



RIVER WINDS

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FALL 2024

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL

MUSEUM

EST. 1959

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ERICA LAYTON

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



GREETINGS!

Reflecting on another incredible year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the milestones we have achieved so far together in 2024. Your support and active participation have been instrumental in our success. After such a whirlwind summer of exciting exhibitions and programs, our mission of 'creating connections to local history' has never been more vibrant and impactful, thanks to your involvement.

2024 has been a landmark year for the Tri-Cities community and our Museum. We had the honor of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Coast Guard Festival, a tradition deeply woven into our community's fabric. The festivities were a resounding success, drawing record crowds and fostering a deeper appreciation for the brave men and women of the Coast Guard who have served our nation with distinction and the Tri-Cities community that supports them. The Museum began the party early when we opened our summer feature exhibition, *Picnics and Parades: 100 Years of the Coast Guard Festival*, on May 18.

We followed this amazing exhibition with yet another Coast Guard-themed topic: *Ship Shape Sisters: The Women of the Coast Guard SPARS*. This exhibit highlights the inspiring stories of the women who served in the United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve during World War II. Their courage and contributions are vital to our local history, and we were honored to share their legacy with our visitors.

Our community's support has been nothing short of remarkable. Thanks to your unwavering commitment to supporting local history, we successfully renewed the millage in Ferrysburg, Grand Haven Township, and the City of Grand Haven. This crucial funding ensures that we can continue to preserve and share our rich history for generations to come. The millage was renewed for another 6-year term carrying the Museum into 2030 with dependable funding.

As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited to tackle new opportunities and projects. We remain dedicated to our mission and are committed to bringing our community together through the power of local history. There is no doubt that we are living in historic times. This reality makes the work we do at the Museum more meaningful than ever; we teach students how to think critically about the past and share new information with visitors, we are enriching our community. Our dedicated team is already hard at work planning engaging events, enriching educational programs, and captivating exhibitions that will inspire and educate visitors of all ages in 2025. Your continued support and involvement are the foundation of our success, and we are deeply grateful for it.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum family. Together, we will keep creating connections to local history.

Warmly,
Erica Layton

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT THOMAS PULEO



The lines that lash us to this community are strong and have steadied us since our founding in 1959. They connect the Museum to our local schools, instilling in students a sense of belonging and an understanding of their place in this community. They tie together history lovers, authors, artists, storytellers, teachers, and explorers who come to the Museum to enjoy our community programs and events. They connect, too, our area businesses, local industry, and civic organizations, whose strength and diversity anchor this community. They link together the artifacts and archival materials of the Museum's collection to the stories of our Tri-Cities.

Ties, lines, and links...these are all synonymous with 'connections'. Since it began as a dedicated historical society, through becoming a volunteer-run Museum housed in the Depot, to today's Museum located on two sites, TCHM continues to embody 'connection' and fulfill our mission to 'create connections to Tri-Cities history'.

This summer, the Museum has been honored to strengthen its ties to the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival as it celebrates its 100th year, sharing the history of the Coast Guard's existence in this community and the ongoing evolution of the iconic festival in *Picnics and Parades*. We honor the Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard with our *Ship Shape Sisters: The Women of the Coast Guard SPARS* exhibit, which will carry our salute of the Coast Guard into the new year.

This fall, the Board and staff are looking forward to *Tri-Cities Treasures*, our annual gala that will treat our guests to a recreated menu from Tri-Cities history. In keeping with all things Coast Guard, this year's event will feature the full Thanksgiving Dinner served to the service men (and their families) of the USCGC 'Escanaba' on November 29, 1934. The 'Escanaba' called Grand Haven its home port until 1943, and that connection still resonates with the residents, service members, and maritime fans here in the Tri-Cities. We hope you'll join your Museum Family on October 5 in Centennial Hall for an unforgettable evening of camaraderie, celebration and commitment...and make your mark on local history with your contribution that will propel the Museum through the next decades.

In November, this year of maritime connections will come full circle at our Annual Member Meeting; a final tie-off that will bring together our members, partners, volunteers, and staff to shine a light on the Museum's achievements this year. The Board of Directors looks forward to welcoming longtime members along with new supporters into the Akeley Building and the CARC to connect with our local history.

