

January-March 2020

Plymouth Historical Museum Closed (for now)

The doors of the Plymouth Historical Museum are closed for the foreseeable future while we wait to see what happens with the coronavirus.

As a consequence of both the CDC recommendations and Michigan Governor Whitmer's executive orders, we have also postponed or cancelled all of the events that were scheduled between now and mid-May.

This directly affects our election for the Board of Directors.

Please see page 4 for an introduction to this year's Board candidates. In addition, we have one item from the Bylaws that needs to be voted on.

We will not have our membership meetings in April or May; instead we will mail ballots for the election and Bylaws amendment to all active members. We are required to have at least 5 percent of the membership participating in the vote, so please return the ballot when you receive it.

Events have taken a big hit also. The Museum gala will be rescheduled possibly in the summer. The Caboose Grand Opening will possibly be scheduled for June, depending on when we can reopen the Museum. The Ghosts of Plymouth Walk is cancelled. We have rescheduled the Frozen Princess Tea for August 16 and the Murder Mystery is rescheduled for September 19.

Please stay safe and heed the warnings so you can be healthy.

'Plymouth Rides the Rails'



Plymouth Rides the Rails, the new special exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum, highlights Plymouth's connection to Michigan's rich railroad history.

Featured in this exhibit is a unique 1949 Fairmont M19-F2 Speeder "motor car," a motorized hand car generously on loan from George Dines of Lansing.

We also have its predecessor on display, an original wood non-motorized hand car, loaned by the Steam Railroading Institute.

Come in and see the various collections of railroad equipment and artifacts, from working lights, to din-

ing car dishes from the Pere Marquette Passenger and Ferry services and many other interesting items from Plymouth's railroad past, including artifacts from Pere Marquette's Streamline era.

This is a perfect opportunity to bring the family to the Museum to see some unique railroad history. The Fairmont Motor Car and the handcar will be on temporary loan until sometime in late April.

The Plymouth Rides the Rails exhibit is open through July 3, 2020.

Museum hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1- 4 PM. Admission is free for members.

For further questions, please call the Museum at 734-455-8940 x0.

The exhibit is sponsored by CSX.



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

Kathy Sullivan	President
Carol Bimberg	Vice President
Carol Souchock	Secretary
Jim Burroughs	Treasurer
Margaret Harris	Past President
Stephanie Hoff	Director
Christian Huffman	Director
Ernie Hughes	Director
William Moore	Director
Tim Tingstad	Director
Jim Vermeulen Jr.	Director

Staff

Janet Burns	Office Manager
Rennae Green	Marketing Director
Mike Hoggard	Facility Manager
Paula Holmes	Museum Store Manager
Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens	Executive Director
Melody McCann	Administrative Assistant
Leslie Ryder	Education Coordinator
Mary Thackston	Exhibits Coordinator
Pam Yockey	Archivist
Carolyn Zaborsky	Cashier/Scheduler

Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

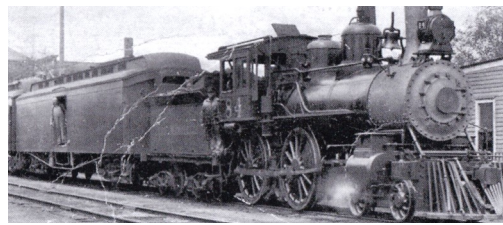
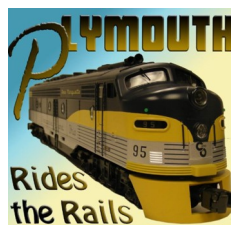
Nancy Navarre, Claudia Jacques, and Barbara Louie are the respective winners of the January, February, and March drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.



Thanks for
 Supporting
 The Plymouth
 Historical
 Museum

New Members—Welcome!

Lynn Ader - Northville
 Carl Battishill - Plymouth
 Robert Bovitz - Trenton
 Ana Bruni - Dearborn
 Creationz by Arlene - Canton
 Barbara Davio - Kalamazoo
 Kathleen Hammerick - Northville
 Patricia Hanna - Ypsilanti
 Toni Hartke - Plymouth
 Geraldine Jensen - Northville
 Ramey Johnson - Plymouth
 Richard Kaylor - Northville
 Vickie Krause - Plymouth
 Monica Lareau - Plymouth
 Joseph LeBlanc - Plymouth
 Ivy Lung - Plymouth
 Sandy McNeese - Canton
 Colleen Nametz - Wixom
 Mark Salloum - Canton
 Judy Stone - Canton
 Chuck Sudekum - Livonia
 Sally Trainor - Plymouth
 Richard Walther - Plymouth
 John Zain - Canton



The Plymouth Historical Museum is a privately funded 501(c)3 charitable organization. We receive no government funding. We always have a "wish list" of things that help us as we work to preserve and share the history of Plymouth.

