

January-March 2024



Author Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens is executive director of the Plymouth Historical Museum, a retired US Marine major, and author of four other Arcadia publications.



Author Ellen Elliott is executive director of Friends of the Penn and manager of the Penn Theatre in Plymouth, and co-author, with Elizabeth Kerstens, of the book, Plymouth Railroads, published in 2020.

‘Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque’ New Book Co-Authored by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens & Ellen Elliott

In concurrence with the Plymouth Historical Museum’s present exhibit, “The Rotary Club of Plymouth: A Century of Service,” Plymouth historians Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens and Ellen Elliott have co-authored a new book titled *Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque* highlighting the history of the Rotary Club Chicken BBQ in Plymouth.

The Museum’s Rotary Club exhibit features a century of facts and photographs about Rotary and its contributions to Plymouth.

As part of the celebration, authors Kerstens (executive director, Plymouth Historical Museum) and Elliott (executive director, Friends of the Penn) will discuss the Rotary’s Chicken BBQ and other facets of the Rotary Club during a special presentation at the Museum at 7 PM on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

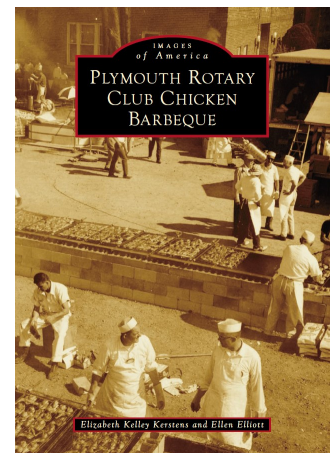
Tickets for the presentation are \$10 and are on sale now.

Doors to the Museum will open at 6 PM to allow ticket holders an opportunity to view the special exhibit prior to the talk.

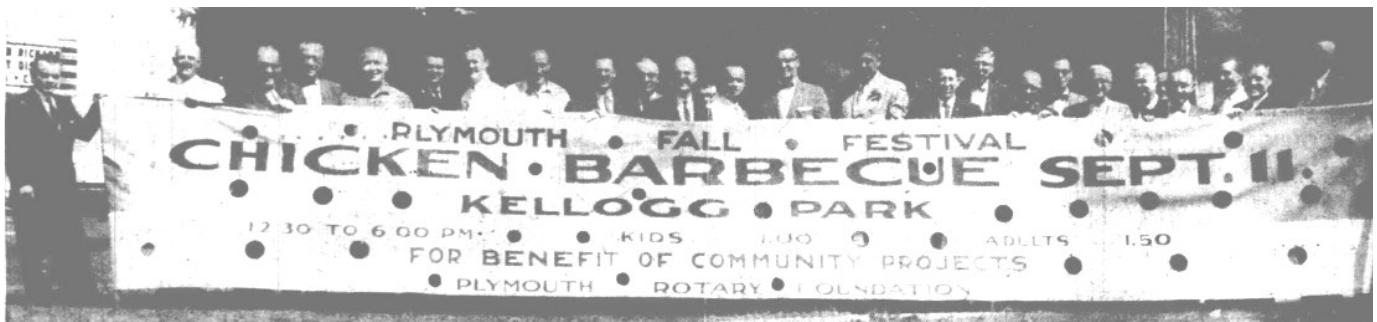
The book, *Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque*, is available

for purchase at the Museum Store. Profits from the book sales go to the Plymouth Historical Museum.

In 2020, Kerstens and Elliott co-authored the book *Plymouth Railroads*. That book is also available for purchase at the Museum Store.



Plymouth Historical Museum
 Special Presentation
 Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:00 PM
 Guest Speakers and Co-authors,
 Elizabeth Kerstens and Ellen Elliott
Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque
 Tickets for the presentation are \$10



The fourth Plymouth Rotary Club chicken barbecue, and the club’s first barbecue held in Kellogg Park, was on Sunday, September 11, 1960. The previous three barbecues were held at today’s Fairground Park (1956 & 1957) and at the high school athletic field (1958). In 1960, the Rotary Club displayed a large street banner to promote the downtown event. The banner advertised the club’s sponsorship of the newly created Plymouth Fall Festival.

