THE FUTURE OF HISTORY

Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.
The staff of the '80s were as professional, innovative, and gritty as the staff today, and I loved seeing their unique solutions to the issues they tackled.
In this issue of the Future of History, the staff and I are looking back to the 1980s to reminisce and excite you about the upcoming exhibit, *Urban Renewal*.

As I peeked through the old meeting minutes, I realized that the more things change, the more they stay the same! A lot of the challenges we are facing today were also tackled 40 years ago. We had roof leaks and storage issues. We were setting goals and defining strategic vision, and the mid-1980s was the height of restoration work at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site.

The ‘80s began with the museum in dire circumstances. In 1980, the director, Frank Walsh, faced having to place all of our artifacts into storage due to lack of funds. By the end of the decade, the museum was in a new home on 4th and Clay, along with adding a Historic Site and Fire Barn Museum to the organization.

The staff of the ‘80s were as professional, innovative, and gritty as the staff today, and I loved seeing their unique solutions to the issues they tackled. Below in the timeline are some of the highlights.

After having to place everything in storage in 1980, a group of concerned citizens formed “Friends of the Museum” to assist in building support and guidance. This was a game changer for the organization.

They rallied together and, in September of 1981, helped to pass a 5-year millage. After the favorable election, the museum was able to purchase the old YWCA building, which is still our home today.

The grand opening was in November 1984, and only a few galleries were complete. **Renovation of the museum would be ongoing throughout the decade and continues to this day!**

Today, we are working on renovation projects at the Historic Sites. The biggest project is replacing the cedar shake roofs on all three buildings before moving on to porch restoration. The museum has been actively working on infrastructure issues at all of our nine buildings. We have new roofs on five of them, new environmental controls at the Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry, and we are working on our collections space issues.

The staff creates dynamic programs that teach about how important Muskegon County was and still is to Michigan. We seek out community partnerships, and we still have the support of the county residents through our millage. So thank you, members, for continuing to care for us over all of these decades!
The 1980s were an important and critical time for the collection of the Lakeshore Museum Center. Known then as the Muskegon County Museum, the organization acquired the former YWCA building in 1983. Today, this is the Muskegon Museum of History and Science building. This purchase gave staff more space to consolidate the collection into a single location. At the time, the collection consisted of about 6,000 objects.

Prior to this, the collection was stored all over Muskegon, including private homes. The 1980s brought a new focus toward proper storage, documentation, inventory, and care of all objects in the museum field.

In 1982, the museum participated in a Museum and Buildings Assessment through a grant offered by the American Association of Museums. The assessors provided the staff with possible changes that could be made to better preserve the collection. The museum staff began the tasks of removing objects from non-archival storage boxes, renumbering objects for easier identification, and rehousing the objects for better long-term care.

Although the museum finally had a location with more collections storage space, there was still not enough room to store everything. In 1989, the museum helped solve this problem by purchasing part of the old Sanitary Dairy building and converting it into collections space.

Today, the collection has grown to over 60,000 objects and space is once again an issue that staff must face. During the 1980s, the museum started on a path toward best practices and progress continues today.

Party on, Dude!

The following items have been recently added to the museum collection:

**Photographs**
- Henry Street School first grade class, 20 May 1939
- Fruitvale Area
- Only two survivors of the 1931 drownings in Ergang Lake
- Levee that was demolished at Owasippe Scout Camp
- Three Lakes Tavern in Blue Lake Township where a bomb killed 3 people
- Group photo of the Hansen and Peterson family
- Group photo of the Muskegon Photographers, 1986
- Gallup’s Feed and Poultry Supply store, Sherman Blvd.
- Florence and Peggy Hume
- Peggy Hume
- Rogalla Family party in Brunswick Row
- Norge/Brown-Morse factory, Muskegon Heights
- Seaway Drive construction
- Mt. Garfield on Lake Harbor, 1951
- 1958 Memorial Day Parade

