

LOOKOUT STATION 1, SOUTH
RIVER WINDS

■ ■ ■

SPRING 2019

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

EST. 1959

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JULIE BUNKE

FROM THE
DIRECTOR’S DESK

We are very excited that 2019 marks our 60th anniversary as YOUR local history museum. We are eager to share with you the events and programs that we have come up with to celebrate this momentous year. We have a wide range of activities planned such as a 1950’s themed trivia contest night on **Friday, March 22nd**, so gather up 5 of your closet friends and enter the contest for your chance to win prizes and have fun! We will also be partnering with the Loutit District Library for screenings of movies released in 1959. Included in these films is one of my personal favorites, **Anatomy of a Murder**, starring James Stewart as a semi-retired Michigan lawyer practicing in the Upper Peninsula. Stewart is tasked with defending his client from a murder charge. This film was shot entirely in the Upper Peninsula and features many historic sites that are still standing today.

In honor of our 60th Anniversary we are also embarking on a campaign to raise \$60,000 for our Endowment Fund which is held at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. We are asking for 60 individuals or families to donate \$1,000 each to the fund to reach our target goal. Please consider making a monetary donation to support the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. This fund will ensure the financial future of our museum for the next 60 years, and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to update everyone about the important Strategic Planning process that the staff and Board of Directors have been involved with for the past 8 months. In August the museum contracted with Steve Ozinga and his group at Kennari Consulting of Grand Rapids. Through this planning we have identified several strategic priorities for the museum for the next 5 years. These priorities include enhancing our community partnerships, strengthening our financial foundation, foster a welcoming and dynamic visitor experience and, most importantly, we want to attain Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Before these steps can be achieved we are looking at updating our mission to see how we can serve our community to the fullest. Our mission for the future is simple, we want to create connections to local history and continue to serve a community that values its past. As always, we thank you for your continued support and continue to look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

“One of the best regional museums in the state, congratulations!”
Ron H., Big Rapids, MI

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1959:

MUSEUM HOSTS YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY



Cherry Hut, Chris Byron and Tom Wilson's lecture

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2019 with a year-long series of events. In February, the museum participated in the annual Frozen in Time event sponsored by Grand Haven Main Street. The theme of this year's Frozen in Time was "Movies," and the museum's entry featured a scene from the 1959 Walt Disney film, *Sleeping Beauty*.

On Friday, March 22, the museum hosts a 1950s Trivia Night. Teams of six will pay an entrance fee of \$60 and will participate in five rounds of trivia questions: Local History, World Events, Music, Movies, and Popular Culture. Refreshments, a cash bar, and prizes for the top three teams promise to make the evening's competition fun. Pre-registration and



Grand Haven State Park - Chris Byron and Tom Wilson's lecture



Traverse Bay Woolen - Chris Byron and Tom Wilson's lecture

payment for participating teams is required by Friday, March 14. Teams can register in-person at the museum or by calling (616) 842-0700.

Christine Byron and Tom Wilson present their lecture "Retro Road Trip 1959: Tour West Michigan with Tom and Chris" on Wednesday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the museum. The lecture will take visitors on a 1959 road trip starting at the Indiana border all the way north to Petoskey. Stops on the trip will include the Cherry Hut in Beulah and the Batsakis Inn in Traverse City. The lecture is free and is open to the public.

In May, the museum hosts three events. On Thursday, May 16 museum members will get the opportunity to be the first to see the summer exhibit *Tri-Cities A to Z* at

the exhibit's opening reception. The public at large is invited to see the exhibit at a community open house to be held on Sunday, May 19. Lastly, music enthusiast Jon VanderPloeg will present his lecture "The Music of 1959: The Year the Music Died," on Thursday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the museum. Among the significant events from that year to be discussed are Elvis's entry into the Army, the death of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and The Big Bopper, and the rise of the teen idols like Fabian and Frankie Avalon.

