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

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At the end my second year as Director, I am reflecting on our mission and all the wonderful things we have been able to accomplish. I frequently ask myself, “WHY?”

Why do we need to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment? I always end up smiling to myself.

Here at the museum, we get satisfaction from reminding this community of its amazing past. From the first native peoples all the way through the industrial age, Muskegon stories are something to be proud of.

Looking forward to the growth and change of our businesses and neighborhoods today, I can’t wait to be able to collect information from them so they can join in this legacy.

A great example is this photo of a 1970s celery farm in the White River Valley.
2022 Acquisitions in Review

The Lakeshore Museum Center actively collects objects and archival material relevant to Muskegon County’s natural and cultural history. In 2022, 664 objects were offered to the museum as a donation. These items are reviewed by the Acquisitions Committee and the Board of Trustees for their relevance to Muskegon County, condition, and the ability for the LMC to care for the objects.

Through that process, 202 objects were selected to join the collection in 2022. Once an object becomes part of the collection, it does not always stay in storage. Objects and archival material are used in exhibits and programs, researched by community members, and available digitally on the public portal.

57
Research Requests

9,423
Objects Exhibited in 7 Museums

11,184
Objects Viewable on the Public Portal

Brenda Nemetz, Collections Manager and Registrar

Collections Word Search

Enjoy a break with this word search of collections terms!
The words are across, diagonal, forwards, and backwards.
Can you find them all?


accession        loan
acid free        museum
archives         nitrile
artifact         object
cataloging       photography
collections      polyethylene
condition        provenance
donor            research
exhibit          storage
inventory        temperature
WHAT’S ON VIEW?
Learn Something New

Attack of the Bloodsuckers has Arrived!

Work is already underway in the various shops around the Lakeshore Museum Center, as staff and volunteers work together to prepare a fitting follow-up to Bloodsuckers — a deep dive into the heart of the City of Muskegon.

This summer, the Temporary Exhibit Gallery will be reconfigured with new modular walls to take on the guise of Western Avenue as it appeared historically and then how it became the Muskegon Mall.

The Dangerous Things have been safely tucked away and the Temporary Exhibits Gallery has been restored to its original footprint to make way for Attack of the Bloodsuckers! Come and immerse yourself in the world of creatures who want and need to drink your blood. You can try on mosquito super-senses in the interactive Mosquito Cockpit, visit our mosquito nursery, or check out the live Leech Lagoon.

You may even see the leeches latch onto a delicious museum-made blood sausage for dinner.

From fleas and ticks to a vampire bat, Bloodsuckers has it all.

Urban Renewal will feature artifacts and images from bygone eras in an engaging exhibit that is being produced entirely in-house.

Be on the lookout for little-known lore and perhaps a familiar face when Urban Renewal debuts in June.

John Wilkinson, Exhibit Technician
Hello! My name is Hannah and I am the new Program Assistant at the Historic Sites. I started here in September after coming back to Michigan from a year teaching in Japan through the Jet Programme. Being a Muskegon County native, it has been so exciting getting to know more about Muskegon’s history and sharing it with visitors.

My background is in technical theatre and theatre management. I’ve worked for local theatres like the Playhouse at White Lake and Muskegon Civic Theatre. As for hobbies, I enjoy spending time at Lake Michigan and roller skating.

Currently, I am helping out with the deep clean of all of our historic sites that happens every year during the off season. I am also learning how to clean silver, which has been a new experience for me!

My favorite programs I’ve assisted with so far are “Clue: Live” and Hackley Attic Escape Room. We tend to see visitors who have never been to the Hackley and Hume Historic Site in these programs, and it’s great to be able to see the reach into our community. I am so thrilled for what our 2023 programing has in store for everyone!

Hannah Erdman, Program Assistant

Winter Excitement

While on the outside it may seem quiet at the Historic Sites this time of year, on the inside, the Sites are buzzing with lots of activity, and our team has taken on a number of exciting projects.

In addition to our regular deep cleaning, our team is polishing all of the silver in the Hackley and Hume Houses. We also made a number of woodwork and furniture repairs using hide glue, which tightly bonds to a number of surfaces while being water-soluble.

Additionally, the back staircase of the Fire Barn was refinished after years of heavy traffic.

Some larger projects were completed on the exteriors of our buildings as well. Sheriff Goslin Roofing repaired a number of the Hackley and Hume roofs to address leaks, replace shingles, and seal them from future damage. A new roof was installed on the Scolnik House.

We also plan to hang new picture rails in the Hackley Second Parlor, seal the Hackley House from bat intrusions, and install an exhibit railing gate upstairs in the Fire Barn. Here’s to 2023!

Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager
Human Bloodsuckers

Several years ago, museum staff began talking about how the auditorium would be a great space for a blood drive. While planning programs for *Attack of the Bloodsuckers*, the idea of a blood drive returned. We contacted the American Red Cross and discovered that they also thought the museum auditorium would make a great place for a blood drive!

