

# RIVER WINDS



FALL 2023

TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL

# MUSEUM

EST. 1959

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



## WHAT IS A HISTORY MUSEUM, AND WHY DO WE EXIST?

Since 1959, the Tri-Cities Historical Museum (then the Grand Haven Historical Society) has been interested in collecting history and simply sharing it with visitors. But why? Why are people always so ready to share their memories when they recall what business used to be in this building or that one? Why do we look at something behind glass or on a mannequin and say, "Hey, I remember that from..." Why do we save our photos, our clothes, and our keepsakes? I will not attempt to answer that question because it is different for each person, but if there is one thing I have learned from my years of museum work, it is that people are drawn to the past, even if they don't realize it or want to admit it.

That is why it is such an honor and privilege to work at a museum and an even greater honor to lead one. Since March 2022, I have been learning about this Museum and the community it serves.

Daily I see the answer to the question of "why do we exist" present itself differently. We exist to serve the students who visit the Museum on a field trip and get excited about the fur trade (and yes, I have seen this with my own eyes). We also exist for adults who have lived in the Tri-Cities their whole lives and share with us what they know, who they remember, and the changes they have seen. Truly, the lifelong residents educate us, not the other way around.

We are here for researchers, for those who just moved here and want to learn more about the richly complex

area they now call home. We are here for the out-of-town guests who walk up and down our streets, loving our town and looking for something to do besides the beach.

History museums also exist to collect history, to preserve and save it so it can be studied and shared with future audiences, the next generation.

Surprisingly, in today's world, even collecting and sharing local history can be met with raised eyebrows or, worse, hostility. We live in an era of anonymous letters and social media bickering, but like any good student of history, we will study and document that, too. The Tri-Cities Historical Museum is committed to a wider and greater understanding of the area's history. This is exciting work and work that is worth doing!

My vision for the Museum is one where The Tri-Cities Historical Museum brings history to life and uses history to connect communities across the region to help people discover and celebrate their own cultural history. That is why a local history museum exists. I am proud to be on that journey with our team, our volunteers, our visitors, and with you, our supporters.

*Erica Layton*

Scan the code for  
Board Director Thomas  
Puleo's message or visit  
[tri-citiesmuseum.org/about](http://tri-citiesmuseum.org/about)





# EXPLORATION AND EXPERIENCE FOR NEW MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS

The Samuel L. Westerman Foundation has supported Tri-Cities Historical Museum's education programming for the last 10 years, providing funds for student summer reading, and more recently, for a paid internship program for the next generation of museum professionals. With this support, the Museum was able to offer two paid summer internships in 2023 to young professionals excited to enter the field.

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# INTERN SPOTLIGHT: MADDALENA FRISSORA



MADDALENA FRISSORA, ACADEMY OF ART UNIVERSITY

Maddalena Frissora is currently the TCHM's Exhibitions Intern. This past Spring, Maddalena graduated from the Academy of Art University with a Master's degree in Art History. She completed her undergraduate studies in 2020 at Hope College, double majoring in Art History and Japanese language. While Maddalena is very fond of her hometown, Holland, MI, she loves to travel. In 2019, Maddalena spent a semester abroad in Japan. She has also visited France and Italy to study art history. During her free time, Maddalena likes to watch scary movies for fun or snuggle up with a good book. She is an avid coffee drinker – in fact, she was a barista for four years at Biggby Coffee. In the future, Maddalena aspires to become a curator for an art museum. Some of her favorite artists include Leonor Fini, Gustav Klimt, and Hieronymus Bosch.



See our video interview with Maddalena, and learn about her internship project by scanning the code or by visiting [tri-citiesmuseum.org/news](http://tri-citiesmuseum.org/news).

# INTERN SPOTLIGHT: SABRINA WHITE



SABRINA WHITE, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Sabrina White is our intern at the Community Archive and Research Center. She is a senior at Grand Valley State University, majoring in history and minoring in writing. She is currently searching for exactly what she might pursue with this degree, so when she found out about this internship, she jumped at the opportunity. She says that she has always wanted to participate in the protection of local history in some way and this internship was as rewarding as she thought it would be.