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)

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Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini sabatini1983@att.net
 Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

Monthly Drawing

Jerry Wargo, Pam Piendel, and Jim Balgooyen are the respective winners of the January, February, and March drawings for a \$25 gift certificate.

Checking the height of corn on the Waldecker farm are Robert Waldecker and Dr. John Salan, chairman of the corn committee for the annual Plymouth Rotary Club chicken barbeque, held on Sunday, September 13, 1964.

**60 Years Ago
 September 1964**



Plymouth Historical Museum Quote

One of the finest museums for its size in the country.
 —Solon Weekes, curator of the Detroit Historical Museum, 1973



**Friends of the Plymouth
 Historical Museum
 New Members—Welcome!**

Thanks
 for your
 support!

- Nancy Chapman, Plymouth
- Thomas Covington, Plymouth
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- John Filios, Canton
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- Rex Parrish, Onsted
- Brittany Ringo, Plymouth
- Mary Stone, Plymouth
- Travel Leaders, Plymouth
- David Willett, Plymouth

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 **\$68 per**
- IT/Network support **\$600**
- ½ month heating bill **\$400**
- ½ month electric bill **\$500**
- 1 month employee salary **\$700**

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

Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

Upcoming Society Election

The Plymouth Historical Society's Bylaws currently state that voting of the membership must occur either at annual or special membership meetings.

Michigan's Non-Profit Corporation Act requires that 5 percent of the membership attend such meetings in order to establish a quorum for the conduct of Society business. In past years, the number of members attending such meetings had dwindled, which made it difficult for the Society to achieve the requisite quorum.

Moreover, in 2020 Michigan's governor issued a series of executive orders as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. These orders rendered the Society unable to hold an annual membership meeting.

In response thereto, the Society's Board of Directors opted to use a ballot system for membership voting instead of holding an annual meeting. The ballot system worked very well. It not only enabled the Society's membership to conduct business despite the Coronavirus shutdown, but also alleviated the quorum problem because significantly more members cast ballots than attended membership meetings in recent years.

In the ballot that every member will receive in the next few weeks, in addition to voting for four candidates for the Board of Directors, members will be asked to vote on a proposal that seeks to amend the Society's Bylaws to formally grant the Board of Directors the discretion to hold future membership votes by ballot rather than at an annual or special meeting. This would be accomplished by amending Sections 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.3, 6.4,

6.5, and 12.1 of the current Bylaws. More information is provided in the mailing that will be sent out soon.

This year, we will hold an annual meeting at the Plymouth Historical Museum on May 14 at 7 PM. There is no program planned, but we will have voting booths set up for those who prefer to vote in person rather than by mail. Please vote only once.

Victorian Rooms Upgrade

Fundraising continues for the upcoming Victorian Rooms Upgrade described in the October-December 2023 *Museum Memo*.

While we wait to hear about a grant request from the Dunning Foundation, we received a \$2,400 grant from the Michigan History Alliance for this project. In addition, the Plymouth Rotary Foundation has approved a request for a \$5,000 grant for the same project.

As you can see on page 4, in the previous three months we received very generous donations from corporations, members, and other supporters. There is still a significant need for donations to allow us to accomplish this revamp of a museum that is nearly 50 years old.

We continue to take donations for this very needed exhibit makeover. The Victorian spaces were part of the original Museum that opened in 1976 and haven't changed much since then. Please consider contributing. You can click on the QR code here or visit www.plymouthhistory.org and select the Victorian Rooms Upgrade. You can also call 734-455-8940 x0 or mail a check to the



Museum. Every donation helps us get closer to our goal. Thank You for your support!

The Plymouth Historical Museum presents historic figures from Plymouth's past in...

Ghosts of Plymouth Walk

Saturday, April 27



*Walks last up to 90 minutes. Wear walking shoes.

