Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.
This Spring, the Lakeshore Museum Center is focusing on renaming and rebranding. Over the last 12 years, the staff and board members have concluded that visitors are still confused and don’t know what to call the “Old County Museum.”

We hear the building referred to as the Children’s Museum, the County Museum, the Museum Center, the Lakeshore Museum, and my favorite - the museum with the mastodon out front!

As part of our strategic plan, one initiative was to do research to see what local and non-local visitors call us. We were pleasantly surprised to find that overall the organization Lakeshore Museum Center has an 80% name recognition. Our organization is made up of 9 buildings in the City of Muskegon, 8 of them being downtown.

We already refer to most of our buildings as “a site of the Lakeshore Museum Center.” After surveying our county residents and working with Revel, our marketing firm, the board’s Community Engagement Committee has proposed we adopt a new name for the big square building on 4th and Clay.

Our new name: The Muskegon Museum of History and Science; a site of the Lakeshore Museum Center.

This name tells visitors what to expect when they come in our doors. Another exciting endeavor this spring will be the installation of our new roofs on the History and Science Museum and the Archives building. It has been interesting waiting for the supply chain to free up and the insulation that we need for both projects to ship. If you are driving by this spring, you may see employees from Bob’s Roofing walking around on top of our buildings as they give new life to old roofs!
Enjoy These Things With Springs

Roller Shades
Spring tension roller shades are made from a hollow tube, a ratchet, and a spring. A coiled spring hidden inside the tube is held in place by a ratchet. The ratchet releases when pulling the shade down quickly and winds the fabric around the tube.

(Pictured: Heat Press, ca. 1900 used at the Columbia Cleaners and Hat Shop, manufactured by Tanigalski Bros.)

Animal Trap
An animal trap uses a spring. A torsion spring is located on this trap once used to catch foxes. This type of spring can be found on clothespins, mousetraps, and garage doors. The torsion spring release rotational energy rather than linear energy. For an animal trap, the spring stores energy which causes a clamp to drop when pressure is applied to the plate.

(Pictured: Fox Trap)

Clothing
Clothing and accessories use springs as well. These two clips are connected by a coil spring. This type of accessory was often used to attach gloves or mittens to a coat. Women would sometimes use them to attach the collar of a cardigan sweater to drape over their shoulders. These safety glasses have a spring earpiece which provides flexibility for the wearer.

(Pictured: Clothing clip, ca. 1920)

Safety Glasses
These safety glasses have a spring earpiece which provides flexibility for the wearer.

(Pictured: Safety glasses, ca. 1940)

Spring is Just Around the Corner

In many corners and crevasses of the collection storage, you can find a piece of spring. As a small coiled device that stores mechanical energy, springs are found on machinery, tools, personal accessories, and toys. Within the thousands of objects preserved in the museum’s collection, you may come across a compression, torsion, or tension spring.

What’s New This Spring?

L’Dor V’Dor: Generations of Muskegon’s Jewish Community, and Women’s Division Chamber of Commerce 70th Anniversary
This exhibit will tell the story of the museum’s foundation and will reveal some of the first objects ever donated to the museum.

Have you ever wondered about the dangerous, dark side of museum collections? What lies hidden behind the storage walls? What are the most menacing objects locked inside? In May, the temporary gallery will be transformed into an assortment of the sharpest, deadliest, and scariest objects from the museum’s collection in the exhibit, Dangerous Things.

While the exhibit focuses on the dangers that surround us, Safety Gwen will also make appearances throughout the exhibit, sharing tips on what to do if you encounter hazardous materials outside of the museum. Dangerous Things will remain on display through the end of 2022.

The Exhibits department is growing! John Wilkinson has recently joined the Lakeshore Museum Center as our new Exhibits Technician. This position has been vacant for several years, and we are all glad to see it filled. John has a background in graphic arts, 3D modeling and fabrication, and special effects; and has worked previously with Walt Disney Imagineering and other theme parks.

As Exhibits Tech, his primary responsibilities will include maintaining, repairing, and improving existing exhibits and building and fabricating elements for new exhibits. We are excited to see what John can contribute to our museums. Welcome to the team, John!
1920s attire for a chance to win a prize! It’s a Roaring ‘20s event. Come dressed in your best. In previous years, the tea has been a Victorian Era themed event, but this year, our classic tea event. In June, the team is preparing an exciting program in June is set to be a very exciting month at the Historic Sites. We have a new, take on an old favorite, and we are looking to grow our team! This June is set to be a very exciting month at the Historic Sites. We will be hosting a brand-new program: Hackley & Hume and the Game of Life. The Game of Life inside the Hackley and Hume Houses as they explore and learn more about the lives of these famous Muskegonites. There will be four opportunities to participate on June 3rd and 4th with two sessions each night. Each session will be approximately one hour. The other exciting program the team is preparing in June is our classic tea event. In previous years the tea has been a Victorian Era themed event, but this year, it’s a Roaring ‘20s event. Come dressed in your best 1920s attire for a chance to win a prize!

