

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL

CELEBRATING

60 YEARS



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The museum has been a whirlwind of activity this past spring as the Board of Directors and Staff celebrated the passing of the new Strategic Plan which will guide museum operations for the next five years. We are excited about where this plan will take the museum as we serve the Tri-Cities communities, communities that value their past. To view the Tri-Cities Historical Museum Strategic Plan 2019-2024 please go to our website at www.tri-citiesmuseum.org, or for a copy, please contact me by phone 616-842-0700 extension 130 or by email jbunke@tchmuseum.org.

Looking ahead as we continue to celebrate 60 years as your local museum, we have some great programming opportunities available beginning with our monthly walking tours which include historic pubs, Lake Forest Cemetery and the newly expanded downtown tour which now includes Centertown. We will also be offering our ever popular ice-cream socials at DeWitt School on Thursday, July 18 and the "1223" Pere Marquette engine on Thursday, August 15 which includes tours of the train beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Upstairs in Centennial Hall we are proud to be exhibiting Tri-Cities A to Z, which is a fun, creative look at the unique history of Spring Lake, Ferrysburg and Grand Haven. This exhibit features several artifacts that have been in the museum's collection for years but not had a chance to be on display. Thanks to the generosity of several donors, we had the opportunity to restore the Braak's Bakery sign, donated by Ron Braak, to its original glory. The large porcelain and neon sign graced the Braak's Bakery location on Savidge Street for several decades. If you haven't had a chance to see it, the exhibit will be up through September.

Also as a reminder, in honor of our 60th Anniversary we have embarked 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. We have had several generous individuals make donations to the fund already and are on our way to reaching our goal, but if you have not done so already, 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. If you would like to make a donation to our 60th Anniversary Endowment Fund, please use the enclosed envelope that can be found in the center of this newsletter. Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events and exhibits. As always, we thank you for your continued support as we work towards our mission to: *Create connections to local history!*

KIDS "LEARN AND EARN"

ALL SUMMER LONG



Visitors can hunt for The Cool History Machine (TCHM) every Tuesday this summer beginning June 25.

The museum's summer theme days will run this year from June 25 - August 25. All kids, locals and visitors, can participate in our daily activities at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. It's a great way to learn and earn prizes! Ask our friendly front desk staff for information about how to join in the fun.

FIND TCHM (THE COOL HISTORY MACHINE) TUESDAYS

Locate TCHM, tell the front desk staff, and get a prize.

WHAT IS IT? WEDNESDAYS

Guess the identity of the unknown object and tell the front desk staff to get a prize.

THINKING THURSDAYS

Match the photo of the person or object with which exhibit it belongs in. Tell the front desk staff to get a prize.

FIND IT FRIDAYS

Each Friday a photo of an artifact will be on display at the front desk. Tell the front desk staff where you spotted the artifact in the museum to get a prize.

SCAVENGER HUNT SATURDAYS/SUNDAYS

Get a copy of one of the museum's scavenger hunts. Finish it and turn it in at the front desk for a prize.

SUMMER READING CLUB PROVIDES FUN AND LEARNING

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum, in partnership with Loutit District Library and Spring Lake District Library, has presented the Summer Reading Club for the enjoyment and benefit of area school students for many years. This summer, the tradition continues.

The Summer Reading Club provides an opportunity for area youth to practice and improve their reading skills while on their summer vacation. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories!" Four fantastic programs are being offered.

- Monday, June 17: Air Zoo, 2:00 p.m. at Spring Lake District Library
- Thursday, June 20: Air Zoo, 2:00 p.m. at Loutit District Library

- Wednesday, June 26: Animal Magic, 2:00 p.m. at Spring Lake District Library; 5:00 p.m. at Loutit District Library
- Friday, July 19: Thornapple Woodlands Bee Program, 10:30 a.m. at Loutit District Library; 2:00 p.m. at Spring Lake District Library
- Wednesday, July 24: Cup Stacking with Jim Merrills, 10:00 a.m. at Spring Lake District Library; 2:00 p.m. at Loutit District Library

This year's programming is made possible by the generous support of the Samuel L. Westerman Foundation. Sign up to participate at either library location.



