

THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

Spring 2020

**The Straight Farmhouse wishes to extend sincere condolences
to all those affected by the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.**

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house Crier* please submit
them via email to:

Straight.farmhouse@yahoo.com

What's been happening at the Farmhouse

It's been another busy year at The Farmhouse since our last newsletter! Where did the time go? Well, we are going to tell you throughout this newsletter. We'll talk about the exciting things that took place in the second half of 2019, and let you know what cool things happened so far AND will happen in the balance of 2020. Let's get started!

Memorial Day– 2019



Memorial Day is the day we remember those that made the ultimate sacrifice defending our Country.

The American Legion Riders held their annual Memorial Day Service at the Veterans Memorial at The Straight Farmhouse.



2019 Garden City Garden Walk/ Vendor Show

On July 20th The Garden City Garden Club holds its 25th Annual Garden Walk. In cooperation with The Garden Club, The Straight Farmhouse held a vendor show (with garden related items) and a luncheon.

Guests could stop in, cool off and enjoy lunch. Then they had the opportunity to visit with vendors and tour the Garden Exhibit in the Farmhouse. The vendors were moved inside the Farmhouse due to the extremem heat that day.



The Garden Club also held its “Backyard Bouquet” contest at the Farmhouse. Home gardeners brought in their bouquets for judging.



Due to the success of this event, the Garden Club has asked to partner with the Farmhouse again for this year’s 26th Annual Garden Walk on July 18, 2020, and we can’t wait!

Wi-Fi Comes to the Farmhouse



At long last, in Fall of 2019, Wi-Fi was installed at the Farmhouse! This upgrade adds functionality to so many of our systems at the Farmhouse. Our thermostats can now be controlled remotely, allowing us to adjust the temperature before a Grande Parlour rental arrives. It allows reports from our two thermostats to be sent to us on a monthly basis so we can analyze energy usage. We can also receive alerts if a system malfunctions.

Wi-Fi also allows us to enhance the functionality of our security system, and will be available for future security upgrades.

Wi-Fi allows for internet searches while on site, and is also available for use by those that rent the Grande Parlour.

2019 Skeletons on Review



“Superstitions” was the theme of our 2019 Skeletons on Review Exhibit. The Skeletons were throughout all three floors of the Farmhouse. Our ‘Evenings with the Skeletons’ was well attended again this year. Straight Farmhouse Member, Jeanie Smith, made treat bags for each child. A special thank-you to the Garden City library for their donation of a certificate for a free book! The popularity of this exhibit continues to grow. Also this year, some members of the Garden City Girls Swim Team dressed up and volunteered as docents several nights!

We always have a hard time coaxing the skeletons back into the basement come November 1st, but not this year! We had extra help. The Garden City Girls Swim Team came in full force to help move the skeletons back into storage. These energetic young women helped organize our decorations and props, then carried everything back into the basement for storage. They finished the job in record time! Many thanks for their help.



Thank You to our 2019 Skeletons on Review Sponsors!!

Mark Gutman
Nancy Quinn
Penny Klei
Liberty Tax
Wild Iris Floral Boutique
Diane Kurgan
John Kerstetter
Wm Brooks
Jones Insurance Agency
Pat McKarge
Dorothy Sweda
Mayor Pro Tem Mark Jacobs

Rose Freeman
D & D Executive Transportation
Suite Deux
Carrot Stick Sports
Chuck Skinner Historical Commission
Garden City Community Chat
Garden City Miniature Golf
Sports Venue
Fix Family
Shaklee Distributor
McFarlane-King Insurance
Jean Smith

Comfort Keepers
J&J Taxes and More
Barb Keoueh
John N. Santeiu & Son
Mike Lawrence & Sharon Hassett
Hershey Shoes
The Marquette Family
Dolores Rozsnyai Weems
MARS Auto Repair
The Kietur Family
Yaldo Eye Center
Bev England
VFW

2019 Traditions of Christmas Exhibit

Did you make it to see the “Traditions of Christmas” Exhibit this year? If not, you missed a great one.

