

Waterford Historical Society Newsbill

Volume 20, Number 1

March-April-May 2015

Editor Becky Morgan 248-673-2689
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Calendar

March-April-May

Hatchery House & Log Cabin

Open Wednesdays
10:30-2:00

Weather Permitting

March 11

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

March 18

Board Meeting 1:00

March 28

Fashion Show 11:00 a.m.
Silver Lake Golf Club
(See article in Newsletter)

April 1

Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

April 15

Board Meeting 1:00

May 6

Historic Village Opens
Log Cabin Days Mtg 1:00

May 20

Board Meeting 2:15

May 21

Annual Membership Meeting and Election
7:00 p.m.

May 25

Memorial Day Parade 10am

President's Notes

As you read this newsletter I am hoping spring is starting to come in like a lamb. At least the weather has been milder than the polar vortex of last year. Let's hope for birds and blossoms soon.

We are gearing up for the Fashion Show on March 28th and the Village opening on May 6th. We can always use some spare hands to help us dust and straighten up for visitors. So please stop by in April if you have some spare time and the notion. Many hands make light work, of course.

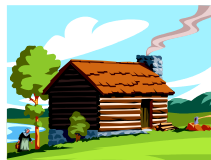
If you are out for a winter drive, pull into Fish Hatchery Park and see the one room schoolhouse. Just as I was settling in for my long winter's nap, the menfolk were braving the winter and gearing up. Or rather, cruising along because they never really stopped!

The schoolhouse is a wonder to see. I have a hard time putting in words what goes into something like this; so much time, money and energy from so many people. "Thank you", does not seem adequate. It is not done, and we do need more time, money, and energy from everyone. But, now I think you can start to imagine our Village on the road to completion, with sidewalks all the way around and a town square with actual grass and trees! Amazing.

Speaking of amazing, Log Cabin Days #19 looms into the horizon June 27 & 28. Put that in permanent marker on your calendar and PLEASE jump in to help. And btw (by the way) that is "number 19" not "hashtag 19" for all you youngsters.

See you soon,

Sally Strait



Board Members

President

Sally Strait 248-683-2697
sstrait649@comcast.net

Vice President

Bob Allen 248-623-0463

Recording Secretary

Becky Morgan 248-673-2689

Corresponding Secretary

Betty Seymour 248-666-4265

Treasurer

Betty Horn 248-673-9708

Bookkeeper

Cheryl Stoutenburg 248-623-0414

Members At Large

Grace Rockey 248-666-3673
Norman Watchpocket 248-673-5310
Dorothy Webber 248-666-4907

Vice President Emeritus

Dorothy White 248-623-0937

Reminder...

Annual Memberships
e x p i r e d o n
December 15, 2014.

Renew now to keep your membership and newsletter subscription current. **Please let us know if your address changes.**



Log Cabin Days Help Requests:

We are already planning for Log Cabin Days 2015! Help from members would really be appreciated. Here are some things that can be done to help make Log Cabin Days a success:



- **Help sort/price** White Elephant and Boutique items any Wednesday starting in April.
- On Wednesday June 10th, 17th, or 24th **help clean a building.**
- On Friday, June 26th come **help set up tents** or the White Elephant sale.
- Sign up to **work a Log Cabin Days shift.**
- **Attend Log Cabin Days.**
- **Tell a friend/family member or neighbor** about Log Cabin Days or attend with them.
- Sunday, June 28th **help take tents down** at 4pm.
- **Consider giving a monetary donation** to help with Log Cabin Days expenses. The shuttle bus alone is a big cost.

WANTED for Log Cabin Days

1. **White Elephant or Boutique items** to sell. Bring it any Wednesday from now on. Boutique items are a bit more 'upper scale' than White Elephant items.
2. **Cookies baked** for our popular cookie sale. Bake and put four cookies in a baggie. Bring them on Saturday, June 27th or Sunday, June 28th.

Every cookie sold last year!!!

Congratulations to Marge Sawruk



Congrats to Marge Sawruk! She is the 2014 recipient of the Distinguished Volunteer Service Award given by the Historical Society of Michigan. Marge was nominated by White Lake Historical Society for all the time and effort she put into the Fisk Farm property as well as the WLHS projects & events, and for her work with Friends of Highland Recreation Area and other community groups & projects. Marge was recognized by Sen. Mike Kowall at a White Lake Twp meeting.

Marge also received the Priority Health Senior Impact Award. She was nominated by Friends of Highland Recreation Area for this award. Great job, Marge!