With warm regards,

Thomas Puleo

KATE CROSBY: CURATOR OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBITS: 2025 EXHIBITS PREVIEW



The Tri-Cities Historical Museum has many exciting exhibits planned for 2025! Check out the descriptions below to learn more about the variety of exhibits planned for next year.

CAPTURED MOMENTS: NEW WORKS IN THE LEWIS CROSS ARTWORK COLLECTION



Self-portrait of Lewis Cross, the artist.
TCHM # 1986.58.1.

Captured Moments: New Works in the Lewis Cross Artwork Collection will explore eight paintings by the artist that the Museum acquired in the last five years, along with Cross's self-portrait, which was conserved in late 2019. Lewis Cross was born in 1864 in Tuscola County, MI. He moved with his family in 1872 to Spring Lake, MI, where he lived the rest of his life. Cross studied at Northern Indiana Normal School and Business Institute (now Valparaiso University) in the mid-1880s. Many of his works are outdoor scenes that highlight the beauty of nature. The most famous of his works depict passenger pigeons, birds which once blocked out the skies but went extinct during his lifetime. The recently acquired works that will be displayed in this exhibition focus on both the natural and the man-made, showing the diversity of subjects Cross explored in his work. This exhibition will be on display from February 22, 2025 to August 10, 2025 in the Museum's small gallery.

OLD, NEW, BORROWED, BLUE: WEDDINGS IN THE TRI-CITIES

The summer blockbuster exhibition in 2025 will be all about weddings!

Old, New, Borrowed, Blue: Weddings in the Tri-Cities will discuss the history of matrimony in the area. Marriage has historically been considered one of the defining life events for adults in the Western world. To celebrate this important milestone, families in the Tri-Cities spent their hard-earned money on special clothing, food, decorations, invitations, and more. *Old, New, Borrowed, Blue* will display and explore these types of items in the Museum's collection. By examining these items, we hope to show how their designs were shaped by historical trends of fashion and society. The exhibition will also share the history of some of the most iconic weddings from the Tri-Cities past, including the September 3, 1891 nuptials between Esther Savidge and Nathaniel Robbins V. The

Museum has a large collection of items from this wedding, most notably the wedding cake. We believe this cake may be the oldest intact wedding cake in the world! Come see it for yourself next summer: the exhibition will be on display from May 24, 2025 to September 21, 2025 in the Museum's Centennial Hall space.



The infamous wedding cake from the 1891 Savidge-Robbins Wedding.
TCHM #1974.64.1.

TIMELESS TRINKETS: DECORATING THE TRI-CITIES



An example of a souvenir mug to be featured in the Timeless Trinkets exhibit.
TCHM #2004.76.3

Timeless Trinkets: Decorating the Tri-Cities dives into the history of trinkets, knickknacks, tchotchkes, and other items decorating the horizontal surfaces of the past. A fun romp through the Museum's collections, this exhibit will feature the decorative items residents of the Tri-Cities have used to personalize their rooms. Which items a person chose to display could answer many questions a home's visitor may have had: did someone go on a vacation to an exciting tourist spot? Did they collect a specific type of item? Did they follow trends in home decor, or did they prefer to display antiques or family heirlooms? Did they like the variety of changing their displays frequently, or did they prefer the comfort of maintaining a display indefinitely? This exhibit will feature the highlights of the Museum's decorative objects and ask visitors to think about what their own tchotchkes say about them! *Timeless Trinkets* will be on display from August 23, 2025 to February 8, 2026 in the Museum's small gallery.



EMILY DILLER: VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

EDUCATION: VOLUNTEERING HAS A LONG HISTORY... AND REMAINS REWARDING TODAY

Volunteering in America has a rich history. From Benjamin Franklin starting the first volunteer firehouse in 1736, Clara Barton founding the American Red Cross in America in 1881, to newer organizations like the Peace Corps, or AmeriCorps in 1961 and 1993. There is certainly no shortage of opportunities when it comes to volunteering today, but how do individuals choose where to dedicate their time and talents?

We know that people volunteer to make a difference and to support a cause they care about. So, what do the Tri-Cities care about? Lots of different things! However, one organization that individuals come to again and again is the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. The Museum, originally founded by volunteers, was created by the community for the community. We strive to carry that legacy forward and ensure that the Museum reflects the vision, values, and interests of the residents in the Tri-Cities.

