



Ring in The
New Year with
Wales Historical
Society Jan 11 -12
at Wales Township Hall
hours 4-6 All welcome!

Guest speaker Judy Duncan
subject New England States
History

Business: Calendars are ready
Web site increase

Election updated

Bring pictures from Christ-
mas Party

Refreshments

Agenda

WALES HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

For January 14, 2012 Meeting

Open Meeting with pledge of flag

Secretary's report: Any addition or corrections to the secretary's report? If not would someone like to make a motion to accept this report (ask for a motion, then a second to the motion, "all in favor raise your hand and those opposed same sign OR all in favor say Yes, those apposed say NO.")

Treasurer's report (same as Secretary's report ask for a motion etc)

Old Business: Calendars? Etc.

New Business: Would like to review the voting at our Christmas party. The people left on the board are you all satisfied with continuing your office? We know Herm Weng wanted to continue on as President is there any other of you that wanted to address this? Herm may be gone for 2 or 3 months.

No speaker this evening if you have any suggestions on whom we can get let me know.

**Evelyn Edwards
Secretary**

FREE PUBLICATION! • TAKE ONE! • FREE PUBLICATION!

ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

JANUARY 2012



Over the Hill to the Poor House

By William S. Easton

ThumbPrint News Guest Writer

The poor house (or poor farm, as they were often called) in the title of the turn of the century poem on page 25, was the destination of many destitute people for over a century of our history. That institution, sometimes euphemistically called a “county home” was an inheritance from Great Britain. As described by Dorothea Dix, an early social reformer, it was based on the common belief that it was criminal to be poor and unable to support oneself.

During the early nineteenth century, states passed laws requiring counties to create these farms – or compensate neighboring counties for accepting their indigent. The New York legislation passed in 1821 provided that the following unfortunate folks were subject to confinement to the poor farm: “Paupers, Disorderly Persons and Child Beggars.” The last named sounds like *Oliver Twist* and Charles Dickens’ own youth experiences. Although debtors and the mentally



The St. Clair County Poor Farm, pre-1914

ill were not listed, a mid-century county report included some of both. The residents were fed and housed, but expected to perform such work as they were able, raising vegetables and livestock. They were supervised by an appointed overseer.

In 1826, the Michigan territory passed similar legislation. According to a website that tracks these institutions nationally, St. Clair County had its first poor farm in the Smith Creek area.

See *THE POOR HOUSE*, Page 24

Poor farm becomes a park

By **GARRET ELLISON**
The Associated Press

POLKTON TWP. — When Ruth Anne Stillson was a young girl growing up in Eastmanville, the kitchen of her farmhouse was a busy place on Mondays.

Her mother and father, Doris and Tom Modderman, baked about five dozen loaves of bread on the first day of the work week to feed the residents of the Ottawa County farm they managed.

A bakery was established on the farm in 1943, and it didn't take long before local residents grew savvy enough to start dropping in at strategic times, because "they knew that if they came by in the late afternoon, they could get a piece of hot bread," said Stillson, 71.

Such was life on the Eastmanville farm, which was typical in many respects, but certainly not ordinary. Before being decommis-

sioned and converted into a 229-acre county park, the farmstead was a home for those who had nowhere else to go.

Long before the modern welfare system, Michigan's original constitution required each county to set up facilities to provide for its poor residents.

They became places where otherwise able-bodied people lived free of charge and helped raise crops and livestock.

The Eastmanville Farm Park property on Leonard Street, just west of 68th Avenue, was acquired by Ottawa County after the Civil War and established as a "poor farm" to house indigent residents.

The farm, later renamed **Community Haven** in the 1970s and operated as a nursing home, was the last of its kind in Michigan when it was shuttered in 2000 as part of the Hope Network.



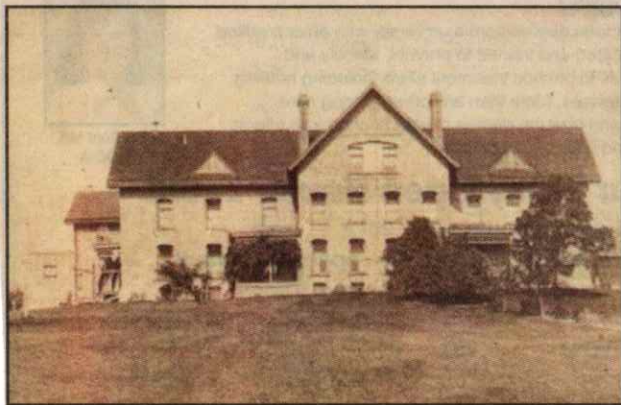
Karin Burrell walks her two dogs, Jamie and Tino, at the Eastmanville Farm Park on Nov. 20. The former poor farm and nursing home dates to 1837, when the original owners bought the land from the federal government. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE POOR HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

Later, it was moved to better farm land in Wales Township where it was noted for its outstanding cheese and hops production. That original use continued until 1962 when the building was converted to a county medical facility. After 30 years, it was closed down and the building was torn down in 1993. The County Parks and Recreation Department now owns the 327 acre location. There are newer buildings, one a farm implement museum, and a week long summer fair.

The same website shows similar institutions in Lapeer and Tuscola Counties. The former is now a medical facility, while the one in Caro is gone. Macomb County historians attempted unsuccessfully to save their buildings. All that remains at that location alongside the jail is a plaque that was dedicated last summer. According to a report in *The Macomb Daily*, a clergyman



The Tuscola County Poor House was located in Caro.



The Macomb County Poor Farm was located in Mt Clemens.

speaking at those ceremonies, apparently paraphrasing Scripture said, "The strength of society must be measured by how it treats the least of its members." He added that it appeared to him that Congress was neglecting that with its proposals to cut Medicaid and other social programs. The same news report described in some detail the so called "Pest House" with a dirt floor and no windows to confine those with infectious diseases.

The title poem, "Over the Hill to the Poor-House", was the work of Will Carleton from Lenawee County, Michigan. It describes the plight of an aging (70 year old) woman who had outlived a husband and then was being displaced in another man's home by a younger woman who "carried a heap of style." So the older woman's services were no longer required. In the poem she bemoans her final destination. Carleton was a nationally famous poet. Indeed, the Michigan Legislature in 1919 made his works required reading for students. The poem was made into a popular 1920 silent film and also inspired a song of the same name.

My interest in this subject dates back to my youth growing up in a county seat with a county home. I had seen a man who walked daily from there to the center of our village and asked my father his story. I was told that the man had killed another resident by pushing him out of a second story window. After serving his prison sentence, he had returned for these daily strolls. My research of newspaper archives informed me that he was a relative, first cousin of my grandfather, something that was not mentioned by my dad. Furthermore, the street on which I lived was named for his prominent family. Given the current interest in genealogy, these county farms, many of which had pauper cemeteries, should prove ripe for such research. Perhaps others will discover, as I did, a family skeleton. 🍀

Editor's note: The St. Clair County Poor Farm Cemetery is located on Lapeer Road and also on County Park Road. It sits behind the Goodells County



visitor center. The only way to access it is by going through the Park. It sits in a group of pine trees that you can see from the visitor center. It is enclosed with a log split rail fence. There are no headstones there. According to www.findagrave.com, the Goodells or Wales Center Poor Farm Cemetery lists the names and dates of 356 persons who are interred at this location, and could be a helpful resource for those who believe that their ancestors may be buried there.

Wales Historical Society

meets Feb 8 = '12 4-6 PM

Wales Twp Hall

guest speaker Rosemary Taylor

Topic: Baltic Sea + Russia

subjects for discussion:

Calendars present and future

History of Mich. 175 yr

History of Ground Hog Day

History of Valentine

Love apples better known as Tomatoes

(native to Andes Mts. of S America) The

Spanish introduced Tomatoes to Europe

in 16th century called them pomodoro

(golden apples) because it was yellow.

Europeans use it as ornamental fruit

Mexico used Tomatoes for centuries but

N Americans didn't use Tomatoes until

19th century thinking they were poison.

Refreshment provided



Lewis G. "Lew" Hill

Goodells



Mr. Lewis George Hill, 80, of Goodells, died Saturday, February 25, 2012 in his home, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born November 16, 1931 in Abbottsford, Michigan to the late Willard and Marguerite Hill. He married Dennice Rasmussen Gebhardt on April 4, 1992.

Lew was a truck driver for over 30 years retiring in 1990. He worked at Round Lake Post office in Illinois for 10 years retiring in 1994. He also worked as a Police Officer for four years in Round Lake Park. He was a volunteer firefighter for both Round Lake and Kenockee. He served his country in the United States Navy. He is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Round Lake American Legion. Lew enjoyed fishing, hunting, and four wheeling with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Dennice; two daughters, Bridget (Mike) Bray and Brenda (Duane) Christensen; his son, Bruce (Vicky) Hill; four step-children, Wade and Scott Gebhardt, Lisa (Tim) Sadoski, and Shawn (Will) Thompson; 17 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; and one sister, Denise Garret. He is preceded in death by a daughter, Barb Bartels.

Visiting hours will be 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. Tuesday in Smith Family Funeral Home-South, 1230 7th Street with a Fireman's service at 7:00 p.m.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, February 29, 2012 in St. Paul Lutheran Church with visitation starting at 10:00 a.m.

Burial will be in Ruby Cemetery. Military Honors will be conducted under the auspices of the St. Clair County Allied Veterans.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in honor of Lew to St. Paul Lutheran Church or the Kenockee Fire Department.

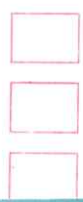
www.smithfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Butch Hoover

Kay Olsen
902-4 Euchon-dong
Kwanak-gu
Seoul, 151-843
Republic of South Korea

Isaiah 9:6,7'

4802781303



Herm and Cathy Weng
8674 Morris Rd
Goodells.



- g. **Events:** Log Cabin Days, Founders
3. Day, Carriage Festival, Bells
Bobtails, 5th Monday
Presentations.

Meetings:
See website.

Other Locations:

Gladwin County Historical Village

515 E. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, MI 48624
Hours: Memorial Day to Labor
Day: Thu-Sat 11am-4:30pm.
Information: The complex features
a restored Michigan Central
Railroad depot with seven other
buildings. Collection includes
an 1890 carriage house with a
carriage and a cutter collection at
the fairgrounds.


The Gladwin County Historical Society
brings together those interested in
history, especially of Gladwin County. The
society collects and preserves historical
photographs, written materials, and
artifacts.

GOODELLS

(St. Clair County)

**Wales Historical Society
Historic Village at Goodells County Park**

Mailing Address:

8674 Morris Rd. 
Goodells, MI 48027

Location:

St. Clair County Fairgrounds
(C.C. Peck Bank Building
Hwy M-21, between Wale Center
and Castor Roads
Goodells, MI 48027

Contact: Herman Weng, President, at
(810) 325-1146

E-mail: thewengs@webtv.net

Web: www.waleshistoricalsociety.org

Hours: Open for schools and private
tours upon request; call Herman
Weng at (810) 325-1146.

Admission:

Donations accepted.

Details: On-site parking. Wheelchair
accessible. Tour guides available.

Collections:

Local family archives—photos,
documents, artifacts—on display
in C.C. Peck Bank. Extensive
library of local history books
located in the Lynn School.

Publications:

Annual historical calendar.

Events: Earth Fair (Apr), School End of
Year Field Days, St. Clair County
4-H Fair (Jul-Aug), Harvest
Festival (Sep).

Meetings:

2nd Wed monthly, either at C.C.

Peck Bank or Wales Township
Hall (depending on weather).
Township Hall is located at 1372
Wales Center Rd., Goodells.

The Wales Historical Society was formed
in 2001 to preserve the heritage of
the Wales Township Area. The society
collaborates with St. Clair County at the
Historic Village in Goodells County Park.
Attractions include C.C. Peck Bank (c.
1900), Lynn School (c. 1882), Mudge Log
Cabin (c. 1860), Murphy-Ryan Farm (c.
1871). Park was once the location of the
county's poor farm.

GOODRICH

(Genesee County)

Goodrich-Atlas Area Historical Society

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 661
Goodrich, MI 48438

Location:

10219 Hegel Rd.
Goodrich, MI 48438

Phone: (810) 636-7194

Contact: Nancy O. Dugas

Hours: May-Dec: 2nd and 4th Sat
monthly 11am-1pm

Publications:

Video of Goodrich-Atlas history.

Events: Good Times in Goodrich (Sep),
Lunch with Santa, Christmas in
Downtown Goodrich.

Meetings:

1st Mon Apr-Dec.

Organized in 1991, the Goodrich-Atlas
Area Historical Society opened its museum
in a former store in 1998. Today, the
building displays memorabilia and local
artifacts.

*Information may not be current.

GOULD CITY

(Mackinac County)

Newton Township Historical Society

P.O. Box 2
Gould City, MI 49838

Phone: (906) 586-3382

Contact: Lucille Kenyon, President

E-mail: genilady@hughes.net

Meetings:

1st Tue every other month.

The Newton Township Historical Society
locates and preserves the history of
Newton Township.

SAFE COMB
CC PECK BANK

L. 3 turns - 21

R. 3 turns - 32

L. 2 turns - 50

Right - to stop

HISTORIC VILLAGE
GOODELLS PARK

SAFE COMB
CC PECK BANK

L. 3 turns - 21

R. 3 turns - 32

L. 2 turns - 50

Right - to stop

HISTORIC VILLAGE
GOODELLS PARK





The **Bank of MACOMB County**


Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** *and demand*
to bearer M^{rs} CLETTENS April 1st 1858.
MICHIGAN.

Cash:  Pres:

Raydon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, New-York.