Finally, the Historic Sites team is looking to grow. We need more Interpretive Staff Members for this tour season and are excited to be hiring and training this Spring.

Spring Cleaning

The Historic Sites Maintenance team has been hard at work this winter. We refinished the front stairwell in the Hume House in Peggy’s room in mid-January. The wallpaper has been removed and the team is in process of repairing cracks and prepping for paint and wallpaper. We will also continue to make our way through interior inspection repair lists across all 5 sites. As the weather starts to warm up, our attention will shift outdoors. Repainting the parking lots lines, weeding and cleaning the sites, and (fingers crossed) having Air Conditioning installed in the Fire barn are just a few things on the list to complete before we open in May!

Brian Strudelman, Historic Sites Buildings and Grounds Supervisor

Springing Into TikTok

In the summer of 2021, our Junior Museum Professionals were always talking about TikTok - what dances they saw, repeating trending sounds, and saying “this would make a great TikTok.” That got me thinking about actually starting a museum TikTok. In October of 2021, that became a reality, and the Lakeshore Museum Center TikTok was born. The initial goal of a TikTok page was to connect with a younger audience than we traditionally connect with on other social media platforms.

While that has occurred, an unexpected benefit of having a TikTok page was discovered. Shortly after starting the page, museums in Michigan, across the United States, and even international institutions began to follow the Lakeshore Museum Center. I must admit that I was not expecting TikTok to act as an international museum organization. The sharing of ideas between museums of all kinds on TikTok has been wonderful. The museumtok community boosts each other’s videos to a wider audience, we get programming ideas from each other, and share numerous tips & tricks to solve a variety of problems that may arise in a museum.

Pat Horn, Program Manager

Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager

Joe Bell, Program Assistant

Jennifer Reeths, Assistant Program Manager
This month’s newsletter theme is “Springing Ahead”. We thought we should take that literally and share a little history of spring making in Muskegon County.

Our story of spring making goes back almost a century to March of 1923. In that year, brothers Albert and Edward Bitzer along with Frank Kress, Sr. incorporated American Coil Spring as an Illinois company. The business grew quickly. In 1928, with the help of the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce, they built a 20,000 square foot factory at 1041 Keating Avenue. By July 1930, all their combined spring making and heat-treating operations moved to Muskegon.

Over the years, ownership of American Coil Spring changed several times. Acquisitions and mergers brought new product lines and specialty design services. At its height, American Coil Spring manufactured over 6000 different types of springs ranging from miniature medical springs to car and truck suspension components. A 2008 merger brought about the end of an era. After 85 years, American Coil Spring ceased operations and became Michigan Spring and Stamping.

Today there are three dedicated spring making companies and one that manufactures spring making machines here in Muskegon County. Lakeside Spring LLC is located on Temple Street in Muskegon Heights. Michigan Spring & Stamping is located on Wickham Drive in Muskegon. Mid-West Spring & Stamping is located on Laketon Ave in Muskegon. Automated Industrial Motion in Fruitport makes spring making machines.

Facility projects have dominated our winter workdays. The Thursday Crew prepared the basement for a new concrete slab by hand grading the uneven dirt floor, laying a vapor barrier and installing wire mesh. A contractor poured the floor in February. This is the first big project to help control humidity in the museum by reducing the moisture rising up from the original dirt floor. Our next task is to begin replacing the old single pane double hung windows in the back half of the building. We will be building the new windows from scratch. Watch for progress in the weeks to come!

2022 interpreter refresher training will be a combination of electronic documents and small group activities in March and April. Watch for emails with specific details. We hope to see you on opening day, May 4th, 2022 for our first Community Day of the season.

Kirk Bunke, Site Manager

Because of You

It is almost that time of year when we recruit for our youngest set of volunteers!

The Junior Museum Professionals (JMPs) is our team of youth volunteers that help support our spring and summer programs and activities.

They’ve run craft projects for visitors, developed labels for a pollinator garden, decorated the Historic Sites for the Holidays and scared visitors during our Fright Night at the Museum event. Needless to say this group has a lot of fun and is always up to something new and different at the Museum.

If you know a child between 10 and 15 years old that would be interested in joining the JMP team all they need to do is fill out an application before April 15th!