Our Museum volunteers are a direct line to the community they—and we—serve. This year to date, volunteers have given a collective 600+ hours to the Museum across various activities. So, we make sure to align each volunteering opportunity with what the community cares about, what the individual is interested in, and what the Museum needs. How can you connect to a volunteer role with the Museum that matches your interests, takes into consideration what you care about, and fulfills your vision of ‘connecting to local history’?

Those who care about learning will fit right in with our education department volunteers. Our docents choose a permanent exhibit from the ‘Timeline of the Tri-Cities’ and help facilitate understanding for student groups and adult tours. Ellen Paulin, Education Curator, says, “Volunteers are such a vital part of our educational offerings! The Museum can bring more impactful, fun, and educational programs to the students of the Tri-Cities and beyond because of our volunteers.”

For those who care about preserving Tri-Cities history, and enjoy a more “behind the scenes” role, look no further than our Community Archive and Research Center! There is certainly no shortage of opportunities there. With over 70,000 objects in the collection, the Museum is constantly in need of volunteers to help catalog, inventory, photograph, and research objects within the collection. Jared Yax, Collections Curator, notes that, “Our volunteers help us get to projects we might not otherwise have been able to, and help to make history more accessible to the community.” These volunteers have such a love for history and the Tri-Cities, it’s inspiring!

Do you enjoy sharing information about projects, events, and new possibilities? Then volunteering in events might be for you! Inside the Museum, volunteers support our community events such as *Haunted Museum*, *Holly Jolly Family Day*, and *Murder! at the Museum*. Outside the Museum, volunteers help at events such as our summer Ice Cream Socials, as well as community festivals. If you enjoy talking with people, being in the thick of festivals and fun events, and spreading the word about all that the Museum does, this role might be for you.

With the almost limitless volunteering options in our community, we are always so grateful for the volunteers who choose to show their care for the Tri-Cities by volunteering with their local Museum. Their work does so much to extend our mission and reach people in our community making the Museum better for all.

So, what about you? What do you care about in your community? If you’d like to show your support for the Tri-Cities by volunteering with the Museum, contact Emily Diller at ediller@tchmuseum.org or you can visit the Museum’s website to apply to become a volunteer.



tri-citiesmuseum.org/volunteer

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: FRANK KENNEDY



Meet Frank Kennedy, a volunteer Museum Docent and Gallery Guide. Frank says he volunteers to contribute to the Museum’s mission and represent the community. He says he started volunteering as a Gallery Guide because “the ambitious exhibit is well-executed and fun to host.” Thanks in part to volunteers like Frank, the Museum is something our community can be proud of!

Frank Kennedy ready to answer visitor questions at the ‘Picnics and Parades’ exhibit

COLLEGE STUDENT GAINS CRITICAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AT CARC



*Jake Gayle,
2024 volunteer intern*

My name is Jacobus Gayle and I’m a longtime resident of Allendale, Michigan. I’m currently pursuing a Master’s degree in library science and archival studies through the University of Alabama’s online program. I have volunteered my time this summer to gain hands-on experience to better prepare myself for a career working in archives.

I have spent this summer at CARC (Community Archive and Research Center), aiding in the accessioning, cataloging, and housing of a 3,000+ item donation pertaining to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Coast Guard Festival. This collection is one of the largest to be accepted by the Museum, and contains a multitude of artifacts ranging from posters, medals, photos, books, annual reports, programs, uniforms, and more.

While working alongside Jared Yax, Collections Curator, I have improved my ability to think and act more like a collections manager. Through this work, I have learned preservation and arrangement techniques for various historical materials, building good community relations through board meetings and educational opportunities, using the collection management system *Collective Access*, as well as the many variables that allow an archive to function smoothly (i.e., staff relations, resource management, and creative problem solving, to name a few). This experience has been a critical key to my future, as those who study library science and archival studies can struggle to find careers—even if they obtain a degree—if they do not have any formal experience outside of their school work.