This year we added a 12½’ tree to our entrance (decorated with ribbons and greeting cards), we had a “Grinch” tree in the movie room (after all, watching Christmas Movies is a fun tradition!). Decorating with ornaments is a favorite tradition, so there was a tree with ornaments pouring onto it (see right). There was a 9’ tree decorated with toys, a tree made from board games, and a whole room where you walked in and became a kid again.



Carpet Cleaning

At the end of January 2020 the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum contracted Aqua Chem Solutions Carpet Cleaning. This Garden City based business came in and cleaned all of the carpets in the entire facility. They look fantastic! Call Mike Lica at (734) 421-7110 if you need carpet cleaning services.

‘Crart’ at the Farmhouse



What is “Crart”? Well, it’s a name we came up with that blends **Crafts** and **Art** Work, because the classes we have been holding at the Farmhouse could be classified as either or both!

OK, granted, the name isn’t that good, and we probably won’t keep using it, but the classes are GREAT!



From Kiss My Glass nightlight and jewelry classes, to Michelle’s Pieces Mosaic Classes, the Wood Sign Workshops. All classes filled up quickly. As a matter of fact, 2020 was off to an amazing start. Then: COVID-19. This devastating virus stopped everything in its tracks, as our emphasis shifted to the safety of our volunteers and guests.



But never fear! Plans are in the works at this very moment to reschedule all of these wonderful events (and add some too!) as soon as the CDC announces it is safe to do so.

So keep an eye on our Facebook Page and Straight Farmhouse website. We can’t wait to start having fun again “Crarting”!

Daniel G. Dare

It is with great sadness that the Farmhouse announces that on March 3, 2020, Daniel Dare passed away after a short illness in East Lansing. He was 76 years old. Dan was the youngest of 14 children.

Mr. Dare (Danny– aka ‘Dapper Dan’) donated his entire cherished Santa Claus collection to the Farmhouse in 2013. Danny was there in person opening night of the exhibit in 2013 and visited again in 2017.



Danny was a 1962 graduate of Garden City High School. He loved Garden City dearly. He once wrote, “Any time I was down or depressed in life, I would think of Garden City, and it always cheered me up. It was my happy place.”

He will be missed by many.

For the first time in December 2020, his entire collection will be on display at the Straight Farmhouse.

Santa Exhibit- 2020

This year’s exhibit in December will be the Santa Claus Exhibit. Donated by Dan Dare (see above) in 2013, this exhibit is one you don’t want to miss. The detail in these collectible Santas will amaze you.

This year we will be featuring for the first time, Mr. Dare’s complete collection as he bequeathed the last few items of his collection to the Farmhouse upon his death. Please make sure you plan a visit to the Farmhouse in December.

Know Someone Looking for a Banquet Facility??

Why not the Grande Parlour at the Straight Farmhouse?

In addition to a beautiful setting, the rental includes use of the kitchen, the serving room that can be closed off from guests during food preparation, enough seating for up to 60 people, and so much more. All of this at VERY reasonable rates.

Visit our website for more information: www.sfhonline.org

COVID-19 Impact

I'm sure many are wondering what impact the COVID-19 outbreak had on the Farmhouse.

Following CDC Guidelines, we began cancelling events in late-March. Up until then, we had intensified our disinfecting protocol.

Before the State mandated shut down of gatherings below 100, the Farmhouse offered 100% refunds if a renter wished to cancel. After the State mandated shut down, refund checks were also sent out for those that chose not to reschedule.

Through May 1st, the financial loss to the Farmhouse will be in excess of \$5,300. If the shut down continues beyond May 1, so will the financial losses.

The good news— because of the Farmhouse Board's careful financial planning, our excellent rental reputation, and our fundraising efforts, the Farmhouse will weather this storm. It will mean the repaving of our parking lot will be postponed until funds can be replaced, and we will need to make some temporary repairs until then. We may need to put some other site/building improvements on hold as well, but the Farmhouse is excellent condition, and as of now we have no pressing issues or concerns. Most of all, we would like to thank our members for their ongoing support of the Straight Farmhouse. You make our existence possible! We are "Farmhouse-Strong".

