

May/June 2016

## 'Plymouth Historical Museum Honors Volunteers at Appreciation Luncheon'

The dedicated team of helpers who volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum were honored at the museum's Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

The Museum has more than 150 active volunteers who keep the history of Plymouth alive for future generations. They serve in various capacities such as painters, cashiers, researchers, grant writers, and tour guides.

"Volunteers are an integral part of what we do here," said Liz Kerstens, the museum's executive director. "As a non-profit organization with a busy calendar of events and a large facility to maintain, there's no way we could run the number of programs we offer without them. And we're always looking for more folks to help."

Volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds, bringing skills from previous careers or simply have a love of the Plymouth community. According to the Museum's Volunteer Coordinator Janet Burns, more than 8,000 hours of service are logged each year.

"We have several volunteers who have been at the museum for 20, 30, even 40 years," Burns said. "I think that says something about the

experience of volunteering here."

During the luncheon, volunteers introduced themselves and mentioned how long they have been volunteering.

Linda Caudill said she started volunteering about a year after her husband died.

"My friend, Madelyne Beddoes, who works the front desk, invited me to come," Caudill said. "She told me that it was time to get back out into the world. I started as a cashier in the museum store and I've been here ever since."

Another volunteer, Judy Sameck, who has been a guide for the past three years, says she does it because "this museum is the best thing since sliced bread."

Roy Pilkington, who donates his time on the maintenance crew, said he's been a volunteer for 14 years.

"It's important work," Pilkington said. "Even if a lot of what we do isn't visible to the public, it's still important work."

To find out more about making a difference in your community as a Plymouth Historical Museum volunteer, contact Janet Burns, volunteer coordinator at bookkeeper @plymouthhistory.org or call 734-455-8940 ext. 4.



*Museum volunteers Jan & Ken Dersey, part of the exhibits crew, attended the luncheon.*



*Museum volunteers Lois Duisbiber & Virginia Schubatis attended the luncheon. Lois and Virginia work in the archive.*

### Support the Plymouth Historical Museum

The Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum (a.k.a. Plymouth Historical Society) is privately funded and receives no government support for its mission of providing historical education and maintaining

the Plymouth Historical Museum.

The Museum has eight part-time staff members to run a 26,000 square foot building. Utilities expenses are \$30,000 per year.

Donations are sent directly to

the Plymouth Historical Society, a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible. If your donation is more than \$100, you will be acknowledged on our donor wall in the stairwell leading to the lower level.

Plymouth Historical Museum  
 155 South Main Street  
 Plymouth, Michigan 48170  
<http://www.plymouthhistory.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/plymouthhistory>  
 734-455-8940 Fax: 734-455-7797

**Hours**

Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday  
 1-4 PM all days  
 Open year round (except some holidays)

**Board of Directors**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Sally Fedus       | President      |
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| Carol Souchock    | Director       |
| Jim Vermeulen Jr. | Director       |

**Staff**

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Madelyne Beddoes          | Cashier/Scheduler        |
| Janet Burns               | Office Manager           |
| Melody McCann             | Administrative Assistant |
| Mike Hoggard              | Facility Manager         |
| Paula Holmes              | Museum Store Manager     |
| Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens | Executive Director       |
| Heidi Nielsen             | Archivist                |
| Barb Peterson             | Hospitality Chair        |
| Leslie Ryder              | Education Coordinator    |
| Mary Thackston            | Exhibits Coordinator     |

**Museum Memo Editor**

Gerry Sabatini [sabatini1983@att.net](mailto:sabatini1983@att.net)  
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed six times a year. Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum meetings are open to members, their guests, and the public and are held on the second TUESDAY of each month, September through May, at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise scheduled. Please enter on the Church Street side of the building.

**Monthly Drawing**

Mike Janz and Margaret Stepp are the winners of the May and June drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.



**Kroger Plus Card Donations**

Thank you to those who have added the Plymouth Historical Society to their **Kroger Plus Card**. The Museum receives a small percentage from any purchases made by those who have an up-to-date registration on their cards.