Walks begin at the Fairground Park sign at the Wing & Harding Street Junction at 4:00 PM*

Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 on April 27. Purchase tickets at Plymouth Historical Museum 155 S. Main Street 734-455-8940 or www.plymouthhistory.org



Sponsored by:

ATS
advisors

Donations Received
December 2023 – February 2024 Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2023 and February 2024:

The Dunning (\$2,500 +)

Kiwanis Club of Colonial
 Plymouth

The Lincoln (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Tim & Penny Joy
 Linda Manchester

The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)

Sally Fedus
 Rita Furdak

The Penniman (\$250-\$500)

Cynthia Hartsig
 Lori Hemingway
 Sheree Lowery
 Nancy Navarre
 Roy Pilkington
 Paul Sincock

The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)

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 Jody Smith
 Travel Leaders

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Jeffrey Ashton
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 Terry Smith
 Karen Southworth
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Sponsorships

Mayflower (\$5,000)

Plymouth Rotary Foundation

Mayflower (\$2,500)

O'Donnell Electric

Plymouth Fair (\$2,000)

Blackwell Ford

Hamilton (\$600)

Alphagraphics

Plymouth Ghosts (\$500)

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Victorian Rooms Upgrade

The Dunning (\$2,500 +)

Elizabeth Kerstens
 Varnum LLP

The Lincoln (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Frank Cozza
 Ross School of Business,
 University of Michigan
 Roger Salo

The Starkweather (\$500-\$999)

David Fletcher
 Brian Kidston

The Penniman (\$250-\$500)

Joe Grima

Under \$100

Sue Paulin

Rent a Room Here 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 about 100 people, depending on configuration. Prices are reasonable, and for an additional fee, can include rental of

the kitchen and/or a private tour of the Museum. Wireless Internet access is available throughout the Museum. Call 734-455-8940 for more information.

Rotary Club of Plymouth Celebrates 100 Years of Service

On the night of March 6, 1924, Plymouth Superintendent of Schools George Smith and several Plymouth businessmen met with Dr. Edward Lee of the Wayne Rotary Club to learn more about Rotary. They decided to form a Rotary club under the sponsorship of the Wayne Club.

"Rotary represents the simple idea of service – the chief pledge of its members being to see that they all shall consider 'service before self,' and that by their example and their work for the community, in their businesses or professions and toward individuals, they shall give practical demonstration of the fact that 'he profits most who serves best.'"

Twenty-three men signed up and International Association of Rotary Clubs quickly accepted their application. District 18 Governor Paul King presented the charter to the club at a banquet at Odd Fellows Hall on April 17, 1924.

George Smith was chosen as the first president of the club; Edward Hough, vice president; William Wood, secretary; Sidney Strong, treasurer; and Frank Rambo, sergeant-at-arms. In addition, there were 18 other charter members: Edgar Bennett, Otto Beyer, Dr. Bernice Champe, Dr. Robert Cooper, John Dayton, Fred Dibble, Jesse Hake, Harry Lee, Harry Lush, Charles Mather, Roy Parrott, William Pettingill, Harry Robinson, Lawrence Samsen, Fred Schrader, Carl Shear, Calvin Whipple, and Paul Wiedman.

A real opportunity for community service was presented in

1927 when Plymouth Rotarian



Dr. Robert Cooper led the club in conducting a survey of crippled children to identify those in need of assistance. Many years of fundraising culminated in the opening in 1956 of the Easter Seal Center in Inkster, which was a combined project with other service clubs.



George Smith

Beneficial projects supporting public health were global as well as local. Rotary International declared 1987 as the "PolioPlus Year" – the Plymouth Rotary Club committed to participation in the eradication of polio worldwide.

The club has been involved with many things around Plymouth. Some visible signs of their contribution include the original Kellogg Park fountain, The Gathering, Rotary Park, bulb planting along Main Street, Veterans Park, and the portable band shell.

This year marks 100 years of the club's service to the community. As part of the centennial celebration, a book by Liz and Ellen will be released in early March titled "Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbeque".

The Rotary Club supports myriad other groups and projects using funds raised from its very popular annual event. In addition to providing general club history, the book highlights the progression of the BBQ from 1956 to 2023, and includes more than 200 photographs. The barbeque, which started as a community picnic sponsored by Rotary, eventually morphed into today's Fall Festival that includes many groups and activities.

To learn more about the Rotary Club of Plymouth, please visit the Plymouth Historical Museum's upcoming

special exhibit "Plymouth Rotary Club: A Century of Service," which opens January 31. The Museum is located at 155 S. Main Street in Plymouth and is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 6-17.



