

STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

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80th Anniversary Celebration

Our Open House celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Garden City in 1927 was a tremendous success!! We had visitors come in before the appointed time of 11:00 a.m. and were still enjoying visitors well after the advertised closing time of 2: 00 p.m.

Muriel Grima, Friends, Amelia Oliverio, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and the Culinary Department of Schoolcraft College did a marvelous job of coordinating this event. Their food and its presentation were outstanding! Schoolcraft even provided a massage therapist! We heard nothing but positive comments praising the progress we have made since buying the Straight Farm House in 2004. Once again, those talented and generous "Petticoat Ladies" from the Garden City Presbyterian Church attended in costume and became "Docents for a Day"!

This newsletter includes photos and items about improvements, programs, contributions, and additions to our displays that delighted our guests.

Number Please

Muriel Grima found a silent movie of 1927 vintage explaining how to dial a new-fangled dial telephone, so guests enjoyed watching this "How to..." CD in our "movie room". (We also show the "Garden City 1935-1939" film given to us by the Peck Hershey family in this room.) When David and Maryann Presnell of North Carolina learned that we really wanted an antique candlestick phone and a dial phone, they visited a relative who



deals in antiques and found three telephones which they contributed to the Friends! The third phone is an early wall phone. This contribution by David and Maryann Presnell will make visits by school children more fun by being able to let them dial a real telephone!

Thanks Again!

In the last newsletter, we told you about Mrs. Nollett, owner of the recently demolished home built in 1845 on Middlebelt Road near Cherry Hill. She had given us her kitchen cabinets and appliances, doors, a lovely rug and antiques. Mrs. Nollett visited us before the celebration and decided that we must have a new floor in the kitchen before our Open House. She contributed not only the kitchen floor, but a new floor in the serving room! Our floors are absolutely beautiful! Her generosity has allowed us to not only enjoy a gorgeous kitchen and serving area, but has proven to be very valuable resource for our rental facility. We thank Mrs. Nollett, again, for her gifts to the Friends and the Straight Farm House!



Garden City Pioneer Visits

Among our many guests at the "Open House" was Mrs. Marguerite Stolz, 96 years old. Mrs. Stolz was born in Garden City on her parents' farm near Cherry Hill and which adjoined the Bock Farm on Middlebelt Road. She had attended the celebration in May of 1927 when Detroit Edison turned on the electricity in Garden City at Ford and Middlebelt Roads for the first time! She still works in her flower gardens for two hours every morning on her several lots on Rosslyn, and still lives in the house she and her husband built after they were married. One son lives with her and tends all the vegetables they raise. For those readers who may have one of our books of Garden City history or a pioneer map of our town, Mrs. Stolz' maiden name was



"Leverance". Her daughter, Barbara Romatz, accompanied her to the "Open House". We thank Mrs. Stolz for the lovely bouquet of flowers she brought from her

garden to grace our serving table!



School Field Trips Begin

Kim Marquette, our Museum display director, began a tour program of the Straight Farm House and Museum for school children. Our first visitors from Henry Ruff Elementary School in Garden City numbered 52 plus 8 parent and teacher chaperones!! Kim enlisted the help of several volunteers to be stationed on each level of the SFH, which helped to keep the tour organized. One class from Farmington Elementary School, taught by Marilyn Tomaszewski, numbered 15 students and six adults. Marilyn has since volunteered to be a liaison between the schools and Kim to help with future field trips -- along with two college students who have also volunteered to help with this project!

We have also had three separate classes from St. Raphael's Catholic School tour -- totaling 50 children and 17 adults. Letters from the children told Kim that "this was the best field trip we have ever had!" Kim also has "Trunk Visits" to the schools planned and available for those who cannot make the trip to the SFH. I must be totally honest and tell you that one of the favorite segments of the field trips has been the cooking and serving of lunch by our resident chef, Chuck Guisgand. Chuck has not met a problem or project yet that he couldn't or wouldn't tackle!

Remember:

The Farmhouse is open every
Wednesday and Saturday from
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.



New Flagpole and Monument

Earlier this spring, contact was made with the American Legion Riders to investigate the possibility of their joining us for purposes of honoring military personnel. These gentlemen were more than ready and willing! They have long wanted to have a memorial in Garden City but couldn't find a home. Our property now has a flagpole, donated by American Legion Post 396, and a monument, donated by the American Legion Riders!



