



THE FUTURE OF HISTORY



Lakeshore
Museum Center

Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.

DECEMBER VOL. 21 ISSUE 4 2021



MUSEUMS MAKE YOU IMAGINE.

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As we approach the end of the year, looking back, the museum made great strides in 2021.

While you read this newsletter, the articles will feature what the staff saw as our greatest accomplishments in exhibits, programs, volunteers, collections, and restoration work.

One of the accomplishments I am most proud of include the creation of a strategic plan. This plan is helping the board and staff move forward, together, to come up with solutions for sustainable growth. We are focusing on diversified development strategies, expansion that accommodates merging our collection and archives into a shared space that is more accessible, and looking at our branding efforts to help stakeholders understand that we are 7 museums plus a collection center and archive.



Another accomplishment was catching up on some much-needed TLC for our facilities. We raised money for the Archives and History Museum roofs, but are waiting for the roofing company to get the insulation delivered before we can replace them. Supply chain issues are problematic, but we are optimistic that in early spring we will see that project completed.

The front porch on the Scolnik House of the Depression Era was rebuilt and the Heritage Museum put in a floor joist for stabilization. The museum also needed a new server. Servers are expensive necessities that save all of our data and are one of those behind-the-scenes expenses that are critical to the museum's operations. We replaced the front door on the Archives with a reproduction of the original since that building is historic, and we found a specialist that can clean and restore stained glass. The Hume house front door had a beautiful, original stained glass inset that was bowing badly and on the verge of falling out. This past spring, it was restored and now is safe for the future generation of visitors. Next, we will be working on three more critical stained-glass windows in the Hackley House. The annual appeal this year will ask for donations to help us restore and stabilize them.

Lastly, we tried new ideas. The programming team piloted the Time Well Served program and we hosted our first Fright Night at the Museum. Both programs allowed us to serve a new demographic and attract first-time museum visitors. We also hosted a smaller, more intimate fundraiser at the Historic Sites called An Evening with the Hackley's which was a beautiful, memorable event.



From the Executive Director
Melissa Horton



DECEMBER
4, 11, 18, 28, & 29 | 2-7 PM

TICKETS
MEMBERS FREE
ADULTS \$15
SENIORS (65+) \$12
KIDS (2-12) \$5

HOLIDAY TOURS

Experience the Hackley and Hume sites decorated beautifully for the holidays by Muskegon's local community groups with walk-through tours!

SAVE THE GLASS

A quality restoration would allow the windows to last for many decades to come.

132
Years Old

15
Originals

3
Critical

Wells Glass Co. in Chicago created the windows for the Hackley House in 1889, and only the Hackley dining room window has been completely reconstructed from photographs. To the museum's knowledge, the stained glass has been through two major restorations, one in the 1970s and another in the early 1990s. Thirty years later, many of the stained glass windows are in need of work, and we have documented 3 that are at a critical point. Donations can be made by visiting www.lakeshoremuseum.org/donate.

The past year has been one for community-based exhibits, beginning with Hats Off to Muskegon and Who is Rosie Lee Wilkins?, both of which opened in 2020 and carried into 2021. Since I joined the Lakeshore Museum Center in February 2021, we have also collaborated with the Women's Division Chamber of Commerce to create an exhibit celebrating the 70th anniversary of the organization. We partnered with Congregation B'nai Israel and Grand Valley State University with funding from the Michigan Humanities Council to create the exhibit, L'Dor V'Dor: Generations of Muskegon's Jewish Community, which will remain on display through April 23, 2022.

Rescuing the Past for the Future

One of my first projects when I joined the Lakeshore Museum Center, was producing an exhibit at the City Barn, Rescuing the Past for the Future: Restoration of the Hackley and Hume Historic Sites. This exhibit had already been planned and written when I arrived, and was waiting to be brought to life. Rescuing the Past for the Future discusses the process of restoring the homes to their original appearances, after years of being repurposed and redecorated. I really enjoyed working on this project, as it was great introduction to the Historic Sites for me as a new staff member. If you did not have a chance to view the exhibit this year, be sure to visit the City Barn next season to see it and learn all about the restoration process.