67 Years Ago
June 1957
Plymouth Mail

68 Years Ago
May 1956
Plymouth Mail

60 Years Ago 1964
Plymouth Mail

In 1964, the Plymouth Rotary Club donated \$5,000 to improve the outdoor lighting system at the Plymouth High School football field.. It was the second time the club made a major contribution to improve the football field. In 1947, when a new field was installed at the high school, the Plymouth Rotary Club donated \$10,000 for the cost of the original lighting system, and raised an additional \$5,000 toward construction of the field.

Rotary Votes \$5,000 For Football Lighting

In action last month, club directors voted to donate \$5,000 to the Plymouth Community School

District, contingent upon matching funds, to improve football field lighting.

The lighting equipment, originally donated by Rotary years ago, has become progressively outdated, weather-worn and unserviceable. It was the first electrical system in the league.

The second chicken barbecue fundraiser was held on Sunday, June 9, 1957, at the Hamilton St. playground (now Fair-ground Park).

Rotary Prepares For 1,000 At Benefit Barbecue

Everything is in readiness except the assurance of perfect weather for the Annual Community Picnic that is being held this Sunday afternoon at the Hamilton Street Playground.

Plymouth Rotarians are preparing a Sunday picnic dinner for 1,000 people and all they need now is the cooperation of the weatherman. Last year when the club held its first Community Picnic, there were 500 customers despite a threatening day which ended in rain.

Like last year, proceeds from the picnic will go entirely for the purchase of playground equipment. Equipment for the Hamilton playground was purchased with last year's profits.

Heading the Sunday menu will be barbecued chicken. Each ticket-holder will be served half a chicken along with cole slaw, potato chips, rolls and butter, coffee or milk and ice cream. Serving will take place from 1 to 5 p.m.

The first Rotary Club chicken barbecue fundraiser was held on Sunday, May 20, 1956, at the city park located at the east end of Wing St. (Joy St. and Harding St.)

Community Picnic Revival Planned

Revival of the old-fashioned "community picnic" is being planned for Plymouth by the Rotary club, it was announced this week.

Community picnics used to be popular affairs a number of years ago but they have faded from the local scene since World War II days. The Plymouth Rotary club is planning a chicken barbecue picnic for Sunday, May 20 on a site for which they hope to furnish playground equipment.

The site is located at the east end of Wing street, at Pine. It was originally designated for a hospital site but is now among the vacant lots being turned into a playground by the city. Service clubs such as Rotary are offering to provide playground equipment.

Tentative plans call for activities to start at 2 p.m. which will be of interest for the entire family. Tickets will be sold for the complete picnic dinner and proceeds used to purchase the equipment. Don Lightfoot, general chairman, said that other plans will be announced at a later date.

PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM PRESENTS

SUPERHERO UNLEASHED

JUNIOR COMIC CREATORS WORKSHOP

SPONSORED BY 

Encourage Your Child's Creative Potential: Join our Junior Comic Creators Workshop on May 18! Your child will not only learn the art of comic book creation but will also receive comic-creating tools and enjoy light refreshments as they embark on a creative adventure.



**155 S. MAIN STREET
PLYMOUTH, MI**

MAY 18, 2024

1:00 - 4:00 PM

- » COMIC BOOK CREATING WORKSHOP
- » OPEN DRAWING TABLES AND TOOLS!

MINIMUM AGE: 8
TICKETS \$25 FOR EACH ATTENDEE

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO REGISTER! →
OR VISIT <https://plymouthhistory.org/events/>



69 Years Ago February 1955
Plymouth Mail

*This is How Rotary Had
 Its Start 50 Years Ago*



Paul Harris (1868–1947) was a Chicago, Illinois, attorney. In 1905, he founded the club that became the humanitarian organization Rotary International. The name Rotary was adopted because the club founders originally had planned to “rotate” the meetings between the members’ places of business.

Fifty years ago, on February 23, 1905, a small group of Chicago businessmen met to form a new club. Today, there are 8,431 such organizations with 396,000 members.

Rotary was the dream of a man named Paul Harris, a Chicago attorney who decided on the name of “Rotary” because members met, in rotation, at their various places of business.

