We are very excited that 2019 marks our 60th anniversary as YOUR local history museum. We are eager to share with you the events and programs that we have come up with to celebrate this momentous year. We have a wide range of activities planned such as a 1950’s themed trivia contest night on Friday, March 22nd, so gather up 5 of your closet friends and enter the contest for your chance to win prizes and have fun! We will also be partnering with the Loutit District Library for screenings of movies released in 1959. Included in these films is one of my personal favorites, Anatomy of a Murder, starring James Stewart as a semi-retired Michigan lawyer practicing in the Upper Peninsula. Stewart is tasked with defending his client from a murder charge. This film was shot entirely in the Upper Peninsula and features many historic sites that are still standing today.

In honor of our 60th Anniversary we are also embarking on a campaign to raise $60,000 for our Endowment Fund which is held at the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. We are asking for 60 individuals or families to donate $1,000 each to the fund to reach our target goal. Please consider making a monetary donation to support the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. This fund will ensure the financial future of our museum for the next 60 years, and beyond.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to update everyone about the important Strategic Planning process that the staff and Board of Directors have been involved with for the past 8 months. In August the museum contracted with Steve Ozinga and his group at Kennari Consulting of Grand Rapids. Through this planning we have identified several strategic priorities for the museum for the next 5 years. These priorities include enhancing our community partnerships, strengthening our financial foundation, foster a welcoming and dynamic visitor experience and, most importantly, we want to attain Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Before these steps can be achieved we are looking at updating our mission to see how we can serve our community to the fullest. Our mission for the future is simple, we want to create connections to local history and continue to serve a community that values its past. As always, we thank you for your continued support and continue to look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

“One of the best regional museums in the state, congratulations!”
Ron H, Big Rapids, MI
The Tri-Cities Historical Museum is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2019 with a year-long series of events. In February, the museum participated in the annual Frozen in Time event sponsored by Grand Haven Main Street. The theme of this year’s Frozen in Time was “Movies,” and the museum’s entry featured a scene from the 1959 Walt Disney film, Sleeping Beauty.

On Friday, March 22, the museum hosts a 1950s Trivia Night. Teams of six will pay an entrance fee of $60 and will participate in five rounds of trivia questions: Local History, World Events, Music, Movies, and Popular Culture. Refreshments, a cash bar, and prizes for the top three teams promise to make the evening’s festivities a fun event for the whole family.

Three classic 1959 films will be shown throughout the year. The first, Anatomy of a Murder, will be screened at the Loutit District Library on Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. Anatomy of a Murder is a courtroom drama directed by Otto Preminger. It stars Jimmy Stewart and is based on the novel by Michigan Supreme Court Justice John D. Voelker, under the pen name Robert Traver. The second film, North by Northwest, will be screened at the Spring Lake District Library on Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. North by Northwest is considered by many to be Alfred Hitchcock’s finest. It stars Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, and James Mason. The third film, Some Like it Hot, will be shown at the Loutit District Library on Thursday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m. Some Like it Hot, praised as one of the best films ever made, was directed by Billy Wilder. The comedy stars Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, and Jack Lemmon.

On Thursday, August 15, will feature 1950s music, games, and even a vintage car or two. Attendees will also be encouraged to dress in their 1950s finest.

On Saturday, September 14, the museum’s Friends Committee is sponsoring a bus tour to The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. This day-long excursion will be a family friendly opportunity to visit one of Michigan’s finest museums. Details and pricing for the trip are still being determined.

Saturday, October 5 is set for the 60th Anniversary Fundraiser and Gala to be held at the Akeley Building. Specifics are still being worked on, so stay tuned for future announcements about this fun and festive event.

Our final 60th Anniversary lecture will be given on Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. Muskegon Community College professors George Maniates and Kurt Troutman will present “60 Years of National Security: From Bert the Turtle to Build a Wall.” Maniates and Troutman have presented lectures several times at the museum and always provide an entertaining and informative experience.

Lastly, visit the museum in December to view our always festive Christmas decorations. This year, they will have a 1950s flair!

Please keep watch in future editions of River Winds, on the website (www.tri-citiesmuseum.org), and on our Facebook page for more information on the 60th Anniversary events.
The Tri-Cities Historical Museum will once again be hosting the Lakeland Artists Spring Art Show. The show will run from April 2 for 4 weeks until Saturday April 27. The show will feature artwork of various mediums all produced by local area artists. The show will be on display in Centennial Hall with the public reception held on Friday, April 5 from 6-8pm. Come see the talent of local artists and enjoy a day at the museum.

**LAKELAND ARTISTS SPRING SHOW**

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum will once again be hosting the Lakeland Artists Spring Art Show. The show will run from April 2 for 4 weeks until Saturday April 27. The show will feature artwork of various mediums all produced by local area artists. The show will be on display in Centennial Hall with the public reception held on Friday, April 5 from 6-8pm. Come see the talent of local artists and enjoy a day at the museum.