To participate in the program, visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com).

Click on "Michigan" and click on "Enroll."

You must have a valid online account at Kroger.com to participate. If you need help, give us a call at 734-455-8940 ext. 9. We'll be happy to help you get enrolled.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is one of the participating museums in Blue Star Museums; a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense. More than 2,000 Blue Star Museums across America offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel, including the National Guard and Reserve and their families, from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2016.

**New Members—Welcome!**

Heather Balog, Plymouth  
 Florence Chance, Plymouth  
 Chad Downs, Plymouth  
 Janiece Hamlin, Livonia  
 Mike Janz, Plymouth  
 Mike Skinner, St. Clair Shores  
 Mike Werner, Canton

**Become a Member**

Bi-monthly newsletter, *Museum Memo*  
 10% discount in the Museum Store  
 Reduced rates on some Museum events  
 Free admission to the Museum during the membership year  
 Monthly educational programs

**Plymouth Historical Museum Wish List**

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 1 Roll Postage Stamps     | \$49 per |
| Adopt a Mannequin         | \$150    |
| 1/2 month heating bill    | \$375    |
| 1/2 month electric bill   | \$475    |
| 1 month employee's salary | \$500    |

To donate online, please visit the Museum website

# Bits 'N Pieces

By Sherrie Brindley, marketing director

## Have you ever wondered who visits the Plymouth Historical Museum?

This spring, museum staff and volunteers have been busy applying for grants to upgrade the storage system where we house our larger collection items like furniture. In the process of completing these applications, we've found some interesting statistical data that we're pleased to share with you.

First, we were happy to discover that we open our doors to approximately 4,000 visitors each year. Not too shabby for a facility that is open 12 hours per week!

While most visitors to the Plymouth Historical Museum primarily come from Plymouth, Canton, Northville, Livonia, Redford, and Ann Arbor, we proudly greet visitors from across the state, across the country, and around the world every year.

If you were to peruse our guest book of visitors over just the past few months, you'd see we've had international travelers from Ecuador, New Zealand, and Ontario. Nearer to home we saw folks come in from as close as Ohio and as far away as California and several states in between.

The largest number of museum patrons is children. Approximately 25 percent of those touring the

collections are students/school children. The next largest group is senior citizens. In addition to visiting the museum, senior citizens also make up the majority of our 150 active volunteers who help operate the museum.

We hope you found this information as interesting as we did and that you'll be visiting the Museum yourself soon. And when you come...please invite friends along!



### Volunteers Make a Difference

School groups visit the Museum and we teach them subjects, including Lincoln, the Civil War, the Victorian period, old toys, Underground Railroad, communities,

We have all of the materials; our Education Coordinator, Leslie Ryder, will help you organize the presentation.

### Jump into the Pool !

We are looking for people to join our pool of educational presenters.



Please join our pool !

Contact Leslie at the Museum at 734-455-8940 x 2, or by email at [education@plymouthhistory.org](mailto:education@plymouthhistory.org).

**Donations Received  
April–May 2016  
Thank You!**

The following generous donations were received between April and May 2016:

**The Dunning (\$2,500 +)**  
David M. Thoms

**The Starkweather (\$500–\$999)**  
Dolores Guenther

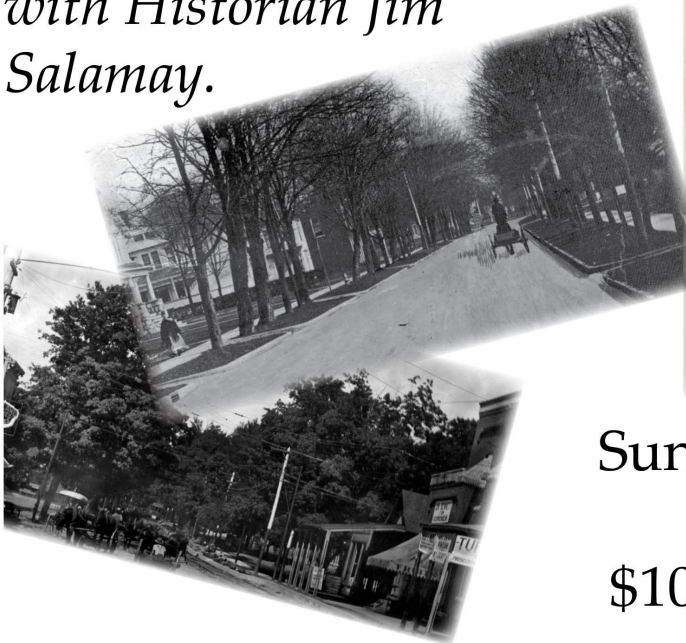
**The Kellogg (\$100–\$249)**  
Bob & Margi Bake  
Bahiya Fawaz

**Up to \$100**  
Michael Bida  
Carol Bimberg

William M. Fishbeck  
Gary Krueger  
Deborah Maloni  
Virginia K. Schubatis  
Carol Wall  
Jennifer Worth

## Plymouth Discoveries Walk

*A guided walking tour of historic homes and structures in Plymouth, with Historian Jim Salamay.*



Sunday, July 24  
1 PM\*  
\$10 per person

Tickets available at Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth  
—OR—  
online at [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org)

\*Walk begins at Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth. Please arrive by 12:50 PM and wear walking shoes. Walk covers about a mile.

SCHEDULE A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM PARTY



The party is \$250 for 3-4 hours of fun! Accommodates up to 10 kids. Includes watching "Night at the Museum" movie, pizza or subs & drinks, and meeting the Museum characters.

For more information contact the Museum or visit the Museum website.



First Ladies—  
Fashion Setters

Tuesday June 28  
6:30-8:30 PM

*Please join us for a wine & appetizer reception honoring the former first ladies and their husbands (as portrayed by the Plymouth Living History Troupe)*

*Enjoy a performance by the Main Street Opera Theatre and get a first look at our new exhibit!*

*Museum Members receive 2 complimentary tickets; Additional tickets are \$25 per person*

*Please reserve your tickets by June 24 at [www.plymouthhistory.org](http://www.plymouthhistory.org) or call 734.455.8940 x0*

**Plymouth Historical Museum  
155 S. Main Street, Plymouth**



If you know of anyone who would be willing to volunteer three hours of service at the Museum each month, please let us know.

Please phone the Museum at 734-455-8940 and leave a message. We will return your phone call as soon as we are available.

Thank you for your support, and thank you to our dedicated team of volunteers!

50 Years Ago—May 1966

**Swim Club pool  
OPEN HOUSE**

At last. Those are the words members of the Colony Swim Club are saying this week as their pool on Beck Rd. is completed.

Formed over two years ago, the Club sold memberships and raised thousands of dollars for the pool. It's use will be limited to members owning shares in the pool – those who bought memberships to help build it.

However, more members are needed, and to that end an open house will be held this Sunday afternoon, May 22 at the pool.

The public is invited to inspect the pool facilities, the bathhouse, deck area, and picnic grounds.

Located just south of Joy Rd. in Canton Township, the pool is several hundred yards back from Beck Rd., near Gyde Rd.

50 Years Ago—June 1966

**C&O pays stiff  
fines for  
road blocking**

A total of \$1455 in fines has been levied since January by the Plymouth municipal court against the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad for tying up traffic.

"We try to set the fine to match the length of time the train holds up motorists", Judge Edward Draugelis explained.

Court records show that fines have been levied as follows:

January, \$55; April, \$100; May, \$200; and June, \$1,100. The June fines were pending as of Friday.

A City ordinance prohibits trains from blocking traffic for more than five minutes. Any one can file a complaint with the City police at City Hall, provided they note how long the train took in crossing the intersection, and either the engine or caboose number.