HENRY FORD MUSEUM/GREENFIELD VILLAGE BUS TRIP SEPTEMBER 14



The Dymaxion House at The Henry Ford Museum.

The Friends Committee of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum is sponsoring a bus trip on **Saturday**, **September 14** to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, MI. **Cost of the day-long trip will be \$80**. Seating is limited and advance purchase of tickets is required.

The cost of the trip covers the bus transportation, admission to the museums, docent-led tours, parking fees and snacks. Tour goers can choose to participate in docent-led tours or see the sites at their own pace. Lunch will be on your own. You may choose to bring a sack lunch, or the sites offer a number of café options at which to purchase lunch. The diverse exhibits are sure to be fun for all ages: kids, parents, and grandparents!

The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation began as Henry Ford's personal collection of historic objects. Today, it is a

12-acre site full of pop culture items, classic cars, train locomotives, aircraft, and antique machinery. Among its famous and extensive collection are an Oscar Mayer Wienermobile, John F. Kennedy's Presidential limousine, and Abraham Lincoln's rocking chair from Ford's Theater. In addition, the museum houses the Rosa Parks bus, George Washington's camp bed, and Buckminster Fuller's prototype Dymaxion House.

Greenfield Village, located right next door to The Henry Ford, is an outdoor living history museum. Nearly 100 historic buildings were relocated to the site



For an added fee, visitors can see Greenfield Village sites from an antique car.

and they help to interpret the story of how Americans have lived and worked since the founding of the



Visitors can see a replica of Independence Hall at Greenfield Village.

United States. Visitors can see craft buildings like glass blowing and pottery making; farmhouses and fields; a replica of Thomas Edison's laboratory; and Henry Ford's own birthplace. Visitors can, for an extra fee, ride around Greenfield Village in an antique Ford Model T and even in a steam locomotive.

We hope you will be able to join us for the wonderful bus trip. Questions? Please call Kevin Geary, Curator of Education at (616) 842-0700. Tickets may be purchased at www.tri-citiesmuseum.org or by visiting the museum.

HISTORY SCAVENGER HUNT: THE MUSEUM'S OUTREACH EXHIBITS

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum has several outreach exhibits scattered throughout the communities we serve. These exhibits exist to get artifacts in the museum's collection out into the communities they come from. Each community in the Tri-Cities area has its own unique and rich past and the stories the exhibits tell are part of the regions cultural heritage. Have you found one of the outreach exhibits near where you work or live?



Loutit District Library

The Loutit District Library is currently hosting a two case exhibit featuring artifacts from the Grand Haven Airport. Artifacts featured include advertisements, reports and photos from throughout the airport's history. Drawings of featured aircraft are scattered across the exhibit as well as a propeller from an airplane. The exhibit also contains several newspaper clippings from events that occurred at the air field.



Frand Haven Charter Township

The Grand Haven Charter Township Hall's exhibit features Grand Haven Stamped Products. GHSP manufactures many types of mechanical and electronic components. Featured in this exhibit are the

gear shift mechanisms from several types of automobiles along with a brief history of the company. The shift mechanisms are accompanied by photographs of the vehicles they would have been installed into. The exhibit at Ferrysburg City Hall teaches us about the history of the Kitchel Lindquist Dune Preserve. The display case features several artifacts from the 114 acre preserve along with historical pamphlets and trail guides. Additional artifacts include a fossilized turtle shell,



Ferrysburg City Ha

a carving of a passenger pigeon, and a burl, which is a deformed growth that occurs on trees.



Spring Lake District Library

"Happy Birthday Spring Lake!" is the theme of the exhibit at the Spring Lake District Library. The Spring Lake community is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year. Artifacts spanning the town's 150 years will feature several themes. Historic maps will show what Spring Lake looked like in the 1800s when it was known as Mill Point. Clinker boats, the Interurban rail system, and the first horseless carriage in Spring Lake show some examples of early transportation in the region. The exhibit will also feature brief histories on early Spring Lake resorts and the Savidge family.

