

January-March 2025



**C**ass S. Hough (1904-1990), son of Edward C. Hough, succeeded his father in 1959 as president of the Daisy Air Rifle Company. Cass was with Daisy for 50 years, joining his father in 1926. Cass served in World War II as a fighter pilot. In 1940, he set a world record for flight, traveling faster than the speed of sound during a test dive maneuver. The test flight provided invaluable technical information for the Allies. After WWII, Cass served as chairman of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Col. Cass Hough is enshrined in the Aviation Hall of Fame. In 1976, Cass authored the book, *It's a Daisy*, telling the detailed story of the Daisy Manufacturing Company.

**80 Years Ago 1945**  
*Plymouth Mail*



For the benefit of the new residents of Plymouth, in case you didn't recognize him, that youthful looking soldier zipping around town on a German motorcycle is Col. Cass S. Hough.

Col. Hough, who's looks and adventurous spirit belie his 40 years, is Plymouth's highest ranking officer in this war. His ribbons attest to the immense contribution he's made to the war both in combat and in technical improvements of equipment.

Taking a well-earned rest from his war duties, Hough has been having a great time taking his friends for rides on his war-trophy motorcycle.

**Even his father, Edward C. Hough, vice president and treasurer of the Daisy Mfg. Co., and Charles Bennett, Daisy president, have had their thrills speeding down Main street behind Cass on the bike.**

Spectators who happened to be on the street got quite a kick out of seeing Cass' father hanging on for dear life as they sped down Main street.

One problem finally has been solved—that of registering the bike. The Secretary of State's office, at Lansing, has given an o.k. to register it. He's sent the information along and everything in the law has been complied with. The German motorcycle now has a Michigan license.

## OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY. PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

## Col. Cass Hough Back from Europe After Four Years of Active Service

Col. Cass Hough, one of Plymouth's boys who has helped to make history during the successful crushing of the mighty Nazi war machine, and who has the distinction of having flown a plane faster than sound travels and piloted the first pursuit plane ever to cross the Atlantic, arrived at his home in this city Friday night but left the following day for Washington, D. C. He has returned to Plymouth to remain for a month before going back into active service.

Like other American fighters who have returned home, he brought with him numerous trophies of the war, including a German made motorcycle.

While making no comment, it is known that he saw plenty of combat duty and has been awarded medals for his successful exploits.

He has been technical director of the 8th army air forces under General Doolittle since the famed raider of Japan took command in England.

Col. Hough declares General Doolittle is one of the greatest air commanders of the world. In fact he says no other nation ever produced such a perfect and powerful striking unit as the air forces of the United States have proven to be during the smashing of Germany.

General Doolittle gave Japan just a little sample of what is in store for that country in the months that lie ahead when he dropped the first bombs on Tokyo nearly three years ago, hints Col. Hough just before he left for Washington.

## Society Receives Dunning Foundation Grant

The Plymouth Historical Society is receiving a grant for \$30,000 from the Margaret Dunning Foundation. The grant is for two projects:

1. **Main Street Tile Replacement.** Some of the tile on the Museum's Main Street is very old and/or discolored.

2. **Murals Refreshed.** The two murals on the front of the Museum need to be cleaned and refreshed. Work will begin in April.

## 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
Margaret Harris	Vice President
Ivy Lung	Secretary
Jim Burroughs	Treasurer
Jeff Ashton	Director
Stephen Beltran	Director
Stephanie Hoff	Director
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Eric Joy	Director
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Laura Elder	Marketing Specialist & Administrative Assistant
Mike Hoggard	Facility Manager
Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens	Executive Director
Anita Strach	Museum Store Manager
Mary Thackston	Exhibits Coordinator
Marissa Warren	Archivist
Cindi Willard	Education Coordinator
Carolyn Zaborsky	Cashier/Scheduler

### Museum Memo Editor

Gerry Sabatini [sabatini1983@att.net](mailto:sabatini1983@att.net)

Proofreader—Elizabeth Kerstens

The Museum Memo is printed four times a year.

### Monthly Drawing

B.J. Haire, Pam Lasazen, and Suzanne Curtiss are the respective winners of the January, February, and March 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.

