‘Connecting at the Speed of Life’

This exhibit honors the 50th anniversary of WSDP 88.1 The Park, the student radio station of the Plymouth Canton Educational Park. The exhibit includes a mockup of the WSDP studio from the 1970s.

There are also vignettes throughout the exhibit focusing on the history of various communication methods and their impact on the Plymouth community and its connectivity.

The Plymouth Historical Museum is located at 155 S. Main and is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1–4 p.m.

Admission is $7 for adults; $3 for children 6-17; free for children 5 and under and members of the Museum.

Exhibit on display through June 26, 2022
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 $58 per
- IT/Network support $300
- ½ month heating bill $375
- ½ month electric bill $475
- 1 month employee salary $600

To donate, make your check payable to the Plymouth Historical Museum.
Bits ‘n Pieces
By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

Led by Archivist Pam Yockey, the archives staff and volunteers have made great progress on accessioning the Pere Marquette Historical Society archival collection that has been coming into the Museum in parts since September. In January we hired an assistant archivist to help with the processing of this massive collection. Lena Hathaway was working as a volunteer in the archives and now puts her skills to use on a regular basis as part of our staff. Welcome, Lena!

The Museum archives is closed temporarily until the collection is processed to a point to allow researchers to access it. If you’d like to help with the archives effort, we have an online fundraiser at givesendgo.com/plymouthhistory. Any help is truly appreciated!

Our Next Exhibit
The current special exhibit, “Connecting at the Speed of Life,” ends June 26. If you haven’t seen it, please come visit! It’s interactive and fun and you might learn something about the history of communication!

Our next challenge is tackling the 1970s. We haven’t named the exhibit yet, as it was a daunting decade. We are looking for donations or loans of items from the 1970s. We’re not looking for newspaper clippings or school yearbooks, as we have plenty of those. We’re looking for items that reflect the climate of the 1970s. If you have something to contribute to the exhibit, please call or email Mary Thackston, exhibits coordinator, at 734-455-8940 x7 or exhibits@plymouthhistory.org.

Plymouth Rotary Club
The Plymouth Rotary Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024. In anticipation of this monumental achievement, the Club commissioned Ellen Elliott and myself to document those 100 years and to create an anniversary book. Ellen and I are entrenched in Rotary history and are actively looking for papers, Broadcasters, booklets, pins, gavels, or any other artifacts from current and past Rotary members. These items can be donated to the Plymouth Historical Museum, where we are adding to the already well-represented collection. If you prefer not to donate, please consider letting us scan your paper items—we will take good care of them and return them to you.

The culmination of this effort to document the Rotary century will be a nearly half-year exhibit at the Plymouth Historical Museum, sponsored by the Plymouth Rotary Club. If you have artifacts that you would like to loan to the Museum for this exhibit, please contact Ellen Elliott at jejmelliott@aol.com or Liz Kerstens at elizabethkerstens@gmail.com.

Sponsorships
We are doing well on obtaining sponsorships for our upcoming exhibits and events, but we’re still looking for more!

This year we have sponsors for Free Summer Saturdays, teas, a murder mystery, special exhibits, and our very popular ghost walks. Thank you! If you would like to become a sponsor, please contact me at 734-455-8940 x9 or director@plymouthhistory.org.

We are still hoping to find sponsors for the following:
- What’s in Your Pantry Tea in August ($400)
- “A Red Ryder Christmas Story” special exhibit ($1,500)
- Santa in the Caboose (several dates available ($300)
- Simply Dickens in December ($300)

Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

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<td>Now</td>
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<td>Let Down Your Hair Tea</td>
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<td>June 25</td>
<td>Murder on a Train Murder Mystery</td>
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<td>Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk</td>
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<td>Simply Dickens</td>
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Volunteers Make a Difference
Donations Received
December 2021 – February 2022  Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2021 and February 2022:

The Lincoln ($1,000+)
Linda Manchester
George Thompson

The Starkweather ($500–$999)
Autodesk Foundation
Edward Furdak

The Penniman ($250–$499)
America Online Giving Foundation
Ron Lowe
Patricia Malcolm
Jason Witt