One of my last projects this year will be to finalize graphics and challenges to accompany our new Robotic Arm interactive. The Robotic Arm, which arrived in September, was funded by a grant through the Community Foundation, and is now located in the STEM Center. We encouraged visitors during September and October to test it out and provide feedback, so that we can design graphics and challenges to ensure the best user experience possible.



It is difficult to believe that my first year as Exhibits Designer with the Lakeshore Museum Center is nearly coming to a close.

The rest of the staff here have welcomed me with open arms, and I feel fortunate to be a part of such a great team. I have learned so much about the museum, the staff, and the Muskegon community over the past year, and I look forward to producing many more exhibits in years to come.

Chani Collins, Exhibit Designer

This year the programming department has seen many changes, but also some things return to normal. As COVID numbers decreased in late spring and early summer, we had the return of some favorite programs in person such as Enviroworks and many summer school field trips. In fact, it may have been one of our busiest summers on record for schools groups.

This fall we had our annual Smashing Pumpkins Night outside and saw beautiful weather, smashed 100 pumpkins into the museum, and had over 200 visitors in the two-hour period. Our Play and Learn program has welcomed in a new batch of young learners as we said goodbye to those who have aged out, but the program has seen continued success. We had exciting new changes within the programming department including staff promotions and adding some new faces.

We have also helped usher in two new temporary exhibits this year with Turtle Travels in May and L'Dor V'Dor at the end of September. Both of these exhibits have allowed us to form new unique partnerships and programs. We met several shelled friends from John Ball Zoo, Blandford Nature Center, and a turtle rehabilitation specialist. Our current exhibit L'Dor V'Dor has led to a partnership with Temple B'nai Israel for the creation of gallery tours and a Hanukkah program to discuss and share this important holiday.

Not everything has been back to normal though, our 3rd Grade Michigan History Week program, From Furs to Fire, usually done in person and attracting students from all over the county had to be done virtually, but still saw success at spreading information on Native Americans, the fur traders, and how this interaction changed the lives of both. We feel lucky that we were able to host two BIG Lessons so far, but overall we have seen a decline in school programs as teachers and schools wait hopefully for a better time in the spring to visit in person.



As we move into 2022, we are unsure what it will hold for us, but we know we are flexible and will be able to meet any new challenges the year can throw at us.

Pat Horn, Program Manager

Time Well Served



One of the most rewarding programs to pilot in 2021 was Time Well Served, which was done in partnership with the Muskegon County Sheriff's Office. This program allows mothers who are incarcerated at the Muskegon County Jail to visit with their children at the museum instead of in the jail. The goal is to provide the children with a safe, fun, trauma-free space to spend time with their parent. They also get to enjoy an extended visit of about 1.5 hours, versus 25 minutes if the visit takes place in the jail.

We were able to pilot this program with a grant from the Greater Muskegon Service League's Women's and Children's Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. The grant covers staff time for the two officers that escort the women, books for the children, as well as a one-year family membership for the children's guardians so that they can enjoy all of the museum sites free of charge.

At the time of this article, we have held 2 programs serving 4 women and 15 family members. We have one additional program scheduled in December. Although our grant only covers this year, the success of the program and the impact it has on the women and children have convinced staff both here at the museum and within the Sherriff's Department that it is well worth continuing. We plan to carry on into 2022 and beyond with quarterly programs, providing a quality visits for children with their mothers.

Jackie Huss, Museum Experiences Director



ADDING NEW TO THE OLD:

Team Work at the Historic Sites

08

History on the Rebound!

The Historic Sites Department had a great year under the current circumstances. We were able to achieve many projects, rebound with well-attended visitation and programs, bring Joe Bell on full-time as the Program Assistant, and accomplish hiring a new Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Brian Strodman and Maintenance Assistant, David Heisser over the summer.

The exteriors of each building received an inspection to determine priorities for the upcoming year, and we crossed off many interior projects in each building. The biggest accomplishment came through the Museum's strategic planning last spring for the need to start a Museum funded endowment for the Hackley and Hume Historic Site to complete costly projects coming in the future. We also determined that three of the Hackley stained glass windows, in critical condition, have been chosen for the museum's annual appeal this year, and they are in the process of being restored!

I am proud of our team for always working through a problem to find the best solution and for their "visitor first" attitude!