The dedication of this memorial will be held on August 2, 2007 at 6 p.m. They hope to have brick pavers purchased by military personnel encircling this memorial. We will be meeting together this week and will have more information about this project very soon. There will be a special ceremony followed by light refreshments offered by the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum, and possibly many Harleys parked in the area! You won't want to miss this event!!

(To read about the origin of the American Legion Riders online, try:

www.americanlegionridersus/files/ALRBrochure.doc)

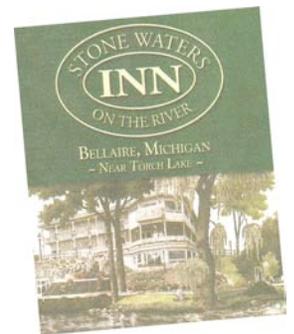
Walkway Expansion Planned

Our brick paver walkway will be expanding to hold pavers memorializing service personnel encircling the flagpole and monument. You may want to think about purchasing a brick to memorialize a loved one who has served his or her country and include the branch of service involved, years of service, rank, or any other information important to you.



Fundraiser Raffle Almost Over

Don't wait too long to buy a ticket for our present fundraiser -- "Win a Weekend in Bellaire"!! Only 100 tickets have been printed. These raffle tickets cost \$25 each and offer one night at the Stonewaters Inn on the River, \$100 for travel expenses, and \$125 for meals and entertainment. The drawing will take place at 1 p.m. on August 18, 2007 at the Straight Farm House. Tickets may be purchased from members of the Board of Directors of the Friends and at the Lathers General Store.



Grande Parlour Rentals

Our Grande Parlour rentals have increased impressively, even through these very warm summer months! We need more help from our Friends in opening for these events and then closing! The bookwork involved in arranging these rentals is handled during our open hours in the Lathers General Store, on the telephone, and on our website. We had eight rentals in June, will have had six in July, and have four set for August. We even have five set for December already!! As we gain in popularity and notoriety we find we need much more help with opening, closing, and cleaning. Please consider helping in any way you are able!!

Support Plan Takes Off!

Time to talk about Friends' Membership Renewals!! The majority of Friends' memberships come due in the summer months since our entire project began in the summer of 2004 with the purchase of the Straight Farm House. Thirty-three Friends have chosen to renew their memberships opting for the Support Plan (form enclosed). They are:

Affholter, Frieda
Anderson, Ingrid
Bedard, Judy
Bird, Carol
Bird, Susan
Brooks, William & Family
Chamberlain, Vivian
Collins, Gerald, Susan & Diego
Doddie, Jim
Dryovage, Kathleen
Geletzke, Alice
Goodwin, Loree Presnell
Green, George & Janet
Grima, Muriel
Guisgand, Chuck & Charlotte
Hamilton, Orla
Johnson, Alice
Kerstetter, Jack & Betty
Mann, Betty
Marquette, Gerald & Kimberly
McKarge, Patricia
Merrifield, Dale
Neslund, Charles & Sally
Nilsson, Betty
Plakas, Jim & Dorothy
Porth, Joann
Presnell, David & Maryann
Reed, Mandy
Roller, Lillian
Rotary Club of Garden City
Schildberg, Mary Jane
Skinner, Chuck & Nancy
Sweda, Dorothy

Their generous support has generated \$4190 thus far and is one the principal reasons we have been successful! Regular membership envelopes are also enclosed with this newsletter -- if your renewal is due. Please give serious consideration to opting for our Support Plan when renewing!!

Docents Needed



And while asking for your help, let's add docents for Museum tours to our list of requests! If we could just have more volunteers, those of us already helping could possibly be "on call" a bit less. The number of

Museum visitors is picking up rapidly as more people "discover" us. We DO need your help!

Rooms Available for Purchase

Our third major source of financial help has come from the sale of rooms in the Straight Farm House. When you visit, you will see the new plaques in or near each room with the donor's name engraved on each. Our latest purchasers were Tom and Katie Welch, owners of Hershey Shoes, who bought the "Business Room". Thank you, again, Tom and Katie!!

Remember:

**Dedication of the Memorial,
August 2, at 6 p.m.**

**Fundraiser raffle drawing,
August 18, 2007**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!