Here are some of our common purchases to provide inspiration:

- 1 Roll Postage Stamps \$55 per
- IT/Network support \$250
- ½ month heating bill \$375
- ½ month electric bill \$475
- 1 month employee salary \$500

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

Donations Received
December 2019 – February 2020 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2019 and February 2020:

Orient Express Gala Sponsor (\$6,000)

Free Summer Saturdays
 Comfort Keepers

Hardy Boys Gala Sponsor (\$2,500)

Allan Leonard

Agatha Christie Gala Sponsor (\$2,500) Exhibit Sponsor

CSX

Sherlock Holmes Gala Sponsor (\$1,500) Exhibit Sponsor

Community Financial Credit Union

Candlestick in the Caboose Gala Sponsor (\$1,000)

Jim Burroughs
 Freudenberg-NOK

Columbo Gala Sponsor (\$600)

Compari's

Professor Plum Gala Sponsor (\$500)

C. L. Finlan & Son
 Geraldine Kilsdonk
 O'Donnell Electric

Chessie the Cat Gala Sponsor (\$300)

Ellen Elliott (x2)
 Expert Heating & Cooling

Highway Media
 Mayflower Enterprises
 MI Roots Real Estate Group
 Rich Realty Group
 Team DeJohn

The Lincoln (\$1,000+)

Community Financial Credit Union
 Robert Gotro
 Plymouth Physical Therapy
 George Thompson

The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)

Edward Furdak
 Jack Grant
 Cass Hough Jr.
 Roy Pilkington

The Penniman (\$250-\$499)

Harvey & Lorraine Barkley
 Cynthia Hartsig
 Barbara Nowak
 Gordon Rayfield

The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)

Dorothy Atwell
 Bob Bake
 Robert Bovitz
 Beverly Butler
 Joel Clark
 Linda Clark
 Sally Dauderman
 Detroit Elevator Company
 Marlene Donoghue
 E & M Properties
 Brian Foust
 Joseph Gentilcore
 Lori Hemingway
 Hank Jallo
 Sharlene Johnson
 Elizabeth Kerstens

Dodie Martinek
 Stephen Marulis
 Carol Mills
 Dan Packer
 Fred Robinson
 Jason Witt

Under \$100

Joan Anderson
 Bill Blake
 Paula Bowman
 Katherine Brown
 JoAnn Dalziel
 Sandra Daniels
 Ed Dorrington
 Sally Evans
 Elizabeth Gribble
 David Groen
 Margaret Harris
 Toni Hartke
 Norma Johnson
 Nancy Jowsey
 Mary Kehoe
 Carol Lower
 Darlene Maginley
 Diane Maksimarre
 Michael Mincher
 Eno Miyasato
 William Moore
 Cara Nims
 Jim Nutter
 JoEllen Odom
 Andrea Osborne
 Inger Oswald
 Marilyn Overmyer
 Mary Pauline
 Richard Raison
 David Rucinski
 Veralou Scott
 Lary Smith
 Nancy Soderholm
 Joseph Valenti
 Nancy White

Candidates for the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Board



Jeff Ashton has been a lifelong Plymouth resident, attending Bird Elementary, West Middle and Plymouth Salem High School. He continued at Eastern Michigan University and finished at University of Michigan Ann Arbor. Returning to his home town, he started a Farmers Group Agency, which he operated for 32 years. Within the last few years he has transferred the business

to his son and office manager helping them set up Plymouth Rock, an independent Agency representing numerous companies. Jeff has been a member of the Museum for more than ten years and has volunteered as a guide and closer, and has previously served on the Board for seven years.



Steve Beltran has always had a passion for history. This is what led him to a career in education. He is currently teaching Grade 8 U.S. History at Arthurs Middle School in Trenton, MI. Steve graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History Teaching from Eastern Michigan University and a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He moved to

Plymouth in 2009, where he currently resides with his wife and two young children. Steve is eager to get more involved in the community and is excited about the possibility of working with the Plymouth Historical Museum. In his spare time Steve enjoys reading, playing sports, and spending time with his family.

Proposal to Amend Section 5.5 of the Bylaws of the Plymouth Historical Society (a/k/a the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum)

The Society has varying levels of membership dependent upon the amount of annual dues paid by the individual member. All levels of membership carry the same voting rights, regardless of the amount of annual dues paid. However, the annual dues serve as a funding source for the Society's operations, and the varying levels need to be adjusted upward or downward from time-to-time in response to fluctuations in the economy, membership numbers, and other factors.

Although it would be permitted by Michigan's Non-Profit Corporation Act, our Bylaws currently do not permit the Board of Directors to make such adjustments. Rather, the Board is required to recommend such adjustments to the Members, who thereafter must vote to approve such adjustments. This has proved to be an inefficient and time-consuming process for adjusting the annual dues levels.