The High School Cohort of the IChallengeU program presents their "Museum Makeover" proposal to TCHM staff



ELLEN PAULIN: EDUCATION CURATOR



NEVER A DULL MOMENT AT TCHM

We're having a wonderful time here in the Education Department at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum! It's been a busy summer...whether we are getting our steps in on Walking Tours, hosting students from OAISD's IChallengeU and IChallengeUth program, or representing the Museum out and about in community festivals.



The Elementary School Cohort of the IChallengeUth program presents their proposal to the TCHM staff and invited guests in the Small Gallery.

IChallengeU (and Uth) is a summer program partnership with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) that we, along with many other area businesses, have participated in for the last several years. We hosted three sessions this summer: high school, middle school, and elementary school. While they are here at the Museum, the students dig into researching and developing solutions to a driving question. In our case, all three sessions this summer focused on "how can we redesign the Museum's Hands-On Room to be more engaging, inclusive, and accessible to all abilities and ages 0-13?"

After investigating different kid-friendly and play-friendly spaces around the Tri-Cities and learning about play theory, 18 students across three cohorts came up with incredible and compelling ideas. Some highlights include turning the door into a welcoming archway and cloaking the space in calming colors with sensory toys and an inviting reading corner, creating a cafe window that can extend play out into Centennial Hall during our winter season, and installing a loft in the room that allows the activities to be delineated by age. Up next is the fun part for me (though hosting the kids is equally fun) of putting together the what, how, and when of bringing these visions to life. Stay tuned to see how things evolve for hands-on play in the Museum!

As we head into fall and winter, I am excited to start my second school year with the Museum. Outreach programs and field trip requests are already coming in and getting scheduled (so



Some Middle School students from IChallengeU working through the Design Thinking process.

if you are a teacher interested in these or other Education offerings, be sure to contact me soon!) We are in the early stages of prototyping a new program called *History Helpers* for older grades and making tweaks to our current offerings so the Museum can continue to be an essential partner to area teachers and students.

I am also looking forward to the fall because we will be hosting two programs in our *Storytellers* series. For many years, TCHM has provided the community with wonderful lectures and public programs of all kinds, featuring topics related to Tri-Cities history. We wanted to gather all of these together under one name without limiting the program only to lectures. Stories of the past can be told in many ways and through a multitude of mediums. *Storytellers* has been developed to share history through theater, art, lecture, music, workshops, and beyond.

So what can you expect from *Storytellers* this fall? I'm glad you asked! We are pulling back the curtain on lighthouses in two different programs. On Thursday, November 14, we welcome theater artist Anna Marck as she shares stories of female lighthouse keepers on the Great Lakes. In her performance, she recalls many of her childhood experiences at Michigan lighthouses, which eventually led to her fascination with and discovery of several incredible women who kept the lights of the Great Lakes. Then, on November 19, as part of our Annual Member Meeting, join historian Andrew Kercher to find out the how and why of some of the most famous lighthouses that have guided everything from 1,000-foot freighters to sailboats on the Great Lakes since the 1820s. Be sure to join or renew your Museum membership ahead of November 1 so you can join us for this exciting program!

We already have fun topics in the works for *Storytellers* in 2025 but we'd also love to hear what you are curious to know more about. What stories would you like to see the Museum tell? Email epaulin@tchmuseum.org to let us know!

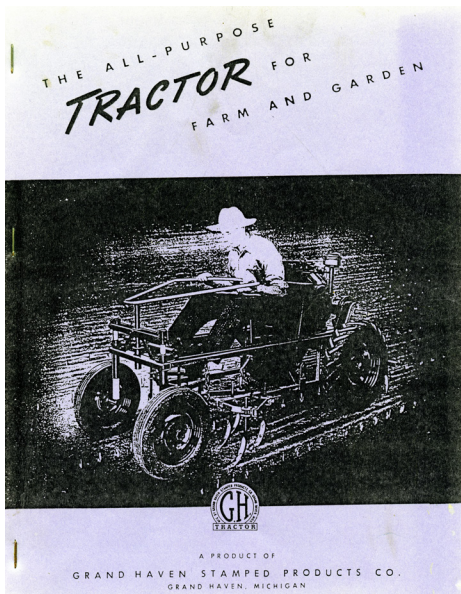


Theater artist Anna Marck will be performing "Women of the Watch, Keepers of the Light", a one woman show sharing the stories of Michigan women lighthouse keepers on November 14.