His idea was born one day in 1900 when he dined with a lawyer friend. Harris had been in Chicago four years but still knew very few people. So after the dinner, the friend took Harris for a walk and he was impressed by the fact that his friend stopped at several stores and shops in the neighborhood and introduced him to the proprietors, who were his friends.

Paul Harris’ law clients were business friends, not social friends but this experience set him to wondering why he couldn’t make social friends out of at least some of his business friends — and he resolved to organize a club which would band together a group of representative business and professional men in friendship and fellowship.

Volunteer Spotlight

Lee Baker



The Plymouth Historical Museum is very fortunate to have a top-notch group of volunteer maintenance people, and Lee Baker is one of them. Lee came to the Museum six years ago to join the crew of maintenance folks (the majority of the group is still intact) and has used his experience as a safety engineer at Chrysler to become an important member of the team.

Lee worked at Chrysler for 34 years in the Crash Test Dummies Division out in Chelsea before his retirement. He started his adventure at Chrysler in Toledo, his hometown, working for Jeep. During his employment, Lee worked under the banner head of Jeep, AMC, Renault, and Chrysler, doing the same engineer work.

As the company buyouts moved north to Michigan, he decided to move to Livonia back in 1974. Lee’s wife, Marjane, taught grades 3-4-5 at Allen Elementary School in the Plymouth School system. Lee also has a son, Troy, who lives and works in Plymouth.

Lee’s volunteer work does not stop at the Plymouth Historical Museum. He is also a maintenance volunteer at the Church of God in South Lyons, where he does similar work as in our museum. Lee also lives in South Lyons on ten acres of wooded property with a pond.

Lee loves the outdoors, especially working in the woods, chain-sawing dead or fallen trees. He mentioned there is a market for his wood, which he donates to his church members for boiling down syrup from trees to make maple syrup.

Lee mentioned he just likes to “fix things” and plans to continue his volunteer work for a long time. We hope he does.

—Written by Mike Woloszyk, Museum marketing director

Thank You Volunteers! Volunteers Make a Difference!

Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
April 10	Plymouth Rotary Chicken BBQ Talk	Now	Now
April 27	Ghosts of Plymouth Walk	Now	Now
May 5	Frozen Princess Tea	SOLD OUT	
May 18	Comic Creators’ Workshop	Now	Now
June 2	Wilcox House Tour	April 8	April 22
June 29	Murder Mystery	April 29	May 13

Plymouth Days Gone By

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

50 Years Ago March 1974
Plymouth Observer
& Eccentric



100 Years Ago
March 1924
Plymouth Mail

100 Years Ago
April 1924
Plymouth Mail

A ROTARY CLUB ORGANIZED HERE

THE NEW ORGANIZATION WAS INSTALLED LAST WEEK THURSDAY EVENING WITH GEORGE A. SMITH AS PRESIDENT.

A Rotary Club was organized in Plymouth last week Thursday evening, March 7th, at the Penniman Allen auditorium. Dr. Edward Lee of Wayne, representing the district organizer, acting as installing officer. The organization of the club was preceded by a splendid banquet served by ladies of the O. E. S., in the dining room of the Penniman Allen auditorium. A half dozen members of the Wayne club were present, and made the evening lively with their "peppy" Rotary songs and good fellowship, and we want to say right here, the Wayne boys are good entertainers and will always be welcome visitors of the Plymouth Club.

The following board of directors was chosen: E. C. Hough, William Wood, George A. Smith, Charles Mather, Sidney D. Strong, Dr. B. E. Champ, O. F. Bayer.

The board of directors then elected the following officers, who will serve the club for the ensuing year:
President—George A. Smith.
Vice President—E. C. Hough.
Secretary—William Wood.
Treasurer—Sidney D. Strong.
Sergeant-at-Arms—Frank Rambo.

The Plymouth club starts out with a charter membership of twenty-three. It will meet once each week for luncheon, Friday, at 12:15 o'clock. The luncheons will be served by the ladies of the O. E. S., in the Masonic dining room, and the first luncheon takes place today, Friday.

