

# The Milford Historian

**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 and Milford Township.*

## September 11, 2008 General Meeting and Program:

### “Haven Hill”

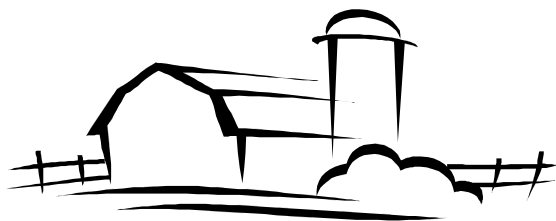
The Friends of Highland Recreation Area is a group of individuals and organizations that are determined to save the historic structures in the Highland Recreation Area. At our September General Membership Meeting we will meet **Chris Arble** and **Jay Fitzgerald** who will cover the past, present and future of the Highland Recreation Area.

In the mid-1920's, auto magnate Edsel Ford began to purchase land in the Highland and White Lake areas. By 1931, he had successfully constructed a retreat for his family. It included a lodge, gatehouse, riding stable and sheep barn. Some of the famous visitors to the lodge included Thomas Edison and Charles Lindbergh. Unfortunately, Edsel Ford died suddenly in 1943 at the age of 49. Six years later, Eleanor sold the 2,422-acre retreat to the State of Michigan.

The years have not been kind to the property the Ford clan called Haven Hill. In 1949, the same year the state acquired the property, fire destroyed the riding stable. In 1999, the lodge that once housed the Ford family and their guests was destroyed by fire. And most recently, the sheep barn that our speakers were restoring was severely damaged by the high winds early last Spring. But our guests are undaunted. Working with the remaining part of the barn, they intend to continue their preservation efforts.

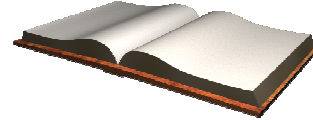
Our General Membership meeting will take place on Patriot Day, Thursday, September 11, 2008. Our meeting will be located back at the Milford Methodist Church located at 1200 Atlantic Street. Our evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the best potluck in town. There will be a brief membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by our program. All are welcome; you don't have to be a member to enjoy an evening with people who like history. Bring a friend, table service and a dish to pass based on the first letter of your last name.

Learn more about the Friends of Highland Recreation Area at their website: [www.friendsofhighlandrec.org](http://www.friendsofhighlandrec.org).



## From Your President

“The Right Place at the Right Time” is the title of the second chapter in our history book *Ten Minutes Ahead of the World*.




For many of us, Milford holds a special place in our heart. No matter where we travel, most of us find our way back to this community. Recently, I had a chance to speak with descendants of our founding fathers and listen to the stories of their families. Each time, I could sense their pride in their family heritage and this community.


Mary Jackson once said that she believed Milford was the center of everything. It was the midway point between California and New York. She felt lucky that, no matter where she went, she could always find comfort in her home in Milford, Michigan.

When the MHS Board of Directors was considering a celebration for Milford Township's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we knew we would be taking on a big task. Summer is always a difficult time to execute an event of any kind. Add to this the difficulty of finding volunteers to plan and staff such a party. Then came the question, how do we fund such an undertaking? But this community came through. A committee was formed and local businesses were happy to chip in. That's what makes living in our small community so special.

*President, Sue Bullard*



## General Meeting And Potluck Dinner



**Thursday, September 11, 2008**  
**6:30 p.m.**

*Milford Methodist Church*  
*1200 Atlantic Street*

<u>A-G</u>	<u>H-R</u>	<u>S-Z</u>
Salad	Dessert	Main Dish

**Everyone: lawn chairs, table service & beverage**

## Home Tour 2008 Update

*We need your help, please*

September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> are approaching rapidly! If you would like to help out and have not been contacted, please call **Susan Gumper** at 248-685-2691 or the Museum at 248-685-7308.



We are fortunate to have six terrific homes this year. Watch for the "See Me In September" signs or take a tour of the Village and look for 334 Union, 906 E. Commerce, 101 W. Washington, 426 S. Main, 543 Hickory and Mary Jackson's home at 648 Canal.