AMBER CHAFFEE: REGISTRAR

COLLECTIONS: A GHSP TRACTOR JOINS THE MUSEUM COLLECTION



1947 GHSP Model CC Tractor & Original
Instruction Manual (2024.36.1)

A GHSP TRACTOR JOINS THE MUSEUM COLLECTION

It has been a very busy few months in the Museum's collection department. We have received thousands of new artifacts for our collection, some of which are on display in the Museum's current *Picnics and Parades* exhibit that details the history of the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival. One new and notable acquisition that is not currently on display is a piece of historic farming equipment.

This spring, the Museum accepted a donation of a Model CC GH Tractor, which was manufactured by Grand Haven Stamped Products in 1947. The tractor has been fully restored and features a 4-cycle air-cooled engine that generates 8 horsepower. The tractor came equipped with a ten-inch plow, and was donated by the Ruiter family of Nunica, Michigan. Described in advertisements as a "practical, light tractor," the Model CC was manufactured with small and part-time farms in mind. The tractor has a crop clearance of 22 inches, and was designed to work on many types of uneven terrain.

Grand Haven Stamped Products was opened in 1924 as the Bolling Manufacturing Company, but changed to its current name in 1927. The business began its tractor program after purchasing a design for a small piece of farming equipment, but the program didn't take off until after World War II due to a lack of resources. In the post-war world, GHSP manufactured tractors and tractor accessories that boasted "clear vision, direct action steering, adjustable wheels, and automatic braking for tight turns." Between 1946 and 1953, 1,400 tractors were manufactured by GHSP. The most popular tractor that the company sold at that time retailed for \$639. Currently, the business has facilities in Japan, China, Mexico, Holland, Hart, and Grand Haven, Michigan.

The Model CC GHSP Tractor is currently being preserved at the Museum's offsite location, the Community Archive and Research Center (CARC).

DISCOVER YOUR FAMILY OR BUSINESS HISTORY AT CARC

Did you know that CARC (the Community Archive and Research Center) is available for research projects on your family or business history in the Tri-Cities, as well as the history of the wider region? CARC was opened in 2016 to meet the Museum's need for a space to house our growing collection and for research and archival space. Today, CARC is a research and collections hub, open to our entire community, with Museum professionals, volunteers, and interns working together to manage our collection and preserve the heritage of the Tri-Cities.



More than 70,000 local artifacts are in our collection; only about 5% can be displayed at any one time in rotating exhibits at the historic Akeley building in downtown Grand Haven. To make the collection more accessible to the community, TCHM launched an online database, *Collective Access*, in early 2022, making it possible for anyone, anywhere to search the collection and learn about the founding of their family business, the history of our area high schools, or the changing landscape of the Tri-Cities' downtowns..and so much more!

Schedule your personalized facilitated research appointment with Jared Yax at jyax@tchmuseum.org

TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY TREASURES

'Caring for your Collections' is our free workshop to help you learn to store, handle, and protect your family heirlooms such as clothing, photographs, documents, and art. Learn from our collections team how to preserve your treasures for as long as possible. Attend one, two, or all three! You are welcome to invite up to three friends or family to join you.

RSVP for our final workshop of the year on October 9, and join Registrar Amber Chaffee, who will introduce community members to different types of photographs as well as how to preserve photographs. We will explore both top-of-the line and budget-friendly options for the care and keeping of your valuable family memories.

Book by 10/6 at tri-citiesmuseum.org/caring-for-your-collections or by calling (616) 842-0700.



RENT HISTORY!

Host your next event at the Museum...and make it historic! Tri-Cities Historical Museum's Centennial Hall is a light-filled space that boasts a beautiful view of downtown Grand Haven and an atmosphere of elegance. From November through April, let our venue lend itself to your next family, corporate or nonprofit event. We accommodate private events for life celebrations: birthday, anniversary, retirement, wedding, and baby showers; as well as corporate events, including nonprofit fundraisers and employee events, team and board retreats, corporate luncheons, dinners, and trainings. Come envision your event with us!

Contact Jayme Wilson at rentals@tchmuseum.org or (616) 842-1700 x 133



Centennial Hall lends itself to elegant gatherings in an historic space.