The Spring Lake Village Hall feature an exhibit on recreational fishing. An old fishing net, tackle box, scalers and a fishing rod populate this exhibit. A vast array of lures show many aspects of what fisherman use to catch different species of fish. The photos in the exhibit show people going about their favorite past time on the lake, sitting back and relaxing with a line in the water.

There may not be flashing red lights and sirens, but the Grand Haven Fire Department is the subject of the exhibit at Grand Haven City Hall. History and tradition are very important things in the fire service. The exhibit case contains a painting of the fourth ward fire barn as well as a fire alarm box, hose and nozzle and fire chief's helmet. A photo of "Dutchess", the department's mascot Dalmatian is also featured in the collection.

The Ottawa County Courthouse front entrance contains a large outreach exhibit covering the history of the justice system in our communities. It features a desk that was created from the pieces of the judge's bench along with the old door that used to go into the courtroom. A gavel, architectural fragments, and additional courtroom memorabilia round out this display.

The final display in the community is located at Hemlock Crossing. Lewis Cross paintings are featured artifacts in their nature center. Cross often painted nature scenes along the Grand River, as well as outdoor activities. The two paintings depict scenes featuring passenger pigeons filling the sky. Cross saw the decline of the species as they slowly went extinct in 1914. His passion was to capture and preserve nature with his paints and canvas.

History is everywhere in our communities. We grow and prepare for the future by learning from our past. Take a look at these exhibits scattered throughout our communities and see what you can learn from our interesting heritage!



Hemlock Crossing



Spring Lake Village Hall



Grand Haven City Hall



Ottawa County Courthouse

ALICE'S FAVORITE THINGS



Children sledding on 2nd Street

SLEDDING ON PLANT HILL

Bobsled runs made during the early 1900s were on 2nd Street Hill in Grand Haven, Michigan. There were few cars then and the hill was a plank road made of logs laid horizontally across the road. The City allowed the fire hydrants to be opened to spray the hill. Grooves for the runners of the 12-man sled were iced on a regular basis to make the run from the top of 2nd Street to the South Grand River Channel. A lookout on the corner of Washington and 2nd would swing a lantern to let the sled riders know when it was safe to start the run. Lookouts were also posted on all East-West Streets which crossed 2nd.

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum has, among its 60,000 artifacts, a 10-man bob sled that was used on 2nd Street Hill.

WEDDING DRESS OF ESTHER (SAVIDGE) ROBBINS



Esther Savidge on her wedding day

Robbins V to Esther Savidge, daughter of Hunter Savidge of Spring Lake, was one of the biggest events of the year in 1891. Among the artifacts of Tri-Cities Historical Museum, is the gorgeous wedding dress worn by Esther Savidge, which will be displayed in one of the museum's future exhibits, along with the top of their wedding cake which was described as a raisin fruit cake. Nathaniel Robbins was born in Benton Harbor

The wedding of Nathaniel

in 1866. He arrived in Grand Haven at age 18 and was the agent for the Goodrich Steamship Line which had passenger cruise ships sailing in the Great Lakes. His office was on the site of what is now the Chamber of Commerce. He was also in business with Hunter Savidge who was part-owner of a lumber mill in Spring Lake. Hunter built the Robbins home on the NE corner of Franklin & 5th for the newlyweds. The cost of the 3-story home was \$25,000.00

1861-1865 PORTABLE DESK

During the Civil War, an unknown officer in the Union Army carried this beautiful mahogany/brass trimmed Portable Desk, through four years of the war.

Henry Griffin, the 2nd County Sheriff of Ottawa County (1844-1850), acquired this desk and his family donated it to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. It is one of my very favorite pieces!!!! He used the desk until his death in 1891. He also planted the first fruit trees in Ottawa County, was the first superintendent of schools, Treasurer of Ottawa County and Mayor of Grand Haven, Michigan. Griffin Street and Griffin School are named in his honor.

SHIP AND BOAT MODELS

Tri-Cities Historical Museum's collection of ship and boat models make it hard to pick a favorite. Harold Swartz, a local resident, made most of them in our collection, a skill he started in his 20's. His most favorite was a fishing tug *Frank Edwards* which was modeled after his grandfather's boat. One of my favorites, also done by Mr. Swartz, is the packet boat *Ottawa* that plied the waters of Spring Lake and Grand River, bringing passengers and their luggage to resorts along the bayous and lake. Another model, the *Escanaba I* is also spectacular and can be seen in one of our newest exhibits, Coast Guard City USA located on the third floor adjacent to Centennial Hall.