Rotary represents simply the idea of service—the chief pledge of its members being to see that they shall consider "service before self," and that by their example and their work for the community, in their businesses or professions and toward individuals, they shall give practical demonstration of the fact that "he profits most who serves best."

PLYMOUTH ROTARY CLUB GETS CHARTER

DISTRICT GOVERNOR PAUL KING OF DETROIT, PRESENTS CHARTER TO LOCAL CLUB AT A BIG BANQUET HELD LAST WEEK THURSDAY EVENING.

More than one hundred Rotarians from Detroit, Royal Oak, Birmingham, Dearborn, Wayne and Ypsilanti, were in Plymouth last week Thursday evening to aid in the installing of the local Rotarian Club, and witness the presentation of the charter by the District Governor, Paul King, of Detroit.

A most excellent chicken dinner with all the trimmings, was served by the members of the Order of the Eastern Star, in the Odd Fellow hall, at 8:30 o'clock. The favors at each plate were a very attractive cap, a squawker in the form of a cigar, and a very neat leather folder designed to hold the Rotary Club membership card. During the serving of the dinner, Daniel Patterson's orchestra furnished splendid music. The musical numbers were interspersed with some lively songs by the Rotarians, led by Rotarian Calvin Whipple.

Rotarians planning 50th anniversary

PLYMOUTH — The Rotary Club of Plymouth, which had its inception in the old Lutheran Church on Spring St. in 1924, will celebrate its golden jubilee with a special dinner in the Mayflower Meeting House on Friday evening, March 22.

As a climax to the big week Larry Carino, vice-president and general manager of TV Channel 2, will deliver the main address.

One of the most active of the TV officials, Carino will make his first major appearance in Plymouth.

Many top Rotary officials in the midwest will be on hand as a tribute to Ed Sawusch, governor of District 640, and to the club.

The dinner will climax a series of events marking the jubilee. First, the Rotary Club provided two kidney machines to St. Mary Hospital to establish a kidney dialysis unit.

Next, the club made a gift of a large identification sign to the farm

unit of Plymouth-Salem High School and a large mural, depicting a street scene in downtown Plymouth on July 4, 1909 to the Historical Museum.

Prior to these gifts, the club also presented the fountain in Kellogg Park to the city as its contribution in beautifying the downtown area.

Since its inception the Rotary Club has had only three homes. After meeting in the church for several years the club transferred its sessions to the Masonic Temple and then to the Mayflower Hotel and Meeting House.

60 Years Ago
April 1964

Rotary
Club of Plymouth

40th Anniversary



In April 1964, the five remaining charter members of the original 23 members of the 1924 Plymouth Rotary Club were honored at the club's 40th anniversary celebration. More than 250 people attended the dinner. Pictured from left, are Sid Strong, Dr. Brick Champe, Carl Shear, former Municipal Judge John Dayton, and Paul Weidman. Among this group of five, Judge Dayton was the last surviving charter member when he died in 1974 at the age of 100.

Candidates for the Plymouth Historical Museum Board



Jim Burroughs' contributions to the Plymouth History Society, both as treasurer and as a guide, have been significant for many years. With your support, he will continue this important work. 2024 will be significant for all of us as we upgrade our Victorian rooms. Jim is retired from the Ford Motor Credit Co. and the Ford Motor Company as a financial analyst. His career has enhanced his capabilities as the Society's treasurer. P.S. He is not related to the Burroughs Co.

financial analyst. His career has enhanced his capabilities as the Society's treasurer. P.S. He is not related to the Burroughs Co.



Eric Joy is the president of Christensen's Plant Center in Plymouth. Eric has been involved in the green industry since the age of 12, beginning his work for Christensen's Plant Center in the retail store. He continued working for Christensen's as well as landscape contractors in both Michigan and in Arizona while attending college where he received his

degree in business operations from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Eric has served on the boards of trade associations, trade shows, and numerous volunteer organizations. He actively participates in the Plymouth Rotary Club where he is a past president and currently serves on several committees. He is also the current squadron commander for the Civil Air Patrol squadron located in Livonia. He lives in Canton with his wife Dawn and their four children. When not working, Eric enjoys gardening, especially with his children, playing with his children at his family's lake house, traveling with his wife, flying, and pheasant hunting.