STATE OF **TWO**

after date *19th 1877*



Cashier of **THE BANK OF UTICA.**

Pay *J. Moore* or bearer **TWO DOLLARS**
for The Shelby & Detroit Rail Road Company.
UTICA, July 13, 1838.

J. Ames Treas. *E. Cutbush* Presid.

F payable in Current Bank Bills.



S. S. Coles, Sherman & Smith, New York.





The **Bank of MACOMB County**

Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** *and demand*
to bearer M^{rs} CLETTENS

Cash: Pres:

179

5

The Bank of MACOMB (County)

Will pay FIVE DOLLARS on demand

to the order of **F. J. W. B.** M. CLEMESS MICHIGAN.

Cash:  Pres!

London, Wm. & Edson, New York.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

after date

1977

Cashier of THE BANK OF UTICA

Pay to the order of **W. Moore** or bearer TWO DOLLARS

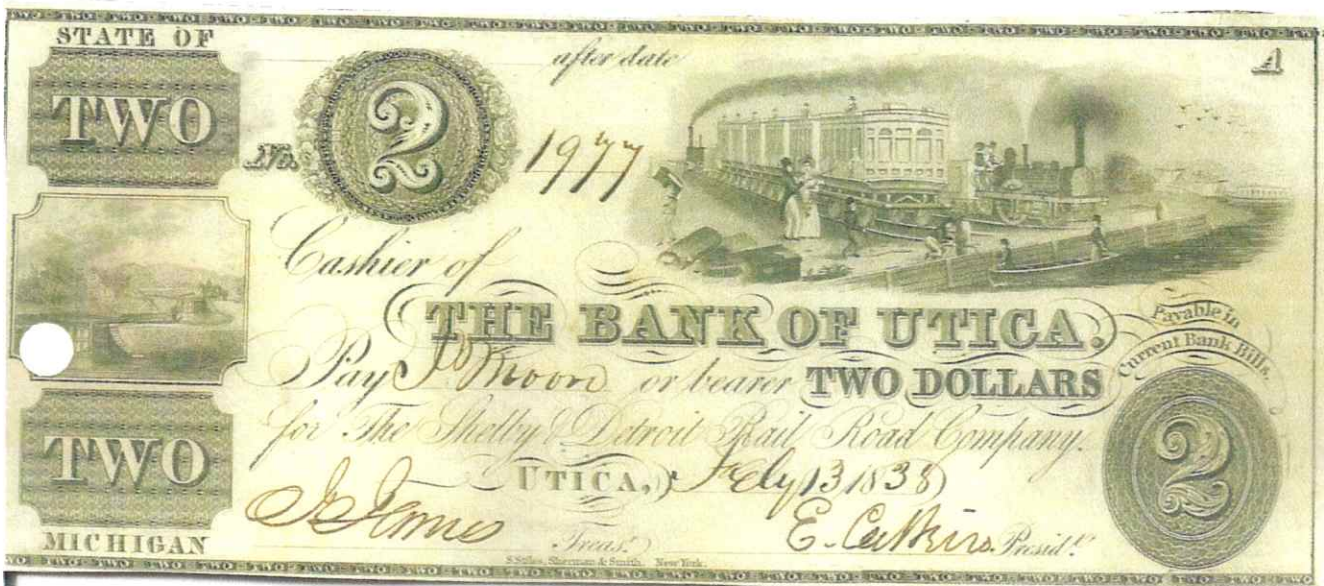
for The Shelby & Detroit Rail Road Company.

UTICA, July 13, 1835

James Cashier

E. Collins Presid!

Favorable in Current Bank Bills.



179

5

The Bank of MACOMB (County)

Will pay FIVE DOLLARS on demand

to the order of **F. J. W. B.** M. CLEMESS MICHIGAN.

A. Kibler Cashier

N. S. Green Pres!

London, Wm. & Edson, New York.



179 1840

The **Bank of MACOMB (County)**

Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** on demand

Pay to bearer **M. CLEMENS MICHIGAN** 1853

A. Kibbe Cash *W. S. Gurnee* Pres

Western Bank Notes, Circulation of

STOCKHOLDERS & DIRECTORS LIABLE & REAL ESTATE MORTGAGED

SICHELLE SAFETY FUND

THE BANK OF LAKE ST CLAIR

Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** at their Banking house.

FIDERE MICH.

179

5

5

The Bank of MACOMB (County)

Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** on demand

FIVE

to *James M. Clemons* Cashier

MICHIGAN.

Cash: *James M. Clemons* Pres: *W. B. Green*

London, New York, Boston & Salem, New York.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

after date

TWO

1977

Cashier of

THE BANK OF UTICA.

Pay *J. Moore* or bearer **TWO DOLLARS**

for *The Shelby & Detroit Rail Road Company.*

UTICA, July 13 1838

J. Moore Cashier *E. Cutler* Pres.

Utica, New York.

Payable to Current Bank Bills

2

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5

The Bank of MACOMB (County)

Will pay **FIVE DOLLARS** on demand

FIVE

to *James M. Clemons* Cashier

MICHIGAN.

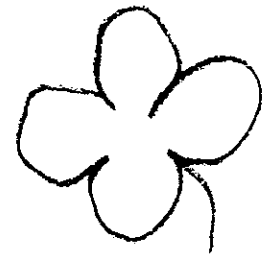
Cash: *W. B. Green* Pres: *W. B. Green*

London, New York, Boston & Salem, New York.

Wales Historical Society meets March 14 2012

From 4-6 PM
at Wales Twp Hall

Let
March
Wind
Blow



Happy St Pat
Day

Guest speaker Emmett Village News
510 444 9686 Joan Korotko
Dottie Vernier

Ernie Pearl
speaker for
Apr. on his
Trips

1. Update on Calendars 2011-2012
Judy report
2. Treasurer Book Audit
3. 4-H Auction was on Feb 25
4. Wales citizen deceased
Report on Capac - Sandy King

All Welcome Refreshments

- A Secretary report
- B Treasurer report
- C. Mar 24 pancake Breakfast + Easter Egg Hunt
9-1 \$7.00 adult 5 kids
- D April 26-27 Earth day volunteers?

Church comes together

Workers rebuild Columbus Bible building at new home

By **AMY BIOLCHINI**
Times Herald

GODELLS — Like a set of Lincoln Logs, the 140-year-old Columbus Bible Church has been disassembled at its location in Columbus Township and is being put back together, piece by piece, in Goodells County Park.

It took an Amish construction company contracted by the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission seven days to dismantle the church. Rapid progress has been made in its reassembly at the building's new home, the county's historic village.

The church's membership grew too large for the historic building and moved to a location on Palms Road 10 years ago, so Pastor Woody Nelson had an empty building on his hands. In 2009, the church staff decided to donate it to the parks commission.

"They took it all down piece by piece, and to put it up that way," Nelson said. "It is just amazing."

Nelson said the congregation of Columbus Bible Church was a small 20 members when he took over as pastor in 1989. After making significant cosmetic improvements

to the building and adding a steeple in 1995, Nelson said he watched numbers grow into the hundreds.

Dennis Delor, special events, marketing and volunteer coordinator for the parks commission, said the structure experienced its first move in 1883, when it was transported in seven days for \$100 from the site it was built on Kronner Road to Arlington Road in Columbus Township.

The structure's disassembly, repair and reconstruction will cost a little more than \$76,000, Delor said. Money for the overall \$185,000 project is from the county parks and recreation millage.

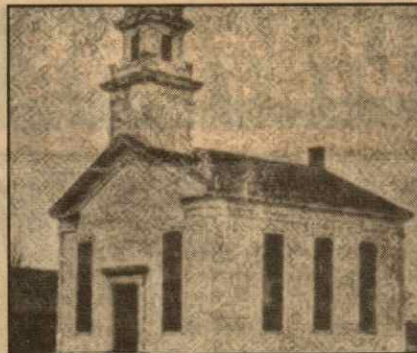
Delor said the building was in "remarkably good shape," but doors, windows, shingles and sill beams had to be replaced. About 90% of material reinstalled in the church so far has been from its original 1860 construction, Delor said.

"You always hear the saying 'if walls could talk,'" Delor said. "But when you do restoration work like this, the walls do talk."

Markings on walls and floor indicated to workers where original doorways, windows and wainscoting were. The church



GOING UP: Amish workers rebuild the former Columbus Bible Church on Tuesday afternoon at Goodells County Park. The county parks commission hopes to have work completed on the church by June.



BEFORE: Columbus Bible Church, as it looked in the 1960s. The church is being rebuilt at Goodells County Park.

Courtesy photo

will be restored to the way it originally was constructed, with two interior doors and 12-foot-tall windows.

Artifacts from the interior were donated to the parks commission. Delor hopes to begin interior renovation work at the end of April.

The parks commission plans to book the space for events and hopes to have renovations completed by June in time for wedding season, Delor said.

○ Contact Amy Biolchini at (810) 989-6259 or abiolchini@gannett.com.



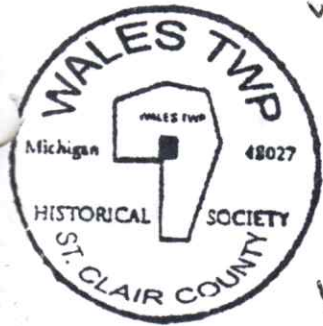
Times Herald photos by WENDY TORELLO

IT'S COVERED: John and Henry Mast work to sheet the roof of the former Columbus Bible Church on Tuesday afternoon at Goodells County Park.

WALES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WALES HISTORICAL SOCIETY.ORG

EST: 2001



APRIL 2012 MEETING



WEDNESDAY APRIL 11
HISTORIC WALES TOWNSHIP HALL
1372 WALES CENTER RD.
810-325-1517 4-6 PM - ALL WELCOME

SPEAKER:

BERNARD "CEMETERY MAN" PEARL

"BERNIE'S JOURNEY AND TURKISH ADVENTURE
AND MISADVENTURES"

TOPICS:

- TRIBUTE TO EVAN EDWARDS 2-2012
EVERYONE SHARE YOUR "EVAN STORIES" IES "

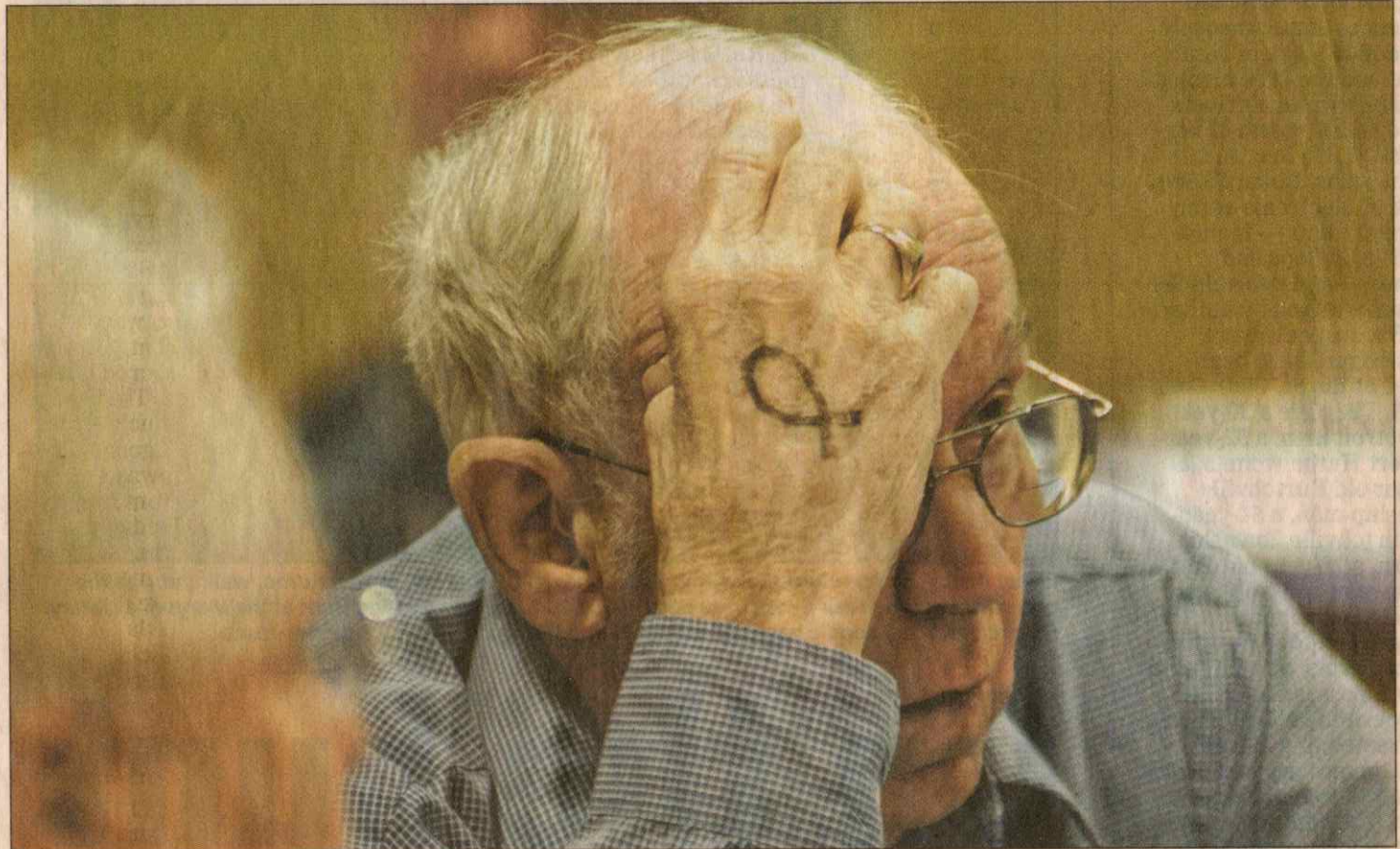


1932-2012



- "EARTH DAY 2012" PLANS - APRIL 27-28
- CALENDAR SALES - PLANS FOR 2013 CALENDAR
- FUTURE PROGRAM FOR MEETINGS
- BEULAH SHORT MEMORIAL BENCH PROGRESS ?