### Plymouth Historical Museum Quotes

"One of the finest museums for its size in the country."

—Solon Weekes, curator of the Detroit Historical Museum, 1973

"News that the Historical Museum was to become a reality was met with great appreciation. Officials see it as another jewel in the city's crown." —W. W. Edgar, *Plymouth Mail & Observer*, 1971

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

Thanks  
for your  
support!

Annalee, Northville  
Roberta Burdette, Plymouth  
Gerald Dominic, Livonia  
Jeanne Dumas, Plymouth  
Lynn Ellyn, Redford  
John Fallat, Milford  
Carla Garwood, Plymouth  
Rich Godfrey, Plymouth  
Emily Habitz, Plymouth  
Timothy Joy, Plymouth  
Sean Lewis, Plymouth  
Daniel Miller, Plymouth  
John Paris, Plymouth  
Marisa Perez, Plymouth  
John Prater, Dearborn  
Michael Tamm, DMD, Plymouth  
Pat Watson, Novi

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 **\$73 per**
- IT/Network support **\$1,000**
- ½ month heating bill **\$600**
- ½ month electric bill **\$800**
- 1 month employee salary **\$1,000**

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



# Bits 'n Pieces

By Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, executive director

## Community Contribution Award

The Plymouth Historical Museum received the "Community Contribution Award" from the Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce on March 20, 2025, during the 10th Annual Business Awards Dinner at Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center. I was honored to represent the Museum at the awards dinner, hosted by Chamber President Wes Graff (right). In addition to the trophy pictured here, we received certificates from the United States Congress, the State of Michigan, Wayne County, the City of Plymouth, and Plymouth Township. We will be displaying the certificates and trophy in the stairwell to the lower level of the Museum.

## Ghosts of Plymouth Walk

The Museum's annual Ghosts of Plymouth Walk is just around the corner on Saturday, April 26. Tickets are still available, so please come join us! If you like our cemetery walks, the Ghosts of Plymouth Walk is similar, just not in the cemetery.

This year we have eight "ghosts" representing people from Plymouth's past. The walk begins at the Museum and stops at various spots along Main Street, including the Baker House at 233 S. Main and the old Plymouth Hospital at 218 S. Main. The ghosts will tell the stories of the people or businesses that occupied the buildings in days gone by.

The walk will last a little over an hour, so please wear your walking shoes.

### Support the Museum



### Visit the Museum Store!

The store features an assortment of gifts and books pertaining to Plymouth's history. Museum admission is not required to visit the store. Museum Hours: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, 1-4 pm. 155 S. Main Street, Plymouth, 734-455-8940.



## Qualified Charitable Distribution

Individual retirement arrangement (IRA) owners age 70½ or more can transfer up to \$100,000 to charity tax-free each year. These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCDs, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to charity before the end of the year. And, for those who are at least 73 years old, QCDs count toward the IRA owner's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With a QCD, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the trustee of the IRA to an eligible charitable organization.

Please remember the Plymouth Historical Society in your charitable giving plans. We are a 501(c)3 so your donation is tax deductible. Call for information on donating to the Society's building fund.

Tickets for the walk are \$20 in advance and \$25 that day. Groups of 8 or more can get discounted tickets by calling 734-455-8940 x 0.

## Ticket Sale Dates for Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Members	Public
April 26	Plymouth Ghosts Cemetery Walk	Now	Now
May 4	Frozen Princess Tea	Now	Now
June 1	Wilcox House Tour	April 2	April 16
June 21	Murder Mystery	April 28	May 12
July 27	Wilcox House Tour	May 26	June 9

## Donations Received December 2024 – February 2025 - Thank You!

Thank you for the following generous donations that were received between December 2024 and February 2025:

### **The Penniman (\$250-\$499)**

Kevin Burek  
Patricia Malcolm

### **The Kellogg (\$100-\$249)**

Helena Scappaticci

### **Under \$100**

Grace Colter  
Cheryl Harvey  
Toni Lattimer

### **Sponsorships**

#### **Mayflower (\$2,500)**

The Ledger

#### **Plymouth Fair (\$2,000)**

Blackwell Ford

#### **Plymouth Ghosts (\$500)**

C.L. Finlan Insurance  
Fox Hills Golf & Banquet Center  
Plymouth Canton Optimists  
Schrader-Howell Funeral Home  
Stella Contracting

#### **Family Fun (\$300)**

Laird Glass  
Mayflower Patry Shoppe

### **War's Over... Now What?**

Visit & Support  
the Museum

This exhibit explores the reality of life after war. Experience this historical perspective of life after several different wars, including the World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War.