“A community’s museum shows how society has evolved and grown into what it is today,” she says. “This change has always captivated me, and seeing how each generation existed in its own era has taught me to better understand the preceding generations and bridge the gap.” Sabrina has enjoyed working side-by-side with all the volunteers, which reminds her of the importance the local community plays in preserving its history. Her favorite artifacts are the books that are shelved at the CARC: a 1920s book on decorum, a journal from 1912, and an illustrated book of Tennyson’s poems from 1882.



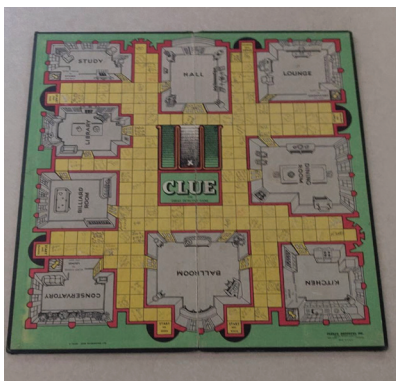
See our video interview with Sabrina by scanning the code or by visiting [tri-citiesmuseum.org/news](http://tri-citiesmuseum.org/news).

# COMMUNITY CURATOR CASE



*Community Curator Case displaying part of Chris Byron's collection of Michigan State Parks artifacts.*

Have you checked out our Community Curator Case recently? The case is our most frequently changed exhibition space and gives community members the opportunity to showcase their own personal collections. This summer, Chris Byron showcased her collection of items from the history of Michigan's State Parks, including a variety of postcards, brochures, patches, pennants, and other objects. Byron selected artifacts from parks throughout the state, having sections dedicated to the parks on the east side, in the Upper Peninsula, and specifically Grand Haven State Park.



*The 'Clue' game board that will be displayed in promoting the Murder! at the Museum event.*

Sometimes the case is utilized for special events or small pop-up exhibits curated by Museum staff. One such upcoming exhibit will promote our *Murder! at the Museum* event, which will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 from 6 – 9 pm. The case will display an antique 'Clue' game board as well various objects from the collection that are reminiscent of the potential murder weapons guests will come across at the event.

Following the *Murder! at the Museum* display, a 'Recent Acquisitions' exhibit will be installed. This presentation will highlight some of the items donated to the Museum in late 2022 and throughout 2023, and will be the first time that many of them will be displayed to the public. This exhibit will be an exciting opportunity to see the types of artifacts that the Museum collects and how they reflect both the older and more recent history of the Tri-Cities.

Interested in displaying your own collection? Contact Josh Simon at [jsimon@tchmuseum.org](mailto:jsimon@tchmuseum.org).

KATE CROSBY: EXHIBITS

## FERRYSBURG FUN FACTS FOR THE CITY'S 60TH

TCHM is recognizing Ferrysburg's 60th anniversary as an incorporated city with a feature exhibit, a community roundtable, and history harvest. Our exhibit, *Ferrysburg: 60 Years a City*, opens on August 26 and is an exploration of the fascinating history of one of the lakeshore's hidden gems.

With a population of 2,955 people in 2020, Ferrysburg may be the smallest of the Tri-Cities, but those people and their stories are forces to be reckoned with. Larger-than-life figures, such as William Ferry and Hezekiah Smith, shaped Ferrysburg's past and created a legacy for the city's present. From the time it was platted as a village in 1857 to its incorporation as a city in 1963, Ferrysburg's history shows the power of individuals and communities coming together to create their own fate.

To share our enthusiasm for all things Ferrysburg (and show off how much we've learned over the years), we've crafted a Ferrysburg quiz. Can you answer the following 10 trivia questions correctly?