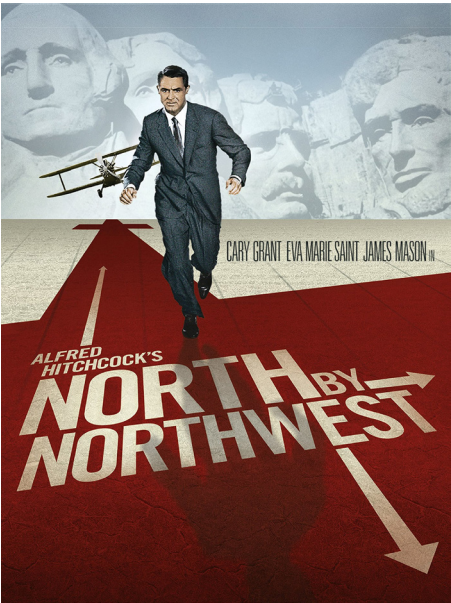


1950s teen idols Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon



Anatomy of a Murder movie poster

Three classic 1959 films will be shown throughout the year. The first, *Anatomy of a Murder*, will be screened at the Loutit District Library on Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. *Anatomy of a Murder* is a courtroom drama directed by Otto Preminger. It stars Jimmy Stewart and is based on the novel by Michigan Supreme Court Justice John D. Voelker, under the pen name Robert Traver. The second film, *North by Northwest*, will



North by Northwest movie poster

be screened at the Spring Lake District Library on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. *North by Northwest* is considered by many to be Alfred Hitchcock's finest. It stars Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason. The third, *Some Like it Hot*, will be shown at the Loutit District Library on Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. *Some Like it Hot*, praised as one of the best films ever made, was directed by Billy Wilder. The comedy stars Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon.

Both of the summer's ice cream socials will also be a time for celebration. The DeWitt School Ice Cream Social, on Thursday, July 18, will feature a birthday cake for the museum, as well as ice cream. The "1223" Ice Cream Social,

on Thursday, August 15, will feature 1950s music, games, and even a vintage car or two. Attendees will also be encouraged to dress in their 1950s finest!

On Saturday, September 14, the museum's Friends Committee is sponsoring a bus tour to The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. This day-long excursion will be a family friendly opportunity to visit one of Michigan's finest museums. Details and pricing for the trip are still being determined.

Saturday, October 5 is set for the 60th Anniversary Fundraiser and Gala to be held at the Akeley Building. Specifics are still being worked on, so stay tuned for future announcements about this fun and festive event.

Our final 60th Anniversary lecture will be given on Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. Muskegon Community College professors George Maniates and Kurt Troutman will present "60 Years of National

Security: From Bert the Turtle to Build a Wall." Maniates and Troutman have presented lectures several times at the museum and always provide an entertaining and informative experience.

Lastly, visit the museum in December to view our always festive Christmas decorations. This year, they will have a 1950s flair!

Please keep watch in future editions of *River Winds*, on the website (www.tri-citiesmuseum.org), and on our Facebook page for more information on the 60th Anniversary events.



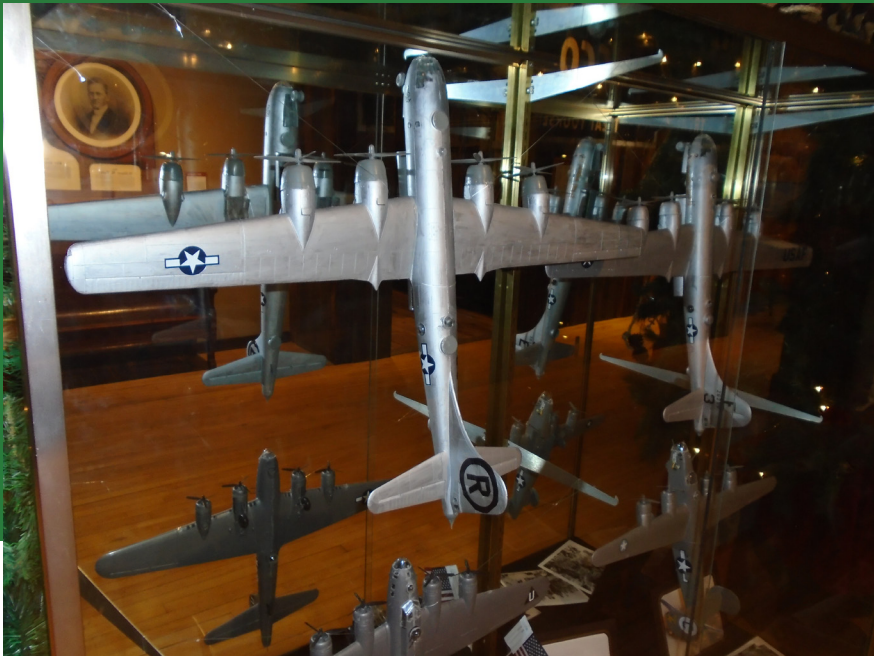
Some Like it Hot movie poster

COMMUNITY GUEST CURATOR CASE

Have you ever wondered what it's like to work at a museum? Have you ever thought about creating your own exhibit? The Tri-Cities Historical Museum has a new program just for you! The Community Guest Curator Experience is a project for people interested in history to showcase their own family history or private collection. Participants of any age can learn how the museum produces an exhibit on a small scale. The program can be applied for personal enjoyment or educational purposes.