**"War's Over..."** exhibit on display  
until July 6, 2025  
at the Plymouth Historical Museum  
Sponsored by O'Donnell Electric

80 Years Ago  
May 1945  
*Plymouth Mail*

**Plymouth Prays  
As Victory Comes  
In Europe**

The long-awaited V-E (Victory in Europe) Day came to Plymouth Tuesday and the citizens of this city observed it in a manner which brought nothing but praise from all leaders, religious and civic.

The event, which had been expected momentarily for several days, followed after climax upon climax and practically everybody knew before Monday had passed that surrender would be announced Tuesday.

The combination of the knowledge that the war could not possibly last more than hours longer and the fast-breaking news events of the past month, probably had much to do with the sober and sane celebration of V-E Day.

All churches reported packed services in the evening. Almost all retail business establishments closed for the day, but the war industries, with few exceptions kept going full blast. Flags flew all over town.

Plymouth Historical Museum Presents:



Come see what all the fuss is about! The Plymouth Historical Museum now has its own escape adventure that combines team work with sleuthing skills to solve the problems and live to see another day!

You enter a time portal to the 19th century and your team is challenged to locate a time machine to return to the present before you are vaporized.

Tickets are \$30 per person; groups must be

between 4 and 8 people. For more information, visit [www.plymouthhistory.org/events](http://www.plymouthhistory.org/events).

### **April Dates:**

April 4, 6-7 PM  
April 11, 6-7 PM  
April 25, 6-7 PM



# Plymouth: A Village Of Homes

By Elizabeth Kerstens and Ellen Elliott

**I**n October 1919, nearly a year after World War I ended, a group of Plymouth citizens banded together to form the Plymouth Home Building Association (PHBA). The purpose of the organization was to help people get loans to build new houses. It was organized to aid those who sought a home, which then helped Plymouth grow and prosper.

At the end of four years, the PHBA had financed the construction of 49 new dwellings. The association was "teaching thrift by systematic savings and encouraged people of small means to own their homes instead of paying rent."<sup>1</sup>

While new residences were being built, new businesses were encouraged to come to Plymouth after the creation of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce in 1921. A joint effort between Plymouth Village Manager Sidney Strong and the Chamber produced a new design for the seal of the village.

According to Strong, "The motto – 'A Village of Homes' – was the picture the Plymouth citizen had of their present-day community and indicated the type of development they hoped would continue."<sup>2</sup> The Plymouth Village Council adopted the seal on April 7, 1924.

By 1930, the PHBA had financed more than 100 new homes in Plymouth and was in a strong financial position. That year it changed its name to Plymouth Savings & Loan Association to allow the public to better understand its purpose.

The Plymouth seal that was adopted in 1924 was updated and readopted when Plymouth became a city in 1932.

After World War II ended, housing once again became an issue. At least one contractor, William Birt, concentrated on



building homes for veterans in Plymouth. Some of these were built on Sunset, Arthur, and Auburn streets and were priced between \$6,800 and \$7,500.

In 1946, the U.S. government put drastic restrictions on construction and repair of most types of buildings to focus on meeting the goal of providing 2.7 million dwellings for veterans by the end of 1947.

That same year, one of these veterans, former Plymouth resident Robert J. Lorenz, won an award for his artistic poster, "More Homes for Vets," at a Veterans Administration sponsored GI art exhibit in Los Angeles. This was especially meaningful because he and his wife of five months had to live with her parents because they could not find their own place.

One hundred years after adopting the motto "A Village of Homes," Plymouth continues to be a thriving residential community.

The Plymouth Historical Museum will open its new special exhibit, "War's Over...Now What?" on Wednesday, February 12. The exhibit will run through July 6. 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 aged 6-17.