BABY CARRIAGE

We have many artifacts that a small baby or child would ride in. One of the local Sherwood families had a carriage made that would hold 2 children on seats, at the same time, one at each end of the carriage. It has large wheels in back and smaller ones in the front, with a hood that goes over the top of the carriage to shade the children while out for a ride.

CUTLER HOTEL PAINTINGS OF OWNERS

Dwight Cutler was born in Amherst, New York and arrived in Grand Haven in 1847. He worked for various merchants in the area eventually making enough capital to purchase for himself a number of vessels both steam and sail. In 1874, Dwight went into business with Hunter Savidge and purchased the old Hopkins Lumber Mill on Spring Lake. The lumber mill became the largest in West Michigan and had lumber yards all over Michigan and Indiana. Having access to lumber, he built a 5-story hotel on the SW corner of Washington and Third. He married Frances E. Slayton and had 6 children. Dwight had a local artist paint himself and his wife in separate large oil portraits which hung in the lobby of his hotel and eventually were donated to the museum. They measure 3ft x 3ft with a large wooden painted gold ornate frames. He also built a stately mansion on the SE corner of Washington & 3rd St. which took up most of the block to 4th Street.



Cutler House

AKELEY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

During 1888-1928, a private institute prep school for girls was located between 5th and 6th Streets on Washington Street in Grand Haven. It became a flourishing cultural center for arts and humanities. Another building was built next to the home of Mr. Akeley on the NE corner of Washington and 5th where the Michigan Bell Telephone building is now located and was called Gillespie Hall. Another structure was built directly behind Gillespie Hall on Columbus Street. It was called St. Margaret's Hall which accommodated the music and art departments. Tuition was \$650.00/yr.

The female students were taught basic rules and regulations on the running of household duties, one of which was how to set a proper table. A set of 24 piece Limoges dishes were used for this purpose and were donated to the museum. The Dining room In the Victorian House section of the museum has part of the collection on the table.



John Boer and daughter Cornie Boer Wagener

HORSE DRAWN SLEIGHS

Cornie (Boer) Wagener's father, John Boer, owned a furniture and undertaking business which was located where Floto's store is today in the 100 block of Washington Street. The family owned a horse drawn sleigh that held 2 people. Due to the wintery weather, a fur robe was needed for warmth and a metal container held hot ash from a wood or coal stove. The container was covered w/ carpeting and slanted to rest your feet on to keep them warm during the ride. This sleigh was donated to the museum in a state of much needed repair, as was the robe and foot warmer. Museum volunteers took on the job of restoring it to authenticity. It is one of the many artifacts in our warehouse.

Tours through our warehouse can be requested during the year by calling the Museum. The Community Archives and Research Center is also available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from I-4 p.m. for public research.

Alice Seaver is a native of the Tri-Cities. Born in Ferrysburg and a graduate of Grand Haven High School, Alice raised her family in Grand Haven. She has been involved with the Tri-Cities Historical Museum for many years as a member of the Board of Directors, volunteer, and active member of the Friends Committee. Alice's current title at the museum is Collections Services, as she supports the museum's Curator of Collections in a variety of ways.



Gillespie Hall

OUR VOLUNTEERS HELP US GROW

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Party on Wednesday, April 10 during Volunteer Appreciation Week. The theme of this year's party was "Our Volunteers Help Us Grow!" The museum recognized and celebrated the hundreds of service hours provided to us in 2018 by our incredible and talented group of volunteers. Those in attendance enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and desserts from Anything Goes Catering and wines from Lemon Creek Winery.

Cindy Clark received the 2018 Volunteer of the Year Award. Cindy was recognized for her many years of service to the Friends Committee, for her event support and help in the kitchen, and for chairing the museum's annual Holiday Marketplace craft show for 10 years.