'Facility' Upgrades

The Straight Farmhouse saw some much needed improvements this year. Two new toilets were installed in the lower level of the Grande Parlour. These low-flow toilets will help the farmhouse save money, and save natural resources. Thanks to Marshall Hill for overseeing this project.

Parking Lot Update

If you have parked recently in the Farmhouse parking lot you may have noticed it is coming due for maintenance. Well, we have noticed too!

The Board of Directors have been securing bids. It looks like the cost will be substantial. To have our lot resurfaced the cost will likely be close to \$40,000. Our plan was to have this completed by Fall, but the COVID-19 outbreak set us back a bit (see article above), but we are continuing to fundraise towards this project. Your continued support of the Farmhouse will help us meet this goal!

Murder Mysteries at The Farmhouse



October 2019 saw the first Murder Mystery at The Farmhouse- “Séance at The Straight Farmhouse”. The ‘whodunnit’ was written by Eileen Moushey and performed by The Garden Players. Guests wandered the Farmhouse solving clues, then gathered back in The Grande Parlour to name the murderer. Guests at both shows had a great time. Whodunnit? We can’t say!



The Cast (L-R): Mike, Tony, Russ, Sherry, and Sydney.



Our second murder mystery was New Year’s Eve. There were two shows, an early and late show (both sell outs). Each included dinner by *Choice Catering* (and drinks). Choice Catering researched meals of the 1920s then replicated one for this event. Each show included a fabulous 1920's fare dinner: Meat Balls, Roast Beef, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Green Bean Almandine, and Pineapple Upside-down cake for dessert! The New Years Eve show was “A Flapper’s Murder at a 1920’s Speakeasy” to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Roaring Twenties. Guests were encouraged to wear 1920’s costumes and there were ‘best dressed’ contests (see pictures from the event on Page 2). Winners left with some ‘jag-juice’.

Our next Murder Mystery was March 7 & 8- “Funeral for a Gangster”. Both shows sold out well before the performance dates! As a matter of fact, we received numbers calls right up until show time. Guests once again enjoyed refreshments by Choice Catering. More shows are booked for June 6 & 7 (CDC permitting) and October 9 & 10. Watch Facebook for more information and to purchase tickets. You don’t want to miss these fun-filled events. Watch for the “Members-only” ticket presale too!

Thank you Garden Players!

The Straight Farmhouse would like to thank the Alan Bennett, the Garden Players, and the entire Company for generously volunteering their time and talents to bring theatre to the Straight Farmhouse through the Murder Mysteries.



Murder Mystery- New Year's Eve at The Farmhouse



J & J Taxes and More- If your looking for a "high-brow", suit and tie type, fancy accounting and tax service office, we're probably not what your looking for! If a down to earth, friendly, no frills personal approach to tax preparation and accounting, (at a reasonable price) is more your style then your in the right place! (734) 523-8291 . Thank you J & J Taxes for handing the Farmhouse taxes!

A Letter from the FGCHM President - Kim Marquette

Greetings SFH Members,

First off I am hoping that this newsletter finds you and your family at home and safe. As the COVID-19 Stay Home order is in place throughout the state of Michigan. What a time in history we are living in right now. We are actually living through a historic time. It will be remembered in many different ways, In this day and age have the internet supplying us with 24/7 news, first hand testaments, photos and statics posted daily. Although this time has brought fear and concerns in so many different ways, but It has also shown us that our small city is a **STRONG** and giving, caring community.

It is truly a blessing to see how our community has come together to reach out to others. Our Churches are closed, but are hosting online services. Our City's HOME Pantry along with our different church pantries are reaching out and helping even more families. Schools in the entire State shut down, yet The Garden City Public Schools and Tipton schools still feed all their students breakfast and lunch by having them pick up bags of food to take home. No child should go hungry in our City! Garden City Cafe made 300 meals and delivered them to the Garden City Hospital. Lucky Dog Daycare donated five pallets of dog food for local healthcare workers!