Erin Schmitz, Historic Sites Director



2021 Curatorial Projects

After beginning the initial restoration process in early 2020, new wallpaper was installed in May to complete the restoration of Frank McKee's bedroom in the Hume House. Additionally, one of the stained glass windows in the front door of the Hume House was removed as it was bowing significantly. After a careful restoration by Omnibus Studios, this window is back in place to adorn the front doors for another 132 years.

Our team also undertook a number of smaller projects as well. We cleaned and polished over 200 silver objects in the Hackley and Hume Houses in addition to our regular deep cleaning. We also purchased a new fireplace fender for the Hackley House master bedroom thanks to a generous donation. With some big help from our volunteers, we began a database project to digitally catalog all of the paper receipts we have from the Hackley and Hume families to make our research much easier and faster for future projects.

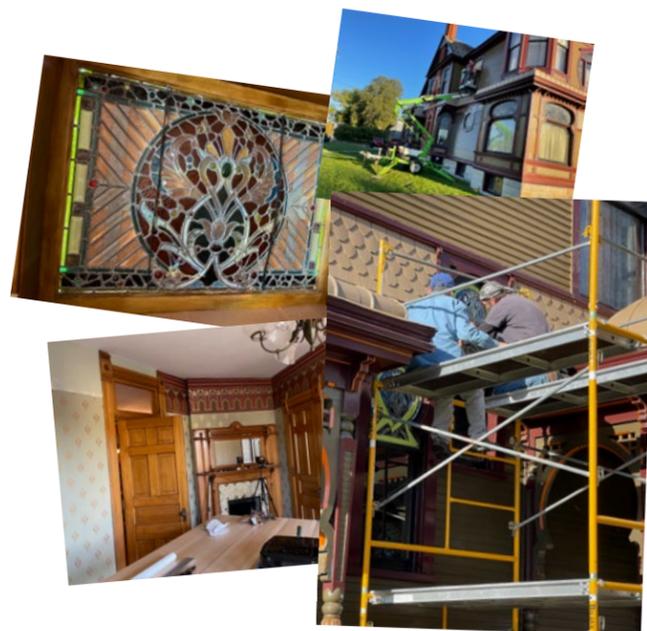
Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager

Program Opportunities

There were a total 36 program opportunities during the 2021 tour season as compared to 16 opportunities in 2020 due to Covid-19. Needless to say, this season was far more successful programming-wise. The newly added After Dark tour was a massive hit and was nearly sold out every time it was offered. The Obituary Tour, Flashlight Tour and Clue Live!, were brought back with each being a big success with visitors, and we were able to offer our first fundraising event, Evening with the Hackleys; a grand total of 344 visitors participated in programs alone!

Finally, there is still time to catch our Holiday Tours on December 4th, 11th, 18th, 28th, and 29th from 2-7 pm. For more information visit HackleyandHume.org.

Joe Bell, Program Assistant



MAJOR PROGRESS

Muskegon Heritage Museum

09

Discover Something New!

As I sit to write the Muskegon Heritage Museum's contribution to the LMC newsletter, we are wrapping up the 2021 drop-in visitation season. We have had 2,046 visitors since May 1st. While not back to pre-pandemic levels, this marks a much-improved showing over last year--even without cruise ships.

None of this would be possible without you! Your memberships, visits, and volunteer time allow us to share Muskegon County's heritage of business and industry with hometown tourists and guests from across the country.



Part of the Thursday Crew posing before masking up and pouring concrete footings. Shown here (L-R): Don Niskansen, Dave Rice, Roger Wiitonen, Dick Didrickson, Jim Haggerty, and Allan Dake.

The year began with a major historic preservation project to ensure the stability of our Heritage Machine Hall. The more than a century-old floor framing needed attention in order to continue carrying the static load of our dynamic industrial past.

We enlisted the help of structural engineers at Soils and Structures to design a system of footings, posts, and beams to reinforce original white pine floor joists. Our Thursday Crew of volunteers worked all winter to pour concrete footings, raise the posts and beams, sister in new floor joists, and install bridging under the floor.

The finished product might just be able to carry the tank our 12 cylinder Continental engine was built to go in.

