

The Milford Historian

VOLUME 38 / No 5

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THE PRIVY HISTORIAN PRESENTED BY TONY PANEPUCCI

THURSDAY SEPT 9TH, 6:30 PM
Milford United Methodist Church
1200 Atlantic St, Milford

Potluck Dinner—Bring a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name:

A-F: Salad
G-Q: Dessert
R-Z: Main Dish

Please bring your own table service and beverage.

VISIT 6 BEAUTIFUL HOMES ON THE 2010 HOME TOUR

September 18th and 19th
Tours: 11 AM — 5 PM
Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$13 Seniors

HOLLY-DAY TEA FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 13th
Mary Jackson House

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

W.A.V.E.S. of Harmony
Thursday, November 18th
6:30 PM
Milford United Methodist Church

From Your President, Norm Werner

By now the museum will be done and all I can say is, **Wow!** What a great gesture by Phil Rashid of Rashid Construction. Rashid Construction has had a program of giving back to the community for many years and has done several projects in the downtown area. They contributed the materials as well as the labor and repaired several areas of the museum that have long needed work. Everyone in the Society owes Phil a big thank you the next time that you see him. Many areas of rotted wood siding were replaced and several other repairs made during the project.



The painting of the museum should be done by now too. The crew from Peak Painting had to stop for the repairs that Rashid Construction did, but the final results look great. Patrick Brower, the owner of Peak Painting, was very enthusiastic about getting the opportunity to paint the museum since he is a local and has always admired it. They did a very thorough job and even touched up the sign out front.

So, now the museum is ready for its close-up during the Home Tour. Speaking of the Home Tour, it is the next big event on our calendar. Hopefully many of you volunteered to be docents during the tour. It is the one big event each year that gives everyone a chance to play an active role in the MHS. Even if you haven't called before, call Sue Gumpfer. In addition to the five owner-occupied homes on the tour, the museum, the Mary Jackson House, the Log Cabin and the Powerhouse will all be open, with activities for children planned at the Log Cabin site. On Sunday, step back in history and visit the Tractor Show located in the Huron Valley State Bank parking lot at 130 South Milford Road. Also check the program for the always popular privy dig.

While the Home Tour is the last major event of the year, we still have one more general membership meeting in 2010, this one on November 18th features musical guests – The W.A.V.E.S. of Harmony, singing songs of long ago.

We will also be seeking volunteers from the membership who wish to serve on the MHS board and on committees for events in 2011. So think about getting more involved by serving on the board or on one of the committees.

Milford Historical Society

would like to welcome our newest members

- GARY GOODENOW
- THE PERRY FAMILY:
ISAAC, ANDREW,
LINCOLN & LAYLA

Thank you for joining and
WELCOME



MISSION STATEMENT:

We are organized exclusively for educational purposes. We bring together people who are interested in history, especially the history of the village of Milford & Milford Township.

MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MUSEUM STAFF/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Marlene Gomez 248-685-7308

The Milford Historian

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Email: Historian@milfordhistory.org

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The Privy Historian by Tony Panepucci

Before the invention of indoor plumbing, folks would do their “business” in a hole in the ground. A “privy” or outhouse as many people call them had been used for centuries. The outhouse was a small out building with a bench seat and a circular hole fashioned over a pit. Before the turn of the century, every home had a privy constructed behind the main house, usually located a safe distance away so that any odors from the building would not have reached the home. Because communities did not have garbage pickup and driving to a location to remove trash was not an option, homeowners often used the privy as a garbage dump. Many unwanted items found their way into the smelly hole. Today the structure may be gone, but many of those items remain. A group of individuals, known as Privy diggers are able to locate the area where they believe the site of the privy was by probing the ground with a large metal rod. An experienced digger will be able to tell that the earth below had been disturbed and will make the dig there. It is not unusual for a Privy digger to find more than one privy site, because once the hole was full, a new hole would have been dug and the structure moved to the new hole.

Our speaker for September is an old friend, **Tony Panepucci**. Tony and his crew have been participating during our Home Tour for several years and are a wealth of cultural information. Tony will discuss his work and will display a variety of artifacts that he has found over the years.

Our evening will begin with a scrumptious potluck dinner at 6:30 PM at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic St. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 PM followed immediately by our program. Please feel free to invite a guest. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. You don't have to be a member to enjoy this Thursday evening with people who like history. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name as shown on the front page.

Home Tour Update

Historic Preservation Meets Contemporary Living is the perfect description of the six terrific homes we have on the tour this year. All six homes are located in the Village which enables participants to walk all or part of the home tour. If you want to take an early peek, look for the homes at 1104 E. Commerce, 825 E. Commerce, 214 E. Liberty, 401 E. Liberty, 424 Hickory and 648 Canal. Be sure and join us at Mary Jackson's home (648 Canal) and help us celebrate what would have been her 100th birthday. The 2010 Home Tour will also include visits to the Log Cabin, Powerhouse and MHS Museum. We are pleased to announce that Tony Panepucci and his crew will join us again to provide a “Privy Dig.” Check the newspaper for the day and location of the dig. On Sunday step back in history and visit the Tractor Show in the Huron Valley Bank parking lot at 130 S. Milford Road.