The museum also recognized other volunteers for their service to our Cindy Clark (Volunteer of the Year), Larry Lambert (Education), departments and events. Sue Vanden Bosch received the Collections Vicki Everitt (Special Recognition), and Bryan Weller (Exhibits). Volunteer Award; Larry Lambert was awarded the Education

Volunteer award winners (1 to r): Sue Vanden Bosch (Collections),

Volunteer Award; the Exhibits Volunteer Award went to Bryan Weller; David Dean received the Events Volunteer Award; Connie Farell received the Friends Volunteer Award; and Vicki Everitt and Sara Solberg were awarded with Special Recognition Awards for their contributions to the 2018 Frozen in Time event.

The Board and staff deeply appreciate all of the museum's volunteers and the time and effort they give to benefit the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. We would be unable to provide the quality exhibits, education, collections' care, and events that we do without the support of our wonderful volunteers.







THURSDAY, JULY 18

DeWitt School Ice Cream Social 17716 Taft Rd., Spring Lake Township FREE, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

"1223" Ice Cream Social Train tours begin at 4:00 p.m. Chinook Pier Park FREE, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



MEET OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

CONNIE LOCKER VERHULST



Please join us in welcoming Connie Locker VerHulst is a museum professional with over seven years of experience in the field. Connie comes to Tri-Cities Historical Museum from the Holland Museum, where she led the Education Department to achieve unprecedented growth in public programming and community partnerships.

Prior to her time in Holland, Connie worked at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe Shores, MI. She was also previously employed by the City of Ypsilanti, where she worked closely with community stakeholders on grant opportunities and city-led initiatives. Connie holds a M.S. in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University and a B.A. in History from Kent State University.

Connie will be overseeing upcoming museum development initiatives and maintaining the membership database along with soliciting new members and sending out renewal notices. Give Connie a call with your membership related questions or just to say hi and introduce yourself.

MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER KELLENE DAMIAN

We would like to introduce the newest member of our team here at the museum, Kellene Damian. Kellene will be our new Office Manager and she is thrilled for the opportunity to support the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in this role. Previously, Kellene was an art teacher at Grand Haven Area Public Schools, and currently she teaches yoga at Sol+Sage, she is a Reiki Practitioner, and she owns Wild Rise Apothecary, an all-natural line of handmade body and bath products that she creates and brings to various markets throughout West Michigan.

Kellene is passionate about healthy living on the lakeshore. When she isn't at the Museum or teaching yoga, in the summer you can find her outdoors hiking with her dog, riding bikes with her husband, or on the water with family. She loves reading, writing, painting, gardening, meditating, and always has a new creative project in the works. She is also years active with the local Theatre community, either singing and acting of

very active with the local Theatre community, either singing and acting on stage or designing sets.

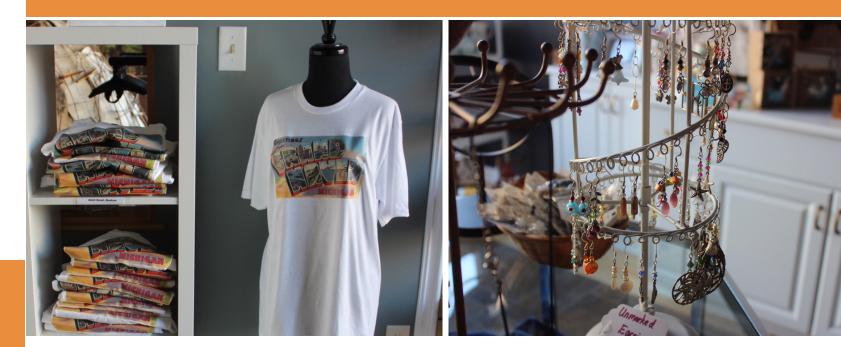
Most of all, Kellene loves working with people. She enjoys making meaningful connections with others in the community and can't wait to do the same here with the Tri-Cities Historical Museum.

MUSEUM STORE

Our Museum Store is ready for the summer season! Stop in today to shop a unique selection of Michigan and Tri-Cities themed home goods, books, jewelry, historical items and tourist gifts. New items arrive regularly.