# FERRYSBURG FUN FACTS TRIVIA

- Which of the following was Ferrysburg named after?
  - Ferris State University
  - Reverend William Montague Ferry (1796–1867)
  - Thomas White Ferry (1827–1896)
  - The Lake Express Ferry

- What was the name of the housing development that spurred Ferrysburg's incorporation as a city in 1963?
  - Holiday Hills
  - Bridges and Boilers
  - Colony Woods
  - Earlewood

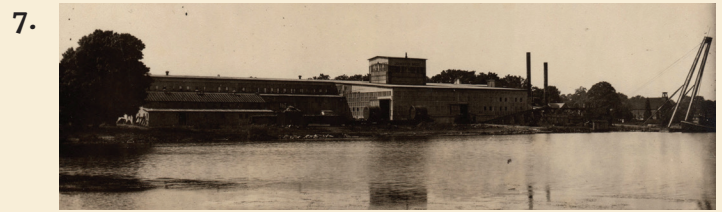
- Which Ferrysburg tourist lodging had this bellboy statue placed at the street to welcome guests?
  - Hotel Schuler
  - Johnston Bros.
  - Munro's Tourist Court
  - Central House



What is the name of this historical Ferrysburg bridge?

- Ferrysburg Bridge
  - Fire Barn Bridge
  - Smith's Bridge
  - None of the bridges in Ferrysburg are named
- What year did Jane Osterhoff become the first female postmaster in Ferrysburg?
    - 1912
    - 1896
    - 1935
    - 1990

- In addition to being a lifelong civil rights activist in the 1800s, Hezekiah Smith was known locally for:
  - Shipbuilding
  - Banking
  - Computer programming
  - Growing prize-winning fruit



Which Ferrysburg business is shown in this historical photo?

- Johnston Boiler Works
  - Leppinks Food Centers
  - Pine Street Cafe
  - Reef Convenience Store
- Which street serves as the northern border for much of the City of Ferrysburg?
    - N Shore Road
    - Apple Ave.
    - Mercury Drive
    - Van Wagoner Street
  - Which of the following preserves is owned and operated by the City of Ferrysburg?
    - Kitchel Lindquist Hartger Dunes Preserve
    - Hofma Preserve
    - Hemlock Crossing
    - Al Sabo Land Preserve

- On what iconic intersection in Ferrysburg was this service station located?

- Pine St. and Ridge Ave.
- Dogwood Dr. and 174th Ave.
- Washington and 2nd
- Bagley St. and US 31





**60**  
YEARS A CITY

KATE CROSBY: EXHIBITS



# FUTURE FERRYSBURG: THE NEXT 40 YEARS, A ROUNDTABLE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, 4 PM - 6PM,  
TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM, CENTENNIAL HALL

This roundtable is a facilitated group discussion focused around the question **‘What is your vision for Ferrysburg at 100?’** The roundtable features various voices from the Ferrysburg community who will respond to questions about where they see Ferrysburg 40 years from now.

A moderator will facilitate the discussion among Ferrysburg families, students, business owners, employers, employees, city leaders, and community organizations. The event will be streamed via Facebook Live for virtual attendees, and in-person attendees will be able to interact with panelists, enjoy light refreshments, and have the opportunity to submit additional questions.



## REGISTER TO ATTEND

Attendance is free and open to the public, but registration is required by 5 pm on September 25. Capacity is limited, so register early!

## POSE A QUESTION

Submit a question for the roundtable by scanning the code or at [tri-citiesmuseum.org/ferrysburg60](http://tri-citiesmuseum.org/ferrysburg60). We are accepting submissions through September 20.



### ANSWERS FOR PAGE 7:

- |      |      |      |      |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. B | 3. C | 5. B | 7. A | 9. A  |
| 2. A | 4. C | 6. D | 8. D | 10. A |







# FERRYSBURG HISTORY HARVEST

JANUARY 8, 2024 , 3 PM - 6 PM  
FERRYSBURG CITY HALL

Tri-Cities Historical Museum welcomes new donations from Ferrysburg residents, businesses, and other organizations or groups to help complete our collection of Tri-Cities history. Objects, documents, photographs, and oral histories are all considered potential donations. This is a free public opportunity to share your Ferrysburg history with TCHM...for tomorrow's Tri-Cities history explorers!



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# HAVEN'T HEARD OF THE CARC? GET CONNECTED THIS FALL!