Home Tour 2008 Tour will feature six beautiful area homes, special visits to the Log Cabin, Powerhouse, MHS Museum and an Oak Grove Cemetery Walk. The "Privy Dig" will take place on Saturday this year. Be sure and visit **Tony**

**Panepucci** and his crew at the 426 S. Main home.

On Sunday step back in agricultural history and visit the Tractor Show located at Johnson Elementary.

Home Tour 2008 begins at 11:00 a.m. and goes to 5:00 p.m. both days. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$13.00 for seniors. Tickets will be available before September 20<sup>th</sup> at Main Street Art (432 N. Main) Saint George's Café' (159 N. Main), Tea J's Tea Room (314 S. Main) and the Milford Historical Museum (124 E. Commerce, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.).

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us! Better yet, call Sue Gumper (685-2691), or the museum (685-7308), and volunteer to help during the tour. With six beautiful homes on the tour we need all the decent help we can get.

## New Board Member

We are pleased to announce the newest member to the Milford Historical Society Board of Directors.

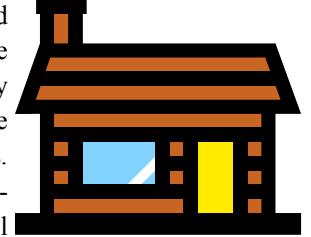
Welcome **Carol Watkins** and thank you for volunteering your time.



## Log Cabin will be open

*Visit during Home Tour 2008*

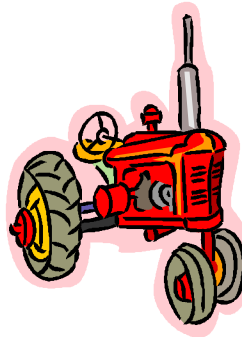
Once again the log cabin will be open during Home Tour weekend. Located in the South Side Park by the fire station, visitors will be able to step back in time and visit with members of the Milford Historical Society who will be recreating the life of Milford's founding fathers. They will observe the preparation of a traditional meal over an open fire with vegetables freshly harvested from the garden. Kids of all ages will be able to join in the games of long ago. Help with chores, make an old-fashioned toy or join in a traditional harvest contest. Be sure to stop by and join in the fun!



## Tractor Show 2008

*Visit during Home Tour 2008*

Our annual tractor show will again be part of the Society's Home Tour 2008 weekend. And it's fast approaching.



Event coordinator **Bill Crawford** advises that now's the time to get your tractor ready and to encourage your friends and family members to do the same. The more tractors the better - new, old, restored or in "work clothes." All are welcome! If you don't have a tractor,

just stop by the show and enjoy the historic hardware. Pass the word. We like lots of spectators.

We're looking forward to seeing you on **Sunday, September 21st, 10-4 p.m., Johnson School, 515 General Motors Road, Milford.**

## Support *The Milford Times*

*The Milford Times* has been a Platinum Sponsor of the Historical Society Home Tour for the past three years. In appreciation for their generous support, all members should return the favor by supporting them.



## Thank You Historical Society Members

The phrase “cash is king” applies to most nonprofit organizations, including the Milford Historical Society. Our very existence is largely determined by the monies generated from our fundraising events. Our society has been extremely fortunate to have good friends that often give us great ideas that not only bring awareness to our society, but raise some money too. Since the middle of July, your Historical Society has been working diligently to raise that all-important cash.

Our fundraising efforts began in July with our Granny’s Attic Sale. We are extremely fortunate to have **Duane Freitag** as a member of our organization. With his expertise as an antique dealer, we were able to accumulate quality merchandise for this year’s event, which brought in a total of \$2,303.65. Thank you Duane and your group of volunteers, you did a fabulous job.