**Archives**
- Map of Hoffmaster State Park, 1964
- Plat Map of North Muskegon by Alfred E. Hansen
- Employee training materials - Sealed Power, circa 1962
- Hansen’s Dairy Bar ads from the Muskegon Chronicle
- Envelope and letter from the Fruitvale Company regarding a received due bill from the Fruitvale Improvement Company, 14 May 1914
- 42 postcards of the Fruitvale area
- Real photograph postcard of Neils Petersons Coal, Wood, and Cement Yard, Muskegon Heights, Michigan, 1910
- Carl J. Gee Michigan Department of Health Embalmer License, 24 May 1927
- Carl J. Gee, General Hardware, Furniture and Funeral Directing, Whitehall, Michigan receipt issued to Walter Ramthun for the Una Ramthun account, 28 March 1953
- Muskegon City Council Parent-Teacher Associations Year Book, 1956-1957
- Norton Township School Meeting Minutes, 1869-1903
- Regent Theater admission tickets
- Collection of archival material compiled by Joan Gawron

**Objects**
- Voters of Muskegon Township poster, circa 1936
- Mercy Hospital Service Award Banquet program, 20 March 1980
- West Shore Symphony Orchestra Dedication of Frauenthal Center program, 30 October 1977
- Muskegon Catholic Central Class of 1973 Honors Convocation program
- Greater Muskegon Milk Council program
- Alaska Refrigerator Company stock certificates
- Archival collection of material from Norge retailer

- Alaska Refrigerator Company stock certificates
- Archival collection of material from Norge retailer
- 78 RPM phonograph records with live recordings from WKBZ with advertisements for Hansen’s Dairy Bar, 1947
- 45 RPM phonograph titled Grand Trunk Western distributed by Associated Hobby Mfgs.
Now is your chance to stroll down memory lane. The Museum of History and Science presents Urban Renewal, running June 15 through January 6. Enter the exhibition via a 1960s Western Avenue and follow the story of downtown Muskegon’s transformation into the 1980s and the heyday of the Muskegon Mall. Take some time to visit with Kris Moose of days gone by and make a wish at the fountain. As you move into the present, stop by our memory station and share some recollections you have of downtown Muskegon in the past.

The Muskegon Mall wasn’t the only thing happening downtown in the 1980s. The Lakeshore Museum Center (Muskegon County Museum) was busy hosting new exhibits then too. The current location of the Museum of History and Science opened in 1983 but not all the exhibitions were completed yet. The first version of Body Works, which is still at the Museum today, opened in 1984.

Body Works has undergone multiple updates over the years. The gallery that is now home to Coming to the Lakes, used to be called Heritage Hall. This space had several exhibits that changed frequently.

1988, the Museum worked with exhibit design firm, Design Craftsmen, to produce an exhibit on Teledyne Continental Motors in Heritage Hall.

The exhibit was to include photographs and text on the Henry Motor Car Company, Muskegon Engine Co. and the Fitzjohn Bus Company, as well as a platform for displaying the Continental Beacon. This vehicle can be viewed now in Coming to the Lakes.

The Museum also hosted several traveling exhibitions and community-driven exhibitions. From 1988-1989, the Museum participated in a community-wide celebration of the centennial of Muskegon’s Jewish community. The centennial celebration included lectures, concerts, theatrical performances, film screenings, art and history exhibitions, and more.

The Museum hosted three traveling exhibitions over the course of the year. The first was Anne Frank in the World: 1929-1945, which traveled from the Anne Frank Center in Amsterdam. The opening reception included remarks by Michigan’s first Jewish senator, Carl Levin. The Anne Frank exhibition was followed by two exhibitions from the American Jewish Historical Society and the Anti-Defamation League, Jewish Life in America and Jewish Life in Michigan. Just last year, the Museum presented a new exhibition, L'Dor V'Dor, featuring Muskegon’s own Congregation B’nai Israel, in partnership with the congregation and Grand Valley State University.

Chani Collins, Exhibit Designer
A Pivotal Decade!

The 1980s were a pivotal time for the Historic Sites. During this decade, many changes took place that still greatly affect us to this day.

In 1986, having been previously maintained and managed by the Hackley Heritage Association, the Hackley and Hume Historic Site officially became part of the Muskegon County Museum.

With an increased millage for preservation and operations funding, the Hackley and Hume Houses could be preserved and restored to an even higher level. The Houses received their historical markers in 1988 and an important original Hackley family artifact, their Steinway piano, returned to the House that same year.

In 1989, exterior painting began on the Houses and City Barn to recreate their original and current multicolor paint scheme. The Fire Barn Museum joined the Historic Sites that same year after being constructed and run by the Muskegon Heritage Association for the previous ten years. Preparations for the 1990 Designer Show House also took place throughout 1989, which included extensive work on the interior and exterior of the Hume House.