## Homes For Veterans

**CAN SECURE PRIORITIES FOR YOU AND  
BUILD TO SUIT YOU**

# Wm. G. Birt

Phone 723  
41525 Ann Arbor Trail

# Plymouth Days Gone By

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

## Television: Good Place To Start Moral Reform



By Mike Ross



In recent years television has come under not unwarranted but certainly unprecedented fire.

The flurry was caused when the three networks Detroit receives began placing more war and crime shows on and at earlier times.

Three Detroit PTA's banded together and the parents protested that these programs "would warp children's minds particularly since they are so accessible to the children being shown as early as seven-thirty p.m."

But the commotion died down to a dull, very dull, roar, and the children went right on watching them.

Isolated parent groups, unorganized and ineffective, and a few editorials have offered resistance to these violence shows but what little there's been has been done with a rather passive attitude.

Since, according to Neilsen, the children rule the television for more hours of the day than any age group, they often times are the controllers for the shows presented as late as 8:30 or perhaps 9 p.m.

The networks, wishing to please them, have the desired variety and vein of programs. ABC's poll of what shows hold the most interest and wield the most influence on children between the ages of five and ten revealed that the "desired" programs shift from the dreamy, fairy tale world of Shirley Temple and Huckleberry Hound to the adventure and false reality of Elliot Ness or "The Detectives."

When programs of this type were first presented, psychologists balked and warned of the heavy influence they could have on children. But parents went right on protesting to the networks while simultaneously they were letting their children watch the shows they were objecting to.

## 60 Years Ago - March 1965 *Plymouth Mail*

In 1965, Plymouth High School student, Mike Ross wrote an insightful column about the obligation for television networks to advocate moral reform.

"The networks just seem to represent the gross irresponsibility towards youth that has taken place, resulting in the declining morals and character of much of the younger generation." - Mike Ross

Professor Conrad G. Mueller, Chairman of the Psychology Department at Columbia University, said:

"The effect would begin with the young child replacing the little reality he knows with what he views on the television. The older he grows he may attempt to change his physical environment, but if he becomes frustrated upon failing he can easily retreat into the mental world he has built to his own specifications derived from the television.

"A child's power of reason between these two worlds, lies completely dormant in infancy, gradually awakening with the progression of age." But it still exists in its entirety in the subconscious mind, which, he added, "would be reached by these programs and deformed; like someone opening a trunk long before its opening date and taking a hammer to its contents then proceeding to re-seal it."

These after effects would most certainly take years to appear. Those years have moved swiftly and the results, it would seem, are staggering.

Networks argued that society in general was changing and the little part they shared in being able to form its change was minute and of little significance.

The networks just seemed to represent the gross irresponsibility towards youth that has taken place, resulting in the declining morals and character of much of the younger generation.

The networks would be a good starting point for the improvement of same.

80 Years Ago  
June 1945  
*Plymouth Mail*



## Howard Hunt, Jr. Survives Sinking; Home On Leave

Saw Iwo Flag-Raising;  
Weds After Learning of  
Assignment in Detroit

Radioman Third Class Howard M. Hunt, Jr., at the age of 19, has had all the sea duty he cares for and now he's due for shore duty in Detroit..

So he got himself married last Friday night to Madelyn Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Allen, of 173 North Harvey street.

In his 10 months in the Pacific the former Plymouth High School three-sport star has taken part in every invasion in the Philippines and has survived the sinking of his ship after a bombing attack.

Hunt, who enlisted in the Navy Mar. 6, 1944, while still a student at Plymouth High, figures the explosion of the Jap plane when it crashed into the ship's bridge and blew him into the water was the luckiest break of his life.

**Fortunate because the ship hit by a lucky (for the Japs) one-two punch, sank in minutes after it was struck.**

"I saw that plane coming right at me as I was standing on the bridge and so I jumped to the deck," said Hunt. "The plane's bomb hit amidship and the explosion blew me into the bow.

"Then the plane hit the bridge where I'd been standing a few moments earlier and exploded. That explosion blew me about 30 yards from the ship where I landed on my back in the water and started swimming.

"It probably was the most graceful dive I ever made. Getting blown off the ship undoubtedly saved my life. There were a lot of casualties."

One of his most cherished memories, although at the time he was too tired and cold to appreciate its significance fully, was the historic flag-raising on Iwo Jima.