Accordingly, this Proposal seeks to have our Members vote to amend our Bylaws to authorize the Board of Directors to make adjustments to the annual dues levels. This would be done by amending Section 5.5 of the Bylaws as follows:

Proposed Amendment

Section 5.5 Dues. The annual dues for membership in this Society, which may be changed from time to time, shall be as set recommended by the Board.



Ernie Hughes is a long-time business owner of First Financial Strategies in Plymouth. In the last several years, he has refurbished the Markham/Wilcox House next to Kellogg Park. In the past, he has served as president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth and is still an active member. Aside from many past civic organizations Ernie has supported in the community, he is a past board member of the Arts Commission,

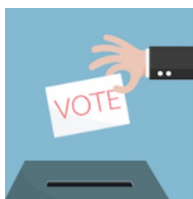
active in the Chamber of Commerce and participates in the Greater Plymouth Service Project. He has been on the Museum Board for three years.

May 2020 Board Elections

This year the Museum will be mailing out ballots to all members within the next couple of weeks. We must have at least 5 percent of the active membership casting ballots, according to our Bylaws. This has become a problem in the last couple years with dwindling attendance at the annual meeting. As a member you have a right to vote, so please return your ballot in the envelope provided, before the deadline, so you can elect your next Board of Directors. Your participation is appreciated!

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum Annual Meeting

CANCELLED



Plymouth Days Gone By

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

City Hall Looks After Its Own -- 40 Will Park Free

City employees here were given an added fringe benefit Monday night when the City Commission agreed by a 6-1 vote to give them free parking in the East Central Lot where meters and paid permits became effective this week.

Only Commissioner William Silvis voted against City Manager Richard Blodgett's recommendation that the city absorb the \$125 monthly cost of 25 permits at \$5 each.

50 Years Ago
Jan - Mar 1970

These spaces will supplement the area directly behind city hall which is reserved for municipal use, and the parking strip on the north side of the building. About 40 employees work in city hall.

THE MAIN loser on a parking issue in Monday's meeting was Police Chief Herbert Straley, who had submitted seven recommendations for changes in regulations on the south side of Ann Arbor Trail between Main Street and Forest Avenue.

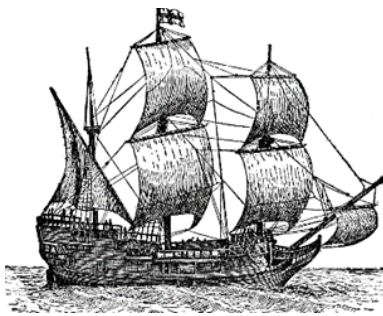
50 Years Ago -
Jan - Mar 1970

City's Flag Will Fly At Mayflower Dock

History is going to reverse itself this summer.

Back in 1620, when the original Pilgrims, arrived on the rock bound coasts of New England, they planted a flag to symbolize a new England at what was to become Plymouth, Mass.

Now, 350 years later, the official flag of the City of Plymouth, Mich., is going to be taken overseas to be unfurled as part of the anniversary celebration, known officially as "Mayflower 70." The same request has been made of every city named Plymouth in the United States.



Sending of the flag across the seas is the result of an invitation extended by His Worship George Creber, Lord Mayor of Plymouth, to the City Commission-- and the invitation was accepted immediately.

As a matter of fact the commission has approved the manufacture of two flags-- one to be sent overseas and the other to be flown over City Hall.

The City of Plymouth flag will be only part of the gift exchange during the coming summer.

High Rise Buildings Approved

Agreement on new municipal legislation which would permit construction of high rise buildings in the business district was reached Monday night in a joint meeting of the Plymouth City Commission and Planning Commission.

A change in height regulations has been under consideration since last summer. However, numerous drafts of the necessary change in the zoning ordinance were written before full agreement came about.

In essence, the height restrictions for structures within the Central Business District will be changed to establish a maximum height which is dependent upon each structure's ratio to the right-of-way width of facing streets.

The new wording of the ordinance will permit construction of buildings of as much as 13 stories in height, depending upon location.

In 1970, the Plymouth City Commission approved new wording in the Code of Ordinance for the Central Business District, to allow the construction of buildings as high as 13 stories. Today, building heights in the Central Business District are limited to 40 or 50 feet within specified areas of downtown Plymouth.

50 Years Ago
Jan - Mar 1970

Volunteer Spotlight



Maryanne Zavagnin, Museum Store

Maryanne started out volunteering at the museum in 2013. She began as a docent, but even though she likes history, since she's not originally from Plymouth she thought she'd be better suited using her skills by volunteering in the Museum Store.

Maryanne grew up in Brooklyn, New York. She has two grown children, one lives in Missouri and one in Georgia, and she has one granddaughter. Maryanne retired from AT&T, where she worked for 30 years using her MBA degree. She said she knew she had to think about what she wanted to do with her time when she retired. "You have to plan for it," she said, and that she did.