You can find an application by visiting our website at www.lakeshoremuseum.org.

Gwen, Volunteer and Safety Manager

Are you interested in volunteering yourself? We have opportunities for all ages, interests, and skill levels. Visit our website to learn more about positions offered. Don’t see a position you’re interested in, but have something to contribute? Email Gwen at gwen@lakeshoremuseum.org to share your volunteer idea!

Contact Gwen at gwen@lakeshoremuseum.org or visit our website at lakeshoremuseum.org to get involved!
Your membership goes further in 2022! On top of being part of the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM) and the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association, this year Lakeshore Museum Center members will have an opportunity to visit eight different West Michigan Cultural Organizations at no cost between the months of May and October.

I am thrilled to present you with the 2022 Reciprocal Membership Calendar, and always thankful for your support.

Graciela Alberino-Stidham, Guest Relations Manager

From drinkware to pillows and from t-shirts to totes, go to https://my-store.11655781.creator-spring.com/ or scan this QR code with your phone and see what we have in store for you.

**Throughout the season we are offering the All Access Tour every Mon., Thurs., & Fri. at 1:00pm for an upgraded ticket of $20.**

**Plan Your Visit**

Calendar/Upcoming Events

**Recent Acquisitions**

- A copy of the minutes from the March 25, 1936 annual meeting where the Sparta Foundry Company and the Muskegon Piston Ring Company merged
- A framed sketch of the Muskegon Piston Ring aftermarket distribution facility
- An aerial photo of the Muskegon Piston Ring plant and the corporate office
- Booklet, Shrink Rule Decimal Equivalents prepared by Campbell, Wyant and Cannon, dated March 1, 1941
- Sons of Norway Sognejord 523 Lodge archival collection
- Plaques from Hackley Hospital
- Printing blocks of original Muskegon General Hospital rooms, building exterior, and floor map
- Archival material related to Hackley Hospital, Hackley School of Nursing, Mercy Hospital, and Muskegon General Hospital
- Telephone by unknown manufacturer, used by O. Salisbury
- Annual Lakeshore Museum Center Christmas tree ornament
- 1936 map of Muskegon Heights
- Muskegon County Civilian Defense Council print, “If the Bombs Come.”
- Black and white photographs of Mount Garfield
- Color photograph of Muskegon General Hospital Board of Trustees, 1994
- T-shirt, 1980 Muskegon Community College National Snurfing Championship
- 20 interviews of Muskegon radio DJs
- Advertisement card from Achterhoff Mortuary
- Photograph of Thornton School of Dancing, 1939
- Women’s Division Chamber of Commerce 70th anniversary commemorative raffle quilt

**Key: LMC* H&H** **MMH**

**May 21**
Hackley Day - Free Tours to Muskegon County Residents 10:00pm - 4:00pm

**May 21**
Hackley Day Commnity Celebration - Free Tours to Muskegon County Residents 4:00pm - 7:00pm

**May 27**
Hackley Attic Escape Room - $5.00pm - 6:30pm

**May 30**
Memorial Day - Closed

*We offer an open house style family programs each Saturday from 1-3pm*

**Shop in your PJs!**

I am very excited to share with you that this winter we’ve opened our new online store! We offer exclusive merchandise that you cannot find anywhere else (not even in our museum gift stores), and we update the designs frequently, so you’ll see different items every time you “visit” us online.
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

Connect with us on

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ARTS, CULTURE, & YOU
BUILDING COMMUNITY. BUILDING BUSINESS.

The vibrant arts and culture scene in Muskegon County elevates our quality of life, strengthens our economy, unites our community, and makes Muskegon an unequalled lakeshore destination for relocation, visitors, and residents alike.

ENGAGE
Learn about and help shape local arts and culture initiatives.

LEVERAGE
Utilize arts and culture venues for future meetings, family gatherings, weddings, holiday parties, or social events.

GET INVOLVED
Attend an event, see a show, visit an museum, explore a library, volunteer for a night, or make a donation.

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WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY
CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

NOTHIN’ BUT THE BLUES • Friday • March 4 • 7:30 pm
Shayna Steele joins WMS in this musical tribute to the legends who sang their way into history.

CHERISH THE LADIES • Friday • March 25 • 7:30 pm
Irish-American supergroup joins the WMS to bring you an evening of beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements, and stunning step-dancing.

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

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HACKLEY Library
Public Library

Hackley Library’s Main Building Hours:
Mon-Tues: 9-7pm
Wed-Sat: 9-5pm

HPL’s Local History & Genealogy Dept. (Torrent House) Hours:
Tues-Sat: 10-5pm