The tour runs from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm both days. Tickets are \$15/adults and \$13/seniors and will be available before Sept 20th at Main Street Art (432 N. Main), Acorn Farm (367 N. Main), Your Nesting Place (322 N. Main) and the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 to 4 pm).

September 18th and 19th are approaching rapidly! Be sure to mark your calendars and join us! If you would like to help, please call Susan Gumpfer or the museum at 248-685-7308. With six beautiful homes on the tour we need all the docent help we can get.



Milford Historical Society

Museum News



It has been a good summer at the museum with many visitors, along with the success of Granny's Attic Sale and the new paint job! The last year-round 2nd graders from Kurtz Elementary came in on July 21st with their teacher Jennifer

Boyd. We have a lot of out-of-town visitors in the summer. Some are doing genealogy research and want to see what we have in our files. Thanks to the early members of the historical society, we have a pretty good amount of information. We also get some genealogy requests on our website and we help them out when we can.

We recently had a couple of date plaque orders for homes built in Milford and thanks to the files from Barbara Young, we have something to give to them. We also had a request for a photo of the old Shell gas station that was north of downtown Milford (next to the old Huron Valley Motel). We haven't come across it at the museum yet, so if anyone out there has one, we'd love to scan it for our files.

We are getting the museum spiffed up for the Home Tour Sept. 18 & 19th. If anyone would like to help sell tickets at the museum during the Tour, please contact Marlene at 248-685-7308.



Save the date...

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, The Milford Historical Society will be hosting a Holly-Day Tea fundraiser to benefit the Mary Jackson House which will be held at the childhood home of Mary Jackson. Guests can choose from two seatings, 11 am to 1 pm or 2 pm to 4 pm. Each guest will enjoy savories and sandwiches, scones with lemon curd, jam or cream, assorted desserts and tea, coffee and punch. A fashion show will take place during each tea.

Tickets for the Holly-Day tea are \$25 and can be purchased at The Acorn Farm (367 N. Main St), Main Street Art (432 N. Main St) or at the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce St.) All proceeds will go directly to the preservation of the Mary Jackson House. For more information, please call 248-685-7308 or email – milfordhistory@hotmail.com or visit the Historical Society website at www.milfordhistory.org.

Milford Memories Thank You

The Milford Historical Society once again held a fundraiser during this year's Milford Memories. The parking lot located on the corner of Commerce and Hickory St. was manned during the 3-day festival by volunteers and was a huge success. This allows us an opportunity to raise funds with 100% coming back to the Historical Society.

We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the people who not only wanted to park in the lot but were happy to support the Historical Society. Thank you to all our volunteers for spending a few hours helping us out. And a special thank you to **Daniel and Kim Russo** for donating their parking lot and making this possible.



Phil Rashid and sons



Peak Painting at work

Museum Make-over

The museum is bright and shiny outside since it has been updated with new siding and fresh paint.

Phil Rashid, of Rashid Construction, as a community service, replaced large areas of the rotted and split cedar clapboard siding. He also installed insulating batting where it was missing in the original building and straightened out some tangled electrical wiring. This was a major improvement to the museum, which has been needed for many years.

Phil bought the siding and materials and sent his crew over to the museum to do the work. He is a resident of Milford and did the work gratis, as his way of giving back to the community. The improvements are valued at well over \$10,000. We all owe Phil a big **Thank You!!** They can be reached at 800 567-4490.

Pat Brower, of Peak Painting Co. had the low qualified bid to paint the exterior. They did a lot of extra work, including power washing moss off the roof and spot repairing some roof leaks. His price reflected some community spirit as well. Pat is a local resident and graduated from Milford High School. He can be reached at 248 249-3270.

Milford Historical Society
124 East Commerce
Milford, Michigan 48381

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Many Thanks to our Home Tour Sponsors

The Milford Historical Society is especially appreciative for the donations of our Home Tour sponsors. With the support of these businesses, as well as your important individual contributions, we are able to continue working to preserve Milford's long and rich history.

Platinum Sponsor (6th year):



Gold Sponsor (5th year):

Milford Downtown Development Authority

**Milford Historical Society
SUPPORTERS:**

- **The Burger Joint, Steve & Natalene Suser (4th year)**
- **Huron Valley Chamber of Commerce (5th year)**
- **Huron Valley State Bank (3rd year)**
- **Inter-Office Construction Inc. (1st year)**
- **Kensington Dairy Queen (3rd year)**
- **Monthly Shoppers (5th year)**
- **Re/Max Platinum, Tige Reader Team (2nd year)**
- **Your Nesting Place, Chris Meredith (4th year)**

Please enroll me/us as a member(s) of the Milford Historical Society:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual Member Dues:

Student	\$5
Senior	\$10
Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Lifetime	\$250
Small Business	\$50
Corporation	\$250+

Mail to: Milford Historical Society, 124 East Commerce, Milford MI 48381

Email: milfordhistory@hotmail.com

Phone: 248-685-7308

Be sure to visit us on the web: www.milfordhistory.org