Annual Membership Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Waterford Historical Society **Annual Membership Meeting and Election on Thursday, May 21st at 7 p.m.** This is the one and only membership meeting of the year. **Everyone's vote is needed!** Hope to see lots of members there. Dessert and beverages will be served.

In accordance with our By-Laws we are presenting our slate of officers for 2015 as follows:

2 year terms:

Vice President - Bob Allen
Recording Secretary - Becky Morgan
Bookkeeper - Cheryl Stoutenburg



3 year term:

Member at Large - Norman Watchpocket

If you might be interested in running for any of these positions please contact Sally Strait at 248-683-2697 so you can be nominated the night of the election when nominations are taken from the floor.

Fashion Show Fundraiser for WHS



Saturday, March 28th - 11:00 a.m.

At Silver Lake Golf Club

2602 Walton Blvd Waterford MI 48329

(for directions go to silverlakegc.com or call 248-673-1611)

Fashions by: The Clothing Cove

Tickets are \$30.00 per person

(Lunch is included in the price)

Come join us for the 14th Annual Spring Preview Style Show and Luncheon. The latest fashions will be presented by the Clothing Cove of Milford.

Enjoy a lovely lunch, a fashion show with the latest styles and great company all while raising money for the Waterford Historical Society. Be sure to tell a friend or neighbor!

For tickets: Call Betty Seymour at 248-666-4265

LOOKING BACK at Dixie Highway

By Rich Welsh



Saginaw Road as it looked in the early 1920s prior to the construction of the Dixie Hwy through Waterford. This photo, taken in front of Willings Garage, is looking west up the muddy road toward the Clinton River bridge that was finally replaced in the fall of 2013.

People who assume Dixie Highway is simply a paved version of the Saginaw Road that preceded it are only half right. Although the route is similar, it is not the same east of old downtown Drayton Plains. The Saginaw Road followed the curving southern shore of Loon lake on the *south* side of the railroad tracks, not on the north side as it does today. Closer to the downtown, the Saginaw Road crossed the railroad tracks at a crossing which still existed well into the 1940s though there is no longer any sign of it. Just beyond the crossing, Saginaw Road split into two branches, one branch going straight toward the general store, the other proceeded down into the river valley where a bridge crossed the Clinton River at the first of Waterford's two fords.

Construction of the Dixie Highway through Waterford Township took place during the months of May through August of 1924. An easy way to remember the correct date is: Dixie Highway, Route M24, was built in 24. Before construction through Drayton could begin, a house on the northeast corner of Hatchery Road and Saginaw Road was torn down to make room for of thousands of yards of fill dirt piled 2 stories high. A chute between the rails on the railroad siding, allowed trains to dump dirt into an elevator which raised it into a large wooden loading tower, which in turn would drop the dirt into trucks and wagons. This

dirt was used to fill in Loon Lake's swampy southern shore on the *north* side of the rail road tracks an area subject to seasonal flooding. The highway's new roadbed was created using a combination of steam shovels, trucks, mules, and men with shovels. Once the roadbed was completed, steel forms were set in place, and a remarkable steam powered, chain driven, self-propelled cement mixer laid down the 4 lane paved highway, two lanes at a time. While our stretch of Dixie Highway was being constructed it provided months of employment for the whole town.

Once the new highway was completed Drayton Plains had to readjust to its new main street which suddenly thrust it from the 19th Century into the 20th in a single summer. The general store, once the pride of Drayton, which was built facing the old Saginaw Road now awkwardly faced in the wrong direction. The new empty lot at the corner of Hatchery Road and Dixie Hwy became the site of Drayton's first purpose built gas station building, J.A. Stephen's Oil & Gas, a new competitor for the Willing's Garage Red Crown gas station. The lot was later the site of a Drayton's Post Office, a coal yard, Lakeland Building Supply, and is now vacant. The western end of the road named Saginaw Trail Drive which intersects with Hatchery Road at the top of the hill was never part of the Saginaw Trail its name was Elizabeth Street.



The Schoolhouse Goes Up



What a wonderful weekend!

Many, many thanks go out to the dedicated volunteers who battled the cold and were able to get the exterior of the schoolhouse finished on December 12,13 &14, 2014. Our heartfelt thanks also goes out to our many generous supporters.

Without our faithful volunteers and our generous supporters the dream of adding a schoolhouse to the village would not be coming true!

THANK YOU... THANK YOU... THANK YOU!!!



Windows and doors were put in January 11, 2015.



Thank You Newsletter Sponsors!



A big THANK YOU to Craig and Sandra Aspinwall for sponsoring this edition of the newsletter.

Like to help sponsor our next newsletter? Send a check for \$25 to WHS at our address: PO Box 300491, Waterford MI 48330-0491. Write 'Newsletter' on the memo line. Donors may stay anonymous if they wish.