Maryanne knew she wanted to volunteer in the community so she volunteers at a few places around southeast Michigan. One place she finds rewarding and prides herself in working with besides the Museum is Career Dress in Pontiac, a place that helps underprivileged, unemployed women get back into the workforce. She has volunteered there since 2016. Maryanne also enjoys volunteering at the Penn Theater from time to time.

Aside from all of Maryanne's volunteer work, she loves to travel. She just recently got back from a trip to Paris, one of her favorite places to visit. Travelling to Cork, Ireland, frequently to visit family is another favorite of Maryanne's as she also has dual citizenship.

Maryanne enjoys her time at the Museum and the opportunities to work in other areas, such as helping with exhibit changeovers. Even though she doesn't have a background in the work, she enjoys the experience of being a part of the behind-the-scenes action here. We appreciate Maryanne for being a part of our Museum and helping out when and where she can.

Volunteers Make a Difference!

50 Years Ago
Jan - Mar 1970



Housing Wants For '70s

A popular house style in the 1970s was a home divided into multiple levels, described as a bi-level or split level home – a change from the single-story ranch homes of the 1950s and 1960s.

50 Years Ago
Jan - Mar 1970

Library Joins Electronic Age

Electronics and the cooperation of Plymouth and Plymouth Township officials have made it possible for children who visit the Dunning-Hough Library to enjoy something called "instant story hour."

Last November, Mrs. Elizabeth Worth, head librarian, requested that pre-budget funds be made available by the city and township for a cassette film recorder project.

The money, approximately \$130, was granted and the cassette recorder arrived.

With this new piece of equipment it is now possible for elementary school age children to enjoy taped fairy tales and other stories.

* * *

"ONE OF THE major aims of every public library is to introduce children to the contents of good books. Story telling is an effective way to start," said Mrs. Worth, who does not feel that the new recorder is a "border-line frill," but an efficient aid in the main line of library business.

"The recorder is simple to operate," said Mrs. Worth as she demonstrated how the small enclosed reels of tape slide into the machine and the series of buttons that operate it.

Mrs. Worth and Bonita Stockmeyer, children's librarian, are excited about the recorder and its future possibilities.

50 Years Ago
Jan - Mar 1970

Must Cope With Trains, Says Railroad Liaison

The special appointee of the Plymouth District Court whose function is to work as a direct emissary with the C & O Railroad to lessen crossing tie-ups has concluded that Plymouth motorists must "learn to live" with this problem "as long as we have any trains running."

George A. Hudson, automotive executive and former city commissioner, was asked several months ago by Judge Dunbar Davis, to serve as an unpaid liaison representative in talks between the court, the city administration and railroad officials.

This week, Hudson said that the railroad is sincerely working on the problem of crossing blockages and is attempting to be a "good neighbor under very difficult conditions."

Hudson pointed out that the number of complaints made to District Court has been reduced in the last year, referring to the city ordinance which makes it a violation if a train blocks a crossing for more than five minutes.



Volunteer Spotlight

Gerry Sabatini, editor of the Museum Memo Newsletter



Gerald Sabatini, shown here with his wife, Barbara, has served as editor of the Museum Memo Newsletter since 2010.

Throughout Gerry Sabatini's life, he has served as a volunteer for various church, school, and civic organizations. "Serving the community defines who I am as a person and as a responsible citizen and civic leader," said Gerry, who describes his service work as both rewarding and fun. Gerry has been the newsletter editor since the position became available in 2010. He saw it as opportunity to use his proficiency in Microsoft Publisher, the software used to edit the Museum's newsletter.

In addition to his volunteer work with the Museum, Gerry is a member of the Friends of the Penn board of directors. In 2013, Gerry completed 25 years of volunteer service with the City of Plymouth, serving eight years as a member of the city commission, 15 years as chairman of the city zoning board of appeals, and two years as a member of the city planning commission.

Recently retired after working 41 years as a financial analyst with Ford Motor Company, Gerry is embracing this new chapter in life, and wished he would have retired 40 years ago! He and his wife Barbara have been married 36 years, and have two adult children, Michael and Kristen. They have resided in Plymouth for 35 years.

Gerry was raised in west Detroit, and is the second oldest of nine children. During high school and college, he served as a writer for the student newspapers, has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Detroit Mercy, and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. He is also a novice guitar player and enjoys writing humorous songs and poetry.

Gerry has a high admiration for those who have faithfully nurtured and maintained the Museum to help preserve the history of Plymouth. He said the gratification of volunteering was best described by Mother Teresa, "We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop." The Museum staff thanks Gerry for all that he is doing for us and we would be far less, if we didn't have all his experience and expertise.

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Volunteers Make a Difference!

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

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