## Volunteer Spotlight Farewell

### Gerry Sabatini

After 15 years serving as volunteer editor of the *Museum Memo*, Gerry Sabatini has decided to step down due to health and homelife priorities.

Throughout his life, Gerry 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 years of service work as both rewarding and fun.

Gerry has been the newsletter editor since the position became available in 2010. He saw it as an 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 was a member of the Friends of the Penn board of directors for 18 years.

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.

He retired from Ford Motor Company in 2018 after working 40 years as a financial analyst. Gerry, who is 72, has embraced the retirement chapter in his life, and wished he would have retired 40 years ago!

He and his wife Barbara have been married 41 years, and have resided in Plymouth for 40 years. They have two adult children, Michael and Kristen.

Gerry was raised in west Detroit, and is the second oldest of nine children. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Detroit Mercy, and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University.

During high school and college, he served as a writer for the student newspapers, and was a member of his high school baseball and basketball teams.



Gerald Sabatini, shown here with his wife, Barbara.

He is also a novice guitar player and enjoys writing 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 is thankful for all that Gerry has done for us, and we would have been far less without all his experience and expertise.

## What makes city so unusual?

40 Years Ago - 1985

The City of Plymouth, which covers only a few miles of the earth's surface, is earning a reputation as an unusual city.

This is the finding of those engaged in the real estate business who are shaking their heads in surprise these days because they can't find homes to satisfy the demand.

What is there about it that makes the public want to live here, once the starting point of the plank road to Detroit.

Well, first of all, Plymouth is unusual because it contains so many business places and offices in so small a section. It is one of the few places with a major hotel and a shopping center right in the heart of it.

## commentary

Plymouth Observer

What's more, to add to the attractiveness of the area, is the existence of a well-shaded park in the heart of the business section.

Then, for a city so small in size, it also has a section which would please anyone looking for antiques and other things which go back for years. Old Village has taken on a major role in the city proper. And it is becoming more so with each passing month.

It has a railroad going through the city — not only at one point (across Main Street) but across two other major thoroughfares. That is the reason why years ago the Daisy Air

Rifle Co. was formed at its sidings and became world famous.

## OUR TIME, OUR HISTORY. PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Among other things which now make it unusual, Plymouth has its city hall in the center, a large library and an historical museum on the edge of the business center and a funeral parlor right in the midst of the shopping center.

There are more business places per person than any other area. It has its full share of luncheon clubs, a Masonic temple, all sorts of women's clubs and a city ice rink and a cultural center.

Few folks realize it but Main Street has a foundation of brick that never was removed when the street was paved.

That's why it has earned the title as one of the most unusual cities in the vast expanse of the United States.

## Candidates for the Plymouth Historical Museum Board



**Ivy Lung** - I've been working in the pharmaceutical industry for more than 25 years, mostly in hematology and oncology. In mid-2023 I transitioned to the nephrology space where I speak with kidney specialists across 3 states about treatment options for their patients living with rare kidney diseases. I've lived in Plymouth

since 2001 with my husband Ricardo, our teenage sons Mateo & Rico, and our two bunnies Ashford and Penny. I love to travel, hike, try new restaurants, and spend time with family & friends.



**Margaret T. Harris** - Our family of 10 moved to Plymouth in 1977. I moved to Alaska in 1994 and back to Michigan in 2001. I was a small business owner for many years in Plymouth/Livonia until 2017. From 2017 to 2020 I worked as a medical assistant for IHA in its downtown Plymouth pediatrics office. Since 2020 I have been a health, life, and

Medicare insurance agent and most recently RSSA, Registered Social Security analyst. I have a perfect-for-me husband, Charlie. We have the best daughter in the universe, a fabulous son-in-law and a first granddaughter due this spring.



**Tim Tingstad** has lived in Plymouth for more than 39 years. He was the first president and founding member of the Fairground Park Association and is past president of the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth. Tim has worked as a Certified Financial Planner since 1982 and worked as a

commercial fisherman in Alaska, 1998-2004. He has served as a member of the Friends of the Plymouth Historical Museum board, and is a member of the Museum's Plymouth Living History Troupe where he portrays various characters for Museum events. Tim is married to Sandra; they have 2 grown sons and 2 grandchildren.



