

THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

SEPTEMBER 2013



2nd Annual

Skeletons on Review

Once again our ‘boney’ friends are coming for a visit with all new scenes. October 1st at 7 p.m. is our Members Only preview (Members are welcome to bring guests). The Preview Night will feature a brief presentation on the history of Halloween. The exhibit opens to all others October 2 during regular museum hours.



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This year businesses, individuals, and families will have the opportunity to sponsor one of the scenes (watch your mail for more information). This year’s theme is “Halloween”. Have you ever seen a skeleton masquerade party? How about skeletons dressing up for Trick-or-Treating? Well, come to the museum between October 2 and October 30th and you just may!

Family Halloween Photos Needed

We are looking to borrow some of your family’s Halloween photos for this year’s display. If you can help us, please email or bring your photos in to the museum. We can scan and return the originals to you.

Visit us online at:
WWW.SFHONLINE.ORG

Flea Market

September is the last month for the 2013 Flea Market Season at the Straight Farmhouse. Once again, a very heart-felt thank you to the flea market coordinator Diane Thurner for all she does to help make these events so successful. Attendance has been strong, and the deals are great.



If you haven’t stopped by yet this year (or even if you have), there are only two events left (September 14th and 21st). Come by and see all of the neat stuff you had no idea you needed!

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



More History of Garden City DVDs in the Works!

Jack Kerstetter has been hard at work recording another DVD on the history of the City. This DVD covers Garden City when it was Nankin Township (1920) to The Village of Garden City (1927) to the City of Garden City (1933). This DVD includes historic photos with Jack’s narration. Watch for it to go on sale this Fall in the Lather General Store. Another DVD is planned for early Winter.

President's Annual Report for FY 2012

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum (FGCHM) is required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to file an annual 990 EZ tax return by May 5th of each year as a way of reporting on financial operations of organizations exempt from income tax for the previous tax year 2012, and to provide transparency to its members and supporters.

For the past four years, Knepp and Associates Tax Services Inc. of Livonia, MI has prepared the 990 EZ tax return and the results of that return is listed below:

A breakdown of the various revenue streams for fiscal year 2012 follows:

Memberships	\$ 1,100
Support Plan	\$ 4,242
Matching Grant Donations	\$20,995
Grande Parlour Banquet Hall Rentals	\$15,693
Lathers General Store	\$ 1,106
Fundraisers	\$ 2,240
Miscellaneous Donations	<u>\$ 3,720</u>
	\$49,096

FGCHM encumbered the following expenses in fiscal year 2012:

Straight Farmhouse Mortgage	\$20,877
Loan Payments	\$ 6,000
Utilities/Insurances	\$ 8,527
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,043
Operating Supplies	<u>\$ 3,160</u>
	\$43,607

For 2013, the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are currently working on several Member Preview Parties for future exhibits and displays that will provide our members with exclusive tours of our new exhibits before they are opened to the general public.

Please know that we are grateful for your continued support in helping us fulfill our mission of ensuring that future generations care about and understand the contributions to the formation and growth of Garden City.

Respectfully submitted– Mark Hammar, *President*

Did You Know?

The Straight Farmhouse/Garden City Historical Museum had over **2950** visitors in 2012. That is an **INCREASE** of 13% over 2011.



Meet our New Volunteers!

Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum are proud to introduce to our members several new volunteers who have come aboard in the past year. *Penny Klei* is a Board Member on the Garden City Downtown Development Authority and has been vital in helping our historian Jack Kerstetter transfer and catalog archives to the computer. *Mike Lawrence*, a long-time Garden City resident, has been a welcome addition to our staff and also volunteers his time at the Family Resource Center at Maplewood Senior Center helping with Food Commodities and senior events. Mike's better half, *Sharon Hasset*, is the Chairperson of the Commission on Aging at Maplewood Senior Center and works wonders with the landscape around the Straight Farmhouse. And *Nancy Quinn* is our most recent addition to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum and a lifelong Garden City resident.



In Memory

In January 2013 the FGCHM lost one of its founders, Muriel Grima.

In late 2003, with the future of the historical museum looking bleak, Muriel, Mary Jane Schildberg, and Carol Bird set out to secure a new location; which they did. Muriel was a tireless worker for the Farmhouse and spent countless hours (both at the Farmhouse and at home) working to keep it viable. A memorial/fundraising event was held February 22, 2013 to honor Muriel (and Muriel's mother who passed two weeks prior to Muriel's passing). The family decided that the event would raise money for Muriel's three favorite organizations: Good Hope Lutheran Church, The Garden City Library, and The Straight Farmhouse (with the family matching, dollar-for-dollar, all monies raised). The family would like to thank all those who donated. Muriel would be honored and humbled by your generosity.

New Display Cases

Jack Kerstetter made a generous donation of new display cases for the second floor of the museum. The donation of the glass cases were made in memory of his wife Betty. These new display cases will replace the wood and glass book cases and will be a welcome addition to the museum. Thank you, Jack.

Craftique Mall

The Craftique Mall at in the Garden City Towne Center (5846 Middlebelt Road north of Ford Road) continues their generosity by donating a 3' x 3' booth to the FGCHM to sell items. Stop by the Craftique Mall. There is a variety of vendors offering very interesting things. The Craftique Mall is open Mon.-Thurs. 11-6, Fri. and Sat. 10-7, and Sun. 12-5. Stop in and check all there is to see!



A Visit (and donation!) from Elwin Straight

On August 12, 2013, Elwin Straight and his daughter (Sue) visited the Straight Farmhouse. Elwin and Sue took time to tour the museum. They were very impressed with the research area upstairs. Elwin has researched the Straight genealogy back to the early 1600's and has made that available to the Museum.

While at the Farmhouse Elwin and Sue donated the tricycle Elwin bought Sue when she was a child. It was used by Sue, and later, it was also rode by Sue's son.

The tricycle is proudly displayed in the museum, along with some family photos of them on the tricycle. The FGCHM would like to thank Elwin (and Sue) for stopping by, and for the donation of the family's cherished tricycle.

Photos Needed! Can you help?

The Garden City Historical Museum is in need to some photos. Those needed are:

Class Composites: GC East- 1974, '1977- '79, 1985; GC West- 1967, 1979- '82; GCHS- 1985, 1986, 1988-'94, 2006-12. We are also missing a few Yearbooks: 1971 (East High) and 2011 GCHS; Pictures can be donated in a few ways; you can donate the original, or bring in the original and we can scan it and return it to you.

FGCHM
6221 Merriman Rd.
Garden City, MI 48135

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