Exhibits for the case can be applied for through email or by phone and will then be reviewed by the museum staff. Participants will be responsible for writing the exhibit content and providing “artifacts” for the exhibit space. The space is a glass enclosed display measuring 58 inches high, 70 inches wide, and 20 inches deep. Up to 6 adjustable shelves can be added to the space. All subject matter must fit within the case. The museum’s Curator of Exhibits will guide the participant on how to create the exhibit. The participant will be able to design the layout and write the exhibit text along with selecting graphic and photos. The museum will supply basic materials and assist in creating labels and storyboards. Exhibits will be featured in a social media post to announce what is currently exhibited in the case. Guest curator exhibitions will be on displayed for approximately one month.

If you are interested in creating your very own exhibit please contact Jared Yax, Exhibits Curator at jyax@tchmuseum.org or call 616-842-0700 ext.127.



Collection of WWII model airplanes donated by Edward Bushouse

“Glad I wasn’t a fur trader or trapper, yikes!”
Anne T., Seattle, WA

WINTERFEST PHOTO CONTEST

As winter is slowly coming to a close the museum is happy to announce the winners of this year’s Winterfest Photo Contest. The photos were critiqued by a panel of 3 independent judges. The first place winners by category are:

Altered Images:	Adult: Chris Howell	Youth: Logan Melche
Animals:	Adult: Barb Wessel	Youth: Logan Melcher
Buildings/Landmarks:	Adult: Barb Wessel	Youth: Trent Holleman
Grand Haven Pier:	Adult: Ben Perfect	Youth: Courtney Clemon
Nature:	Adult: Barb Wessel	Youth: Logan Melcher
Other:	Adult: Lisa Walter	Youth: Lux Caputo
People/Portraits:	Adult: Chris Howell	Youth: Logan Melcher
Sports/Recreation:	Adult: Ben Perfect	Youth: Logan Melcher

WELL DONE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!



LAKELAND ARTISTS SPRING SHOW

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum will once again be hosting the Lakeland Artists Spring Art Show. The show will run from April 2 for 4 weeks until Saturday April 27. The show will feature artwork of various mediums all produced by local area artists. The show will be on display in Centennial Hall with the public reception held on Friday, April 5 from 6-8pm. Come see the talent of local artists and enjoy a day at the museum.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

HISTORY OF THE TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The ushering in of the new year brings an exciting milestone for the museum - 2019 marks the 60th anniversary of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum! It is an incredible honor to be a part of the community for so many decades, and what started as a small group of dedicated individuals, combined with countless volunteer hours and generous donations, has grown into sharing local history with 57,985 visitors a year.

As many wonderful organizations often do, the museum began with personal interests and a passion to share knowledge among a small group of people. Dr. David Seibold, now well known as a local historian, is a dentist that moved to Grand Haven and opened his office in December of 1955. Though originally from Jackson, Michigan, Dave studied and was fascinated by Grand Haven's history, but he was struck by how few resources and local preservation efforts he could find. Determined to change this, Dave met with many locals and developed

content for creating historic markers to be placed around town. These markers had information like the founding and naming of Grand Haven, as well as locations of homes belonging to important historical figures. They were made of wood, with hand-routed text that was then painted by Dave's wife Dottie. With the city's blessing, the markers were placed and drew attention not only to local history but the impending 125th anniversary of the founding of Grand Haven.

There were others in the community also interested in preserving local history. One such individual was Esther Dean Nyland, an English teacher at the Junior High School. She often invited local senior citizens into her classroom to speak about their lives and the history of the city as they knew it. And after seeing the success and recognition of the historic markers project, Esther met with Dave and Dottie where the idea to form a historical society began.