New Testament, old rules



Don Morris of Port Huron Township wears a fish stamp to signify him as a believer during a Maundy Thursday service at St. John's UCC in Port Huron. The church was re-creating a service that early Christians might have experienced. MELISSA WAWZYSKO/TIMES HERALD

Modern-day worshippers experience persecution

Trip To Turkey

By Bernard H Pearl

On March 1, 2012, my daughter-in-law, Carol, picked me up at my house near Richmond, Michigan and took me to the Detroit Metro Airport. She dropped me off and I went in and got my boarding pass for American Airlines flight 4163. I always go handicapped and they brought me a wheelchair. I then went to security to get cleared, x-rayed and have my baggage and shoes and passport checked. I always travel with only a carryon suitcase and my cane. The porter then took me to where my plane to Chicago would be and I took a seat to wait for my flight. I use a wheel chair because it is a great stress on my legs and airports are always difficult to get around to find your way.



At 4:30 PM I boarded an American Eagle jet for Chicago O'Hare Airport. It was a small jet of 49 passengers. A row of seats on the left side and two rows on the right side. We arrived at Chicago at 5:25 PM. The next flight to Istanbul, Turkey would not board until 8:30 PM. I gave the porter \$5



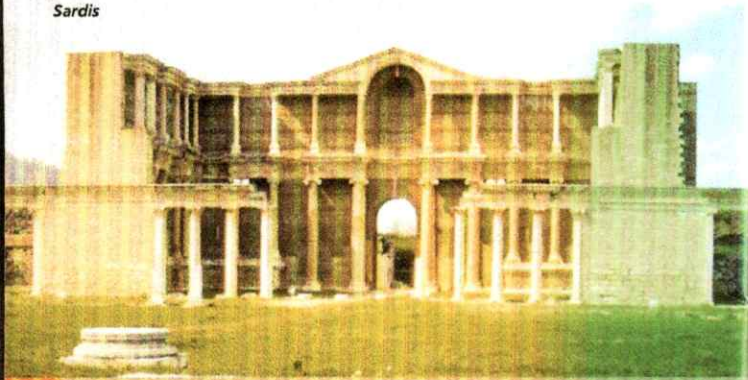
At 8:30 PM I boarded the Turkish Airlines flight TK 006 for Istanbul. The flight left at 9:05 PM. The plane was a large jet and they gave me an aisle seat, half way back with an empty seat next to my seat in the center section. I later laid down on the two seats. Across the aisle were two girls from Chicago who were born in Pakistan and heading to Tanzania to meet their sister who worked in a hospital with people with AIDS.

They were nurses.



On the flight I received a nice meal of chicken breast and vegetables, a fresh hot bun, Cheese, dish of tomato and cheese, a dessert and coffee. Just before we landed we got a scrambled egg, diced potato and tomato, a fresh hot bun, cheese, a dessert of olives, peaches and ?, plus coffee.

Sardis



PRIVATE
TOUR

TOUR
P3

Seven Churches of Revelation

PLEASE
CONTACT FOR
PRICE

3 Days Tour

By Plane or Bus

Early Christianity took shape and was spread in Anatolia. Thus, a journey through this part of the world has something of the quality of a pilgrimage, both a physical and a spiritual search for the origins and realities of one's faith.

Early morning flight to **SMYRNA** (Izmir) or night before bus to Kuşadası.

Day 1 Meet and continue to **EPHESOS** (Efes), visit the old Greco-Roman city of Ephesus, most important of the "**Seven Churches of Revelation**" in Asia Minor where St. John brought Mary in fulfillment of his pledge to Jesus to protect her, and last abode of Virgin Mary at Mount Solmissos where she is believed to have taken into heaven.

After lunch, continue to **LAODICEA** (Denizli), a crossroads of the ancient world. Dinner at hotel and overnight in **Pamukkale** (Hierapolis).

Day 2 Departure after breakfast and visit the ancient city of Hierapolis, home of Philip the Evangelist. Proceed to **PHILADELPHIA** (Alaşehir), the youngest of the Seven Churches of Revelation, visiting the still standing remains of an early church and the city walls. Lunch on the way.

Afternoon visit to the ruins of the church at **SARDIS** (Salihli), the ancient Lydian capital holding an important place in mythology. Evening arrival at **THYATIRA** (Akhisar), one of the principal towns where Christianity was spread from and visit the ruins of the church. Late evening drive to **PERGAMON**. Dinner at hotel and overnight in **Pergamum**.

Day 3 Departure after breakfast and visit **PERGAMON** (Bergama), the place where wrote St. John to the church of Pergamon "Satan's throne is sited". The impressive structures dating back to 339 BC. Pergamon was a health center where methods of treatment such as therapy with music and water, meditation and blood transfusion were first used.

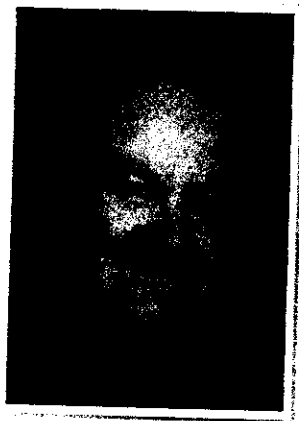
After lunch drive to **SMYRNA** (Izmir), recipient of a letter from St. Paul praising the early believers for their faithfulness. Visit to St. Polycarp Church. After a short city tour, evening flight or night bus from Izmir to Istanbul.



Evan Edwards

October 19, 1932 to March 14, 2012


Evan Dunsmore Edwards, 79,
of Ruby, died Wednesday,
March 14, 2012.



He was born October 19, 1932
in Emmett Township to the
late Evan and Helen Edwards
and was a lifetime area

resident. He married Evelyn J. Campbell on December 3, 1955 in St.
Martin Lutheran Church.

Mr. Edwards retired from CSX Railroad after 17 years. He had
previously worked at Mueller Brass and Prestolite. Evan served in the
U.S. Army on the front lines and as a medic in Korea. He was a
longtime member of St. Martin Lutheran Church and volunteer with
Mid-City Nutrition. He was also a member of the Wales Historical
Society and the V.F.W. May-O'Brien Post #8465, and a former member
of the Ruby Lions Club. Evan loved spending time with his family



Evan D. Edwards
Ruby
Evan Dunsmore Edwards, 79,
of Ruby, died Wednesday,
March 14, 2012.

March 14 2012 "Wednesday,

Dad's Eulogy

I would like to thank each of you for coming today for your support means a great deal to my family and me. It is time spent with the living with no regrets that mean the most in life.

I grew up in the 50's and 60's with "Father Knows Best" starring Robert Young & June Cleaver, except in my life it was Evan & Evelyn. We truly learned to obey and honor our father and mother because it was expected of us.

Growing up with both of our parents in the home created a sense of security and comfort with the routine of our lives. My father always expected my mother to prepare "3 square meals" a day and he always complimented her on how great the food tasted, he appreciated that. Mom always said he ate a lot of raw chickens and trial and error cooking before he was able to enjoy the really great home cooked meals. At the time I was growing up I just always thought that was normal to sit and eat together. Sometimes when we would have friends over they couldn't believe we all sat down at the table together and ate



mother to prep
how great the food tasted
and trial and error cooking
At the time I was growing up I just always thought that was normal to sit and eat together. Sometimes when we would have friends over they couldn't believe we all sat down at the table together and ate

He taught all of us how to mow grass (there really is a method to it) and there was always lots of it, not only at our home but an acre of land at my grandmother's home. We had to push it all, we only got a rider in later years and he attached a push mower next to the rider to create a larger cutting path. All of us thought that was great as we watched him mow and didn't have to push it all by hand. He always kept any machinery in the yard running and each piece of equipment had its purpose. We learned how to drive tractors, back up trailers and drive trucks, cars and vans to his specific directions –not only in the gardens and yards, but going down the road too!

We have all held the light for him and handed him tools as he has repaired all of our cars, homes, furnaces, hot water heaters, garages, additions, bathrooms, sheds or trailers. I can remember watching my Mom and Dad working together for years, it was like watching an assistant and a surgeon in the operating room, because there was always a specific tool for every job he did. If he didn't have the tool he needed he would go make one or modify the one he had to serve its purpose. Mom was always one step ahead of him, handing him the very tool he needed next before he even had to ask for it. They always worked as a team, and if she wasn't available one of us kids would step in.

He was always solving problems whether it is his, mine, yours or the world problems he was up for a discussion. He always had a firm opinion about his way to the solution even if you had an opinion about the solution he stood firm in his conviction. He was usually right, if you choose to his way of doing things. If it wasn't the same as his idea, by the time he continued to raise his voice loud enough he would convince you he was right.

I always thought of my Dad as my man of steel and velvet, he had the nerves of steel and could be as smooth as velvet. The only time I ever saw him cry was when my Mom was in the hospital this past year. He was so afraid he was going to loose her. He was absolutely crazy about her to the very end. Even when he was so sick in the hospital, he looked over at her and said, "Oh Evie, you are the best thing that ever happened to me in my life. She said he always kept the marriage exciting, never a dull moment for 56 years. She had a special bond with him that even at the time of his restlessness and distress with his illness her presence simply calmed him with her gentle touch and soft spoken words, "It's alright I'm right here", as she held his hand.

Family meant so much to him. The night we gathered around him in the living room when he came home from the hospital the last time, he looked at each one of us and said, "It's like magic". He came home and we were all there for him, just like Christ was there for him to take him home to be with his family in heaven.

Anyone who knew my father knew he was a man of principal and discipline. His word was his bond, if he told you he was going to do something, he would show up and do it. He loved to tell you and show you how to do things. Whether it was putting your mailbox up, clothes line, or hanging curtains, fixing lights, cutting trees down, cutting up chickens, he would stop what he was doing to help anyone. He loved to barter things. He would always be telling us, I can get this or that done, because that guy owes me a favor. You never knew what my Dad had done for someone, but when he asked them for a favor in return, they were good for it. He was so full of knowledge and people appreciated and respected him for that. He would raise his voice to command your attention, part of it was because he worked around machinery all of his life and that's who he was.

I know he was not only proud of all 3 of his children, but of his 4 grandchildren too. He loved to see my sister play ball because she was good at it. I remember him playing catch with her in front of the garage, giving specific directions on how to follow thru and throw it right here. He was proud of her for all that she had done in her life. She had been in the banking business for years and was good at what she did. He loved talking about her way of gardening. He would snatch veggies from her garden too.

He was proud of his son for his life as well. Kirk & Vicki have been married for 30 years. I think that is a great compliment to my Dad as they have taken their marriage seriously. Dad knew Kirk has worked hard to get the things he has today. They would call each other every day and discuss their next project. He loved my brother's garage because it was neat and tidy. Dad was famous for taking his projects to Kirk's house so they became Kirk's projects too.

I loved spending time with my Dad no matter what it was that we did. I have no regrets. Mike & I have been married for 35 years. It says something about our family in this world today. Mike sat us with my Dad quietly for a week thru out the night just holding his hand and watching old westerns with him when Dad was able, a true sign of compassion and love. I know Mike appreciated all the things Dad did for us. One of my favorite things was picking him up for dinner and shopping at Sams or ACO. He was the only guy we knew that would have the ACO Ad in his pocket, knew exactly what was on sale and what aisle the item was located in. He knew the managers of the hardware stores in town and they have offered him jobs because of his knowledge.

He did special things with each grandchild, including babysitting every one of them, either at our homes, or at his house. All the kids knew they would have an adventure with grandpa, little did they know all the life lessons he would teach them.

He was so proud of Kevin and his marriage to Brittney. He wasn't able to attend their wedding because he had just received his diagnosis and was being treated in the hospital on Labor Day weekend. Both Kevin and Brittney stayed with Grandpa and cared for him too. He hunted with Kevin and Kirk and we have pictures of their turkeys, and deer. They would love to tell the stories of how the hunt became a success.

Dad would get Justin to come over and help him in the yard or one day he came and helped replace my cement steps. He would always remind us Justin's birthday was coming up because it was close to Thanksgiving. He loved to get together and eat good food.

Charlie has always followed Grandpa around. He says Grandpa taught him everything he knows, he was like a father to him. As far as I can remember those two were always working on something together, Grandpa just loved it when you listened, and learned what he showed you to do. He was amazed with Crystal too. He told Charlie; hey she is a keeper Charlie, hang on to her. Crystal would go over and help Grandpa chain up the tractor, paint one of the buildings, or whatever Grandpa would ask of her. We all chuckled over Grandpa's conversations and stories he told over the fence with Charlie's buddies.

Chelsie was Grandpa's only Granddaughter and she was always doing something with Grandpa too. She was at Grandpa's side everyday like his private nurse. I know he appreciated the love and attention. We all appreciated her devotion and dedication to his care. Grandpa and Chelsie would go to the movies, or visit museums. She definitely shared a love for Grandpa's story telling too. She could get him talking about his years in the service, or back when he was a young boy on the farm. She enjoyed going camping with both Grandpa & Grandma.