We re-located Lumber and Patternmakers/Foundry exhibits and unveiled two new permanent and two temporary exhibits. It Runs in the Family features Black-owned businesses in Muskegon and Muskegon Heights.



The Muskegon Brewing Company exhibit looks at the first century of commercial beer making on Brewery Hill. The temporary exhibit on Bessie's Alterations added a 3-D component to augment an adjacent permanent panel exhibit. Making It Rain is a temporary display of Muskegon-made sprinklers.

What should you look for next year at MHM? Well...I think we will keep that a secret to build suspense. We promise to give you reasons to stop in and check out what's new when we reopen on Wednesday, May 4th, 2022.

Until then, the museum is open by appointment and there is a good chance that someone will be here on our Thursday workdays

Kirk Bunke, Site Manager



A Remarkable Collection

As the Archivist I receive many questions, but one question I get consistently is “where is the Muskegon Chronicle archive?” Well, I am happy to say the Lakeshore Museum Center acquired part of the Chronicle archives during the summer.

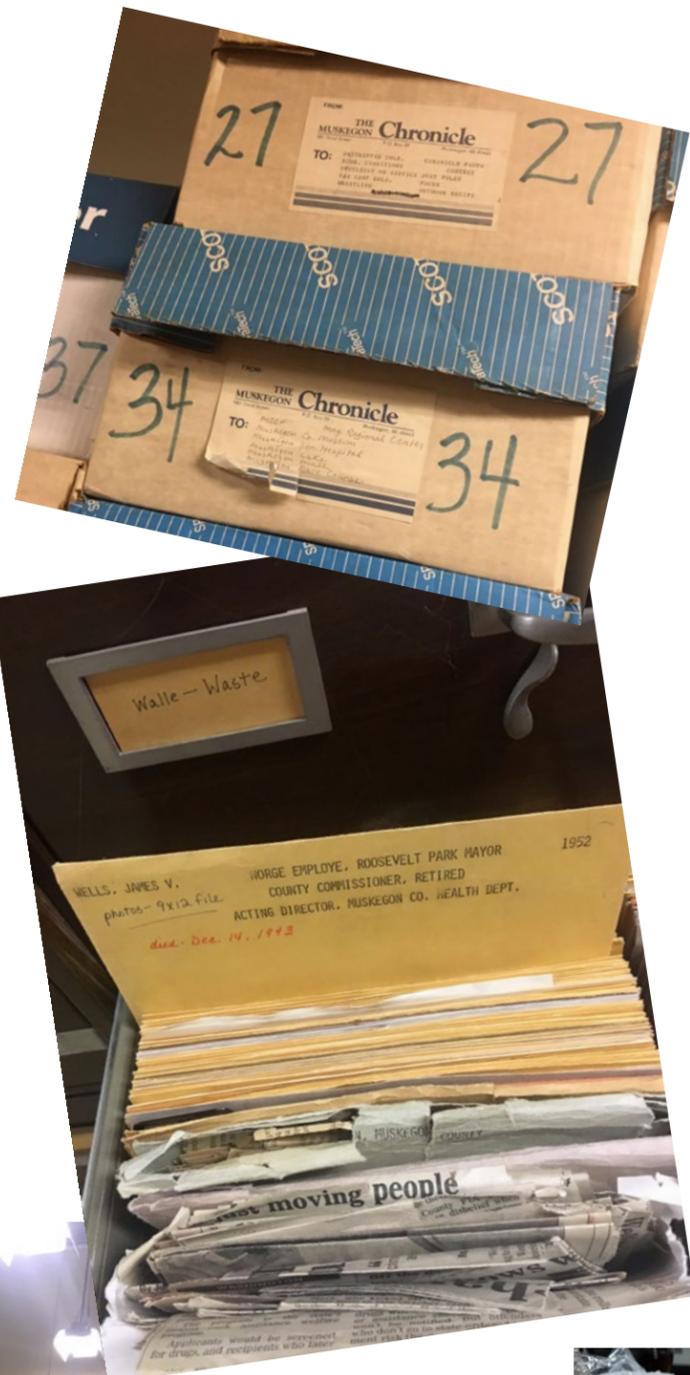
This remarkable collection includes about 700 cubic feet of newspaper clippings, negatives, commemorative newspapers, and some photographs. The collection does not include complete newspapers, but rather newspaper clippings sorted by topic. Since May, 200 staff hours have been spent inventorying each envelope to create a finding aid of what is included in the collection. Staff have finished sorting only a fraction of the collection.