Mark Salloum has been on the Plymouth Historical Society board of directors for three years. He opened Highway Media (HM) in 1997 as a full-service video production studio to help companies grow through the power of video marketing. Since then, his creative vision has transformed HM into one of the premiere studios in Metro

Detroit, receiving a multitude of awards and traveling the globe for their clients. In 2016, Mark established Rokit Digital Marketing as a sister company, helping its video clients advertise on social media, cable, and other video platforms. In 2019, Mark released his first feature length documentary titled *Plymouth, Michigan – A Rich History*. He is currently working on his second documentary, which pays tribute to our WWII veterans. This film series has received the interest of PBS and History Channel, with a hopeful release date of early 2025. Besides working behind the camera, Mark enjoys playing baseball, craft beers, prayer time, and most of all, time with his family.



Joseph H LeBlanc has been a resident of Plymouth Township since 1985. He and his wife Lisa have one son. He has an interest in numismatics, and has served many official rolls in 501(c)3 organizations, including board member and officer. He founded a technology business working with IBM equipment which he still operates as president. Joe states, "I am honored to be considered for a board seat and your

vote. We are fortunate to have such a strong historical society and museum, and I am confident I can help guide us forward. Again, thank you for your consideration."

Nominations for Board of Director candidates , according to the Bylaws:

"Candidates must be members in good standing of the Society on or by the deadline for nominations and maintain their membership throughout their term.

Employees and immediate family members of employees and the then acting Directors may not serve as Directors.

Members may not be nominated for office unless they have given their consent and agree to serve if elected."

May 2024 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. Additionally, the Museum will hold an annual meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 PM.

As a member, you have a right to vote. Please return your ballot in the envelope provided before the deadline, so you can elect your next Board of Directors. You can vote in person or by mail. Your participation is appreciated!

Plymouth Historical Museum Maintenance Crew Year-end Report 2023

Written by Clark Chapin

The Maintenance Crew managed to accomplish several major tasks in 2023 and assisted Mike Hoggard. Our stalwart crew included:

Lee Baker	Sal Cavallaro	Clark Chapin	Gregg Packard
Rick Schubatis	Monte Shettler	Bruce Tomlinson	Rich Walther

Once again, we enjoyed each other's company, swapped stories (most of which were true), and applied our individual talents to make the team work more smoothly.



- Owing to favorable weather early last year, we completed the assembly of the metal shelving at the offsite storage location and relocated much of the contents to the shelving. In addition to adding to the available space, it also made it much easier to retrieve items from storage when needed. Although nature abhors a vacuum, we hope that the availability of space does not result in a rush to fill it.



- We assembled two storage cabinets for the office area, consolidating materials from other areas. As true manly men, we managed this without undue reference to the printed assembly instructions, only doing so when the resulting cabinets appeared grotesquely misshapen.
- We managed to find purchasers for several surplus items, including the old Executive Director's desk.

- We provided several "adjustment" services, including shortening bookshelves in the Education Room.

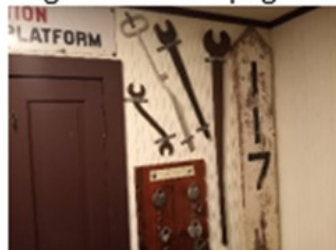


- In one of our major spring activities, we fabricated an additional 40 feet of clothes rack space in the attic using generic piping materials and concrete anchors. Monte Shettler's heavy-duty drill was invaluable for drilling in the cinder block wall. Without it, we might still be working on this project.



- Our second major task this spring, Rich, Sal, and Rick were successful in tracking down and sealing each of the leaks in the 7-foot inflatable elephant that was used for the circus parade display. This was no mean feat since the most obstinate leaks were in difficult to reach places and in shapes that were hard to seal.

- Monte, Bruce, Lee, and Rick fabricated three flip displays: One describing the 1906 train crash inside the new train depot display, one describing the interurban transportation system, and the third describing the doll house. There were printed pages on rigid foam board and we punched holes, installed reinforcing grommets, and fabricate D-rings so that the pages could be easily turned.