TCHM's *River Winds* is an ideal platform for your business or organization, reaching households across the Tri-Cities, plus area businesses. Advertise yours with us, or promote your upcoming class reunion, fundraiser, annual sale, or other special event!

RIVER WINDS Ad Opportunities

bit.ly/river-winds-ads

1/8 page	\$75	(2-1/2" x 1-3/4")
1/4 page	\$125	(3-5/8" x 2-1/4")
1/2 page	\$250	(4-1/2" x 3-3/4")
full page	\$325	(5" x 5-1/2")



Purchase with credit card by scanning the code, or contact Elisa Hopper at (616) 842-0700 x 120

Junior Historian

Your adventure awaits!

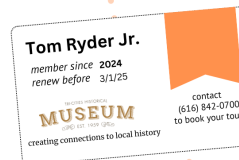
River Winds Jr.

Museum Store Discount

Hands-On Learning

Private Tour!

• for up to six kids (no limit on adults)



Family and Individual Members

Member Events

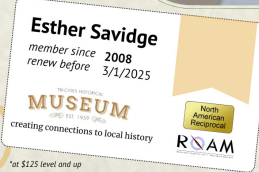
River Winds

Events Discount

Museum Store Discount

Member Tours

Reciprocal Membership*



The Kirby sits on the location of Grand Haven's first home, built by town founder William Ferry. The house burned down in February 1866. The current building was built as a hotel in 1873 and has changed eleven times since then.

This fun real estate fact is brought to you by:
RUWEhomes
Real People. Real Life. Real Results.
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RuweHomes.com



JAYME WILSON: OPERATIONS AND EVENTS MANAGER

DISCOVER NEW TREASURES AT OUR MUSEUM STORE

We're excited to share that our Museum Store has been restocked with an array of delightful items, perfect for all ages and interests.

We have replenished our selection of children's books from Sleeping Bear Press. Among the favorites are 'Tallulah: Mermaid of the Great Lakes Picture Book' and 'M is for Mitten'. These charming stories are sure to capture the imaginations of young readers. For our adult readers, we've added two new non-fiction titles: 'Michigan Rocks & Minerals' and 'Michigan Day Trips'. These books are perfect for those looking to explore and learn more about the natural beauty and attractions of our state. Do you need a whimsical way to mark your spot in your new book? Check out our beautifully illustrated bookmarks by local artist Corrine Roberts.

We are excited to introduce a new line of jewelry made from fishing lures. These unique pieces are sure to catch a few compliments! If you prefer to adorn your walls, check out the watercolors we ordered from Spark House out of Kalamazoo. They have created custom watercolor maps of Grand Haven, Spring Lake, and Ferrysburg. These lovely detailed maps have been particularly popular over the summer.

We have also added variety to items that continue to be popular. We have several new custom buttons, including a design that history lovers will appreciate. Additionally, we have ordered two more designs of Michigan-shaped keychains from Grand Rapids' TLD Designs. These keychains make perfect souvenirs or gifts. One of our best-selling items, old-fashioned candy sticks, now comes in two new flavors: Toasted Marshmallow and Candy Corn. These nostalgic treats are a hit with visitors of all ages.

Stop by our Museum Store today to explore these wonderful new additions and find something special for yourself. Remember, members enjoy exclusive discounts! We look forward to welcoming you and helping you discover the perfect treasure to take home.



Lure Earrings by Eye Catching Jewelry

Bookmarks and Magnet by Corrine Roberts

Michigan Keychains by TLD Designs

MEET OUR GUEST SERVICES TEAM!

If you’ve been into the Museum for a walk through the permanent exhibits of the first floor, or to view this summer’s exhibits *Picnics and Parades* or *Ship Shape Sisters*, you’ll have been greeted with a smile and a cheerful, “welcome to the Museum!” from our Guest Services team. Your exploration of the Museum probably kicked off with an explanation of the timeline on display, or maybe you needed directions and a quick detour to the restrooms before beginning your tour. If you had kids in tow, they were likely invited to complete a scavenger hunt or visit the Museum Store. This inviting hospitality is the hallmark of our Guest Services team. We’re sure you’ll recognize at least one of these friendly faces!



ZACHERY DAVIS

At the Museum since 2022

I like to collect old and interesting items. For instance, I have a few dozen coins that date pre-1944, and even one dating back to the Ancient Romans.