Next up was Milford Memories. The Milford Historical Society was asked this year by the Huron Valley Chamber and the Milford Memories Committee to handle one of the Information Booths at this year’s festival. Volunteers at the booth answered questions about locations of artists, general information on the community as well as upcoming events. We were also asked to sell bottles of water, with the Historical Society earning ½ of the cost of the bottles. I would like to thank the Chamber and the Milford Memories Committee for allowing us the opportunity to participate and showcase our organization. We had a great time.



Also during Milford Memories, the Historical Society was again offered a parking lot during the three-day event to raise funds. This year the lot was located on the corner of Commerce and Hickory Streets. During the event visitors could park their car for a donation to the Historical Society. We were once again overwhelmed by people’s generosity. I would like to send a special thank-you to **Mr. and Mrs. Subhash Kapur** for allowing us the use of the parking lot. Even though the weather wasn’t the best during the three days, we were able to raise over \$1,500.00.



During the same weekend as Milford Memories, the Historical Society also made an appearance at Colonial Kensington. The two-day event at Kensington represents the time period from 1700 to 1796 with reactors from all over the country taking part. Special thanks to **Tom and Lee Johnson** for representing the Historical Society for the first time at the event.

*(Thank you continued)*

Within the last few months the Mary Jackson House benefited from work donated by two companies. **Stan’s Fireplace and Chimney Service** cleaned and inspected the fireplace. Also, **Don Horner** tuned our 1896 piano. Thank you to both businesses for supporting the Historical Society!

I cannot put into words how much I appreciate the amount of effort each of you contributed to the Historical Society. Your personal time is valuable and I truly am grateful that you spent it with the Historical Society.

*Sue Bullard*

## Museum News

We have had a busy summer at the museum this year. Three second grade classes from Country Oaks Elementary came in for tours in May and June. We also had two second grade classes from Kurtz Elementary Year-Round program come in for tours in July. Tudor Time (day care) from Commerce brought their summer camp kids (ages 6-12) in for tours after visiting the Fisk Farm in White Lake. Many of these kids came back with their families later because they wanted them to see the museum too.



I want to thank **Lee Johnson, Duane Freitag, Mary Lou and the student docents** for helping out with these larger tours. We usually have some out-of-state visitors in the summer and we even had visitors from England and Norway this year.

We want to wish good luck to one of our student docents, Lisa White, who is headed off to Central Michigan University this fall.

We will now be getting the museum ready for Homes Tour 2008 in September. We’re looking for volunteers to help clean and also sell tickets. Anyone interested can call Marlene at the museum (248)685-7308. Thanks!

*Marlene Gomez*

## Welcome new members!

We are pleased to announce that the newest members of the Milford historical Society are **Patsy and Roy Patterson**. Welcome Patsy and Roy.



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Website: [www.milfordhistory.org](http://www.milfordhistory.org)

## WHAT'S HOT

**General Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 11th**  
**Milford Methodist**  
**Church**

**DON'T MISS OUT!**

### Upcoming 2008 Events

**Sept. 11...**General Meeting and Program:  
"Haven Hill"

**Sept. 20 & 21 ...** [Home Tour 2008](#); [Log Cabin and Powerhouse open](#)

**Sept. 21...** [Tractor Show](#)

**Nov. 20....**General Meeting and Program:  
TBD

### Board of Directors

Sue Bullard	President
Sue Gumper	Vice-President
Mary Lou Gharrity	Treasurer
Kathy Rheume	Recording Secretary
Judy Waara	Corresponding Secretary
Bill Schimmel	Director
Bill Crawford	Director
Judith Reiter	Director
Jeff Spoor	Director
Norm Werner	Director
Jim Gabel	Director
Brian Mooney	Director
Carol Watkins	Director

### Milford Museum Staff

Marlene Gomez     Assistant Director

### The Milford Historian

–  
Newsletter of the Milford  
Historical Society  
published bimonthly  
(six times per year)

–  
**Editor:** Jay Qualman

–  
Submission deadlines:  
Last day of February,  
April, June, August, Oc-  
tober & December

### Annual Member Dues

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City-State-Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Milford Historical Society, 124 E. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381