- We mounted several heavy railway tools on the wall of the new train depot display. We also mounted the signs describing the function and name of each tool.

- Monte, Clark, and Lee demolished the old roofing over the Meeting Room exterior stairway to make ready for the new roofing, which was professionally fabricated and installed.

Plymouth Historical Museum Maintenance Crew Year-end Report 2023



- Monte, Lee, and Clark fabricated a replica of the jail in the basement of old City Hall to recreate a jailbreak that occurred in the 1940's. It took some effort to get the proper "antique" appearance.
- It took the collective efforts of the entire team to fabricate several puzzles for the Escape Room Project, including the Energy Cell holder, "gearbox", and bookshelf stand.

• In the Clarence Moore Maintenance Room itself, Monte was instrumental in installing electrical outlets at several places around the perimeter of the large 4'x8' work table. We also relocated the switch for the table saw to make it easier to connect to the overhead power cord and more accessible for righthanded saw operators.

- In the autumn, Lee and Clark used some of the lumber stored at the off-site storage unit to fabricate shelving to store most of the lumber there off the floor. We took the opportunity to sort the lumber so that it will be easier to find when needed.



- As the "Dickens of a Christmas" exhibit neared, Rick, Clark, Lee, and Gregg fabricated a chimney and placed it on the roof of the Dunning Parlor as a prop for the chimney sweep mannikin.

- Monte, Rick, and Clark fabricated a backsplash for the new drinking fountain near the office as well as a closeout panel underneath the fountain.

- As always, there were several recurrent projects, such as applying teak oil to the benches near the front steps (annually), repairing the wheels on the tea cart (about quarterly), and diagnosing, cleaning, and repairing the model train tracks (about bi-monthly).



- Rick Schubatis and Mike Hoggard stripped the 50-year-old wallpaper from the staff restroom in the office area and painted the walls and ceiling. The photo at left is the "before" picture.

- The panel holding the mirror to the desk in the reception area was damaged during the installation of the new flooring. Gregg and Bruce successfully repaired and strengthened the panel.

- Lee and Clark removed and repaired the doors to the China cabinet in the Museum Store and took the opportunity to replace the attaching hardware with new Phillips-head screws for easier reinstallation.

- In December, Rich, Lee, and Sal removed the wall-mounted hand sanitizers that were a memento of the COVID Pandemic. This involved some patching and painting as well.



This year, we recognized the sudden passing of Monte Shettler (left). Monte was with us for less than a year, but was a valuable member during that time. As a licensed builder and electrician, his expertise allowed us to tackle several projects that we might otherwise have declined. His experience (and supply of power tools) is sorely missed.

Finally, throughout the year we took several pieces of wood of various sizes and made them smaller using a variety of power tools, which is our collective superpower.

The Plymouth Historical Museum owes its success
to the efforts of its dedicated volunteers.
Thank You Volunteers! Volunteers Make a Difference!

Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum
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Plymouth, MI 48170

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Calendar of Events

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

April

- 10—*Plymouth Rotary Club Chicken Barbecue* talk with Ellen Elliott and Liz Kerstens, 7 PM. Tickets are \$10 for admission to the Museum and to hear the talk.
- 27—Ghosts of Plymouth Walk, 4-7 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 the day of the walk at Fairground Park. Sponsored by ATS Advisors.

May

- 5—Frozen Princess Tea. SOLD OUT. Sponsored by Bank of Ann Arbor.
- 18—Comic Creators Workshop, 1-4 PM. Tickets are \$25. Sponsored by Greko Printing.

June

- 1-30—Free Summer Saturdays sponsored by Blackwell Ford.
- 2—Wilcox House Tour, starts at 1 PM. Tickets on sale to members April 8; public on April 22.

The Plymouth Historical Museum
presents historic figures from Plymouth's
past in...

Ghosts of Plymouth Walk

Saturday, April 27

Walks begin at the
Fairground Park sign at
the Wing & Harding
Street junction at 4 PM*



*Walks last up to 90
minutes.
Wear walking shoes.



Tickets \$20 in advance;
\$25 on April 27.
Purchase tickets at
Plymouth Historical Museum
155 S. Main Street
734-455-8940 or
www.plymouthhistory.org

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