Our cousin Dennis who couldn't be with us today, told my Mom, Evan mentored me my whole life. He told him when he did things wrong and he never sugar coated anything. He just told it like it was.

My Dad has shown all of us how to plant a garden, to weed it, nourish it, harvest it and now in my life I can see how that parallels with our lives as well. With God's help he planted 3 seeds with my mother and 3 children were born. He weeded out mistakes, disciplined and nourished all of us. At the end he reaped the harvest and benefited from a family who surrounded him with the tender loving care, respect, tolerance, endurance and the hard work he instilled in all of us by returning all these things to him thru his courage's battle with cancer. He died peacefully with family surrounding him with their love, just as he did to us. I know my Dad's life made a difference in many people's lives.

I would like to close with this statement that Chelsie has provided from W.S. Gilbert, who wrote,

“It’s Love that makes the world go around. And if that’s true, the world spun a little faster with Grandpa in it. If Grandpa were with us today, he would ask us not to mourn his death but to celebrate his life. He would tell us to love our families unconditionally and to hold them close because in the end they are all that matter.

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& Reyers Co.



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Legion
Port H

Wales Historical Society
WALES TWP. — Tributes and memories of Evan Edwards will be shared when the group meet from 4 to 6 p.m. May 9 in the Historical Village Church at Goodells County Park. Refreshments will be provided. For details, call (810) 987-3012.

Port Sanilac VFW

light after the pow
close.

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by the Detroit Edison *Synchroscope* magazine in June, 1923.

Since Frank Phelps was the movie guy also, the moving of the generator didn't signal the end of the Saturday night movies in New Haven. At the new power house, movies were projected onto a portable screen across the street from the new building. After the Clark Street High School was built, movies were projected from a booth in the auditorium while the high school orchestra would play live music.

Another early business in New Haven was the Will Funeral Home. It had its start in 1910 when William Will moved

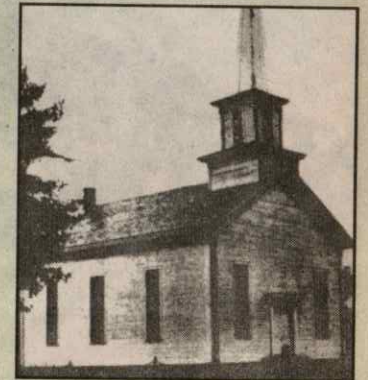
swept through New Haven. Discovered by two tenants of the Hotel Graustark, they sounded the alarm at 3.00 a.m. and fortunately there were no casualties other than buildings. Residents from all over Richmond, Armada, New Baltimore and Mt. Clemens responded to telegrams to help fight the fire. They saved many structures but some of the buildings lost included the Claude Tessman Barber Shop, the Sanford Dennett store, the Charles Kielblock garage, the dental office of Dr. J.W. Kline, and many residences. This gave New Haven a wake-up call to beef up its fire protection.

The Churches of New Haven

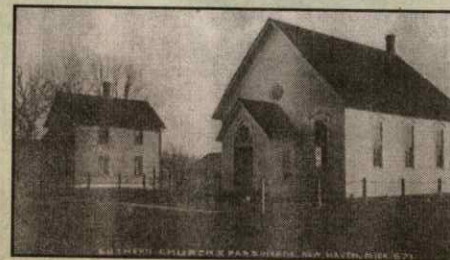
Early churches in New Haven included the Free Will Baptist Church which was started around 1854, the Methodist Church which started in 1861, and the First Congregational Church which started in 1868. In 1884 the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church opened in the village.



The older Baptist church is flanked by the newer Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.



The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1861. The original building was on the Gratiot Turnpike.



Lutheran church and parsonage



Gift Bricks, Benches & Trees...

give donors permanent recognition of a family member, friend, or business.

offer variety so donors can select the option that best fits their needs.

honor the legacy of a special individual or group.

About the Memorial Brick, Bench & Tree Program....

St. Clair County Parks is proud to offer the Memorial Bench, Brick & Tree program for all three of the county parks and the Wadhams to Avoca Trail. Goodells County Park, Fort Gratiot County Park and Columbus County Park all have designated areas for recognition. Please note that requests for placement locations are subject to approval by the Parks Commission. Some areas in the parks and on the Wadhams to Avoca Trail may not be available. County Parks will maintain the memorial gift during its normal lifespan. If a memorial gift is damaged by nature, vandalism or accident, County Parks will replace the item at no charge to the donor.



St. Clair County Parks
and
Recreation Commission



200 Grand River Avenue,
Suite 205 Port Huron, MI 48060 • 810/989-6960
www.stclaircountyparks.org

St. Clair County Parks

St. Clair County is home to three county parks, Columbus County Park, Fort Gratiot County Park and Goodells County Park. St. Clair County also operates the Wadhams to Avoca Trail, and works with local units of government on development of the 54-mile Bridge to Bay Trail. For more information about the Memorial Brick, Bench & Tree program, call 810/989-6960 or 810/989-6929. You can also email your inquiry to countyparks@stclaircounty.org.

Memorial Bench, Brick & Tree Program



St. Clair County Parks
www.stclaircountyparks.org



Join Us...

[Like](#) [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

Friday, April 27: 9am - 5pm
Saturday, April 28: 10am - 4pm
Goodells County Park
Free Admission & Parking!

Earth Fair is more than a two-day annual wake-up call. It is a catalyst for ongoing education, action and change. Most of us understand that we need to do something, some of us understand what to do, but how many of us are actually taking the steps? It's time we practice what we preach, so that's the plan we're putting into motion with our 10th annual Earth Fair!

Striving to be a better steward of the environment? At Earth Fair we offer eco-smart choices for you and your budget, good-for-you organics and more. Earth Fair is a blend of companies, artisans, demonstrations, displays and entertainment acts as well as specialty attractions, food and novelty vendors and live furry friends. Come visit St. Clair County's largest Earth Day celebration!

Your enjoyment of Earth Fair starts at the gate, where you will be assisted with parking and given a map of the grounds for the day and a schedule of events. Plan on starting early for a fun-filled day at Earth Fair.



Earth Fair Shuttle – In the spirit of Earth Day, reduce your carbon footprint and start by using our free shuttle service!

With help from our friends at Blue Water Area Transit, we are challenging Earth Fair visitors to take transportation besides your car to get to Earth Fair. Two shuttles will run non-stop between the Vantage Point Maritime Center in Port Huron and Goodells County Park. Shuttle riders will get an exclusive collector's pin-on "ticket" button which also doubles as a coupon for receiving discounts at exhibitor's booths and websites! The first shuttle departs the Vantage Point parking lot at 10am, Saturday. The last shuttle will leave Goodells County Park at 4pm, Saturday. The shuttle will pick up and drop off riders at the south end of the Vantage Point parking lot. **Saturday Only.**

New This Year...



Plant a Tree

It's an Earth Day tradition, but planting trees is one way to build forests back up, reduce soil erosion, provide habitat, stabilize a streambank, and cool the water of a nearby stream. Through the [St. Clair Conservation District's spring tree sale](#) homeowners are able to purchase a variety of trees, shrubs and fruit trees at a very low cost. This year, check the box to buy one additional tree which we will donate to [St. Clair County Parks and Recreation's](#) four county park properties. Place your order before April 9th. Trees are picked up during Earth Fair hours.

THANK YOU
Earth Fair Sponsors



C. ROY, INC.



Chris's Bunnies



DTE Energy





Pews sit in a garage Wednesday at the Goodells County Park awaiting placement inside the restored Columbus Bible church at the historical village at the Goodells County Park. MELISSA WAWZYSKO/TIMES HERALD

New beginning for historic church

Restoration,

Now its white steeple can be seen throughout the park. And with its crisp white



St. Clair County

CHURCH

Continued from Page 1A

bell—should be complete by the end of April. By late May, the building should be open for events.

The county parks and recreation department began work on the project in fall of 2010. Piece by piece, the church was dismantled from its former location on Arlington Road in Columbus Township and rebuilt in Goodells County Park. While the project was estimated to cost \$185,000, Delor said it's coming in under budget.

The church is the newest addition to the historic village, which also includes the Mudge Log Cabin, Murphy Ryan Farmhouse, Lynn Township School and C.C. Peck

Bank.

When the church donated the building to the county's parks and recreation in 2009, Pastor Woody Nelson said members were happy to see it in good hands. Nelson said the congregation had outgrown the small building and moved to a new church on Palms Road about 11 years ago.

When he became pastor in 1989, Nelson joked the country church's small membership rivaled the number of raccoons infested in the church's attic. Within three years, the congregation grew to about 100.

"People felt at home and it just took off," Nelson said.

Nelson said it's been exciting to see the old building, and the area's history, preserved. Gen-

erations of couples have been married in the building, which was built on Kronner Road before being moved to Arlington Road. Many children were brought up at the church and attended its Sunday school classes.

"It means an awful lot to our people," Nelson said. "It was just kind of a landmark in the community."

Columbus Township resident Carla McClure, 74 and a longtime member of Columbus Bible Church, said both of her children were married in the church. He granddaughter also was dedicated there.

McClure said she was happy to see the empty building restored and put to use by the county.

"It really is a thrill to see that it was restored

MORE INFORMATION

HISTORIC VILLAGE

» The historic village at Goodells County Park is open for group tours by appointment and for special events. St. Clair County Parks and Recreation also accepts donations and volunteers for the village. For more information, call the county's parks and recreation department at (810) 989-6960.

because we have a lot of good memories of that church," McClure said.

Contact Julianne Mattera at (810) 989-6275 or jmatters@gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @jumatters.

FALL/WINTER 2011

Goodells County Park

Columbus Bible Church Interior

The Columbus Bible Church is closer to being completely restored. Electrical, heating and cooling, insulation, drywall and finish carpentry were near completion by the end of October.

Once the general interior work is completed, paint, flooring and the re-installation of the restored church pews will wrap up the restoration. When completed, the church interior will look similar to what it did in the late 19th century.

Built in 1860, the Greek revival style structure was dismantled and moved to the Historic Village and re-assembled last spring.

The church will be available for rentals in late spring of next year.



Obituaries

■ JEAN BEVERSDORF RYAN

Age 76, of Lenox Township, died May 18, 2002. Mrs. Ryan was retired after being an assistant to Dr. Siegfried in Mount Clemens for 35 years, was a home care giver, and was a member of the First Congregational Church in New Haven, where she served as church organist, and the Women's Relief Corp. Mrs. Ryan is survived by her husband, Lynn; son, Lynn of Lenox Township; daughters, Candice Bergeon, Robin Murphy and April Ternes, all of Lenox Township; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and brother, James Beversdorf of Lenox Township. Services were held in Rewalt Funeral Home, Richmond, with the Revs. Jack Dundas and Marion Pohly officiating. Burial was in Centennial Cemetery, New Haven. Memorials may be made to First Congregational Church.

Spotlight on the Village of New Haven

by Alan Naldrett

thumbPrint News Guest Writer

The New Haven, Michigan area in Macomb County had its first French settlers arrive in 1835 when the first land was purchased from the federal government. The settlement was originally called "New Baltimore Station" and received its first post office on January 6, 1838, with Charles B. Matthews as the postmaster. Adam Bennett was one of the chief organizers of the village in its earliest days. About 2.4 square miles, the Salt River meandered through the new settlement.

The biggest boon to the growth of the area happened in 1859 as tracks were built by the Chicago, Detroit and Canada Grand Trunk Junction Rail Road Company. By

1865, under the abbreviated name of Grand Trunk Railroad, the railroad company had built a station to handle freight and livestock shipped through the area. As the tracks were being laid, a depot was being built. With rounded windows in the Italianate style, one end of the depot served as living quarters for the station agent and his family.

In 1859, Thomas Edison, only 12 years old, got a job as a "news butch" aboard the train. He would load up in Port Huron with magazines, cigars, postcards, newspapers and snacks to sell on the train and on the platform when the train would stop. Therefore, he was a frequent visitor to the New Haven area.



Around the 1900s, mail would be loaded off the train and put on a four-wheeled cart and then transferred to a two-wheeled cart by a man named Rudolph who would then rush it to the post office.

In 1928, the train route was merged into the Grand Trunk Western route.