CARC – short for Community Archive and Research Center – is our secondary site and houses our collection as well as a staffed research facility that is open to the public. Not only interested individuals from the community use the CARC, but student groups, teachers, museum professionals, and interns make use of our research library and facilitated research services with our Curators.

Interns and volunteers support collections work with their time and talents to catalog newly-acquisitioned artifacts and research the details –and stories– behind artifacts that are 'Found In Collection'. The TCHM Collection contains more than 70,000 artifacts, and each one requires care and cataloging. Sign up at [bit.ly/project-days-at-carc](http://bit.ly/project-days-at-carc) to learn how you can help our team inventory, research, and store the photographs, documents, and objects from your community's history. Choose one of our Volunteer Workshops to get ready for the September 28 Project Day, when we will inventory Bay 1.

Volunteer Workshop

**September 18**

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Project Day

**September 28**

9:00 am - 1:00 pm



## INVENTORYING OUR COLLECTION BRINGS US CLOSER TO ACCREDITATION



*Curator Jared Yax and volunteer Karen Fischer check accession numbers and artifact location.*

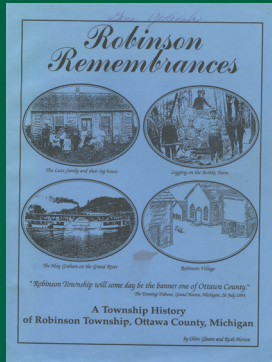


*Curator Cheryl Kastis updates the database in real time.*



*In four hours, this small team inventoried a complete section of Bay 8 and updated Collective Access. New details about the artifact, its description and provenance are immediately available to our community!*

# FEATURED ARTIFACT



Recently donated artifact 2023.41.3 is a 1998 signed copy of *Robinson Remembrances* by researchers and authors Olive Wilhelms Gleave and Ruth Betke Horton. Gleave and Horton were asked in 1995 to join the Robinson Township book project that had been started

by local historians Helen Clark and Bernice Davis Maciejewski before their deaths. As an artifact, this book is notable because it is signed by both authors and in good condition.

Robinson Township started when 18 men attended a meeting at the home of Ira Robinson Sr. on April 7, 1956, and voted to establish the Township. Gleave and Horton look back at that moment and then continue forward through the decades to cover Robinson Township history in 12 chapters: The Early Township History, Robinson Village, The Schools of Robinson Township, The Churches of Robinson Township, Robinson Township Cemetery, Robinson Township Celebrates, Past and Present Businesses, Recreational Activities, Stearns Bayou, Families, Present Day Government, and Collections. In the book, Gleave and Horton outline the Township's history and provide many primary sources that highlight these key moments and are a visual invitation to readers to experience the evolution of the area.



*Robinson Remembrances* serves as a reference for Museum staff, helping ensure that artifacts related to Robinson Township have more accurate descriptions. It also is a resource for researchers visiting the Community Archive and Research Center (CARC) who are interested in learning more about the Township.

Purchase *Robinson Remembrances* at <https://robinson-twp.org>, or schedule free facilitated research with *Robinson Remembrances* and our Curators at the CARC by contacting [collections@tchmuseum.org](mailto:collections@tchmuseum.org).

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# FIVE FOUND OBJECTS... AND A \$5 LOAN

We recently received a donation that gave us a unique glimpse into the past. Found in the attic of the house at 108 South First Street in Grand Haven were five items: two cards, a brush, a domino, and a checker. One of the items is a business card belonging to John T. Percival. He owned a flour, feed and grain store at 59 Washington Street. The back of this card shares a personal note to the owner of the house in the 1870's, William Wallace. The note reads "Friend Wallace, I have a freight bill to pay today and am needing some stamps. Please could you loan me \$5.00 for a day or two. Oblige. Yours JTP."

A little research on ancestry.com, Find-A-Grave website, and, from our research library, Wally Ewing's 'Encyclopedia of History of Northwest Ottawa County Volume 1: People' revealed a fair



amount of information about these two men. Interestingly, the two men were both living in Grand Haven in 1880, according to the census. By 1890, John T. Percival had moved to Spokane, Washington, where he lived out the rest of his life working as a missionary. He died in 1925.