On April 6th at 8 pm residents were asked to go to the Garden City Hospital to flash their car lights and honk horns to show support to the frontline workers.

The DDA director, Kim Dold reached out to Barson's Greenhouse for White ribbon to make bows for the City as a show of support for healthcare workers. Debbie Barson not only made all 100 bows by hand, but Barson's also donated them. The Downtown looks wonderful with it's White Bows of support.



Letter From President– continued

FYI - Barson's is also doing non-contact sales with curbside pick up. You can make one yourself out the old grocery bags or kitchen garbage bags and hang it at your house.

There is a group on Facebook called Garden City Scavenger Hunt that each Wednesday and Saturday asks you to hang a themed item on our window or door. Past themes include Easter Egg Hunt (April 11), Going on a bear hunt, and smiling faces. The weeks are April 15th: Raindrops/umbrellas, April 18th: Dinosaurs, April 22: Disney Characters and April 25th: Under the Sea. Kids walk in the neighborhood and look for the windows and doors hunting for those themed items. So next time you are out and about, have fun hunting.

Angel Above Baby Gowns, a Garden City Community Group that usually makes baby gowns from wedding dresses for infant burials was asked to make face masks and scrub caps. Over 5,000 requests have come in. They reached out to the community asking for volunteers to cut out the fabric so that the sewers could just sew. Hospitals all over have benefitted from these dedicated seamstress'. The Straight Farmhouse volunteer Carol Hill went through our fabric and made masks to donate to this great cause.



The Farmhouse responded to a shout out on Facebook for much needed items. The Straight Farmhouse had two boxes of gloves, a container of disinfecting wipes, and three bottles of hand sanitizer that were donated to the Security Department at the Garden City Hospital; not much, but welcomed none-the-less.

How will history look back on this day? I would hope with great understanding that there are so many wonderful people in this world; that for a time were willing to learn from history and stay home to help stop the spread.

There are so many great stories of neighbors helping neighbors; one can understand why those who have moved away from Garden City, still refer to Garden City as Home. Those of us so blessed to be still living here know why our City motto is: "Garden City a Great place to call HOME".

Remembering our Friend, Diane Thurner

The Farmhouse was saddened to learn of the passing of one of it's Members/Volunteers, Diane Thurner.

Diane spent many hours helping raise funds for the Farmhouse. Back when the Farmhouse held its own Flea Markets, Diane took care of promoting, setting up and checking in vendors for the flea market. Diane also was able to secure a booth for the Farmhouse at Craftique.



She will be sorely missed by her Farmhouse Family.

2020 Quilt Exhibit

Now (as soon as the facility is re-opened after lifting of the Stay at Home Order) through the end of summer, make plans to see our quilt exhibit.

Over 100 quilts are on display; most are on loan. Some of the quilts date as far back as the early 19th Century, and some were made as recently as this year! Some are hand quilted, some machine quilted, even Award winning quilts are on display. Each quilt has its own unique story to tell. No two are alike.

This exhibit is located entirely on the first floor of the Museum, and admission is free! Open during regular museum hours, Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon–3pm. If you are unable to make it during regular hours, you may request a private showing by calling Kim at (734) 812-1559.



DSO Concert

Much to our disappointment, our DSO Concert scheduled for May 2020 has been cancelled. We are excited to announce it will be rescheduled for Fall 2020. We needed to make a “Go” or “No go” decision. We decided to error on the side of caution and reschedule. As soon as a new date is selected, it will be announced.

Local Support: Post COVID-19

At the time of this writing, the Stay-at-Home order was still in place in the State of Michigan. Once it is lifted, please support your local Garden City Businesses.

Eat out as often as possible (and tip well!), shop local, use local businesses.

Maybe, if you are fortunate enough, spend a little more than you otherwise might have.

Many of these businesses were shut down at one of the busiest times of the year. Let's do all we can to help them lessen the losses they have experienced.

We CAN make a difference!

We support the:



The Garden City Business Alliance
Supporting our community as we grow our business

FGCHM
6221 Merriman Rd.

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