On Monday May 1st, we are hosting a blood drive during open hours. You can sign up ahead of time through the Red Cross or just walk in on the day to donate. We’ll even have a craft station to keep kiddos busy while grown-ups give blood!

The drive is open to anyone 17 and older in good health. Contact the Red Cross for more eligibility requirements.

Jennifer Reeths, Assistant Program Manager

New STEM Funds

The STEM Center is one of the most popular rooms for not only visitors but also school groups. The room offers a fun hands-on learning area where kids and adults alike experiment with things such as circuits and topography. The STEM Center has also hosted our STEM school programs. Because of the supplies, these programs have had a per child charge. However, thanks to a generous donation from Don and Linda Potter (who selected a Fund A Need listed on our website), these programs will be offered free for all Muskegon County schools in 2023.

These funds will also let us work on some updates to the room for this year. In the works is an extended and rebuilt Hot Wheels™ race track and a redesign of the robotic arms interactive. The new interactive will allow the arm to better tell the story of how robots are useful in surgery.

We also have a brand new session of STEM Center activities to test your abilities. So, make sure to visit the STEM Center to see what new things it has in store for 2023.

If you would like to make an impact on the community and museum, check out what else is on the museum staff’s wish list by visiting www.lakeshoremuseum.org/fund-a-need.

Patrick Horn, Program Manager
Muskegon’s Industrial History

This year marks a significant milestone in the history of the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry— the 40th anniversary of the installation of the Corliss Valve Stationary Steam Engine. The former President Fred Wilder wrote the following excerpt in the March/April 1983 edition of the Muskegon Heritage Association’s newsletter:

Spring is in the air as we reach mid-April and the heavy coats, mittens, and boots were put aside for lighter weight work clothes as the last concrete was poured for the Corliss Valve Steam Engine foundation on April 13. First came the footing on March 17–8 ¼ yards, then the main foundation to support the engine on April 5–14 yards, and finally the 3 ¾ yards to provide the flywheel axle support and spacer. Total–26 yards of concrete. If all goes well, the engine should be moved from storage to the foundation inside the Hathaway Building by the time this issue of the Boomer is printed.

In May 1983, the Corliss was placed on the foundation by Erickson Trucking Service over a three day period. This was the culmination of a yearlong effort to save a significant piece of Muskegon’s industrial history. It took hundreds of volunteer hours by highly skilled hands to get the old engine running again in its new home. The inaugural spin of the flywheel occurred on June 20, 1987.

Join us as we commemorate this event with the first Community Day of the 2023 season on Saturday, May 13. The theme will, fittingly enough, be Steam Power.

We will offer behind the scenes tours illustrating how we power the nearly 130-year-old steam engine without steam and have a display of working miniature steam engines around the museum.

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry, please let us know. There are MHMBI openings for Museum Guides, Education Interpreters, and Special Projects volunteers. We will be holding in-person training sessions in the coming weeks.

Contact the museum if you would like us to send you the schedule. We can be reached at (231) 722-1363 or email kirk@lakeshemuseum.org or wendy@lakeshemuseum.org.

Kirk Bunke, Site Manager, Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry
Volunteering for the fun of it!

As a new member of the staff, I appreciate this opportunity to introduce myself to the members. My name is Marci Dalm, and I recently joined the Lakeshore Museum Center as the Volunteer and Event Coordinator. Over the past decade, while working from home and raising my children, I have been fortunate enough to become deeply involved in the North Muskegon community. What began as an occasion for social interaction – volunteering at my son’s school - quickly became a full-time endeavor.

I have spent the past 12 years fundraising and coordinating volunteers and events for the North Muskegon Elementary School PTO, being a member of the PTO board, as well as sitting on various school committees. During that time, I was able to make many connections with local businesses, donors, vendors, and volunteers. Now, I am excited to utilize my years of experience to further the mission of the Lakeshore Museum Center.

While I am originally from Michigan, it wasn’t until moving to Muskegon that I really felt I had found home and began to put down roots. My husband and I relocated here from Grand Rapids in 2011 with our 3 children and have come to love Muskegon County and all it has to offer. All of our children are involved in many activities, including middle school and high school sports, various clubs, and volunteering.

Most summer days we can be found outside, biking, swimming, or finding new places to explore. During the winter, while part of the family enjoys skiing, I can be found at home with a book, a puzzle, or a knitting project.

My children and I are also avid Harry Potter fans, we enjoy visits to Diagon Alley, movie marathons, and collecting memorabilia.

The last two months at LMC have been amazing. Every staff member has gone above and beyond to make me feel welcome and to teach me about the museum culture. From dissecting owl pellets to handling live leeches, I have learned so much already in my short time here.

A HUGE part of this great organization is our volunteers, and I wanted to just take a minute to say THANK YOU for all you do to make LMC what it is today. Our volunteers range in age from 10 to 95+ years old, have diverse backgrounds, interests, and skills. It takes each and every one to make our seven museums operational.