William Wallace immigrated to the United States from Canada and moved to Grand Haven in 1855. Soon after he started his own grocery store. In 1867 he was elected to the first Grand Haven City Council as a representative of the Second Ward. On the 1880 census, Wallace is listed as living on 1st Street in Grand Haven and as owning a furniture store. Wallace lived in the house at 108 1st Street until his death in 1905. He is buried at Lake Forest Cemetery.

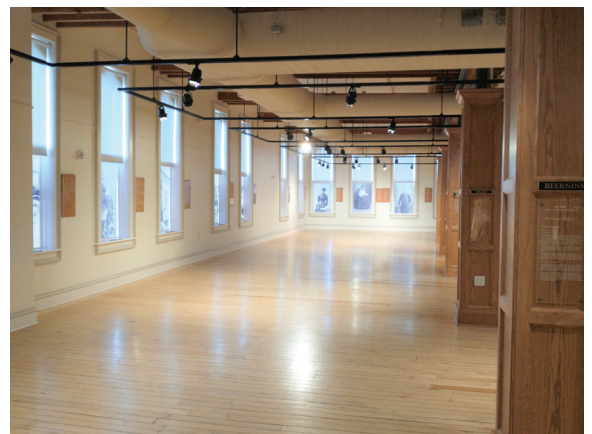
## RENT HISTORY!

Looking for the ideal venue to host your next event? Look no further! At the Tri-Cities Historical Museum, we take pride in offering our stunning Centennial Hall space for rent, **available from November to April**. Whether you're planning a family gathering, a corporate function, or a nonprofit event, our versatile and inviting space is perfect for a variety of occasions.

With its warm and welcoming ambiance, Centennial Hall exudes an air of elegance that will elevate your event to a whole new level. Bathed in natural light, the hall provides a bright and pleasant atmosphere. But that's not all – a highlight of the space is the lovely view it offers, overlooking the charming downtown of Grand Haven.

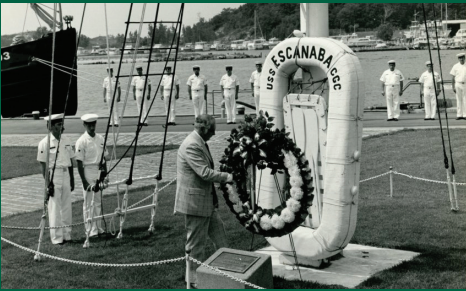
Don't miss out on the opportunity to make your next event historic! Reserve Centennial Hall at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum today and create cherished memories that will last a lifetime.

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



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

# CONNECTING VISITORS FROM NEAR AND FAR TO TRI-CITIES HISTORY



Laying of the wreath by Coastguardsman Raymond F. O'Malley at Escanaba Park in Grand Haven, Michigan during one of the annual Coast Guard Festivals. (2016.21.84)

We'll be featuring outdoor artists and celebrating their 'plein air' style in our small gallery.



Tri-Cities Historical Museum (TCHM) invites locals and visitors alike to experience Tri-Cities history. Folks from afar may find similarities to the history of their own hometown, and will delight in exploring our unique maritime heritage as Coast Guard City USA. Tri-Cities residents may be surprised by an unexpected story of the place where they live, work, and play.

Follow the thread of Tri-Cities history with three temporary exhibits in 2024 that explore a range of eras and themes. Every exhibit features only artifacts from our own Collection, donated by our local community and representing the specific heritage of the Tri-Cities... to paraphrase a well-known tagline from a Las Vegas marketing campaign, "what you see in the Tri-Cities came from the Tri-Cities!"

Explore past exhibitions, digital exhibits, and current exhibitions at [tri-citiesmuseum.org/exhibits](http://tri-citiesmuseum.org/exhibits).



The SPARS were the women's auxiliary to the Coast Guard from 1942 to 1944. (1996.16.1)

We are a proud supporter of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum.