**Cameron A. Miller (Cam)** - Born and raised in Plymouth, Cam is a product of Plymouth schools. He was the first graduate of Plymouth Canton High School. Although you wouldn't recognize it as the same house, Cam lives in the house he was brought home to upon his birth. (He and his wife Barb bought it from Cam's parents.)

Cam delivered mail in town for 2.5 years before going to college at Eastern Michigan University. He later attended Law School at Detroit College of Law. He is the founding partner of Miller and Calabrese, P.C. Their offices can be seen from the museum across the library parking lot in the old YMCA offices that they extensively rebuilt.

Cam has been married to Barb for 42 years this August. They have two adult daughters, Courtney and Jillian. His civic involvement includes being a Plymouth Rotary member for 30 years. As part of that service, Cam served as chairman for the Chicken BBQ, chairman for the Rotary Golf Classic, and chairman of the Rotary memorial scholarship committees.

He is a past officer of the Fall Festival board, past president of the Plymouth/Canton Jaycees, and past president of the Plymouth Goodfellows where he has sold papers for 47 years and counting.

Cam is a past chairman for the Plymouth Township Civil Service Commission. And he asks that you don't laugh, but he served as the president of the Canton High School Cheerleading Boosters Club. Cam has previously worked on committees for the Museum and was even a ghost once for the cemetery walk (he hated it).

### 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.

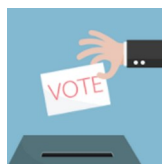
Employees and immediate family members of employees and the then acting Directors may not serve as Directors.

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

### 2025 Board Elections

**T**his 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. Please return your ballot in the envelope provided before the deadline, so you can elect your next Board of Directors. Your participation is appreciated!



Thank You Volunteers!  
Volunteers Make a Difference!



## PHM Maintenance Crew 2024

The Maintenance Crew completed several major tasks in 2024 and assisted Mike Hoggard, the Facility Manager. Our stalwart crew included:

Lee Baker	Sal Cavallaro	Clark Chapin	Gregg Packard
Rick Schubatis	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.



- For years, moving one of the Museum's two horse mannequins was an extremely difficult chore: The casters underneath were too small and didn't easily rotate, leaving scratch marks on the floor. In January, we installed two furniture dollies underneath the platform and added vinyl skirting so that the wheels on the dollies are not visible. The horse can now be moved by one person.



- Much of our effort in the spring was in completing preparations for the Time Travel Escape Experience. Our efforts were directed toward the mechanical aspects of the Escape Room: Fabricating and mounting the Energy Cell Receptacle, re-locating and securing a puzzle or two, and mounting a power strip to ease setup and takedown. In the process, we learned much about just how robust Escape Room fixtures must be since certain participants take out their frustrations on poor defenseless puzzles.

- One of our trusty wooden stools in the Maintenance Room was showing its age. Rather than scrapping it, we re-glued and painted it so that it's almost as good as new.
- In the Meeting Room kitchen, we repaired the handle on one of the microwave ovens and replaced a cabinet closure.
- To avoid a professional service call, we replaced the heavy lead-acid computer network backup batteries, which were at the end of their useful lives. The available documentation wasn't too helpful, but with the combined efforts of three or four of us, we figured it out without too much trauma.



- In May, we made our third annual application of teak oil to the benches at the Main Street Entrance. These benches, which were donated by various individuals, get their greatest use during the Memorial Day and July 4, Parades, so we try to get them cleaned and re-oiled before Memorial Day. This year, particular attention was made to the Dorsey Bench, which was quite weathered. The photos show before and after our pressure washing and oiling. We also rotate the bench positions so that weathering isn't concentrated on the sides exposed to the hot afternoon sun.

Maintenance Report 2024 continued on Page 10

## PHM Maintenance Crew 2024

- In the spring, we installed several pavers in both the front walk and the Caboose Walk. We took pictures of the installed pavers so that they could be shared with the donors.



- As part of the Rotary Club Exhibit, we repaired some of the animals that were part of the farm display. These animals, most often seen in the Kellogg Park Nativity Scene, had suffered some broken parts when people had tried to lift them by their ears or horns. We “nursed” them along and wished them well when they departed after the close of the Exhibit. The photo shows some of them leaving for their “stable” with the Department of Municipal Services.