Being built in the 1880s, it seems fitting that so many important events happened at the Historic Sites in the 1980s!

Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager

Visitation Then vs Now.

Keeping in theme with what was going on with the Hackley and Hume Historic Sites back in the ‘80s, let’s talk about visitation numbers.

According to the Fall 1983 Membership Newsletter, over 3,300 guests visited the Hackley and Hume houses during the touring season. We saw visitors from 35 of the 50 states and from 11 different foreign countries.

Now, 40 years later, the 2023 touring season has recently begun. Looking back at the numbers from last year, we can see that they have more than quadrupled. Also, the Historic Sites saw visitors from 11 different foreign counties, the same as 1983. We are excited to see how the numbers will continue to compare in 2023.

The Historic Sites 2023 Touring Season started May 1st and ends October 30th.

The Historic Sites 2023 Touring Season started May 1 and ends on October 30. Guided tours of the Hackley & Hume Historic Site and self-guided tours of the Fire Barn Museum and the Scolnik House of the Depression Era can be taken Monday and Thursday through Saturday from 10am – 4pm and Sunday from 1 – 4pm.

The Historic Sites also offers a variety of programs throughout the season. The After Dark Tours, Hackley Attic Escape Room, and All Access Tours are offered multiple times during the touring season.

Hannah Erdman, Historic Sites Program Assistant
Pioneer Living!

“I think I made butter here” is a comment we hear often from visitors. Teachers, parents, college students, high school volunteers – the list is endless. They all remember visiting the Lakeshore Museum Center as a child on a field trip.

A highlight of that trip from years ago was the chance to not only make butter but taste it too! I personally remember making butter as a first grader during a visit in 1996.

In going over museum records, it was discovered that the Pioneer Living program began in 1985. In the first month, it served 245 students. During March 1985, over 1200 students got the taste of pioneer life.

The program grew from there, with a spinning wheel donated in 1987 by the Muskegon Area PTA. Pioneer activities, including butter making, remain a popular school program at the Museum of History and Science. Enviroworks camp, Saturday programs, and Family Fun Nights have also benefitted from the decades of experience staff have with Pioneer Living.

Jennifer Reeths, Assistant Program Manager

Summertime Walking Tours

The return of summer brings the return of many favorite programs at the Museum of History and Science. The downtown walking tours are one of these favorites. We will have two walking tours to offer: the standard historic tour (great for tourists and lifelong residents alike) and a new Urban Renewal tour. This walking tour will connect with the Urban Renewal exhibit. Part of this tour will cover the sections of Western Avenue that were once covered by the Muskegon Mall.

Tours will be offered on the following dates, scan the QR Code to get yours!

- June 13, 16, 27, 30
  10am for Historic & 2pm for Urban Renewal
- July 7, 11, 18
  10am for Urban Renewal & 2pm for Historic Sites
- August 4, 15, 25, 29
  10am for Historic & 2pm for Urban Renewal

Tickets for the tours are $13 for museum members and $15 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time through Eventbrite or at the Museum of History & Science Store.

“I think I made butter here.”

Jennifer Reeths, Assistant Program Manager
The 1980s theme for this quarter got me looking into our origins as a museum and some of the milestone events from that era. The Muskegon Heritage Association (MHA) started as an historic preservation group dedicated to saving commercial and residential structures from demolition. The volunteer group saved a number of buildings in downtown Muskegon.

In March 1982, the MHA acquired the derelict Hathaway Building with the goal of restoring it and creating a tourist attraction by moving the Corliss Valve Stationary Steam Engine from the Hartshorn Roller Shade Company. The volunteers jumped right in and filled one 30-yard dumpster after another. By July, the initial cleanup was completed and a new electrical service was installed.

That fall, volunteers built a new skylight on the roof of the third story section of the building, removed the roof over the entrance, and cleared the way for restored plate glass windows along Western Avenue. The original pressed tin panels were gently removed, sandblasted, painted, and reinstalled over the winter of ’82-’83. New footings were poured in early 1983 for the steam engine. The engine was installed in May 1983, and the MHA office moved into the building a year later.