**COMMUNITY GUEST CURATOR CASE**

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to work at a museum? Have you ever thought about creating your own exhibit? The Tri-Cities Historical Museum has a new program just for you! The Community Guest Curator Experience is a project for people interested in history to showcase their own family history or private collection. Participants of any age can learn how the museum produces an exhibit on a small scale. The program can be applied for personal enjoyment or educational purposes.

Exhibits for the case can be applied for through email or by phone and will then be reviewed by the museum staff. Participants will be responsible for writing the exhibit content and providing "artifacts" for the exhibit space. The space is a glass enclosed display measuring 58 inches high, 70 inches wide, and 20 inches deep. Up to 6 adjustable shelves can be added to the space. All subject matter must fit within the case. The museum's Curator of Exhibits will guide the participant on how to create the exhibit. The participant will be able to design the layout and and write the exhibit text along with selecting graphic and photos. The museum will supply basic materials and assist in creating labels and storyboards. Exhibits will be featured in a social media post to announce what is currently exhibited in the case. Guest curator exhibitions will be on display for approximately one month. If you are interested in creating your very own exhibit please contact Jared Yax, Exhibits Curator at jyax@tchmuseum.org or call 616-842-0700 ext.127.

**WINTERFEST PHOTO CONTEST**

As winter is slowly coming to a close the museum is happy to announce the winners of this year's Winterfest Photo Contest. The photos were critiqued by a panel of 3 independent judges. The first place winners by category are:

- **Altered Images:** Adult: Chris Howell  Youth: Logan Melcher
- **Animals:** Adult: Barb Wessel  Youth: Logan Melcher
- **Buildings/Landmarks:** Adult: Barb Wessel  Youth: Trent Holleman
- **Grand Haven Pier:** Adult: Ben Perfect  Youth: Courtney Clemens
- **Nature:** Adult: Barb Wessel  Youth: Logan Melcher
- **Other:** Adult: Lisa Walter  Youth: Lux Caputo
- **People/Portraits:** Adult: Chris Howell  Youth: Logan Melcher
- **Sports/Recreation:** Adult: Ben Perfect  Youth: Logan Melcher

**WELL DONE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!**

Collection of WWII model airplanes donated by Edward Bushouse

"Glad I wasn’t a fur trader or trapper, yikes!"
Anne T., Seattle, WA
60TH ANNIVERSARY
HISTORY OF THE TRI-CITIES HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The ushering in of the new year brings an exciting milestone for the museum - 2019 marks the 60th anniversary of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum! It is an incredible honor to be a part of the community for so many decades, and what started as a small group of dedicated individuals, combined with countless volunteer hours and generous donations, has grown into sharing local history with 57,985 visitors a year.

As many wonderful organizations often do, the museum began with personal interests and a passion to share knowledge among a small group of people. Dr. David Seibold, now well known as a local historian, is a dentist that moved to Grand Haven and opened his office in December of 1935. Though originally from Jackson, Michigan, Dave studied and was fascinated by Grand Haven's history, but he was struck by how few resources he could find. Determined to change this, Dave met with many locals and developed content for creating historic markers to be placed around town. These markers had information like the founding and naming of Grand Haven, as well as locations of homes belonging to important historical figures. They were made of wood, with hand-routed text that was then painted by Dave's wife Dottie. With the city's blessing, the markers were placed and drew attention not only to local history but the impending 125th anniversary of the founding of Grand Haven.

There were others in the community also interested in preserving local history. One such individual was Esther Dean Nyland, an English teacher at the Junior High School. She often invited local senior citizens into her classroom to speak about their lives and the history of the city as they knew it. And after seeing the success and recognition of the historic markers project, Esther met with Dave and Dottie where the idea to form a historical society began.

In October of 1959, the Tri-Cities Historical Society was founded with 106 charter members. Just a month later, members organized a week-long celebration for the 125th anniversary of the founding of Grand Haven. This included displays of old photographs and artifacts in the windows of downtown businesses, as well as a community dinner held at Hotel Schuler. The dinner served to celebrate the city's anniversary but also to introduce the newly formed historical society. An old-fashioned meal was served and many dressed up as figures from the city's early history. The museum still holds the annual membership meeting in November of each year as a continuation of this commemorative event.

As the community became more aware of the historical society the donations of artifacts started to flow in. Storage and display of these items moved to different locations in the city over the years, but when in the late 1960s the city planned to demolish the Grand Trunk Depot, Dave Seibold responded with an idea for a museum. Community residents showed their support for saving the depot and the city agreed not only to save the building, but to lease it for a museum. The Tri-Cities Historical Museum opened on Monday, May 22, 1973.