Museum members always receive a special member discount on any non-consignment items. Review the member benefits on our website to see what your discount might be. Member discount is valid in addition to any sales or store discounts, making the Museum Store a great place to purchase gifts for your friends and family.

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





NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Archivist Society:

Robert & Carrie Warren Mac & Stancie McClellan

David, Melissa and William Garland

Robert Mann

Dan & Christine Nelson

Collector Society:

Frances Homik

Steve & Tami Harvey James & Jean Kocher

Gerald Hilger & Carla Kocher

Family:

George Gardner

Frank Kennedy

Adrian & Terry Winesett

Ross & Mary Linda Kittleman

David Skelly

Individual:

Yvonne Olmsted

Patty Redeker

Kaija Kocher

Joyce & Andy Cawthon

Robert Walsh

Susan Wink

Karen Cotton

Iames VanderMeiden

Verla Beth Thomas

Kurt Schroeder

Sandra Nieuwenhuis

Senior Couple:

Robert Sheardy

Paul & Sandy Huber

Hillary Burns & Dr. Richard Kamischke

Ruthmary Kiomento & Clint Draeger

Harry Parcheta

Renewing and new members are listed in the River

dependent upon date of renewal.

Patti Walcott Bill Pushaw Brian Wright

Jane Curtis

Ed & Helen Lystra

Iim and Nancy Humphrey

Paul & Mary Springer

Rod & Cheryl Van Abbema

John & Holly Martin

Rob & Gail Miner

Winds on a quarterly basis. Members listed are

*New members in bold type.

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1959

FUNDRAISING EVENT TO CELEBRATE 60 YEARS OF HISTORY



Please reserve Thursday evening, October 10th from 6-10 pm on your calendar to Party Like its 1959! Join us for an evening of 1950's fun, food and music as we enjoy cocktails and dinner 1950's style. The event will be held at the Spring Lake Country Club and will celebrate the Tri-Cities Historical Museums' early years as a fledgling organization in Grand Haven. Tickets for this event are \$60 per person and will feature a great selection of live and silent auction items. Look for your invite in the mail or call the museum to reserve your spot today because we plan to Party Like it's 1959!

CALENDAR

IUNE

Wednesday, June 5

3:00 p.m., Education Room

New members welcome!

information or to join.

Tuesday, June II

presented by Craig Rich

FREE, 6:30 p.m., Tri-Cities Historical Museum

Wednesday, June 12

Spring Lake Heritage Festival's

Mill Point Park, Spring Lake

Thursday, June 13

JULY

Thursday, July 11

Lecture: "In the Wake of Disaster: The Lake Erie Black Friday Storm of 1916," presented by Matthew Daley, Ph.D. FREE, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 18

DeWitt School Ice Cream Social Tri-Cities Historical Museum





AUGUST

Thursday, August 15

"1223" Ice Cream Social FREE, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Chinook Pier Park

Friday, August 16 & Saturday, August 17 Downtown Grand Haven's Annual Sidewalk Sale

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 20

Lecture "The Wreck and Rescue of the Schooner J.H. Hartzell" presented by Rich Brauer FREE, 6:30 p.m., Spring Lake District Library

HISTORIC PUB TOUR

\$5.00/adult, 21 and over only, 7:00 p.m. Call Loutit District Library for reservations

Tuesday, July 23, Tuesday, August 13

WALKING TOUR OF LAKE FOREST CEMETERY

adjacent to Lake Ave.

FREE, 6:00 p.m.

Requires ability to walk/stand on uneven

Wednesday, July 17

DOWNTOWN GRAND HAVEN HISTORIC WALK

Tours depart from next to the Depot, I N. Harbor FREE, 6:00 p.m.

Requires ability to walk/stand for up to 1.5 hours. Thursday, June 20, Thursday, August 22

DOWNTOWN TO CENTERTOWN HISTORIC WALK

Reservations required. Call 616-842-0700. FREE, 5:30 p.m.

Requires ability to walk uphill/stand for up

Thursday, July 25

Tri-Cities Historical Museum

200 Washington Avenue Grand Haven, MI 49417 www.tri-citiesmuseum.org Non Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 239 Grand Haven, MI

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