See *NEW HAVEN*, Page 11

Special Thanks

Golambus Bible Church- Church Donation

Woody Nelson- Pastor, Golambus Bible Church

BMJ Engineering- Engineering Services

Sy Design- Architectural Services

P.M. Blough, Inc- Landscape Architectural Services

Nolan Construction- Foundation Masonry

Mike Lietz Masonry- Chimney Masonry

J. Miller Construction- Church Dismantling & Reassembly

B&T Electric- Electrical Services

Karas Mechanical- Mechanical Services

Soalliere Drywall- Drywall Services

R & D Foglesong Construction- Interior Woodwork

Somerset Painting- Exterior Painting

Dan Halliday Painting- Interior Painting

Miller Hardwoods- Flooring

Insulation Plus- Insulation

St. Clair County Parks- Details & Maintenance

Order of Events

Introduction & Welcome

John Gooper, Parks & Recreation Chair

Ribbon Cutting

St. Clair County Parks &
Recreation Commission

Dedication

Pastor Woodrow Nelson, GB Church

Recognition

Dennis G. Delor- Parks & Recreation





COLUMBUS BIBLE CHURCH

1770 Palms Road, Columbus MI 48063 – 586.727.0870

Pastor Woodrow Nelson – 586.727.2070

Jim Smith, Assistan Pastor – 734.716.1659

pastrojim11@yahoo.com

Service today at Little old Church, Historic Village Goodells Park, 8300 block Lapeer Road, Wales Township St. Clair County, MI

THE LORD'S DAY – July 15, 2012

HYMN..... "When I See the Blood"

PRAYERReverend Bill Randall

Men's Choir

HYMN "The Church in the Wildwood"

Bill and Robin Biscorner

SCRIPTURE READING ...Patrick Parzynski: The Church 544

Announcements and Offering

Testimonies

Pastor Woody and Ruth

HYMN..... "The Old Rugged Cross"

MESSAGE "God's Work Goes On?"Matthew 16:13-18

Joyful Sounds

PASTORS THROUGH THE YEARS

1800's: 1851-60 No regular pastor; 60-62 Rev. Win. Russell; 62-64 Rev. Fayethe; 64-74 Rev. O. Bryant; 74-78 Rev. Ward Hunt; 78-79 Rev. E. Cressman; 79-1903 Rev. Ward Hunt **1900's:** 03-11 Rev. W.W. Gadd; 12-17 Rev. G. H. Bachiore; 18-20 Rev. Henry Mosley; 20-21 Rev. Wm. Hunter; 21-26 Rev. George; 26-40 Rev. Percy Jesson; 40-43 Rev. Donald Brady; 43-44 Rev. C. Burkholder; 44-53 Rev. Brooks Warren; 53-58 Rev. Win. Edwards; 58-59 Rev. Brooks; 59-67 Rev. Robert Folkert; 67 Mar - July Rev Ivan Smith; 67-71 Rev. Thophil; 71-80 Rev. Win. Randall; 80-89 Rev. Gary Foster; 89 through present Pastor Woodrow Nelson; **2000's:** 2003 Rev. John Jelinek joined Pastor Nelson as assistant Pastor; 2010 Pastor James Smith joined Pastor Nelson as Assistant Pastor.

TODAYS EVENTS

10:00 – 11:30 AM: Service
Limited seating inside church, feel free to bring lawn chairs and sit outside

11:40: Photo after service
Costume contest after photos

12:00 – 12:30: Luncheon served in the West Exhibit Barn

12:30 – 2:00 PM:

Fellowship

Games for children

Volleyball

Splash pad and playground available

2:00 PM: Concert by *Joyful Sounds*

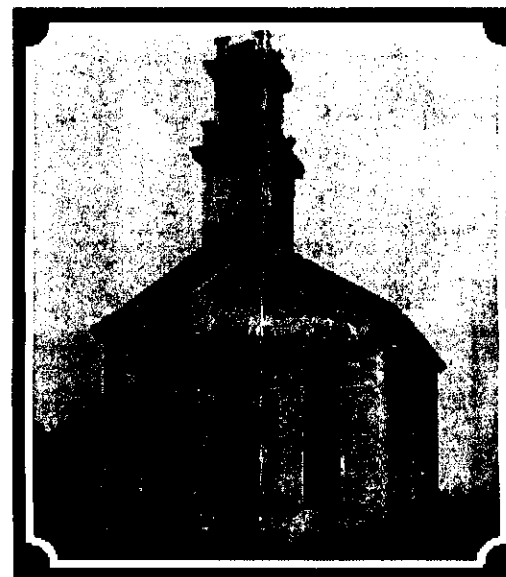


A Partial History of the Church

- 1851 - First Congregational Church of Columbus was formed. Twelve members worshipped in a schoolhouse on Arlington Road with no pastor.
- 1860- The church building was erected by and for the Methodists on Kronner Road in Columbus Township. Also in 1860 the Congregational brothers bought an undivided half interest in the Baptist church building across Arlington Road from the school house. The Baptist and Congregational congregations worshipped at different times.
- 1862 - The Congregational Church of Casco merged with the Columbus Church.
- 1874 - The church attendance was 85.
- 1882- The church building on Arlington Road burned to the ground.
- 1882- Congregational Church of Columbus bought the old Methodist church on Kronner Road for \$100 and moved it in seven days to Arlington Road.
- 1928- The church building is wired for electrical service.
- 1930- The floor is raised (not the building itself) to make room for a new coal furnace.
- 1951- The church is raised to make room for a social hall in the basement. The bell tower was removed around this time.
- 1953- Two covered entry ways are added to the church. (During the dismantling in 2011, newspapers from 1953 were found under the main entry way stairs.)
- 1984- The church congregation changed the name of the church to Columbus Bible Church.
- 1989- The church had eleven members.
- 1995- A new fiberglass steeple is lifted to the roof.
- 1998- The congregation bought ten splitable acres of land on Palms Road.
- 2001- The church has over one hundred members and has outgrown the old church.
- 2001- The new church is finished and dedicated in September.
- 2010- The Congregation approached the county about donating the old church to the historic village. The county accepted and began the dismantling in the winter.
- 2011- J. Miller Construction dismantled the church in seven working days. Each original piece is labeled, loaded on a trailer, and moved to the Historical Village at St. Clair County Goodells Park, 8300 block of Lapeer Road, Wale Township, Michigan. The exterior is reassembled on a new foundation by the end of summer.
- 2012- Interior work is completed. The church building is dedicated on April 28, 2012.
- 2012 - With an average Sunday attendance of 295 the "new" church on Palms Road began construction for additional classrooms space in May.



Old-Fashioned Service Picnic Columbus Bible Church



July 15, 2012

Goodells County Park

Historic Park

8300 block Lapeer Road

Wales Township, Michigan



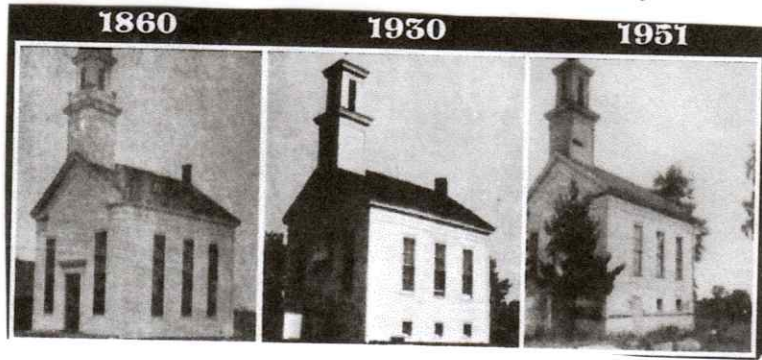


WALES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2012 MEETING



WEDNESDAY MAY 9



COLUMBUS BIBLE CHURCH (C) 1860
HISTORIC VILLAGE - GOODELLS COUNTY PARK
4-6 PM EVERYONE WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING AT PICNIC
PAVILION - PIZZA FROM HISTORIC GOODELLS
MARKET (C) 1911 - PLEASE BRING TWO DOLLARS
TO COVER COST OF REFRESHMENTS

FEATURE PRESENTATION : POSTPONED FROM
APRIL MEETING

A TRIBUTE TO EVAN EDWARDS:

SHARING OUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF EVAN

ALSO :

- EARTH FAIR 2012 SUMMARY
- COLUMBUS BIBLE CHURCH DEDICATION - APRIL 28
- 2013 CALENDAR COMMITTEE REPORT
- FUTURE PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS - BUILDINGS
- NEW BOOK - "RAILS AROUND THE THUMB" - T. J. GAFFNEY - GOODELLS RR DEPOT
- "LOG CABIN DAY" - "HERITAGE DAY" 2012 POSTPONED - ALTERNATIVES

Evan D. Edwards

Evan Dunsmore Edwards, 79, of Ruby, died Wednesday, March 14, 2012.

He was born October 19, 1932 in Emmett Township, late Evan and Helen Edwards and was a lifetime area resident. He married Evelyn J. Campbell on December 3, 1955 in St. Martin Lutheran Church.

Mr. Edwards retired from CSX Railroad after 17 years. He had previously worked at Mueller Brass and Prestolite. Evan served in the U.S. Army on the front lines and as a medic in Korea. He was a longtime member of St. Martin Lutheran Church and volunteer with Mid-City Nutrition. He was also a member of the Wales Historical Society and the V.F.W. May-O'Brien Post #8465, and a former member of the Ruby Lions Club. Evan loved spending time with his family telling stories and passing on family traditions, hosting "porch parties", gardening and hunting. He was known for his heart of gold and ability to fix anything.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Evelyn; children, Debra (Mike) McGriff, Kirk (Vicki) Edwards and Jo Ellen "Josie" Edwards; grandchildren, Kevin (Brittany) Edwards, Charles McGriff, Chelsie McGriff and Justin Edwards; a brother, Walter (Loretta) Edwards; and many nieces, nephews and cousins

He was preceded in death by a sister, Marion Saunders; and a brother, Howard Edwards.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, March 19, 2012 in St. Martin Lutheran Church. Pastor Bill Austin of St. Martin Lutheran Church and Rev. Donald Doerzbacher of Our Saviour Lutheran Church officiated.

Burial was in Caswell Cemetery, Kimball Township. Military honors were conducted under the auspices of the St. Clair County Allied Veterans Council.

Pallbearers were Charles McGriff, Kevin Edwards, Justin Edwards, Michael McGriff, James Boughner and William Lucas.



I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2nd Timothy 4:7 & 8



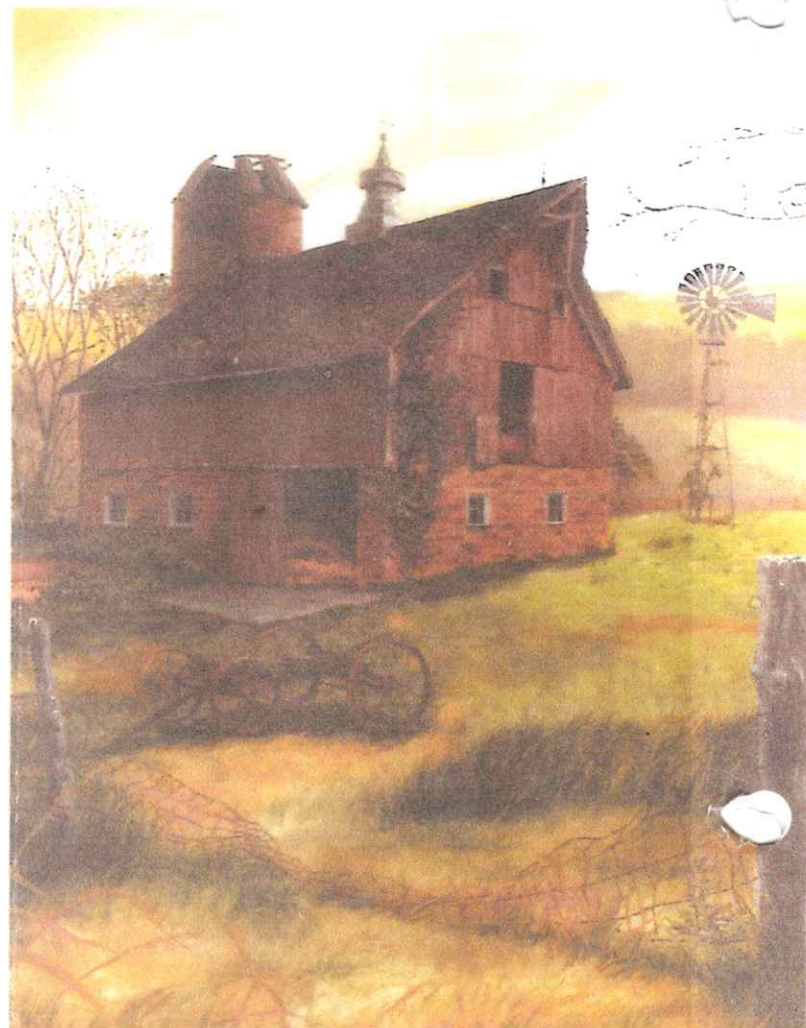
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Randall Funeral Home, Inc.
 Marysville Funeral Home

PORT HURON
 912 LAPEER AVENUE
 PORT HURON, MI 48060
 (810) 982-0179

MARYSVILLE
 1200 MICHIGAN AVENUE
 MARYSVILLE, MI 48040
 (810) 364-7100

www.marysvillefuneralhome.com
www.pollockrandallfuneralhome.com





















Wales Historical Society
May 2012 Meeting

Opening Remarks:

- flyers sent out New-Mexico stamp - 1912
- Frank Bradshaw signs lintel FB 1912
- Goodells Mkt - 1911

- Members lost
Evan Edwards
Beulah Short
Dan Bell
Charlotte Evenyzed
John Callenies

Alma Heslin
Sig + Alta Runyon

~~Secretary Report -~~

- Pledge to flag
- = Collection for Refreshments - Location of Refreshments
Paraliam/ Hope Lutheran
- Secretary Rept - Rosemary Taylor
- Treasures Report

Roberts Rules discussion with Levy Thompson
By Laws

Featured Topic

Tribute to Evan Edwards:

- My comments - table for display
- door wedges
- always there to help
- Shrug on M 19

Old Business

Earth Fair - thank yous (13 People)

* Sally Lichata

Don Mowes

Evelyn Edwards

Judy D

Dave Mudge - 6 hours each
day

* Bessie Campbell

Jamie Lashbrook

Bill Haney

Kathy + Fred Baldwin

Charles Dunsmore

Sandy King

Earth Fair Comments

- School kids - 1500 Friday - hide the sharp objects + valuable papers
 - Saturday - Church dedication - good turnout
tree sale expands - Families
 - Bill Norman - Sunset Farms, etc.
 - Board on Church dedications
- B. Calendar Committee Progress + update
- Judy involvement
- C. Other?