Historical society display in Ekkens Store window c.1959

In October of 1959, the Tri-Cities Historical Society was founded with 106 charter members. Just a month later, members organized a week-long celebration for the 125th anniversary of the founding of Grand Haven. This included displays of old photographs and artifacts in the windows of downtown businesses, as well as a community dinner held at Hotel Schuler. The dinner served to celebrate the city's anniversary but also to introduce the newly formed historical society. An old-fashioned meal was served and many dressed up as figures from the city's early history. The museum still holds the annual membership meeting in November of each year as a continuation of this commemorative event.

As the community became more aware of the historical society the donations of artifacts started to flow in. Storage and display of these items moved to different locations in the city over the years, but when in the late 1960s the city planned to demolish the Grand Trunk Depot, Dave Seibold responded with an idea for a museum. Community residents showed their support for saving the depot and the city agreed not only to save the building, but to lease it for a museum. The Tri-Cities Historical Museum opened on Monday, May 22, 1973.

The museum's collections, programs, and staff grew as the community embraced local history and the organization. Just down the street from the depot sat

the Akeley building, built by lumber baron H.C. Akeley in 1871 and left vacant in 2000 when Steketees closed. The need for expansion and the fortuitous opportunity to occupy and restore a historic building led to many dedicated volunteers fundraising a successful capital campaign. In July of 2004, the Tri-Cities Historical Museum opened the Akeley building to the public, housing a floor of permanent exhibits used for school programming and two floors of rotating gallery space.

The museum retained the depot as The Depot Museum of Transportation with exhibits focusing on the local impact of maritime and railroad activities. With the lease ending on the depot and the city taking back possession of the building in 2017, the museum renovated and opened the museum's Community Archive and Research Center. This building now houses collections staff and the archives, condensing artifact storage so that the Akeley building can be solely dedicated to exhibits and displays for visitors and programs.

The museum has grown and changed over the last 60 years, with the addition of professional staff, an ever increasing collection, further outreach into local schools and more events and programs than ever. But what has never changed is the foundation of dedicated individuals and the generous support and embrace of the

community. Please celebrate with us and let us thank you at our many upcoming events!



Denver and Ruth Todd looking at exhibits in depot museum c.1980



Washington Ave. being remodeled c.2003



Washington Avenue
Addison-Baltz Department Store c.1945

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: FRIENDS COMMITTEE



Members of the Friends Committee support the museum by working many events. Shown here are committee members (l to r): Cindy Bennington, Nancy Solon, Muriel Peterson, and Jane Curtis who helped serve toppings at our “1223” Ice Cream Social in 2018.

of area businesses in order to promote the event. “The first year of the event was very successful,” Seaver said. “We raised over \$10,000 the first year the event was held.”

The Friends Committee is still very active today. The Committee meets every other month, and they continue to support the museum by working at all of the major events that the museum holds. In addition, the Friends Committee, under the leadership of member Cindy Clark, organizes the annual Holiday Marketplace craft show, held each year on the second weekend of November. Committee members Cathy Feyt and Jane Curtis also co-chair the museum’s Bus Tours and are planning the next trip to The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village for September 14, 2019. The Holiday Marketplace and the Bus Tours are the two fundraisers that the Friends are responsible for.

The Friends Committee is always looking for new members. If you have any interest in joining the group, please contact Kevin Geary, Curator of Education, at (616) 842-0700. “It’s a great group of people who are all so enjoyable to work with,” remarked Kenrick. “We’ve always have such a good time together supporting the museum.”

The Friends Committee has been in existence in one form or another for many years. One of the original members, Sally Kenrick, doesn’t quite recall when the name “Friends Committee” began to be used, but she thinks it is a more recent development. The Committee started when the museum was housed only in the Depot at One North Harbor and was likely begun during the directorship of Betty Kammeraad. The group’s primary responsibility was to assist the museum with fundraising efforts, that being a time when the millage support for the museum was in its infancy. Kenrick remembers about eight to ten core members of the group, though long-time member Alice Seaver recalls instances where 35 volunteers would show for the group’s meetings.

One of the favorite memories of both Kenrick and Seaver was the fundraiser known as “Take a Seat on the Grand,” first held in the summer of 2000. Local community members and artists donated decorated chairs which were then auctioned off. Seaver recalls many of the chairs being prominently displayed in the windows



ABBEI MONROE

MUSEUM STORE

The Museum Store is getting ready for spring! Be sure to stop in to shop our selection of home decor, nautical and lake life themed gifts, wooden signs, artwork, hand crafted jewelry and more! Our store also features historical themed gifts and books. A little something for everyone!