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SATURDAY ... 10AM - 2PM	TUESDAY ..... 2PM - 7PM
SUNDAY ..... 1PM - 4PM	WEDNESDAY ... 10AM - 5PM
	FRIDAY ..... 10AM - 5PM

# FEATURED FALL EVENTS



OUR 'HAUNTED MUSEUM' OFFERS FALL FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Join TCHM for 'Haunted Museum', our spooky celebration with free kids' crafts, games, and Halloween activities. Bring the whole family in costume and don't miss our mini-exhibit featuring truly terrifying items from the Museum's collection. The 'Haunted Museum' will take place on October 28, from 1-4 pm at 200 Washington Ave. This family favorite is not to be missed!

**FREE**



Decorative jack-o-lantern made of papier mache. (1981.7.43)

A Halloween postcard from 1914. (1978.21.151)

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](http://bit.ly/river-winds-ads)

1/8 page	\$50	(2-1/2" x 1-3/4")
1/4 page	\$75	(3-5/8" x 2-1/4")
1/2 page	\$150	(4-1/2" x 3-3/4")
3/4 page	\$250	(5" x 5-1/2")



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CAN YOU SOLVE THE CRIME?

# MURDER! AT THE MUSEUM

NOVEMBER 18, 2023

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Scan the code to register or visit  
[tri-citiesmuseum.org/mystery](http://tri-citiesmuseum.org/mystery).



## MURDER! AT THE MUSEUM

When a murder occurs during a Museum gala, you and your team must race to collect clues & solve the crime before the murderer strikes again! Join us with your friends for our 'historic' take on the game of 'Clue.' This dinner-and-murder-mystery is on November 18, from 6 pm - 9 pm at Tri-Cities Historical Museum.

**Search for the murder weapon, interrogate witnesses and suspects, and build your case, all while exploring the Museum.** Each individual/team will have the opportunity to investigate exhibits where clues have been placed, interview the players, and present their findings at the end of the evening. Earn points for determining the **motive**, the **murderer**, and the **murder weapon**. The individual or the team with the highest point score will win the top prize!

Sign up on your own, or in teams of 2, 4, or 6. This event is a Museum fundraiser and is intended for ages 21+ only. The evening will include dinner and drink tickets, and will offer a cash bar, plus the chance to test your sleuthing skills against the other participants and win prizes!



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# CALENDAR



## SEPTEMBER

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

MAY 20 – SEPTEMBER 24

*Play Ball! Sports History in the  
Tri-Cities*

Exhibit admission is  
always free!

SEPTEMBER 18

10:30 am – 12 pm  
CARC Volunteer Workshop  
14110 172nd Ave.

SEPTEMBER 21

10 am – 11 am  
CARC Community Tour  
14110 172nd Ave.

SEPTEMBER 26

4 – 6 pm  
Ferrysburg Roundtable  
Centennial Hall,  
200 Washington Ave.

SEPTEMBER 28

9 am – 1 pm  
CARC Project Day!  
*Warehouse Inventory*  
14110 172nd Ave.

## OCTOBER

AMERICAN ARCHIVES  
MONTH, NATIONAL ARTS AND  
HUMANITIES MONTH

OCTOBER 27

Final date to vote for  
*Bones About Town*

OCTOBER 28

10:30 am – 11 am 'Bones About  
Town' Award Celebration  
200 Washington Ave.

1 pm – 4 pm

Haunted Museum  
200 Washington Ave.

## NOVEMBER

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE  
MONTH, AMERICAN EDUCATION  
WEEK (13TH-19TH)

NOVEMBER 14

6 pm – 7:30 pm  
Annual Member Meeting  
200 Washington Ave.

NOVEMBER 18

6 pm – 9 pm  
*Murder! at the Museum*  
200 Washington Ave.

## DECEMBER

DECEMBER 2

2 pm – 4 pm  
Holly Jolly Family Day  
200 Washington Ave.

## JANUARY 2024

JANUARY 8

3 pm – 6 pm  
Ferrysburg History Harvest  
Ferrysburg City Hall



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