The goal with the collection is to make it accessible to the public for research. In order to do this the collection needs to be indexed, but most importantly it needs a home where the public can access it. The material currently resides in two different buildings. Museum staff have generously offered corners of their offices to keep file cabinets.

This is going to take time to figure out and to raise funds for a permanent home. But the first step is taken in preserving the collection from being destroyed, and we cannot wait to share this wealth of information with you!

Our thanks is extended to Advance Local Media for their generosity in transferring this monumental collection to the Lakeshore Museum Center.

Jeff Bessinger, Archivist



Recent Acquisitions

- 1984 Neoteric Racer Hovercraft used by the North Muskegon Fire Department. Used to save over 200 lives on the ice of Muskegon Lake.
- Research materials from Joan Gawron
- Photographs of the Trosko Grocery Store
- Sign, Steel Fabricating Co.; multicolored, painted metal
- Seven book about Muskegon written by William Hansen and over 300 photographs
- Quilt made by Bertha Freye
- Men's straw hat from Hardy Herpolsheimer's Muskegon
- Program, Muskegon Heights High School Graduation 1936
- Certificate and pin, Muskegon Exchange Club
- Program, Muskegon Heights High School "The Music Master, 1936
- Program, Muskegon Community College Commencement Banquet, 1988
- World War I uniform and ephemera from Peter Othoff
- Chicken Bye-Bye product box, unused, ca. 1950
- Lakeside Board of Trade Roster Pamphlet, 3/1920
- Greater Muskegon Chamber of Commerce "About" Pamphlet and thank you card
- Grand Trunk - Unused trip booklet, lubrication readings 1970-1976, work to do/completed, 1957-1968
- Canadian National Railways "Madison" master's log box 1937-1944 (4 books); chief engineer log book June 1971-March 1973
- Packet from Women's Division Chamber of Commerce 70th Anniversary Gala held on July 21, 2021
- Program, performance of East Lynne, or, The Elopement, Fred L. Reynolds Opera House, dated 1884
- Textile Ribbon, Muskegon Harrison and Morton Club, dated 1888
- Two (2) Greater Muskegon Music Teacher Association scrapbooks
- Card and button, "Polio Pioneer," dated 1954
- Hackley Hospital bill, 1945
- Three (3) letters written by George Morrell to Wes and Orel Borgeson after the birth of Anne Borgeson
- Insignia Patch, Muskegon Piston Ring.
- Product Package, Mendets pot repair, ca. 1930
- Advertising, Radium Photo Service
- Thirteen (13) picture postcards: Restaurant at Lake Michigan Park, Muskegon, MI; Muskegon, Mich. Custer Park, main entrance, Muskegon Lake in background; Muskegon, Mich. Coming up Muskegon Lake; Steamship "Alabama" (Goodrich Transit Co.); Lake Harbor Hotel, Muskegon, Mich.; Kearny Monument, Muskegon, Mich.; U.S. Life Saving Station, Muskegon, Mich.; Muskegon, Mich. Entering the Harbor.; Beach, Lake Michigan Park, Muskegon, Mich; Hackley Library, Muskegon, Mich.; Muskegon, Mich. Hackley Public Library; Hackley Public Library, Muskegon, Mich.; Hackley Park, Muskegon, Mich.
- Picture postcard of a vehicle on North Muskegon causeway, 1911
- Vehicle license Muskegon 1912
- Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Muskegon Railway bearer bonds
- Burning Foot Beer Festival media pass and program
- Photographs and one portrait of the Wierengo/McKee family
- Police badges from Peter Hansen
- Box of Miller No Sew Hook and Eye closures patented by Anna Miller of Muskegon in 1904



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Here's to You!

12

Thank you for all you do!

In 2021 we saw a flood of volunteers return to donate their time in various departments at the Museum. Interpretive volunteers at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site returned to take guests through the homes and share Muskegon's rich lumbering history through the eyes of Charles Hackley and Thomas Hume. Programming/Education volunteers returned to assist in the STEM Center and with Friday Fun Nights, and Collections volunteers returned to the Collection Center after spending a year volunteering virtually from home.