New-Business

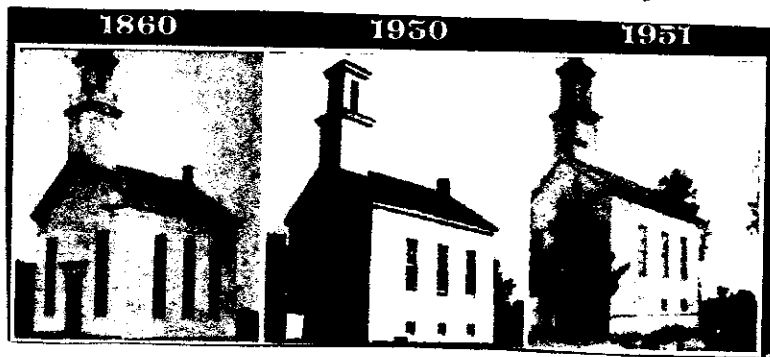
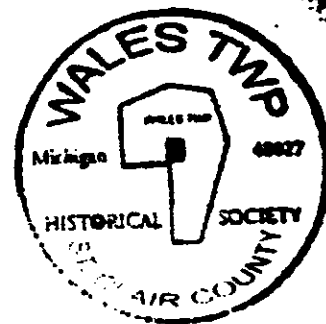
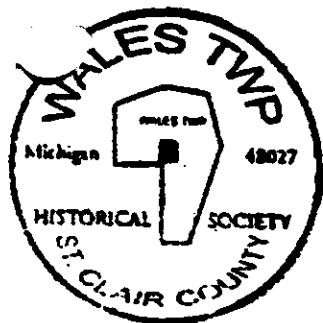
A. Future Programs

1. Log Cabin Days postponed/cancelled
 2. Field Trips
 - Quartermaster Shop in Kimball
 - Frank Murphy Home + Harbor Beach lighthouse
 - Sanilac County Historic Village
 - Bill Norman farm
 3. Speakers
 - Yale Heritage School - Mary Collins
 - Antiquo Restores - Emmett
 - Civil War - Reenactors
 - T. J. Gaffney - Railroad book
 4. Rearrange Collections
 - Wales Top Hall - museum + preservation of documents
 - Bank restoration - need help - Committee?
perhaps Capae + other groups help open + furnish bank
- B. Other - Quonset Hut update

WALES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 2012 MEETING

WEDNESDAY MAY 9



COLUMBUS BIBLE CHURCH (C) 1860
HISTORIC VILLAGE - GOODELLS COUNTY PARK
4-6 PM EVERYONE WELCOME
REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING AT PICNIC
PAVILION - PIZZA FROM HISTORIC GOODELLS
MARKET (C) 1911 - PLEASE BRING TWO DOLLARS
TO COVER COST OF REFRESHMENTS

FEATURE PRESENTATION : POSTPONED FROM
APRIL MEETING
TRIBUTE TO EVAN EDWARDS :
SHARING OUR FAVORITE MEMORIES OF EVAN

ALSO :

- EARTH FAIR 2012 SUMMARY
- COLUMBUS BIBLE CHURCH DEDICATION - APRIL 28
- 2013 CALENDAR COMMITTEE REPORT
- FUTURE PROGRAMS - FIELD TRIPS - BUILDINGS
- NEW BOOK - "RAILS AROUND THE THUMB" - T. J. GAFFNEY - GOODELLS RR DEPOT
- "LOG CABIN DAY" - "HERITAGE DAY" 2012



St. Clair County Parks and Recreation
 200 Grand River Ave., Suite 107
 Port Huron, MI 48060
 Ph: (810) 989-6960 • Fax: (810) 985-3762
 www.stclaircountyparks.org
 email: countyparks@stclaircounty.org

Rental Contract

Permit #: 12-00191
 Contract Date: 04/16/2012
 Use Type: Meeting
 Description: Historical Society Meeting w/Memorial Svc
 Registrar: VA
 Primary Phone: (810) 325-1146
 Primary Email:

Customer **Wales Township Historical Society**
Herm Weng
8674 Morris Road
Goodells, MI 48027

Date	Day	Time	Fee Description	Qty	Unit	Rates	Total	Tax
GCP - HB-Columbus Bible Church			Sec Dep: \$0.00	Sec Dep Tax: \$0.00	Due By:	Hours: 2.00		
5/9/2012	Wed	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Meeting Room - No Fee Flat	1.00	Each	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

NOTE: Food and beverages are prohibited in the Church.

THERE WILL BE A \$10.00
 FEE CHARGED FOR
 ANY CHANGE TO THIS
 RESERVATION.

Total Hours	2.00
Total Fees	\$0.00
Total Sec Dep	\$0.00
Total Tax	\$0.00
Rental Total	\$0.00

- 1. RENTAL.** The Lessee (The above-named group using the facilities on the above-named date) agrees to pay to the Lessor (St. Clair County Parks and Recreation) for the building/space herein contracted, the sum shown above to be paid on execution of this Contract.
- 2. SUBLETTING OF SPACE.** This Contract for the space and privileges granted herein, or any part thereof, cannot be assigned, sublet, or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the Lessor.
- 3. HOLD HARMLESS.** To the fullest extent permitted by law the Lessee agrees to defend, pay in behalf of, indemnify, and hold harmless the County of St. Clair, its elected and appointed officials, employees and volunteers, and others working in behalf of the County of St. Clair against any and all claims, demands, suites, or loss, including all costs connected therewith, and for any damages which may be asserted, claimed, or recovered against or from the County of St. Clair, its elected and appointed officials, employees, volunteers, or others working in behalf of the County of St. Clair, by reason of personal injury, including bodily injury or death and/or property damage, including loss thereof, which arises out of or is in any way connected or associated with this contract.
- 4. INSPECTION.** The Lessee agrees that the Lessor and his agents or other representatives shall have the right to enter into and upon the premises or any part thereof at all reasonable hours for the purpose of examining same or making such repairs or alterations thereon as may be necessary for the safety and preservation thereof.
- 5. LAW OBSERVANCE.** The Lessee shall promptly execute and comply with all statutes, ordinances, rules, orders, regulations and requirements of the federal, state and local government, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission and any and all departments and bureaus applicable to said premises, for the correction, prevention, and abatement of nuisances or other grievances upon or connected with said premises during said term. Lessee agrees to properly supervise all activities on the premises, undertaking adequate safeguards to insure the well-being of users of those premises.
- VACATING AND CLEAN-UP.** Lessee agrees to surrender the premises at the expiration of said term in as good a condition as they were at the commencement of the term, reasonable use and wear thereof and damages of the elements excepted and should Lessee cause damage to equipment and property by negligence or otherwise, Lessee agrees to compensate for such damage. Lessee agrees to undertake a general clean-up before vacating the premises.
- 7. REFUNDABLE CLEAN-UP DEPOSIT.** The Lessee agrees to pay a refundable clean-up deposit in the amount shown above to the Lessor, and if clean-up is satisfactorily completed, the Lessor will return the said deposit to the Lessee.

Fort Gratiot Light Station reopens with fanfare

By JULIANNE MATTERA

Times Herald

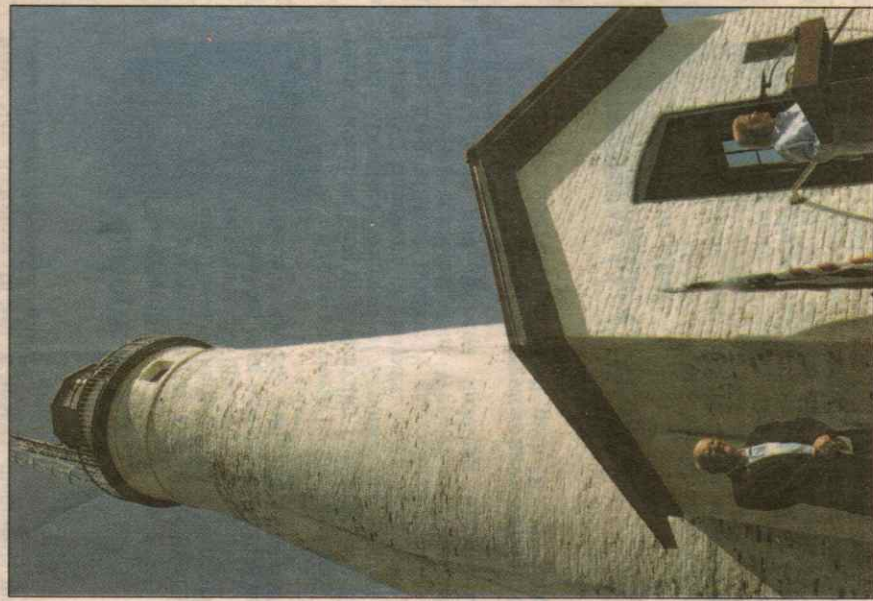
For the first time, Josh Kern climbed the 88 cast iron steps Saturday to the top of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse.

"I actually feel like I'm tall for once," the 10-year-old Port Huron boy said as he stood on the tower's balcony overlooking the Fort Gratiot Light Station and Lake Huron. "This is very high up."

Kern and many others had their first close look at the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse's restoration Saturday during a grand opening event at the station. Susan Bennett, executive director of the Port Huron Museum, said about 250 people — including state and local officials and members of the Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light group — came to the ribbon cutting Saturday at the Fort Gratiot Light Station.

The light station has been closed to the public since August 2008, Bennett said. Officials felt it was important to reopen the station so the public could once again enjoy it.

By early Saturday afternoon, groups of people were being led on tours of the buildings in the light station. People lined up to climb to the top of the lighthouse's



Congresswoman Candice Miller speaks beneath the lighthouse as volunteer John Cooper stands by during the re-opening Saturday. WENDY TOREILLO/TIMES HERALD

house at no cost.

David Brooks, chairman of the Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light, said the next big project will be to renovate the former Coast Guard building.

Jill Secory-Moore of Fort Gratiot said many people have put in time and effort during the past 40 years to get the lighthouse restored. She said the tower became a historic site in the 1970s.

"(It's) such an awesome thing to see everybody here and have it open," said Secory-Moore, a member of the Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light and a longtime museum volunteer and board member. "... It's really thrilling, honestly."

Bob and Renee Kulp of Port Huron walked around the light station grounds Saturday afternoon. Both enjoy visiting lighthouses in Michigan and on the East Coast while on vacation. Renee Kulp hoped the restored lighthouse would attract more visitors to Port Huron.

"The big thing is it should bring more people to Port Huron," Kulp said.

Contact Julianne Mattera at (810) 989-6275 or jmatters@gannett.com. Follow her on Twitter @jumatters.

MORE INFORMATION

FORT GRATIOT LIGHT STATION

» The Fort Gratiot Light Station grounds will be open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Port Huron Museum staff will be at the light station from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Tours of the buildings at the station and a climb up the stairs of the lighthouse tower cost \$5. For more information, call the museum at (810) 982-0891 or go to www.phmuseum.org.

SAILS AT SUNRISE

» Tickets are available for the Sails at Sunrise breakfast fundraiser, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 14 at the Fort Gratiot Light Station.

Those attending can watch the parade of sailboats going to the starting line of the Port Huron-to-Mackinac Island sailboat race. All money from the event will go toward renovations of the former Coast Guard building.

Tickets are available at all museum locations and the light station. For more information, call the museum at (810) 982-0891 or go to www.phmuseum.org

» The Fort Gratiot Light was built in 1829 and is the oldest lighthouse in Michigan. It is 82 feet tall.

Local historians chronicle Richmond's rich past

Self-published book already a hit with local residents

BY BARB PERT TEMPLETON
VOICE REPORTER

When Arcadia Publishing recently delivered 175 copies of the new book, "Images of America - Richmond Area," to Norman Gibson he certainly didn't think a second shipment would be in order so quickly.

"We've sold the first 100 copies already and the sales associate just dropped off 70 more copies yesterday," Gibson said, noting the initial delivery came May 25. "And the book turned out real well, if I do say so myself. I'm very pleased with the results."

Gibson, of Richmond, co-authored the new book, "Images of America - Richmond Area" with Lori Nye. Both are members of the Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society (RAHGS). Gibson is on the board of directors and also the curator for the group's museum while Nye, who also lives in Richmond, is the society's treasurer.

Sales of the books will be a fundraiser for the historical society, with profits coming in after the publishing costs are paid off.

The year-long project, which included gathering information, photos, proofreading and doing edits with the publisher, was a major time consumer for the



Photo by DANE ANGELL

Richmond Area Historical & Genealogical Society Treasurer Lori Nye delivers one of the first books to Allison Bergeson at a book signing held last Thursday.

authors. Gibson said the main focus was to use images that dated prior to 1950 and to focus on people, places and businesses that played a significant role in the community at that time.

The greatest challenge was likely identifying the photos because so many had incorrect notations on them or no info at all. Researching the people and locations in the pictures took a huge chunk of time along with preparing the text.

"We were able to use the *Examiner* (newspaper) to find a lot of names for births and deaths and things that happened in the past," Nye said. "And at times we could have been looking at a paper from 1912 but it might have history stuff from 1890."

A resident of the city for 30 years, Nye loves history and genealogy and the positive response to this book may have her working on another

See *Examiner*, page 1

one highlighting her former hometown, Lexington, Mich.

"We are getting a lot of great feedback on this; people like it and I'm very happy with how it turned out too," Nye said.

Where to begin?

The book project began last spring when the duo were looking at Richmond history that was published in 1950 in "The Review" noting the anniversary of the city. Gibson said the piece lacked photographs and so illustrating the history seemed a good idea.

Researching possible publishers, Gibson said they settled on Arcadia Publishing because they specialize in similar historic works and in fact have published more than 5,000 books on various towns, cities and villages.

"All of these books are presented in the same format, they have 128 pages and there's a maximum number of words and images you can submit," Gibson said.