The museum's collections, programs, and staff grew as the community embraced local history and the organization. Just down the street from the depot sat the Akeley building, built by lumber baron H.C. Akeley in 1871 and left vacant in 2000 when Steketees closed. The need for expansion and the fortuitous opportunity to occupy and restore a historic building led to many dedicated volunteers fundraising a successful capital campaign. In July of 2004, the Tri-Cities Historical Museum opened the Akeley building to the public, housing a floor of permanent exhibits used for school programming and two floors of rotating gallery space.

The museum retained the depot as The Depot Museum of Transportation with exhibits focusing on the local impact of maritime and railroad activities. With the lease ending on the depot and the city taking back possession of the building in 2017, the museum renovated and opened the museum's Community Archive and Research Center. This building now houses collections staff and the archives, condensing artifact storage so that the Akeley building can be solely dedicated to exhibits and displays for visitors and programs.

The museum has grown and changed over the last 60 years, with the addition of professional staff, an ever increasing collection, further outreach into local schools and more events and programs than ever. But what has never changed is the foundation of dedicated individuals and the generous support and embrace of the community. Please celebrate with us and let us thank you at our many upcoming events!
The Friends Committee has been in existence in one form or another for many years. One of the original members, Sally Kenrick, doesn’t quite recall when the name “Friends Committee” began to be used, but she thinks it is a more recent development. The Committee started when the museum was housed only in the Depot at One North Harbor and was likely begun during the directorship of Betty Kammeraad. The group’s primary responsibility was to assist the museum with fundraising efforts, that being a time when the millage support for the museum was in its infancy. Kenrick remembers about eight to ten core members of the group, though long-time member Alice Seaver recalls instances where 35 volunteers would show for the group’s meetings.

One of the favorite memories of both Kenrick and Seaver was the fundraiser known as “Take a Seat on the Grand,” first held in the summer of 2000. Local community members and artists donated decorated chairs which were then auctioned off. Seaver recalls many of the chairs being prominently displayed in the windows of area businesses in order to promote the event. “The first year of the event was very successful,” Seaver said. “We raised over $10,000 the first year the event was held.”

The Friends Committee is still very active today. The Committee meets every other month, and they continue to support the museum by working at all of the major events that the museum holds. In addition, the Friends Committee, under the leadership of member Cindy Clark, organizes the annual Holiday Marketplace craft show, held each year on the second weekend of November. Committee members Cathy Feyt and Jane Curtis also co-chair the museum’s Bus Tours and are planning the next trip to The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village for September 14, 2019. The Holiday Marketplace and the Bus Tours are the two fundraisers that the Friends are responsible for.

The Friends Committee is always looking for new members. If you have any interest in joining the group, please contact Kevin Geary, Curator of Education, at (616) 842-0700. “It’s a great group of people who are all so enjoyable to work with,” remarked Kenrick. “We’ve always have such a good time together supporting the museum.”

The Tri-Cities Historical Museum will honor its fantastic group of volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation Party, to be held Wednesday, April 10 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Akeley Building. This year’s theme will be “Our Volunteers Help Us Grow!” At this annual event several volunteer awards will be presented, including the announcement of the Volunteer of the Year. Watch the mail for your invitation to this celebration of the museum’s incredible volunteers!
We would like to introduce the newest intern to join us here at the museum, Bryan Weller. Bryan is a senior at Grand Valley State University and will graduate in April of this year. He is majoring in Political Science and History, with a minor in Criminal Justice. Bryan grew up in Des Plaines, Illinois and when he toured the campus of Grand Valley he fell in love with the campus and with West Michigan. Bryan visited the museum in the summer of 2018 and inquired about internships. He is currently receiving class credit and will be working with Jared Yax in the Exhibits department. Most recently he assisted in installing the Icebound exhibit, as well as Jared Yax’s as well as the Ekken’s store refresh.

He is looking to continue his schooling in the area of cultural property law. While interning at TCHM he hopes to learn more about museums and how they are run. Next time you are at the museum please stop by and welcome Bryan to our team!

Education is very important to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Hundreds of students come to the museum or are visited by a museum educator each year. This year the museum will be working on expanding that education by working with GVSU professors to create a detailed internship program. The program will be an asset to the museum, the student intern and the university. Students will apply for the internship positions as they would for any job. They will be able to receive class credit and gain experience about how museums function. The museum will receive additional help in its day to day work and be able to help train the next generation of museum employees. The university will be able to give its students hands on training and job experience providing its students with the knowledge and education needed in today’s museum industry. The program will be developed by both Professors and Curators to ensure that the students experiences hit preset educational objectives. The overall program will fill needs for the University, Museum and student and provide a unique educational experience.

