

THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

SEPTEMBER 2016



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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

Straight Farmhouse Celebrates 150 Years! 1866-2016

Everyone is invited to the big birthday bash celebrating the 150 year anniversary of the Straight Farmhouse, built in 1866.

The big event will be on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 12 pm to 4 pm with live entertainment, refreshments, special exhibits, guided tours and much more!



Circle your calendar and look for your invitation. This is one party you won't want to miss!

Straight Farmhouse Gets a Facelift

As the 1866 Straight Farmhouse celebrates its 150th birthday in 2016, the Friends thought what better time to give the building a new cleaning and painting.

The aluminum siding was showing wear and the wood architectural eyebrows over the farmhouse windows were in dire need of attention. The Board of Directors voted to



accept a bid of \$6,150 from Progressive Painting of Livonia, MI to prime, caulk and paint the entire building including the foundation, porches and exterior doors. Work was completed in six days and the Farmhouse looks like a new building. We invite you to stop by and admire the facelift!



5th Annual- Skeletons On Review

Our skeletons are chomping at the bit to come out of the basement for another season. Beginning October 1st (the same day as our 150th Celebration), they will make their triumphant return. This year the skeletons will be interacting with our **Life in the 1800's** exhibit.

If you can't make it on October 1st, the skeletons will be around through October 29th. We are also offering a few evenings you can stop by and see them. The Farmhouse will be open from 6:30-8pm on October 26 and 27th.

As always, our exhibit is child-friendly, and free to the public. So tell your friends and post it to Facebook (our skeletons need to widen their social circle!)



SFH Parking Lot Gets Much Needed Preventive Maintenance

If you've visited the Straight Farmhouse recently, you know our parking lot needs a lot of work, with all the cracks, potholes, and dips in the asphalt. Quite honestly, it needs total reconstruction, which could cost in the range of \$30 - \$50 thousand dollars! So until we hit the lottery, the Board decided to spend one-tenth of that, specifically \$3,500, to patch, crack seal, and sealcoat the entire asphalt surface and apply new painted parking stalls, including the required handicap parking stall closest to the building entrance



The lowest qualified bid was awarded to National Asphalt of Livonia, MI and work was completed in four days. It may not be as smooth as a new asphalt parking lot, but it was money well spent as preventive maintenance that will keep it intact for the next 4-5 years.

Support the Straight Farmhouse at the **Chili Cookoff!**

Circle your calendars now for Saturday, October 8, 2016 and help raise money for the Straight Farmhouse by volunteering at the Annual Chili Cook-off in downtown Garden City.

This popular event takes place from Noon to 5 pm and the Garden City Downtown Development Authority (GCDDA) is in need of volunteers throughout the day to help make this event a success!

For every hour you work, \$10 will be donated to the Straight Farmhouse. And you can work as little as two hours, or work the entire day. You will be helping out the DDA and supporting the Straight Farmhouse at the same time. Contact the Garden City DDA at (734) 261-2830 for more information (and tell them the Straight Farmhouse sent you!)



Speaking of the DDA...



...have you seen their front windows lately? The Straight Farmhouse was asked if we would like to decorate the front windows of the DDA Office. Of course we gratefully accepted, and Kim Marquette went to work. In the Spring the windows featured old photos of Garden City businesses, and some artifacts on loan from the Museum.

For Fall, Kim has a 'Back to School' theme that features a big yellow bus (a Garden City Celebrity is the bus driver!). The Straight Farmhouse appreciates the opportunity to decorate the DDA Windows, and promote our Historical Museum.



Kristy Robinett

Kristy Robinett is well known as an 'Abnormally Normal Psychic Medium, Life Coach, and Best Selling Author.' Kristy holds some of her meetings at The Straight Farmhouse. For more information on her upcoming events, please visit her website at www.kristyrobinett.com. Some of Kristy's books are also available for purchase in The Lathers General Store at the Straight Farmhouse.

SFH and the 2016 Garden City Taste Fest!

On May 17, 2016, The Straight Farmhouse hosted one of the stops for the 2016 Garden City Taste Fest. Taste Fest participants (numbering over 200!) feasted on a wide variety of sweets while at the Farmhouse. Everyone's sweet tooth was satisfied!



New Interpretive Sign

The next time you are at the Straight Farmhouse, take a walk around to the front yard. To the right of the handicap ramp there is a new interpretive sign. It has information regarding the history of the Straight Family and the Farmhouse. It is a great opportunity to let passersby know a little more about our historic site.



Which Direction is the Museum?



While we are on the subject of signs, have you noticed the sign at the northeast corner of Ford Rd. and Merriman Rd.?

Ho! Ho! Ho!

You are probably thinking, “Hey, its only September...don’t rush it!”.

We’re not rushing the season, but we do want you to make sure you save time this holiday season to stop by the Historical Museum to see our display **“Holiday Traditions”** where we take a closer look at the origin of holiday traditions (like– Why do some trees have a pickle on them?)