Gathering hundreds of old photos, the book became a photographic history of Richmond between the years of 1835 to the 1950s. Gibson said they had to follow a specific format with each submission and they hit a small snag when the pictures were sent in a format that was not compatible with the publisher.

"It cost us about a month's time to go back and resubmit those and re-do those images," Gibson said. "But we had lots of help from people around town and they made so many of these photos available to the historical society and also a lot of information came in that gave us an oral history, too."

A longtime history buff, Gibson, a retired high school teacher, has lived in the city for about 60 years as his family moved to Richmond when he was in third grade. He joined the historical society seven years ago and has been very active, including at the museum for five

graphs," Gibson said. Although, sometimes identifying the actual location of a photo became a separate project, Gibson said that he had one that was marked as being taken at the Richmond Cemetery. Not recognizing the setting as being in Richmond, Gibson and his wife,

Diane, traveled to the Armada Cemetery to see if perhaps it was taken there. Having no luck there they drove on to the Romeo Cemetery, walked to the oldest section and soon found the background images and setting for the photo. "We couldn't use it for the book because it wasn't

in Richmond and we had a lot of interesting photos that we didn't put in the book because the location wasn't right or there was no room," Gibson said. The book is available through the historical society and at various places in town including Sew Together, Maniaci Banquet Center, the Lois

Wagner Memorial Library, The Village Cafe or at the Richmond Community Center. To order a copy of the book, contact Norm or Lori by e-mail at richmond-dereahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com to place your name on the pre-order list. To order by mail send to RAHGS P.O. Box 68

Richmond, MI 48062. There will be an additional charge of \$4 for shipping for the first book; \$6 for two books. Make all checks payable to RAHGS. Barb Pert Templeton is a freelance reporter. She can be contacted at barbpertempletonreporter@yahoo.com

WALES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 2012
MEETING



WEDNESDAY JUNE
2 13 2

HISTORIC WALES TWP HALL 4-6 PM
ALL WELCOME - REFRESHMENTS

AGENDA: "ARCHIVING THE HISTORIC
WALES TWP DOCUMENTS" - LOCATING,
SCANNING AND DISPLAYING IN HALL
BASEMENT AREA - SORTING CLIPPINGS
FROM BEULAH SHORT COLLECTIONS

ALSO:

- EVAN EDWARDS MEMORIAL MEMORIES
- SEARCH FOR WHS TREASURER
- 4H FAIR 2012 PLANS
- 2013 CALENDAR COMMITTEE UPDATE
- BY LAWS CHANGES NEEDED
- FIELD TRIPS - HARBOR BEACH, SANILAC MUSEUMS
- RAILS AROUND THE THUMB, T. J. GAFFNEY
- LOG CABIN DAYS 2012
- FUTURE PLANS FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS -

Linda Sue Pearl

65, of Wales Township, passed away Saturday, June 9, 2012 at University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor.

She was born in Yale, January 18, 1947, the daughter of the late **Charles** and **Bernice** (Lashbrook) Short.

Her marriage to **Vern** Pearl, Sr. was August 18, 1994 in Memphis.

Linda was a 1965 Yale High School Graduate and a lifetime area resident. She always enjoyed spending time with the "Girls Club" and traveling with them and with her husband. Linda loved flower gardening and spending time with all her grandchildren.

She is survived by **Vern**, her husband of 17 years, a daughter, **Christina** (Sam) Zenero of Goodells; five stepsons, *Vern, Jr.* (Candy) of Richmond, *Dave* (Char) of North Carolina, *Dan* (Karen) of Emmett, *Tom* of Kimball Township, and *Jim* (Debbie) Pearl of Armada; a step-daughter-in-law, Jennifer Earl of Yale; many grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and several great-great-grandchildren; siblings, Fred (Beverly) Lange of Louisiana, Dorothy (Roland) Morgan of Memphis and Chuck (Jerry) Short of Port Huron; sisters-in-law, Wanda Lange of Wales Twp and Gretchen Short of Arizona as well as nieces, nephews and friends.

She is preceded in death by a daughter, **Melissa** "M Marthen" (1990), a stepson, *Doug* Pearl (2009); two brothers, Bob Lange and Gary Short; nieces, Terrie Lee Morgan Jolee Terrie Morgan Cooper.

Her family honors the memory of Linda and invite you to visit and share memories Tuesday 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. at F Funeral Directors, Richmond.

Memorials are suggested to Richmond-Lenox Township or "Wishes of the Family".

In Loving Memory



1947 - 2012

FREE TAKE ONE! • FREE PUBLICATION

Print News

people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

page 30

JUNE 2012

Joins in Commemorating Michigan

John Donley

by rated to
immigrants
can. John
built his
a piece
that is now
Mary Ann
29
The day is the
of local



LOG CABIN DAY

Continued from (1

to its current location in 1997, when it was donated to the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society by the Donley Family.

Docents will be available to talk to you about this log cabin and the other buildings in the Historic Village, including the School Section School, Columbus Train Depot, and The Blacksmith Shop Museum with its current display of artifacts depicting home life in Richmond in the 19th Century.



Wood carvers of Macomb County will also be on hand to demonstrate their craft along with the St. Clair Voyageurs who will demonstrate, or talk about, the Great Lakes Fur Trade and their various crafts. There will also be culture and lifestyle demonstrations such as blacksmithing, rope making, finger weaving, silversmithing, paddle carving, and candle dipping, etc. There may also be an opportunity to see and participate in colonial games, art and craft projects and storytelling.

The map shows over 18 log cabins scattered across the Thumb of Michigan that may be open for tours on Log Cabin Day 2012, though visiting all of them in one day is not a possibility. It is best to set up an itinerary of the log cabins you wish to visit to get the most of your trip. The Log Cabin Society of Michigan can help you plan your itinerary with a brochure providing the locations and descriptions of participating log cabins.

The Log Cabin Society of Michigan is a nonprofit organization that was incorporated in 1988 "to discover, preserve and promote log cabins in Michigan." For a brochure and map for 2012 listing over 100 log cabins across Michigan, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Log Cabin Society of Michigan, 3503 Rock Edwards Drive, Sodus, MI 49126 or visit their website at: www.qtm.net/logcabincrafts/. Some of these log cabins

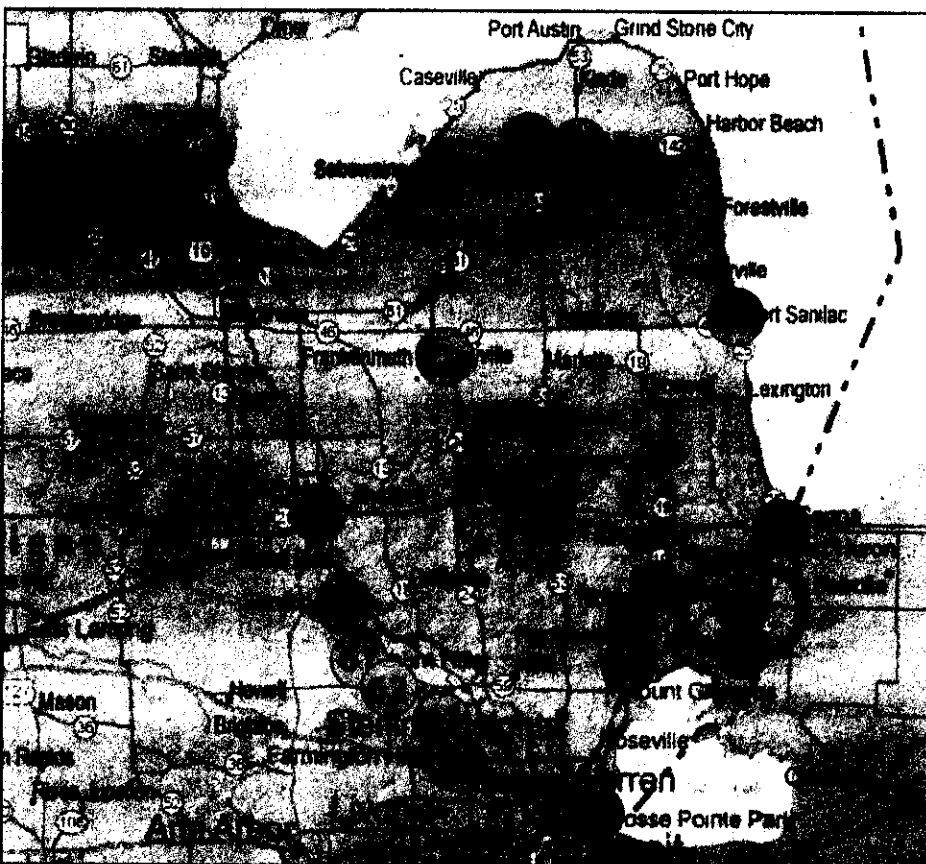
may be privately owned or belong to museums and historical societies.

The Donley Family Log Cabin is part of the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society's (RAHGS) Historic Village. RAHGS is a nonprofit organization founded in 1990 when a local group of citizens gathered in the Richmond Public Library to discuss how to preserve a 19th century one room schoolhouse in Richmond Township. Information can be obtained about RAHGS by emailing: richmondareahistoricalociety@gmail.com or visiting: richmondhistoricalsociety.org. RAHGS holds weekly "workbees" most Thursday mornings at the Historic Village from 8 a.m. until noon.

To help in planning your travel itinerary, other log cabins in close proximity to Richmond's are: Wales Township Mudge Log Cabin, Algonac-Clay Township Log Cabin, Williams Log Cabin in Clinton Township and the Kammer Family Log

Cabin in Port Huron. You will need to check the websites for the specific log cabins to insure the days they will be open and hours of operation. (Additional information on each and their website is provided below.)

Editor's Notes: As stated above in Lori's article, more details about all of the 18 log cabins shown on the map, including their locations, addresses and hours that they will be open can be found at www.qtm.net/logcabincrafts/. However, here is a little additional information about the log cabins that Lori mentions as being in close proximity to Richmond and others that are in the ThumbPrint News distribution area from the website (the number before each corresponds with a number on the map). Also, before traveling long distances, please call and confirm the hours listed below, in case there have been any changes or cancellations.





Local historians chronicle Richmond's rich past

Self-published
book already a hit
with local residents

BY BARB PERT TEMPLETON
VOICE REPORTER

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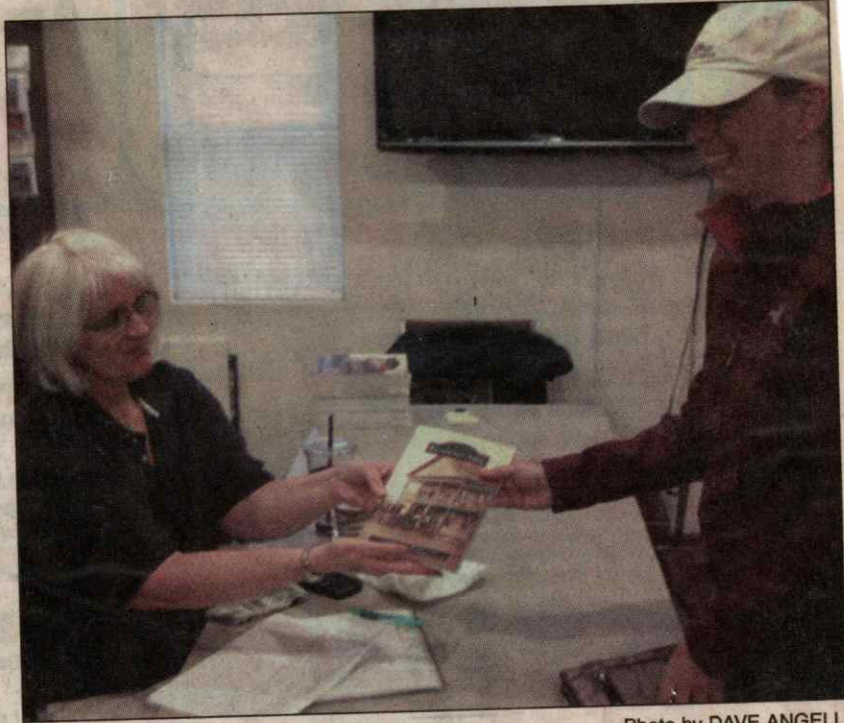


Photo by DAVE ANGELL

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See **BOOK** on page 7



St. Clair County Parks

PROGRESS REPORT

Providing Recreational Opportunities since 1995

Summer 2012

Fort Gratiot Light Station Opens to the Public

On June 16th, the Fort Gratiot Light Station re-opened to the public with much anticipation. Several hundred people attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the newest county park and the oldest lighthouse in Michigan. In celebration of its re-opening, Senator Carl Levin, Congresswoman Candice Miller and other guest speakers shared a few words about the lighthouse's significance. Guests heard details about the site's past, the work being done at the present and what lies ahead in the future. After the ribbon was cut, guests had the opportunity to tour the site, climb the tower and participate in boating safety programming provided by the Coast Guard Auxiliary and YMCA.

Before the re-opening, work wrapped up on two projects funded by grants that made significant improvements to the site. Last fall, work began on repairs to the lighthouse tower that were completed earlier this spring. The work was funded by a \$370,000 Save America's Treasures Grant from the National Park Service and a \$370,000 local match provided by the City of Port Huron.