Kroger Community Rewards

We are continuing to participate in Kroger's Community Rewards Program. Use your Kroger Plus card with our number and we will get a check in the mail every quarter!



If you enrolled last year, you must sign on again and put our number in by April.

You can get a Kroger Plus card at the service desk of any Kroger.

When you have a Kroger card and e-mail address:

1. Go online to krogercommunityrewards.com
2. Click on Sign in/Register.
3. Click on SIGN UP TODAY in 'new customer' box.
4. Follow instructions and agree to terms/conditions.
5. You will get a message to check your e-mail box. Read the e-mail from Kroger & follow the link to complete the registration process.
6. Click on MY ACCOUNT. Use your e-mail address & password to log on.
7. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS info and enter your Kroger card number.
8. Enter Waterford Historical Society NPO #: 82795
9. You will now see WHS name under your info.
10. REMEMBER to use your card for all purchases and WHS will get a check every quarter!

Help Us By Shopping



We really appreciate everyone who participates in community savings programs by shopping at Kroger and Tenuta's. These stores donate a portion of your purchases to the Waterford Historical Society. Thank you so much for your help! ***Thank you to Kroger & Tenutas for their generosity! Please support them by shopping at these stores.***

Tenuta's shoppers please continue to bring receipts to the Hatchery House on Wednesday or mail them to the address below.



Kroger shoppers keep using your store card.*

(*Kroger shoppers must sign up online to participate in this program. See Kroger Community Rewards article.)

Renew Your Membership... Or Become a Member of the Waterford Historical Society

Would you or someone you know like to renew their membership or become a member of the Waterford Historical Society?

All memberships coming in now will be good until December of 2015. We have much going on and don't want anyone to miss out!

Clip and fill out the form below and bring it in on a Wednesday or mail it to :

Waterford Historical Society
P.O. Box 300491
Waterford MI 48330-0491



Come join us!

Waterford Township Historical Society Membership Application

		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	Individual
		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25.00	Family
		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Patron
Date	Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50.00	Organizations/Businesses
Name		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$150.00	Lifetime per family
Address		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Lifetime per person
City, State, Zip	Mail payment to:	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$125.00	Lifetime per couple
	Waterford Historical Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250.00	Lifetime Org./Businesses
Make Check Payable To:	P.O. Box 300491	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00	Lifetime Patron
Waterford Township Historical Society	Waterford, MI 48330-0491			

Waterford Historical Society

WHS opens to the public the first Wednesday in March weather permitting. We will be open every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

We are located in Fish Hatchery Park at:
4490 Hatchery Rd
Waterford, MI 48329

Our Mailing Address is:
P.O. Box 300491
Waterford, MI 48330-0491

Contact us at:
Sally Strait 248-683-2697

www.waterfordhistoricalsociety.org
Non-profit 501(c)3 organization

Village Schedule



The Hatchery House, Log Cabin, Research Library & Office are open to the public starting the first Wednesday in March weather permitting. **If Waterford Schools are closed, we are closed.**

The Village opens the first Wednesday in May.

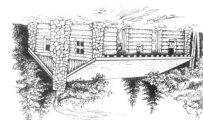
Upcoming Local Events:

- ◆ **Kettering/Pierce Pre-festival Concert:**
Mon, March 9 - 7 pm at Kettering Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Fashion Show WHS Fundraiser :** Sat. March 28 - 11 am
Silver Lake Golf Club - For Tickets/Info Call: 248-666-4265
- ◆ **Senior Center Annual Enchanted Evening:**
Thursday, April 9 - Reservations Required (248-682-9450)
Kettering Performing Arts Center
- ◆ **Pancake Breakfast & Sheep Shearing:**
Saturday, April 25th - 9 to 11 am, Hess-Hathaway Park
www.twp.waterford.mi.us
- ◆ **Mott Choir Concert:** Wednesday, May 20 - 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Waterford Memorial Day Parade:** Monday, May 25-10am
- ◆ **Kettering Choral Pops Concert:** Tuesday, May 26 - 7 pm
Kettering Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Mott Orchestra Concert:** Thursday, May 28 - 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center*
- ◆ **Mott Band Concert:** Tuesday, June 2 - 7 pm
Mott Performing Arts Center*

* Performing Arts Centers Information may be found at :
www.waterford.k12.mi.us/pac
Box Office: 248-673-4205

Our Mission Statement:
Collecting, protecting and preserving the history of
Waterford Township for the interest and education
of present and future generations.

P.O. Box 300491
Waterford, Michigan
48330-0491



Waterford Township Historical Society