The Kellogg ($100–$249)
Lindsay Bughagiar
Jim Burroughs
Louis Christensen
Joseph Gentilcore
Toni Hartke
Hayley Hoffman
Nancy Navarre
Patrick Nestor
Julie Parente
Fred Robinson

Under $100
Gerard Franchina
Beth Jackett
Mary Fritz

Eno Miyasato
Catherine Smith
Lary Smith
Cathy Webster
Takeda Yoshido

Archives Upgrade
Archives Upgrade Sponsorship ($2,500)
Bill Brown Ford

The Starkweather ($500–$999)
Chris Huffman
Fritz Milhaupt

The Penniman ($250–$499)
Elizabeth Kerstens

The Kellogg ($100–$249)
Anonymous (2)
David Camp
Clark Chapin
T. J. Gaffney
Hugh Hales II
Cecelia Nelson

Under $100
Anonymous
Thomas Grambau
Brian Mitchell
Cliff Peters
Chad Thompson
Barry Southwood

Sponsorships
Plymouth Fair ($2,000)
Tenneco

Red Ryder ($1,500)
Comcast

Chessie ($1,000)
Jim Burroughs

Hamilton ($600)
Bank of Ann Arbor

Mary Todd ($400)
Bank of Ann Arbor

Family Fun ($300)
Rockit Digital Marketing

Rent a Room for Your Next Function

The Plymouth Historical Museum is the ideal setting for weddings, showers, receptions, corporate functions, club meetings, funeral luncheons, and many other events. Our Sanford Burr Meeting Room can comfortably seat up to 100 people and has wireless Internet access. Prices are reasonable, and for an additional fee, rental includes use of the kitchen and/or a private tour of the Museum. For more information, visit the Museum or phone 734-455-8940.
Candidates for the Plymouth Historical Museum Board

**Stephanie Hoff** was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada and moved to Michigan in the fall of 2011. She is currently working as a senior mortgage underwriter for a mortgage company with headquarters based in Ann Arbor. She moved to downtown Plymouth in the fall of 2013 and has been an active member of the Fairground Park Association since 2014. She enjoys supporting local businesses in DTP and has served on the Plymouth Historical Museum's Board of Directors since 2019.

**Christian “Chris” Huffman** was born in Plymouth Township in 1976, and grew up in the Pilgrim Hills subdivision at the corner of Napier and Warren Roads. He received his formative education in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, having attended Geer, Bird, and Smith Elementary Schools. Chris graduated magna cum laude from the Michigan State University College of Law. During law school he worked as a legal intern for Michigan's Lieutenant Governor. Upon graduation he served as a pre-hearing attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals before accepting a clerkship with the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. Chris then entered private practice with the law firm of Garan Lucow Miller, P.C., where he has served as a partner in the firm’s Traverse City, Ann Arbor, and Detroit offices, handling both civil litigation and appeals. He currently lives in downtown Plymouth, and has served on the Plymouth Historical Museum’s Board of Directors since 2019.

**Hi! I am Margaret Harris.** Our family moved to Plymouth in 1977 and lived at the corner of Starkweather and Farmer in Old Village until 2000. From 1994 to 2001 I lived in Chugiak and Eagle River, Alaska and then returned to Michigan. Settled into Plymouth again in 2009 after marrying Charlie Harris and have been a business owner, you may know me for balloon decorating. I am also a certified medical assistant and a licensed health insurance agent with an office on Ann Arbor Road. I’ve been a member of the Museum since 2014 and was president of the Plymouth Historical Museum Board 2017-2019.

**My name is Ivy Orca Lung** and I’ve been a resident of Plymouth for the past 21 years. My husband Ricardo and I are fortunate to be raising our two boys Mateo (14) and Rico (11) and our Netherland Dwarf bunny Ashford in this lovely little town. Aside from being a wife and soccer mom, I’m a hematology clinical specialist in the healthcare/pharmaceutical industry. In my “spare” time I enjoy cooking Filipino food, hiking, cross country skiing, attending musicals, and especially traveling. I miss my annual trips to Paris, but look forward to Germany and Switzerland this spring (pandemic be damned!)

May 2022 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.