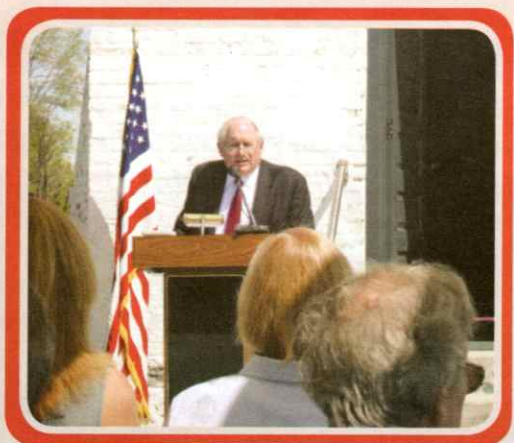
Another project was completed with a \$40,000 Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program (MLAP) grant for the repair of two light station building roofs and Fog Signal Building doors. The Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light donated the \$20,000 for the required local match. Funds for the state grant are collected from the sale of the State of Michigan's lighthouse specialty license plates. The Fort Gratiot Light Station will be eligible for another MLAP grant in 2013.

Future restoration work on the light station will be funded by state, federal and private grants and donations. St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage funds will be used to maintain and operate the grounds as a County Park.



Lighthouse Tours

The park is open seven days a week, 7 am to 10 pm. Admission to the grounds is free. Tours of the station and tower are available 10 am to 6 pm daily. Admission is \$5.00. The gift shop is open daily. Get your favorite lighthouse gear today!



What's Inside

- 2 Millage Distribution
- 3 Fort Gratiot County Park
- 4 Columbus County Park

- 5 Goodells County Park
- 6 Bridge to Bay Trail
- 7 Wadhams to Avoca Trail
- 8 On the Web



COUNTY PARKS

Millage Distribution

This year marks the eighteenth year that the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) will distribute 25% of the County Parks and Recreation millage funds collected back to the local units of government.

St. Clair County is the only county in the state of Michigan that systematically distributes parks and recreation millage funds to its local units of government.

The 2012 Local Millage Distribution Table (located to the right) includes the 2010 census figures used to calculate each community's share; the amount of millage funds distributed to each community over the past eighteen years; and the amount of funds to be distributed to each local unit of government this year.

In order for the 33 local units of government to receive their annual share of the County Parks and Recreation millage funds, each community's governing board (Township Board, City or Village Council) must approve the submission of an annual Local Millage Distribution Request form that outlines how the community has spent their share of the millage funds for the past year.

The County Parks and Recreation office maintains a file of each community's report forms. The information is available to any resident interested in finding out how their community has invested its share of the County Parks and Recreation millage. To obtain this information, please call (810) 989-6960.

Winners of Survey Gift Cards

Last December, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation contracted with the St. Clair RESA to conduct a community survey for the St. Clair County Master Recreation Plan update. As an incentive to participate in the survey, we informed residents that everyone that participated in the survey would be entered into a drawing for gift cards.

434 residents completed the survey. Four \$25.00 Visa gift cards were awarded to the following residents: Gary Bratt of Columbus, Ken Belanger of St. Clair, Shannon Boughner of North Street and Erin McNeely of China Township.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the survey!

Community	2010 Population	Total Distribution 1995 - 2012	2012 Distribut
Algonac	4,110	\$305,725.57	\$17,850.55
Capac	1,890	\$115,761.33	\$8,208.65
Emmett	269	\$17,776.29	\$1,168.32
Marine City	4,248	\$308,298.44	\$18,449.91
Marysville	9,959	\$627,713.94	\$43,253.93
Memphis	360	\$23,140.18	\$1,563.55
Port Huron	30,184	\$2,183,412.51	\$131,095.15
Richmond	2	\$52.21	\$8.69
St. Clair	5,485	\$374,266.24	\$23,822.45
Yale	1,955	\$136,118.66	\$8,490.96
Berlin Township	3,285	\$197,962.71	\$14,267.41
Brockway Township	2,022	\$122,274.46	\$8,781.95
Burtchville Township	4,008	\$257,706.18	\$17,407.55
Casco Township	4,105	\$311,556.73	\$17,828.84
China Township	3,551	\$211,401.12	\$15,422.70
Clay Township	9,066	\$636,480.78	\$39,375.45
Clyde Township	5,579	\$338,295.95	\$24,230.71
Columbus Township	4,070	\$261,238.02	\$17,676.82
Cottrellville Township	3,559	\$244,637.57	\$15,457.45
East China Township	3,788	\$235,996.45	\$16,452.04
Emmett Township	2,385	\$137,582.56	\$10,358.53
Fort Gratiot Township	11,108	\$684,206.55	\$48,244.27
Grant Township	1,891	\$103,928.99	\$8,212.99
Greenwood Township	1,538	\$86,288.19	\$6,679.84
Ira Township	5,178	\$432,615.64	\$22,489.09
Kenockee Township	2,470	\$151,674.42	\$10,727.70
Kimball Township	9,358	\$554,856.07	\$40,643.67
Lynn Township	1,229	\$75,629.29	\$5,337.79
Mussey Township	2,316	\$124,868.53	\$10,058.85
Port Huron Township	10,654	\$567,093.64	\$46,272.45
Riley Township	3,353	\$188,369.15	\$14,562.75
St. Clair Township	6,817	\$397,482.91	\$29,607.59
Wales Township	3,248	\$177,975.17	\$14,106.71
Grand Total	163,040	\$10,681,317.81	\$708,115.33

Park News

Summer 2012 PARC Funding

This spring has been busy with the grand openings of the Columbus Bible Church, the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse and the Columbus County Park Lodge.

In all three projects, the plans for the buildings were underway as far back as 2009. In the case of the Columbus Lodge, County Parks and Recreation millage funds were set aside for the project over three years. In the case of the Lighthouse, the City of Port Huron secured the National Park Service grant and committed the local match.

During the next two or three years, residents will see fewer projects undertaken by the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission due to budget constraints.

St. Clair County Parks and Recreation is funded almost exclusively by the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage. In this year's budget, 91% of the budget is funded by local property taxes. Over the next three years, the revenues from the St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage are expected to decrease by another 5%.

Due to the lower millage revenues, future capital projects will be limited to projects with prior commitments and repairs to existing facilities. A special emphasis will be placed on investments that increase the energy efficiency of current facilities and equipment. Renovations to the Fort Gratiot Light Station will depend on grants and donations.

Fort Gratiot County Park

New Summer Park Hours

Fort Gratiot County Park is now open until 9:00 pm. The new summer hours (8:00 am to 9:00 pm) will stay in effect through Labor Day (September 3rd).

Movies in the Park

This summer, Fort Gratiot Township and the Fort Gratiot Business Association held two free movies in Fort Gratiot County Park. On July 17, "A Dolphin's Tale" was shown in the park and on July 20, "Jaws" got everyone out of the water. Thank you to both organizations for bringing family fun to the park!

Poison Ivy

Park visitors are cautioned to be on the lookout for poison ivy in the natural areas of Fort Gratiot County Park. Park staff members work to remove poison ivy from areas around the pavilions, walkways and playground. However, poison ivy still grows in the natural areas of the park.

Beach Sand Work

In June, under an Army Corps of Engineers permit, park staff and contractors removed exposed concrete from the beach to make it as safe as possible. Since then, commercial divers were contracted to remove additional re-bar that was discovered by staff members. Park patrons are asked to notify staff of any debris that they find on the beach or in the water.

New this year, excess sand from the Fort Gratiot Light Station was moved to the upper beach at Fort Gratiot County Park.



Columbus County Park



Columbus Lodge Open and Available

Beautiful weather greeted state, county and township officials, as well as residents and guests that attended the grand opening for the Columbus County Park Lodge on Saturday, June 9. The day's activities included a ribbon cutting ceremony, a half hour program, building tours and a picnic lunch in the pavilion that overlooks the sledding hill.



Residents can now reserve the Lodge's multi-purpose room, inner lobby and the attached pavilion. The multi-purpose room seats twenty while the inner lobby has a capacity of fifty people. The pavilion has nine picnic tables and a group picnic grill. Residents also have the option of reserving the adjacent 10' x 12' serving kitchen.



So far, the Lodge has already been reserved for a retirement party, family reunions, a baby shower, a graduation party, meetings and two weddings. For reservation information, contact the Parks and Recreation office at (810) 989-6960.



2nd Annual Run and Walk

On August 18th, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church will hold its second annual five kilometer (3.1 miles) cross country run at Columbus County Park starting at 9:00 am. The event is not a fund-raiser. The event is intended to promote exercise and being healthy. Registration can be made on-line at www.raceracerace.com and will also be held on site starting at 8:00 am.



Goodells County Park

South Playground Completed

The new playground near the equestrian facilities at Goodells County Park is now ready for children of all ages. The playground has a rubberized safety tile surface under a Little Tikes Max Play 2 playground and an accessible "BIGGO" swing.



Columbus Bible Church is Popular

The restored Columbus Bible Church has already become a popular facility! Many weddings, a christening, a church service, a musical recital and meetings have already been booked for the facility.

Based on the seating available in the church, the capacity of the building has been set at 100 guests. For reservation information, please contact the Parks and Recreation office at (810) 989-6960.



Roof Replacements Completed

Reasonable Roofing recently finished installing the fifth and final metal roof at Goodells County Park under a contract signed last winter. Work on the Farm Museum's Horse Barn roof included structural repairs to the northwest side of the building and installation of a gable roof over the entrance to the Farm Museum store.



New Quonset Hut Completed

Construction of the new Quonset Hut in Goodells County Park was completed shortly after the 4th of July and will be used for this year's St. Clair County 4H & Youth Fair. The new building is eleven feet taller than the old Quonset Hut that it replaced. The new building is designed to be easier to set up and remove portable horse stalls for equestrian events. The building has large skylights and modern lighting and is available for a wide range of other uses.



Green Thumbed Volunteers Make a Difference



Every year, when the spring weather starts to warm, the ladies from Master Gardeners work to make the flower beds ready for summer at Goodells County Park. From early spring prep work, to summer watering and the endless weeding, these dedicated volunteers give the park color and class. They can often be seen on their hands and knees working in the hot summer sun making sure that the plants they tend can mature and flourish. St. Clair County Parks would like to recognize the St. Clair County Master Gardeners for a job well done, year after year. Pictured from left to right, Sue Powers, Bette Gall, Jan Clark, Jeanne Mackay and Shirley Boike.

Bridge to Bay Trail

Waterfront County Park Grant

St. Clair County is still waiting for the state legislature to pass an appropriation bill to fund the \$150,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant that was awarded to St. Clair County to purchase approximately three acres of vacant land located just north of the Seaway Terminal from Acheson Ventures. The property purchase is still expected to be completed before the end of the year and will connect the City of Port Huron's trail to the Blue Water River Walk. St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage funds will be used for the local match for the project.



Trail Signs

After years of work, Parks and Recreation will begin soliciting bids from sign companies to install improved signs along the Bridge to Bay Trail from Marine City to St. Clair. Depending on



the bids received, St. Clair County Parks and Recreation hopes to install the improved signs in Marine City, East China Township, China Township, St. Clair and St. Clair Township.

The signage contract will be funded entirely by St. Clair County Parks and Recreation millage funds.



Blue Water River Walk

The City of Port Huron now expects to construct an asphalt trail from 10th Street to Military Street in 2013 at the same time that the Community Foundation expects to construct its section of trail from the Military Street Bridge north along the St. Clair River to the Great Lakes Maritime Center. Both trail projects expect to use separate Federal Transportation Enhancement grants provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Together the two projects will add over 1.2 miles of paved trail to the Bridge to Bay Trail system. The City and Community Foundation hope to save some project expenses by constructing the trail projects simultaneously.



Wadhams to Avoca Trail

Mill Creek Equestrian Crossing

After numerous delays due to rain, equestrian trail riders are now using the new creek crossing under the Mill Creek Trestle. Additional work is ongoing to refine the switchback trail down the south hillside.

Horse riders are not allowed on the Mill Creek Trestle for safety reasons and are asked to use the new creek crossing.



Sheriff Deputies Patrol the Trail

St. Clair County Parks and Recreation continues to contract with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department to provide bicycle patrol for the Wadhams to Avoca Trail. Trail patrols are conducted on random days and times.

Volunteers Make a Difference



Twice each year, volunteers scour over 12.5 miles of the Wadhams to Avoca Trail to keep it free of debris.

Special thanks to the following Adopt-A-Trail groups for keeping the trail clean:

Avoca Elementary
 Team Sandbag
 Maritime Title Agency
 McCalmon/Price Families
 Compact ARC Garden Group
 DTE, Greenwood Energy Center
 The Oberski Family
 The DeVew Group

Chain Gang Bicycle Adventure
 Blue Water Outdoor Club
 Rock n Riders- 4H Club
 The Stammers Family
 Howard Stein/ KOA
 The Govere Family
 PH Hospital Helmet Safety
 Home Depot Fort Gratiot

Labor Day Walk 2012

Once again, county residents will not have to go all the way to Mackinac to join the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk. A Labor Day Community Walk will be held in St. Clair County!

The St. Clair County Parks and Recreation Commission is hosting the fifth annual Mill Creek Trestle Walk on Labor Day (September 3) at 9:00 am. The five-mile walk will be on the Wadhams to Avoca Trail as part of the Labor Day Community Walks. These walks are held throughout the state in conjunction with the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Walk to support "Getting Michigan Moving." The walks link communities together in the name of health, fitness and active living, similar to the way the Mighty Mac links Michigan's two peninsulas.

The event will start at 9:00 am at the Avoca trailhead on M-136. The five-mile walk on the Wadhams to Avoca Trail will be highlighted by a trip across the 640-foot Mill Creek Trestle, which is the longest rail trail bridge in the State of Michigan. For more information, call (810)989-6929.





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A Progress Report is published by
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 Commission