The Junior Museum Professionals returned after a year away to take the Museum programming by storm. They helped with Saturday crafts, special events like the Museum's first ever haunted event, and in general helped guests enjoy their visit at the Museum and its sites.

We also saw the return of the Muskegon Area ISD (MAISD) student volunteers. These volunteers assist in taking care of the Museum facilities. By volunteering with us, they gain important skills they can use later when they enter the workforce.

Finally, our Muskegon Heritage Museum volunteers worked on many important projects to keep the building in tip top shape, while also providing a great guest experience for all visitors through tours.

I am very proud and happy to say that this year we not only saw most of our volunteer corps return, but we also added many volunteers just within the past few months!

We know that these folks can choose to donate their time wherever they want, so we are very grateful that they choose to spend their time with us! Many of our programs and events could not run without the hard work of our volunteers. Thank you for choosing to be part of our team and sticking with us through this year!

Gwen Adams, Volunteer & Safety Manager

Are you interested in volunteering for the Lakeshore Museum Center or one of its sites?

Contact Gwen at gwen@lakeshoremuseum.org or visit our website at lakeshoremuseum.org to get involved!



WHERE DO YOU ROAM?

Membership Spotlight

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Reciprocal Membership

Don't forget. Lakeshore Museum Center members get a 10% off discount on all Gift Store purchases; Historian and Preservation members get 15% off; and Legacy members get 20% off. I am working diligently on our 2022 reciprocal membership calendar; in the meantime, remember to take advantage of your ROAM benefits that are included with all LMC membership levels.

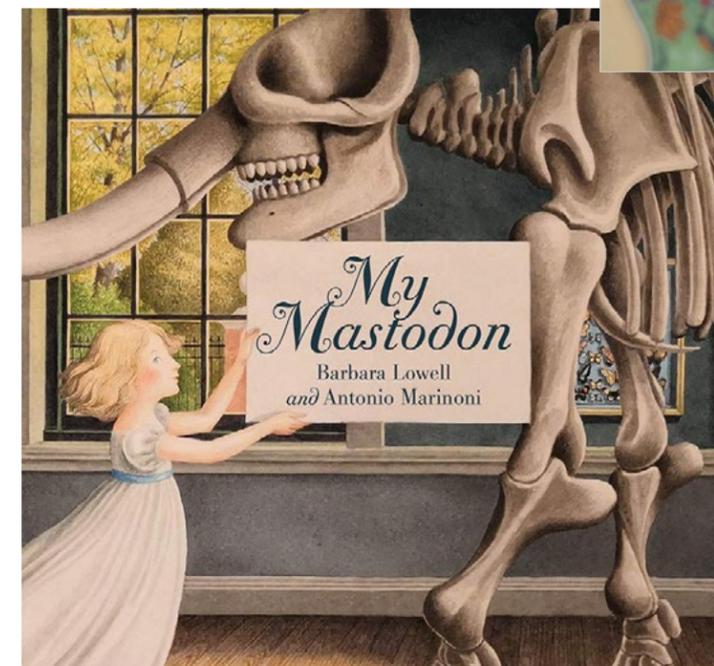
Graciela, Guest Relations Manager

Exclusive Gifts

The Lakeshore Museum Center Gift Store is stocked year-round with a wide variety of merchandise. Most of the time we offer items that are connected very closely to our exhibits, and that will remind our guests of their visit to the museum. In this article, I would like to show you a few that I believe would make great gifts.

Vintage Woodland Collection of ornaments: Inspired by our favorite forest friends, the Vintage Woodland Collection from Old World Christmas™ is made from blown glass and decorated to replicate the mercury finish of traditional Victorian ornaments.

With their rustic charm and simple beauty, these pieces invite the seasonal spirit of the natural world into your home.



My Mastodon: Inspired by the 19th-century lives of artist and scientist Charles Willson Peale's family, this is a tale of a girl and her favorite companion—a fossilized mastodon!