Follow along on the museum’s Facebook and Instagram pages for Museum Store sales, specials, and coupons. Remember, museum members always get a discount and you can combine your member discount with store sales for even more savings.

The Museum Store is open during all regular business hours of the Museum.

Photos courtesy of Maddie Monroe



OUR VOLUNTEERS HELP US GROW!

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum will honor its fantastic group of volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Party, to be held **Wednesday, April 10 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Akeley Building. This year’s theme will be “Our Volunteers Help Us Grow!” At this annual event several volunteer awards will be presented, including the announcement of the Volunteer of the Year. Watch the mail for your invitation to this celebration of the museum’s incredible volunteers!

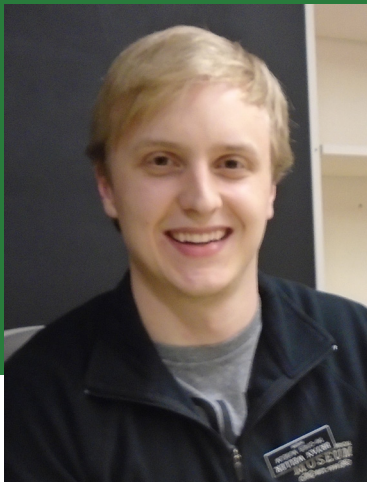
INTRODUCING OUR NEWEST INTERN BRYAN WELLER

We would like introduce the newest intern to join us here at the museum, Bryan Weller. Bryan is a senior at Grand Valley State University and will graduate in April of this year. He is majoring in Political Science and History, with a minor in Criminal Justice. Bryan grew up in Des Plaines, Illinois and when he toured the campus of Grand Valley he fell in love with the campus and with West Michigan.

Bryan visited the museum in the summer of 2018 and inquired about internships. He is currently receiving class credit and will be working with Jared Yax in the Exhibits department. Most recently he assisted in installing the *Icebound* exhibit, as well as Jared Yax's as well as the Ekken's store refresh store refresh.

He is looking to continue his schooling in the area of cultural property law. While interning at TCHM he hopes to learn more about museums and how they are run.

Next time you are at the museum please stop by and welcome Bryan to our team!



INTERN PROGRAM

Education is very important to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Hundreds of students come to the museum or are visited by a museum educator each year. This year the museum will be working on expanding that education by working with GVSU professors to create a detailed internship program. The program will be an asset to the museum, the student intern and the university. Students will apply for the internship positions as they would for any job. They will be able to receive class credit and gain experience about how museums function. The museum will receive additional help in its day to day work and be able to help train the next generation of museum employees. The university will be able to give its students hands on training and job experience providing its students with the knowledge and education needed in today's museum industry. The program will be developed by both Professors and Curators to ensure that the students experiences hit preset educational objectives. The overall program will fill needs for the University, Museum and student and provide a unique educational experience.

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Party Like
its 1959!

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

Please reserve **October 5** from **5-10pm** on your calendar to Party Like its 1959! Join us for an evening of 1950s fun, food and music as we enjoy cocktails and appetizers 1950s style. The event will be held at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum Centennial Hall and will celebrate the Tri-Cities Historical Museum's early years as a fledgling organization in Grand Haven. Tickets for this event are \$60 per person and will include 2 drink tickets good for an array of 1950s cocktails like a pink squirrel or classic Champagne Cocktail. Hors d'oeuvres such bacon wrapped pineapple, hot cheese olives and devils on horseback will be featured as well. We also encourage you to dress the part, so pull out your saddle shoes and poodle skirts, slick back your hair and join us for this fun celebration ... we plan to Party Like it's 1959!

*"Visiting from
Aberdeen Scotland.
Great Stuff!"*

Perrie Family,
Aberdeen, Scotland

\$60,000 FOR 60 YEARS

In honor of our 60th Anniversary we are embarking on a campaign to raise \$60,000 for our Endowment Fund which is held by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. This fund was created for the purpose of sustaining and supporting the programming and operations at the museum. We are asking for 60 individuals or families to donate \$1,000 each to the fund to reach our target goal of \$60,000. Please consider making a monetary donation to support the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Donations can be sent to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum or directly to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Tri-Cities Historical Museum Fund.