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!
Danny Hargrove, a mail carrier for the city of Plymouth, listens on a juke box to his own recording. The two songs on his first 45 single, were “Seven Wonders of My World,” and “Don’t Want You Crying.”
60 Years Ago
February 1962
Plymouth Mail

On February 20, 1962, astronaut John Glenn, piloting the Friendship 7 spacecraft, lifted off from Cape Canaveral, and became the first American to orbit the Earth. Jean Campau, a popular columnist for the Plymouth Mail, featured the event in her widely read women’s column.

John Herschel Glenn Jr.
1921-2016

60 Years Ago
January 1962
Plymouth Mail

In January 1962, after 60 years in business, the corner barbershop in downtown Plymouth permanently closed its doors. The building was located at the northeast corner of Penniman Avenue and Main Street from the late 1880s until 1962. The barbershop was owned by four proprietors from 1902 to 1962. The corner building and adjacent buildings were demolished in 1962 for the construction of a new bank building. During the 1950s, an additional tenant was Ken & Ork’s Burgers. Photo, circa 1950s.

“IT just won’t be the same.

That was the comment heard from several Plymouth old timers as the barbershop on the northeast corner of Main and Penniman Ave. was locked up Saturday.

For 60 years there has been a barbershop on that corner. One can only estimate how many tons of hair have fallen, how many barrels of shaving cream have been whipped up and how many favorite stories have been unraveled during those three score years.

But when the shop owner locked the door last Saturday, it was the last time. Preparations are being made to tear down the old structure.

Now occupied by Red’s Barber Shop, operated by Al Conery, the shop has been owned by only four barbers since it was started in 1902.
Last year, the Plymouth Historical Museum (PHM) signed an agreement with the Pere Marquette Historical Society, Inc. (PMHS) to bring the PMHS archive to the Museum.

The PMHS archive was established in 2001 with the donation of several PMHS archival collections from its membership. At that time a formal agreement was set up with the Joint Archives of Holland at Hope College.

In 2003 the archive made its first major expansion with the donation of the Henry J. Walhout negative collection. The PMHS archive was vastly expanded in 2006 with the acquisition of Art Million’s personal collection.

The archive was then formally named the “Arthur B. Million Memorial Archive of the Pere Marquette Historical Society,” following his death that year.

Because of a variety of factors, the decision was made to remove the PMHS archive from the Joint Archives of Holland in 2011. It has remained in storage in various locations and somewhat dormant since that time, with limited accessibility to either researchers or the public.

A renewed effort began in 2019 to find a permanent home for the archive, culminating in the agreement with PHM in August 2021.

Now that this major archival collection is in house, the Museum’s archives needs a major upgrade to accommodate the collection.

Our fundraising goal is $30,000, which will help us hire an assistant archivist, replace our old and heavy furniture with more practical and lighter weight furniture to help the floor load, purchase computer equipment that will help us process this collection more efficiently, and update our website to make the digital collection available to researchers.

If you would consider helping our effort, a GiveSendGo fundraiser is now active at [https://www.givesendgo.com/plymouthhistory](https://www.givesendgo.com/plymouthhistory)

Thank you so much for your consideration!
Essential Mobility for America—The Automobile

Do you need your car today? Could you get along without your family automobile for a week? A month? Have you thought about it lately? Essential transportation for Americans depends on the good condition of the nation’s automobiles.

Civilian defense people are keenly aware of the truth of that statement. An emergency that depended on widespread use of automobiles could mean serious trouble if these cars were to fail. In spite of record production in the post-war years, the greatest in history, less than half of the passenger cars now being driven could be called even relatively new cars.

Looking around, next time you drive to your shopping center and park at your favorite store to shop for the week’s groceries, you’ll notice, if your center or market is typical, that a large parking lot is a vital need. That parking lot is evidence of a tremendous change that has come over American life in the past 30 years—most of this revolutionary change, in fact, in the past 20 years.

It’s a change wrought by the essentiality of the automobile in today’s American life. Automobiles are mobility—transportation in a basically necessary form. About 71 per cent of all American families depend on their cars for necessary transportation, and in everyday American life, more than 52 percent of the automobile’s use is for the purpose of making a living.

Believe it or not, more than 13 million people live out of reach of any kind of public transportation—depending entirely on their automobile. One out of every four American children gets to school and back by automobile power.