Watch the website for more details in mid-late November.

Meet Our Docents (Museum Tour Guides)

Visitors to the Garden City Historical Museum are treated to a very informative and entertaining guided tour of our facility thanks to the talented duo of docents, Historian Jack Kerstetter and Bill Brooks.

These gentlemen bring to life the stories of the past that make Garden City what it is today. Their knowledge of the archives and exhibits displayed throughout the museum is impressive and the museum guests and volunteers alike, are always amazed at their gift of story-telling, helping the visitor to transport themselves back in time.



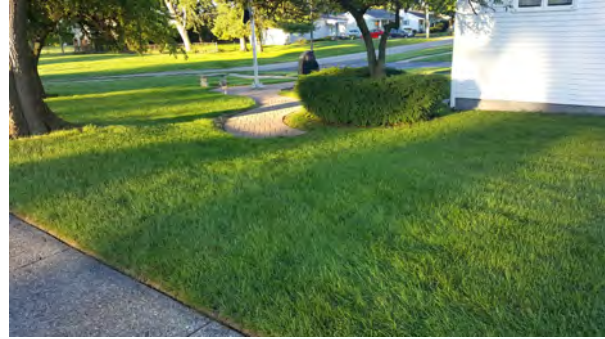
On their 10 Year Anniversary we felt it was important to give them recognition in this issue of the Straight Farmhouse Crier because their contribution to the success of the Garden City Historical Museum is priceless!

Energy Conservation Helps the Friends Save on Utility Costs

During the past 10 years, the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum have made great strides in conserving energy at the 150 year old Straight Farmhouse. By retrofitting existing lighting fixtures or upgrading HVAC equipment to more energy efficient furnaces and air conditioner units, we have seen a reduction to our yearly utility costs by 15-20 percent. Over half of the lighting fixtures in the farmhouse are now LED instead of the kilowatt-hungry fluorescent or incandescent lighting. All exterior lighting is also LED. All three furnaces (yes, 3 furnaces!) heating the building are at least 85% energy efficient and Energy Star rated. We still have much more to do, including replacing the leaking windows throughout the building, and replacing the remaining fluorescent lights in the farmhouse with LED's. But we've accomplished a lot in a little amount of time and we wholeheartedly give thanks to you, our members and supporters, who have made it possible with your continued financial donations to the Friends. Please know that your gifts are greatly appreciated and are being put to work every day!

Brick Paver Walkway Completion Scheduled for this Fall

Many visitors have followed the path along the brick walkway south of the Straight Farmhouse, only to find it ends just short of the sidewalk on Merriman Rd. For those visitors needing access to the handicap ramp on the east side of the building, navigating this short section of grass where the bricks end can be a daunting task, especially during inclement weather.



While the goal has always been to finish the memorial walkway from the parking lot to the Merriman Rd. sidewalk, the Board realized that it was imperative that this project be undertaken as soon as possible to permit safe travel for the physically challenged who use it to access the handicap ramp to attend functions in the Grande Parlour or to visit the museum.

The Board is pleased to announce that it has contracted with Michigan Pete Landscaping of Garden City to build the final extension of the walkway sometime this Fall at a cost of \$2,905.

Pete Dryovage, owner of Michigan Pete Landscaping, is responsible for the design and build of the previous sections of the memorial walkway, so we are pleased to have him complete the final phase of this project. This will insure that the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum will have plenty of pavers for the public to purchase for personal engraving for a variety of occasions; to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their country, to recognize a group or school, or perhaps to personalize their family origins in Garden City. A 4" x 8" brick paver is just \$50, a 8" x 8" engraved paver is \$75. Order forms are available online at sfhonline.org or at the Straight Farmhouse.



New Home for Second Floor Exhibit

Historian Jack Kerstetter needed a little more wall space in the second floor Research Room for historical archives and reference binders, so he decided to move the typewriters and adding machines down the hall a bit, and in the process, created a very pleasing exhibit space just outside the "School Room".

Jack worked very hard on this new exhibit space so be sure to check it out on your next visit to the Garden City Historical Museum.

What People Are Saying About The Grande Parlour

One of our major sources of income at the Straight Farmhouse is the rental of the Grande Parlour. To ensure we are meeting/exceeding the expectations of our renters, a survey is emailed out to every group that rents the Parlour. A variety of questions based on their rental experience are asked.



Here are a few comments we have received:

- *“Thank you for a wonderful experience”*
- *“Nice Setting; I’ve been renting here for years”*
- *“This has been by far the best place that I have ever held an event . We will definitely be using this facility again for future events!”*

If you know someone who has need of a banquet facility, please keep the Grande Parlour in mind! You can find more information on the Grande Parlour at our website: www.sfhonline.org.

FGCHM
6221 Merriman Rd.
Garden City, MI 48135

Thank you for your support!