The Hathaway Building and the neighboring McCracken Building were rededicated on May 12, 1987, as part of National Historic Preservation Week. A little over a month later, on June 20, 1987, the old Corliss engine ran for the first time in a generation. It’s been the centerpiece of the collection and the most dynamic attraction at the museum ever since. Who knows, if you catch us on a good day, we might just let you blow the steam whistle to honor the 40th anniversary of its move here.

As you read this edition of the newsletter, our 2023 season is underway. The Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry is open for tours Wednesday through Saturday from 11am to 4pm until the end of October.
The Fun Office!

When our Big Lesson kids visit for Behind the Scenes tours, my office mate, Wendy, and I like to tell them that ours is the “Fun Office.” Our fun ranges from Wendy’s programming items (furs, taxidermy stuffed animals, sensory toys), to my Harry Potter collectibles, to arts and crafts. Our office also houses a pet leech for two weeks at a time, and has included visitors such as A.J. McLeech of the LeechStreet Boys, Daytona Leech, and our current friend, Little Louie.

Last week, I was impressed when one of our 2nd grade students asked, “Is that a DeLorean?” while checking out a painting during Behind the Scenes. Kids still recognize the iconic gullwing doors, DMC logo, and OUTATIME license plate.

On September 9, you are invited to join us as the Muskegon Museum of History and Science is blasted back to the '80s for one night only. Our upcoming Urban Renewal exhibit gives us the chance to look back at Muskegon’s history and revitalization, the growth and development of the downtown area, and what the future may hold. Join us for fabulous local cuisine, entertainment, trolley rides, and even a Batmobile!

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please email marci@lakeshoremuseum.org or call 231-724-5544.

We are excited to welcome our Junior Museum Professionals (JMPs) for the 2023 season! We have ten JMPs returning from last season, and are adding five new youth volunteers this year. The Junior Museum Professional program gives students ages 11-15, entering grades 5-10, an opportunity to work with museum staff, learn some of the behind the scenes work we do at the museum, and also learn important skills such as interviewing and public speaking.

These 15 students have committed to volunteering throughout the summer to help with programs, work in the STEM Center, and assist with events. Wendy, Jen, and I can’t wait to share all the amazing things our JMPs accomplish this year!

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at any of our sites, contact marci@lakeshoremuseum.org for more information.

Marci Dalm, Volunteer & Event Coordinator

Big Lessons, Big Fun!
Because of You
As I do not have any rad stories of how totally tubular our gift stores from the ‘80s were, I decided to compile a list of 80 new items we have gotten so far this year. Do you think you can guess in which site you will find them?

**Bodacious gifts!**

1. Cardinal Drop Earrings  
2. Teapot With Flowers Tea Towels  
3. Vintage Perfume Bottles  
4. Hackley & Hume Historic Site Puzzles  
5. Murphy’s Mosquito Repellent Candles  
6. Dino Fun Packs  
7. Butterfly Bracelets  
8. Teacup Earrings  
9. Dunkleosteus stickers  
10. Blood Cells Earrings  
11. Stuffed States Michigan Plushie  
12. Gross Insects Puzzles  
13. Brown Bat Plushie  
14. Syringe Pens  
15. Wood Mini Violin With Case  
16. Wild Calls Lion Plushie  
17. Paisley Pashminas  
18. Canvas Floral Lion Plushie  
19. 45 Lightning Bolt Earrings  
20. MI State Studs  
21. Dino Egg Digs  
22. Boombox Tote Bags  
23. Cassette Tape Cosmetic Bags  
24. White Blood Cell Plushie  
25. Owl Earrings  
26. Mosquito Repellent Balm  
27. Tea Room Tea Towels  
28. The Slug Book  
29. Black Cat Plushie  
30. Mastodon Bones Stickers  
31. French Bunny Tote  
32. Bat Stickers  
33. Multicolor Gold Victorian Rings  
34. Golden Retriever Plushie  
35. Snapper T-rex Toys  
36. Hume House Magnets  
37. Straw Sun Hats  
38. Cassette Tape Earrings  
39. Squirrel Monkey Plushie  
40. Vintage Heart Floral Necklaces  
41. Cat Crown Tea Towel  
42. Bowling Pin Keychains  
43. No Big Dill Stickers  
44. Oh, Say! Can You Say Dinosaur?  
45. Le Petite Ballerina Tote  
46. Teapots Tea Towels  
47. Corliss Engine Puzzles  
48. Teapots Tote Bags  
49. Druzy Engine Earrings  
50. Victorian Shoe Totes  
51. Mastodon Pewter Charm Necklaces  
52. Cassette Tape Earrings  
53. “Fleawood Mac” Flea Plushie  
54. “Tick VanDyke” Tick Plushie  
55. “Lemon Lyme” Lyme Disease Plushie  
56. The Last Grand Tour  
57. Edwardian Clock Brooch  
58. Train Whistle  
59. Hackley House Magnet  
60. Vintage Movie License Plates  
61. My 1st Tea Party Gift Set  
62. Wood Piano Music Box  
63. Rubik’s Cube Earrings  
64. The Cockroach Book  
65. Blood Bag Lollipop  
66. The Lifecycle of the Mosquito  
67. Victorian Teapot Brooch  
68. Floral Pouch Cellphone Holder  
69. Velvet Hair Scrunchies  
70. Disco Ball Earrings  
71. Bugs Pencil Bag  
72. Old Muskegon Postcard Puzzles  
73. Rubik’s Cubes  
74. Polaroid Coin Purse  
75. DeLorean Pins  
76. Telephone Coin Purse  
77. Paris Teacups Totes  
78. Handheld Retro Videogame Console  
79. Tape Recorder Coin Purse  
80. The Worm Book