# Plymouth Days Gone By

Compiled by Gerry Sabatini from the newspaper archives at the Plymouth District Library

## Hotel Opening

100 Years Ago—May 1916

Ralph J. Lorenz, proprietor of the Plymouth Hotel, announces the formal opening of the hotel, which he recently purchased, for Saturday, May 20th. A six o'clock luncheon will be served free of charge and there will be music and dancing for those who desire. A cordial invitation is extended to all to come and enjoy the hospitality of the new landlord.

## Former Plymouth Citizen Killed By Lightning

William Selleck, a former well known Plymouth citizen was instantly killed by a bolt of lightning which struck his home at Benton Harbor during a severe electrical storm last Friday night. Mr. Selleck was a half-brother of Mrs. Mary Lyon and Mrs. A. W. Chaffee of this village. We take the following account of the tragedy as told by Mrs. Selleck, from the Benton Harbor News-Palladium:

"Mr. Selleck had gone upstairs to the garret," she stated, "to place a pan under the roof by the chimney where it had sprung a leak. The storm was raging at its highest fury. It was about 9 o'clock. I myself," continued the wife, "had just returned from the kitchen when the bolt struck. I saw the flame gush and running to the stairway asked Mr. Selleck if he was all right. I got no reply and I made my way through the smoke upstairs."

## A Wreck on the Pere Marquette

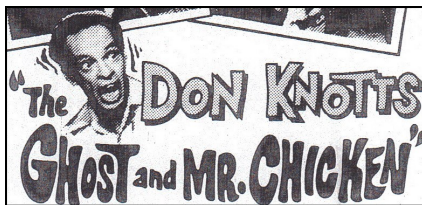
A serious wreck occurred on the Grand Rapids division of the Pere Marquette railroad in the cut just west of the Packard crossing west of the village, last Friday morning at an early hour. A broken wheel on the car of a freight east bound piled up thirteen cars in a hurry. Several of the cars were loaded with merchandise of various kinds and it was scattered about in great quantities. Traffic on this division was tied up until late in the afternoon. Passenger trains were detoured by way of Ann Arbor and Wayne from Howell.

The **Fountain** at the **Rexall Store**

Elkay's Straw Hat Cleaner

10 Cents a Package

THE **PENN** THEATRE



**Paul Newman is Harper**



50 Years Ago—May 1966

## Whoopee! no City tax hike

Residents in the City of Plymouth apparently will be getting more for their money next year as more City personnel are added at no increase in taxes.

The City Commissioners held an un-attended public hearing on the 1966-67 fiscal budget Monday night. Among the items and proposals in the new budget, from Richard Blodgett, City Manager are:

\* A \$1.5 million increase in assessed valuation will help hold the tax millage line for the sixth

year in a row if Blodgett has his way. The boost in valuation will bring in \$22,000 over last year.

\* An expected total general fund budget of about \$868,500.

\* A \$10,500 increase in administrative costs, for attorney's fees and elections.

\* An increase of two men in the police department, one man in the fire department (to comply with new laws regarding firemen's hours) and a second man in the building safety department.

## Pancakes anyone?

**PLYMOUTH KIWANIS  
PANCAKE JUBILEE  
7 TO 7 SAT MAY 7  
MASONIC TEMPLE DONATION \$1.00  
LET'S SERVE YOU'N SERVE PLYMOUTH**

50 Years Ago—May 1966



Mrs. Ronald Nyhus of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church displays a poster made by her committee to advertise the benefit bake sale to be held May 13 and 14 at A & P, Stop and Shop, Krogers and Food Fair. Several of the Plymouth churches have joined in the united drive to help the Sheltered Workshop.

## Tickets up but crime is down

Tickets issued by the City of Plymouth police department are up drastically over last year — and crimes are down, according to the monthly report from the Department.

The report, along with others from all City departments, are reviewed once a month by the City of Plymouth City Commission. At Monday night's regular meeting, Commissioner James McKeon pointed out that last year at this point only 597 tickets had been issued; this year 2,615 have been issued.