Best Part of Your Role in Guest Services

“Listening to all of the wonderful compliments people from all over the world give to our Museum.”



ELIZABETH SHERMAN

At the Museum since 2015

I’m an insatiable reader, especially non-fiction and history. I wrote ‘Beyond the Windswept Dunes: The Story of Maritime Muskegon,’ edited ‘The Last Grand Tour,’ and am editing a third book about Muskegon in the year 1894. Since 2012, I’ve been the concert chair for the Feeding The Soul of the City music series at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Muskegon.

Best Part of Your Role in Guest Services

“I most enjoy meeting visitors who really take in our history, ask interesting questions and even spark lively conversations about local history or Michigan history in general. I like to share my knowledge with others and learn new things in return.”



JUDY BELKOFER

At the Museum since 2015

I’m a retired teacher, and began at the Museum as a docent. I then joined the Guest Services team and have been here ever since! I am a mother of two and grandmother of twins. I’ve lived in Grand Haven with my husband for 44 years. I love reading, mainly historical non-fiction and fiction, enjoying the beach, and gardening.

Best Part of Your Role in Guest Services

“Sharing the Museum with visitors and answering their questions...then listening to their stories!”



JASPER LITTLE

At the Museum since 2023

My prowess as a cat whisperer is unparalleled. I volunteer at Second Chance Cat Rescue in my free time, serve as a fierce ally and guardian of all the neighborhood strays, and am a proud (vaguely neurotic) cat parent to my girls as well.

Best Part of Your Role in Guest Services

“Best part of my job has to be the fun facts and tales I learn about—from both my coworkers and the guests! Everyone has their own unique stories about Michigan and knowledge to offer. I learn more every time I clock in.”



ERIKA GILL

At the Museum since 2024

I am a huge documentary nerd. I enjoy multiple genres—from True Crime to National Geographic’s Archeology series.

Best Part of Role in Guest Services

“As much as I love history and talking to our wonderful patrons, the best part of my role is spending time with my lovely coworkers :)”



Keep the lights on

Your financial support helps to ensure the historic lighthouses will be preserved for generations to come.

To help ensure the lights continue to shine, make your tax-deductible contribution to the **Grand Haven Lighthouse Rehabilitation Fund at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.**

To make a donation use the branded QR code in this ad, visit our website at GHLighthouse.com and click the Donate Now button or go directly to GHACF.org.

If you wish to make your donation in person or by mail:
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
6 Sherman Ave., Grand Haven, MI 49417

Thank you for helping us to keep the lights on!



Tri-Cities Historical Museum

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www.tri-citiesmuseum.org

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ANNUAL PARTNERS, COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS,
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CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

SHIP SHAPE SISTERS:
THE WOMEN OF THE
COAST GUARD SPARS

SEPTEMBER 4

10 am

Tots at Tri-Cities
Free!

SEPTEMBER 14

10 am – 3 pm

Drop-In Day Community
Archive and Research Center
No RSVP needed!

SEPTEMBER 14

5 pm

Ticket sales end for
Tri-Cities Treasures

SEPTEMBER 22

10 am – 5 pm

Final day for *Picnics
and Parades*

OCTOBER

SHIP SHAPE SISTERS: THE
WOMEN OF THE COAST GUARD
SPARS, AMERICAN ARCHIVES
MONTH, HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH, NATIONAL ARTS AND
HUMANITIES MONTH

OCTOBER 5

5 – 7:30 pm

Tri-Cities Treasures

OCTOBER 9

6 pm

Caring for Your Collections
final workshop for 2024
RSVP required

OCTOBER 10

5 – 7:30 pm

Sisters in Service Panel Event
Free, RSVP required

OCTOBER 17

Lecture: The History of
Duncan Woods,
*Free and open to the public
RSVP requested*

OCTOBER 26

1 – 4 pm

Haunted Museum

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 6

10 am

Tots at Tri-Cities
Free!

NOVEMBER 19

5:30 – 7 pm

Annual Member Meeting

NOVEMBER 18

Victorian House closes for
renovations; reopens December 13

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4

10 am

Tots at Tri-Cities
Free!

DECEMBER 7

3 – 7 pm

Holly Jolly Family Day



This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture
Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.