STOCKED YEAR-ROUND

Museum Shop

14



A must have, available in both of our Gift Stores is the 2021 Lakeshore Museum Center Holiday Ornament: this limited edition, twenty-sixth in a series ornament, features the Corliss Engine.

This Corliss Valve Stationary Steam engine was built in the 1890s and ran a dynamo to provide electricity to the Breneman-Hartshorn Rollershade Factory on Western Avenue in Muskegon. In 1983, it moved to the Muskegon Heritage Museum, where it is on exhibit and runs daily during the open season.

Exclusively at the City Barn Gift Store, do not miss the opportunity to look for these delicate gifts when you visit the Historic Sites for the Holiday Tours.



Coming Up Roses Teatime Stirrers: charming novelty teaspoons, hand-painted in chalky pastel hues, stir in a spot of cream and sugar in nostalgic fashion.



Victorian Rose Teacup and Saucer: a beautiful floral still life rendered upon both saucer and teacup. With the addition of Earl Grey tea, a slice of lemon, and a sugar cube, afternoon tea is complete.



Victorian Ephemera Fairy Court Zippered Pouch: dear imagery obtained from a century-old paper archives graces a proper carrier for deposits, cords, cosmetics, or drawing supplies.



Victorian Ephemera Envelope Pouch: a lively collage of 19th c. postcard imagery decorates a petite pouch for safekeeping of change, business cards, or earbuds.

Visit the City Barn Gift Store to purchase your own! The shop is open during our Holiday Tours from 2pm-7pm on November 27 & 28 and December 4, 11, 18, 28 & 29.

Lakeshore Museum Center members get a discount on gift store purchases!



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Calendar/Upcoming Events

15

Winter Events*

KEY: LMC H&H MHM

December 3
Museum Gone Wild
6:30pm

December 4
Hanukkah History & Traditions - FREE
2:00pm - 4:00pm

December 4
Holiday Tours
2:00pm - 7:00pm

December 9
Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am

December 11
Holiday Tours
2:00pm - 7:00pm

December 17
ALL Museum Sites Close
12:00pm

December 18
Holiday Tours
2:00pm - 7:00pm

December 21
Holiday Open House - FREE
11:00am - 1:00pm

December 24
Museum Closed

December 25
Museum Closed

December 27
Museum Closed

December 28
Holiday Tours
2:00pm - 7:00pm

December 29
Holiday Tours
2:00pm - 7:00pm

December 31
Museum Closed

January 1
Museum Closed

January 3
Museum Closed

January 13
Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE

January 18
Social Justice Program

January 21
FFFN: Lumberjacks
FREE
5:30pm - 7:30pm

January 27
Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am

January 28
Hackley Attic
Escape Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm

February 10
Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am

February 11
FFFN: Valentine's
Day - FREE
5:30pm - 7:30pm

February 24
Play & Learn:
Winter Session - FREE
10:00am

February 25
Hackley Attic
Escape Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm

*Drop-in science & history programs at the Lakeshore Museum Center each Saturday from 1-3



Lakeshore Museum Center
430 W. Clay Ave. Muskegon
231.722.0278

Hackley & Hume Historic Site
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Fire Barn Museum
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Scolnik House of the Depression Era
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Muskegon Heritage Museum
561 W. Western Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

www.lakeshoremuseum.org

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Museum Center

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Nov. 19 - Dec. 5, 2021
muskegoncivictheatre.org

MUSKEGON CIVIC Theatre EDUCATION DIVISION presents
JINGLE JOLLY
By Jay Moriarty
Music and Lyrics by Bill Francoeur

SANTA MAN
by Ian McWethy

Fri., Dec. 10 at 7pm
Sat., Dec. 11 at 2pm
Beardsley Theatre
Appropriate for all ages
General Admission \$8

231.722.3852
muskegoncivictheatre.org

Hackley Public Library
316 W. Webster Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49440
231.722.8000
hackleylibrary.org

HACKLEY Public Library
We can't wait to see you!

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Join us for this concert of holiday favorites

Carnival of Pianos
Friday • January 28 • 7:30 pm
Rossini: *La Gazza Ladra* Overture; Respighi: *The Birds*
Saint-Saëns: *Carnival of the Animals*

For more info or to purchase tickets:
CALL 231.726.3231 • WESTMICHIGANSYMPHONY.ORG