That old dream of millions—a little place in the country—has become a reality for many of us, who can now get to town easily for work or shopping. Modern shopping centers in rural and suburban areas are direct evidence of the spectacular change.

The astonishing reality today is that automobiles have upset an entire philosophy of business—the philosophy that used to dictate city dwelling and the centralization of business in metropolitan areas.

Look at the great defense plants and other industrial plants for more evidence of that. You’ll see thousands of cars parked around them—cars of employees who no longer have to live in the shadow of the factory and walk to work.

Think how often you use your family car for essential transportation in a single day—work, school, shopping—and then ask yourself that question: “Could you get along without your car for a week? A month?” It’s wise to take care of your car. Be sure it’s not found inadequate in any emergency.

Written by Marguerite Mickelsen.
Published in the Plymouth Mail, January 1952

Let Down Your Hair Tea
Sunday, May 1, 2022
Noon – 2 PM
Meet Rapunzel!

- Enjoy tea delicacies. Make and take activities. Kids can dress up. Photos.
- Children must be at least 4 years old, no exceptions. Limit of 30 children,
- so don’t hesitate to purchase your tickets!
- Tickets are $30 for one adult and one child; tickets are $15 for additional attendees.
- Tickets go on sale to the public March 21.

This tea is sponsored by Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center.
Volunteers Needed!

The Plymouth Historical Museum is hopping these days! We’ve got a great new exhibit, “Connecting at the Speed of Life,” that honors 50 years of the student radio station 88.1 The Park, as well as focuses on the many ways that people communicate and how that connecting has changed through the years.

Recently we have seen an increase in visitors.

On a recent Saturday, we had 40 visitors! With this increase, the need for volunteers has increased as well. We would hate to have to limit or cancel events for lack of volunteers.

If you have just three hours a month to volunteer at the Plymouth Historical Museum, we’d love to chat with you.

Janet Burns is our volunteer coordinator.

Please give her a call at (734) 455-8940 ext. 4, or email her at bookkeeper@plymouthhistory.org.
A plea by Penniman Ave. residents to save the street's stately trees was heard by the City Commission Monday during a public hearing on street improvements.

Two residents appeared to urge Commissioners not to knock down the trees when a three-foot widening of Penniman (west of the Post Office Building) is begun.

Present plans call for the trees to remain standing "when possible" but some be destroyed has been made.

"Here we are," Mrs. E. C. Robinson told the Commission, "taking down trees that have taken us 70 years to raise. I think that you're helping to ruin Plymouth."

She said that removing the trees—many of which are elms—would hurt the "quaintness" of the city.

Another resident urged the Commission to "look into the matter thoroughly" before reaching a decision. "If the trees have to come down, we won't complain," he said. "But investigate the matter first."

54 Years Ago
January 1968
Plymouth Mail

There can be no question about the major sports stories nationally in 1967.

1.--The Red Sox beating out the Tigers for the American League flag.

2.--Indiana surprising the football world by capturing the Big Ten's right to go to the Rose Bowl.

3.--Cassius Clay being stripped of his heavyweight boxing title for failure to enter the U.S. Army when drafted.

4.--The continued downfall of the United States in tennis.

5.--Bob Gibson's pitching that won the world series for St. Louis.

If you're looking for other big moments: how's about--Jim Ryun's 3:51.1 mile record, Lew Alcindor and his UCLA basketball team, the record number of victories (68) and the world title plucked by Wilt Chamberlain and the Philadelphia 76ers, the first Super Bowl game, Intrepids easy victory in the Americans Cup, and Charles Finley pulling the Kansas City A's out of Missouri and moving them to Oakland, Cal.?
Calendar of Events

Events are at the Museum unless otherwise specified. Tickets can be found at http://plymouthhistory.org/events/upcoming-events/.

“Connecting at the Speed of Life” Special Exhibit runs through June 26.

April
23—Ghosts of Plymouth Walk, 4-8 pm, tickets on sale now. Sponsored by ATS Advisors.

May
1—Let Down Your Hair Tea, Noon-2 pm, tickets on sale to members now; to the public March 21. Sponsored by Fox Hills.

June
25—Murder on a Train Murder Mystery, 6-9 pm. Tickets on sale to members April 25; to the public, May 9. Sponsored by C. L. Finlan.