For the first five months in 1966, 157 speeding tickets were issued as compared with 100 at the same time last year.

## Bud Guest to entertain realtors at Mayflower



WJR-AM 760

radio personality

Bud Guest

principal speaker

Realtor Week dinner

## Historical Society discovers old document

An old and yellowed document was discovered by Plymouth Historical Society member, Harry Brown, and brought to the attention of the club at the April 14 meeting.

The document was found by Mr. Brown's sister among their mother's papers. It was hand written by an unknown writer and concerns the first township meeting held in Plymouth in 1827.

The first township meeting was held at the home of John Tibbets May 4th, 1827.

## Wanted: Miss Plymouth candidates

The annual search for candidates for the Miss Plymouth Contest has begun.

According to Terry West, Jay-Cee chairman of the event, candidates who:

Are 17 by June 1

Are single.

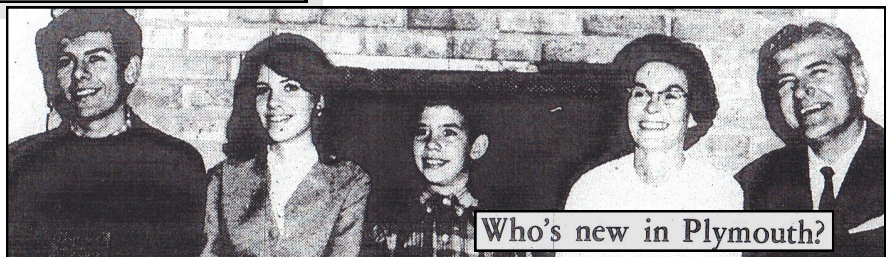
Are living or working in the Plymouth Community, may enter the contest.

Those interested in participating in the event may obtain entry blanks at Plymouth High School.

There is no cost to the applicant; each one is sponsored by a local business.

The contest opens the traditional JC July Fourth celebration.

50 Years Ago—June 1966



Who's new in Plymouth?

Mr. and Mrs. William Bursik and their children, Bill, 19, Pat, 14, and Jeff, 9, moved to Plymouth in February from Endwell, N.Y. "I just love Plymouth and hope I never have to go back to New York," Mrs. Bursik said. "It is just the type of town we were hoping to find." Natives of New York, the family had always lived there before coming to Michigan. William Bursik is Plant Manager for the Specialty Coatings Co. on Northville Rd. and young Bill is employed by his father. Pat attends Junior High East while Jeff is in Allen School. Mrs. Bursik is a member of Newcomers' Club and her hobby is knitting. Her husband enjoys fishing and woodworking. The family attends the First United Presbyterian Church.

**Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum**  
155 S. Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

Non-Profit Org  
U. S. Postage  
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Plymouth, MI.  
Permit No. 111

**Return Service Requested**

## Calendar of Events

For a detailed list of events, visit the Museum website at [www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events.html).

Special Museum Exhibit, "First Ladies—Fashion Setters," on display from June 29 until November 6, 2016.

### June

28—Reception for "First Ladies—Fashion Setters," 6:30–8:30 PM; see ad this newsletter for info.

29—Wednesday, New Museum exhibit opens. "First Ladies—Fashion Setters."

### July

17—Sunday, Frozen Princess Social, Plymouth Historical Museum, 2-4 PM. SOLD OUT

24—Plymouth Discoveries Walk, with Jim Salamay, 1 PM; tickets are \$10 per person.

### September

13—TUESDAY, Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Public invited.

18—Markham/Wilcox House Tour, starts at 1 PM; tickets are \$10 per person.

### October

11—TUESDAY, Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum, Monthly Meeting, 7:30 PM, Public invited.

29—Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk, Riverside Cemetery, starts at 4 PM. Tickets are \$12 per person (for groups of 8 or more, \$10 per person). Don't wait too long to buy tickets! This walk usually sells out well in advance.

## First Ladies— Fashion Setters

June 29

November 6

Plymouth Historical  
Museum