**Fun Fact:** The total membership income back in 1989 was $500. We’ve come a long way since then!

Don’t forget, our reciprocal membership partner for June is the Grand Rapids Children’s Museum, and we have two in July: the Holland Museum and the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Graciela Alberino-Stidham, Guest Relations Manager
## Summer Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>After Dark Tour 9:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Muskegon Lighthouse Presentation at North Muskegon Library 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Play and Learn Summer Session - FREE 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>All Access Tours 7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>Taste of Muskegon – Historic Games in the Park 4:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td>June 13</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>June 14</td>
<td>STEM Workshop Food Science 9:00am-12:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>Arsenal of Democracy: World War II and Muskegon Industries 11:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>June 16</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
<td>Roaring 20s Tea Event 1:00pm-4:00pm</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Father’s Day - Free Tours to Muskegon County Dads 1:00pm-4:00pm</td>
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<td>June 21</td>
<td>STEM Workshop Trains 9:00am-12:00pm</td>
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<td>June 22</td>
<td>Play and Learn Summer Session - FREE 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<td>June 27</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>June 28</td>
<td>STEM Workshop Polymers 9:00am-12:00pm</td>
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<td>June 29</td>
<td>Pop-In Program 10:30am-12:30</td>
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<td>June 30</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>July 4</td>
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<td>July 6</td>
<td>Pop-In Program 10:30am-12:30</td>
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<td>July 7</td>
<td>Urban Renewal Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>July 11</td>
<td>After Dark Tour 9:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
<td>Play and Learn Summer Session - FREE 10:00am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 14</td>
<td>Keeping it Cool: Ice Harvesting in Muskegon 11:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
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<td>July 20</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 2:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 24-28</td>
<td>Enviroworks Camp 9:00am-12:00am</td>
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<td>August 4</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>August 8</td>
<td>Fabulous Foods of Muskegon 11:00am-4:00pm</td>
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<td>August 10</td>
<td>Play and Learn 10:00am</td>
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<td>August 14</td>
<td>STEM Storytime 10:00am</td>
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<td>August 18</td>
<td>Scandal 1) 5:00pm-6:30pm 2) 7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
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<td>August 24</td>
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<td>August 25</td>
<td>History Walking Tour 10:00am</td>
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<td>August 29</td>
<td>All Sites Closed</td>
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<td>September 1</td>
<td>After Dark Tour 9:00pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
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<td>September 8</td>
<td>All Access Tours 7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
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<td>September 9</td>
<td>Lumber Barons Ball Presents: Back to the Future 6:30pm-10:00pm</td>
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<td>Stem Storytime 10:00am</td>
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**Plan Your Visit Calendar/Upcoming Events**

**Muskegon Museum of History & Science**
**Hackley & Hume Historic Site**
**Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry**

**Key:**
- Muskegon Museum of History & Science
- Hackley & Hume Historic Site
- Muskegon Heritage Museum of Business & Industry
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