In 2022, our volunteers donated 5,919.99 hours of time! This is over 100 hours a week of partnering with community members to create successful programs, plan events, prepare activities, build new projects, and so much more. While I have not yet met all 200+ current volunteers, I am slowly getting to know some of them and look forward to meeting many more in the coming months.

If you are interested in volunteering, there are links to our volunteer application on our website, or you can email me at marci@lakeshoremuseum.org for more information!

Marci Dalm, Volunteer & Event Coordinator
Attack of the Bloodsucker... Merchandise?

Almost a year ago, when I first heard that we were going to have an exhibit about bloodsuckers, my brain had a small short-circuit. What in the world could I possibly find to be in the gift store? The answer could not be too creepy, too gross, or too scary.

After months of searching, I found myself surrounded by books, mugs, pens, accessories, stuffed animals, lollipops, bug catchers, and repellents... you name it, I found it! From books to help us learn more about these critters to candles and spray to keep them away from us, there is certainly something for everyone.

Graciela Alberino-Stidham, Guest Relations Manager
March 1
Mosquitos and Malaria - $5 Out of County
6:00pm

March 9
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 1:00pm

March 10
Leeches: Old Medicine is New - $5 Out of County
6:00pm

March 14
Homeschool Day:
Reading Month - FREE
10:00am

March 18
True Crime
$12 for Members
$15 for Non-Members
5:00pm - 6:45pm

March 23
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

March 24
Friday Family Fun Night - Dairy Days - FREE
5:30pm - 7:30pm

April 4 - 6
STEM Camp
$15 for Members
$20 for Non-Members
9:00am - 12:00pm

April 7
Spring Break Open House - FREE
11:00am

April 11
Homeschool Day:
Planting - FREE
10:00am

April 11
Lighthouses of Muskegon County Presentation at North Muskegon Library
6:00pm

April 13
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

April 13
Ticks!
Presentation - $5 Out of County
6:00pm

April 21
Friday Family Fun Night - Recycling - FREE
5:30pm - 7:30pm

April 27
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

May 1
Red Cross Blood Drive at the Museum
10:00am - 4:00pm

May 1
Historic Sites Open for the Season

May 4
Open for the Season and FREE Community Day

May 5
After Dark Tours - $9:00pm - 10:00pm

May 6
STEAM Along the Lakeshore

May 8
Name Game the Streets of Muskegon Presentation at Norton Shores Library
6:00pm

May 11
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

May 13
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

May 13
Attack of the Bloodsuckers Final Day Open

May 14
Mother’s Day - Free Tours to Muskegon County Mom’s
1:00pm - 4:00pm

May 16
Homeschool Day:
Rocks - FREE
10:00am

May 20
Muskegon History Bike Tour
$13 for Members
$15 for Non-Members
10:00am - 11:30am

May 20
Hackley Day - Free Tours to Muskegon County Residents
10:00pm - 4:00pm

May 25
Hackley Day Community Celebration - Free Tours to Muskegon County Residents
4:00pm - 7:00pm

May 25
Play & Learn:
Spring Session - FREE
10:00am - 11:00am

May 26
Hackley Attic Escape Room - $5:00pm - 6:30pm

May 29
Memorial Day - Closed

June 14
Community Day Arsenal of Democracy: Muskegon in WWII - FREE
11:00am

June 15
Urban Renewal Exhibit Opening

June 17
Roaring 20s Tea Event
1:00pm - 4:00pm

June 18
Father’s Day - Free Tours to Muskegon County Dad’s
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Come let our museums make you smile!
Muskegon Museum of History & Science
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 of Business & Industry
561 W. Western Ave. Muskegon
231.722.1363

www.lakeshoremuseum.org

Lounge and relax at Hackley Public Library!
231.726.3231
WESTMICHIGANSYMPHONY.ORG

CHAPLIN’S SMILE
March 24 • 7:30 PM • Frauenthal Center
This multi-media performance combines live music with clips from classic Charlie Chaplin films, photos and selections from Chaplin’s autobiography. The concert traces Chaplin’s relationship with 20th-century master composers and his own film scores.
231.726.3231
WESTMICHIGANSYMPHONY.ORG

WEST MICHIGAN SYMPHONY

Golden Legacy
80 Years of Original Art from Golden Books
February 16 - April 30
Underwritten by:

DTE Foundation
MIKE & KAY OLTHOFF
This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas.

May 4–7, 2023
Frauenthal Theater
Muskegon Civic Theatre
MUSKEGON CIVIC THEATRE
New Book by Douglas Carter Beane
Music by Richard Rodgers
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II
Original Book by Oscar Hammerstein II
Orchestrations by Danny Troob
Music Adaptation & Arrangements by David Chase
Additional Lyrics by Douglas Carter Beane, David Chase and Bruce Ferrill
May 4–7, 2023
FRAUENTHAL THEATER
Muskegon Civic Theatre

hackleylibrary.org

Fiction Area
Teen Room
Play & Learn Room