Not in a position to donate \$1,000? How about \$60? Any size donation will go a long way in adding to our goal to ensure the financial future of our museum for the next 60 years and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support as we collect, preserve, and present the history of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Benefactor: Bill & Pat Ross	Family: Kathy Schipper Larry & Sarah Kallio Bruce Niemiec Dan & Gail Krug Joy & Steve Hohmeyer John and Holly Martin Carolyn Taylor Brian Ambrose Jeanette Weiden Cournoyer-Hayes Family Paul Carey Shannon Mitchell Daniel & Flora Radspieler Aaron & Heather Smaka Jane Stoecker David & Ann Anys Cec & Betty Bradshaw David & Sharon Swain Tom Knight Vernon & Mary Ackerson Grant & Jeanne VanderVee Bill & Sue Kieft Wilbur & Peg Buehler Kathryn & David Coffey Schertzer Family Lisa Dirkse Patrick & Deb McMahon Wayne & Patricia Johnson Mike & Lori Vieau Jan Miller Hank & Melanie Riekels Richard Tanis Laurel & Matt Nease	Senior: Jean Provencal Barbara Kay Race Bette DelVecchio Cynthia Clark Debra Findlay H. Cleone Bolthouse Muriel Peterson Ray Wiersemn Connie Holley Rebecca Simon Patricia A. Grant Margaret Linebaugh Mary Helen Hoffmeyer Mary Rymal Sandra VanOordt Randall Allen White
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Collector Society: Raymond & Betsy Komray Jack & Rebecca Hopp Sean & Nancy O'Neill Bruce & Nancy Palm	Individual: Tyler Weavers Jennifer Crouse Denise LeClaire Steve Coutre Cathleen Franklin Rhonda Stephenson Greg Hagen Russell Smith John A. McAree Marilyn Manting Alexandria Fricano Library of Michigan Richard Simons Iris Elko	Senior Couple: Joyce & Andy Cawthon Rod & Dawn Behm Myron & Karla Constantine Debra & Lawrence Doran Raymond & Barbara Nelson Joanne Sharpe & Joe Matesa Ronan & Donna Kuiper Robert Bell Al & Sue Federico Mark Hugger & Jennifer Martin Rick & Janice Berens Larry & Anne McLaughlin Jim & Rosemary Brunner Lou & Gloria Draeger Mark & Kathy Smith Larry & Peggy Adams
		Renewing and new members are listed in the River Winds on a quarterly basis. Members listed are dependent upon date of renewal.
		*New members in bold type.

“Grew up in this area. Wonderful to see names of people from our childhood explained!”
John & Karen B.

CALENDAR



MARCH

Friday, March 1
Music at the Museum presents *May Erlewine wsg Olivia Millerschin*
Centennial Hall, Doors open 6:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$25/members, \$30/non-members

Tuesday, March 12
Lecture: “*For Those in Peril: Shipwrecks of Ottawa County*,” presented by Craig Rich
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

Friday, March 22
1950s Trivia Night
6:30 p.m.
Preregister by March 15 at 616-842-0700
\$60/Teams of 6

APRIL

Friday, April 5
Lakeland Artists Spring Show Opening Reception. The public is invited to the opening. The exhibit runs through April 26.
FREE, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Centennial Hall

Thursday, April 11
Lecture: “*Deep Six: The Great Lakes’ Largest Shipwrecks*,” presented by Ric Mixer
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

Saturday, April 20
Music at the Museum presents *Crystal Bowersox wsg Abigail Stauffer/Dave Haughey Duo*
Doors open 6:00 p.m., Centennial Hall
Tickets: \$30/members, \$35/non-members

Sunday, April 21
Easter Sunday
Museum closed

MAY

Thursday, May 2
Lecture: “*Icebound: The Ordeal of the S.S. Michigan*,” presented by Valerie van Heest
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

Thursday, May 16
Tri-Cities A to Z Exhibit Opening Reception for Museum Members Only
6:00-8:00 p.m., Centennial Hall

Sunday, May 19
Tri-Cities A to Z exhibit
Community Open House
FREE, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Centennial Hall

Thursday, May 30
Lecture: “*The Music of 1959: The Year the Music Died*,” presented by Jon VanderPloeg
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

FIRST WEDNESDAY’S HISTORY BOOK CLUB
3:00 p.m.

Akeley Building, Education Room

Wednesday, March 6

Wednesday, April 3

Wednesday, May 1

New members welcome!

Call Cate at (616) 842-0700 for more information or to join.



Tri-Cities Historical Museum

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