jack” Kerstetter, John J. Shivnen Family Trust, and Mary Ann Swango



Straight Farmhouse Porch Roof Rebuilt



Early this year, FGCHM member Marshall Hill and Museum Historian Jack Kerstetter discovered severe deterioration of the Straight Farmhouse porch roof at the northeast corner of the building.

Upon closer examination, it was determined that immediate repairs were necessary including demolition of the existing roof and reconstruction of the roof trusses, deck boards and asphalt shingles.

The Friends called upon John Santeiu, Jr. to provide a carpenter that he has used for many of his projects to assist in undertaking this project along with FGCHM volunteers.

The project was completed in approximately one week.

Our thanks go out to the following group of individuals who made this project happen:

Bill Brooks, Jr., Adam Crunk, Mark Hammar, Jack Kerstetter, Larry Kinnunen (*Lead Carpenter, Chassel, MI*), Michael Lawrence, John Santeiu, Jr., and Peter Santeiu.

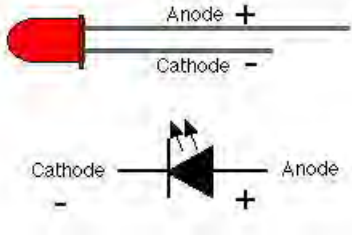
Look for Straight Farmhouse Booth at Garden City Chili Cookoff

The Garden City Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has offered the Straight Farmhouse a vendor booth at the upcoming Garden City Chili Cookoff on Saturday, October 10, 2015 in the parking lot south of Krogers. FGCHM volunteers will be manning the booth and will be selling memorial brick pavers, providing information on memberships and support plans, as well as rental information on the Grande Parlour Banquet Hall. Also, for the third year in a row, Farmhouse volunteers will be manning the beer taps for a shift that afternoon.

Please make it a point to stop by our booth, and/or the beer tent and say "Hi".

FGCHM Studies LED Lighting for Straight Farmhouse

In an effort to reduce the monthly electric bill at the Straight Farmhouse, the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum Board of Directors have been researching the cost effectiveness of converting all 70 fluorescent light fixtures throughout the farmhouse to LED lighting. DTE Energy offers an Energy Efficiency Program for Business that provides incentives for business customers who upgrade their facilities with energy efficient equipment.



Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum will be making application to DTE to reserve incentives for their retrofit project which will be undertaken in the coming months. Better lighting and lower energy bills; what a bright idea!



Shivnen Family Trust Donates Land to FGCHM

For those of you who have had the opportunity to visit the Garden City Historical Museum will recall one of the first things you see is the re-creation of an early post office typically found in the general store back in the 1920's and 30's. Former Garden City Postmaster John Shivnen donated many of the archives in that post office and commissioned a skilled master carpenter to construct the intricate woodwork on the post office itself.

When Mr. Shivnen passed away, his family trust included a vacant parcel of land located on Cowan Rd. in Westland, Michigan to be donated to the Friends to sell and use the proceeds of that sale for future projects for the museum.

We are pleased to inform you that, with the invaluable assistance of Mr. John Santeiu, Jr., the property has been sold and the Friends have collected the proceeds from that sale in the amount of \$3,385.45. The Friends are sincerely grateful to the Shivnen family for their generous donation and will use the funds to preserve the Straight Farmhouse as a base to further the mission of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum.

New FGCHM President

Effective Wednesday, September 9, 2015, FGCHM President Nicole Pickeral submitted her written resignation to the Board of Directors due to personal reasons. Past President Mark Hammar has offered to fulfill her remaining 3-1/2 month term until the next Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors on January 13, 2016, at which time the Board will appoint a new President to serve the 2016 term. Nicole will remain as a Board Director. The FGCHM would like to thank her for her service as President.

Kiwanis Club of Garden City Memorial Walkway Dedication

The Kiwanis Club of Garden City gathered at the Straight Farmhouse to dedicate their new memorial brick walkway to the memory of Kiwanis members who joined in fellowship and participated in work to raise funds to create projects and possibilities for children and adults in the Garden City community. The first group of honorees included: **James Burklow, Perry Dunlap, Lon Osten, Harold Robertson, William Savage, Francis Schmitt, Gary Simon, and Donald Smith.**

The Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are pleased to join the Kiwanis Club of Garden City in honoring these members on the grounds of the Straight Farmhouse.



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Thank you for your support!