- We weren’t involved in the major work on the Victorian Exhibit, but we did contribute in various ancillary projects. We refinished two of the antique salvage doors that are the front and rear doors of the Draper House.



- We enclosed the two HVAC ducts that pass through the new storage space from the Museum ceiling to the Victorian Exhibit area.
- We hung the Schaeffer Ox Yoke, previously in the Meeting Room, on the wall in the stable of the Victorian Exhibit. The yoke is heavy and required some planning about how to adequately secure it to the wall.
- Our major contribution to the Victorian Exhibit was the Donor Wall. From an idea that Liz Kerstens found (and then located a laser etching facility at the



nearby Plymouth District Library), we

- Fabricated the shelves for the donor blocks from railings from Daisy Manufacturing that had been stored off site. This, in turn, freed up some storage area at that location;
- Etched 128 donor blocks of various sizes, shapes, and types of wood for the various donors; and
- Etched a plaque to label the wall.

The etching alone took 23 hours of volunteer time plus the patient assistance of Michele Berens and Lily Fronden in The Lab at the Plymouth District Library. The results appear to be worth the effort. If you are ever on the second floor of the Library near the Lab, please stop by and say thanks!



- Late in the year, we expanded the shelving in the Education Room to make better use of the space after Mike Hoggard moved the overabundance of easels to the off-site storage location.
- In November and December, Rich Walther and Sal Cavallaro took the (outdated) architectural drawings that we had and used them to update the electrical layouts for the building, making it possible to know where all the important electrical bits and pieces are.
- Also in November, interior redecorating at the former train depot in Plymouth made available the former cash drawer used at the depot to sell

tickets. Rick Schubatis stepped up and fabricated a cabinet for the drawer that was combined with a rolltop ticket cabinet. This involved using more of the Daisy Manufacturing railing pieces, some new plywood, and various stains and wood finishes. The result, installed on December 16, adds an



## PHM Maintenance Crew 2024



authenticity to the Railroad Station Exhibit – the cash drawer from the actual Plymouth Depot, that we didn't previously have.

We are a small and friendly group who can always use someone else who might not have a particular skill, just a general knowledge of hand tools, a friendly demeanor, and a willingness to pitch in and learn.

The Maintenance Room has several useful power tools: A table saw, drill press, band saw, jig saw, radial chop saw, belt sander, and a veritable plethora of hand tools including drills, circular and jig saws, a sawz-all, and who (aside from Gregg Packard) knows what else. We welcome new volunteers and offer camaraderie, free coffee, and fresh challenges.

Lastly, Mike Woloczyk appreciated our creativity and collective talents. As a fan of Thomas Alva Edison, he used his PhotoShop skills to reimagine us as the crew working in Edison's laboratory in Menlo Park, NJ and presented us with a photo. From left to right: Rick Schubatis, Gregg Packard, Clark Chapin, Lee Baker, Sal Cavallaro, Mike Hoggard (back to camera), Rich Walther, and Bruce Tomlinson.



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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## Calendar of Events

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

### April

4, 11, 18—Time Escape Adventure, 6 PM. Tickets available at <https://allevents.in/plymouth/time-escape-adventure/80003324037647>.

26—Ghosts of Plymouth Walk. Tickets available at <https://allevents.in/plymouth/ghosts-of-plymouth-walk/80003046847546>.

### May

4—Frozen Princess Tea, Noon-2 PM. Tickets available at <https://allevents.in/plymouth/frozen-princess-tea/80003324252851>

### June

1—Wilcox House Tour. Tickets available for members April 2.

21—How Alan Puckett Kicked the Bucket Murder Mystery, 6 pm. Tickets available for members April 28.

### July

6—“War’s Over...Now What?” special exhibit closes.  
7—Museum closed for exhibit changeover and floor tile replacement.



Plymouth  
Historical Society  
77th Anniversary  
1948-2025

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Dedicated to preserving,  
teaching, and presenting  
Plymouth history.



## 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. Application is online at <https://plymouthhistory.org/events/room-rentals/>.