In honor of our 60th Anniversary we are embarking on a campaign to raise $60,000 for our Endowment Fund which is held by the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation. This fund was created for the purpose of sustaining and supporting the programming and operations at the museum. We are asking for 60 individuals or families to donate $1,000 each to the fund to reach our target goal of $60,000. Please consider making a monetary donation to support the Tri-Cities Historical Museum. Donations can be sent to the Tri-Cities Historical Museum or directly to the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation, Tri-Cities Historical Museum Fund.

Not in a position to donate $1,000? How about $60? Any size donation will go a long way in adding to our goal to ensure the financial future of our museum for the next 60 years and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support as we collect, preserve, and present the history of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg.

“Visiting from Aberdeen Scotland. Great Stuff!”
Perrie Family, Aberdeen, Scotland

Please reserve October 5 from 5-10pm on your calendar to Party Like it’s 1959! Join us for an evening of 1950s fun, food and music as we enjoy cocktails and appetizers 1950s style. The event will be held at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum Centennial Hall and will celebrate the Tri-Cities Historical Museum’s early years as a fledgling organization in Grand Haven. Tickets for this event are $60 per person and will include 2 drink tickets good for an array of 1950s cocktails like a pink squirrel or classic Champagne Cocktail. Hors d’oeuvres such bacon wrapped pineapple, hot cheese olives and devils on horseback will be featured as well. We also encourage you to dress the part, so pull out your saddle shoes and poodle skirts, slick back your hair and join us for this fun celebration … we plan to Party Like it’s 1959!
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS

Benefactor:
Bill & Pat Ross

Historian Society:
Tom Boven & Linda Siewert
Susan VandenBosch

Curator Society:
Everett Kunzelman
Peter & Michelle Harbeck
George & Susan Morriss
Sue VandenBosch

Archivist Society:
Ron & Mary Hartsema
Edith L. Swart
Sid & Kathie Disbrow
Bob & Bobbie Sabine
Gordon & Clarissa Groenevelt
Hal & Nelda Beyer
David & Bobbie Sabine

Collector Society:
Raymond & Betsy Komray
Jack & Rebecca Hopp
Sean & Nancy O’Neill
Bruce & Nancy Palm

Family:
Kathy Schipper
Larry & Sarah Kallio
Bruce Niemiec
Dan & Gail Krag
Joy & Steve Hohmeyer
John and Holly Martin
Carolyn Taylor
Brian Ambrose
Jeanette Weiden
Courtnoyer-Hayes Family
Paul Carey
Shannon Mitchell
Daniel & Flora Radspieler
Aaron & Heather Smaka
Jane Stoegsperger
David & Ann Anya
Cec & Betty Bradshaw
David & Sharon Swain
Tom Knight
Vernon & Mary Ackerson
Grant & Jeanne VanderVee
Bill & Sue Kieft
Willbar & Peg Buehler
Kathryn & David Coffey
Schertzer Family
Lisa Dirksie
Patrick & Deb Bradshaw
Wayne & Patricie Johnson
Mike & Lori Veeu
Jan Miller
Hank & Melanie Riekels
Richard Tantis
Laurel & Matt Nease

Individual:
Tyler Weavers
Jennifer Crouse
Denise LeClaire
Steve Coute
Cathleen Franklin
Rhonda Stephenson
Grog Hagen
Russell Smith
John A. McAtee
Marilin Manning
Alexandria Friscano
Library of Michigan
Richard Simons
Iris Elko

Senior:
Jean Provencal
Barbara Kay Race
Bette DeVecchio
Cynthia Clark
Debra Findlay
H. Cleone Blixhouse
Muriel Peterson
Ray Wiersenn
Connie Holley
Rebecca Simon
Patricia A. Grant
Mary Helen Hoffmeyer
Mary Rymal
Sandra VanOrdert
Randall Allen White

Senior Couple:
Joyce & Andy Cawthon
Rod & Dawn Behn
Myron & Karla Constantine
Debra & Lawrence Dereman
Raymond & Barbara Nelson
Joanne Sharpe & Joe Mateas
Ronan & Donna Kaper
Robert Bell
Al & Sue Fedricco
Mark Hugger & Jennifer Martin
Rick & Janice Berens
Larry & Anne McLaughlin
Lou & Gloria Draeger
Mark & Kathy Smith
Larry & Peggy Adams

CALANDER

MARCH

Friday, March 1
Music at the Museum presents May Erlewine &wsg Olivia Millerichan
Centennial Hall, Doors open 6:00 p.m.
Tickets: $25/members, $30/non-members

Tuesday, March 12
Lecture: "The Time in April: Shipwrecks of Ottawa County," presented by Craig Rich
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

Friday, March 22
1950s Trivia Night
6:30 p.m.
Pre-register by March 15 at 616-842-0700
$60/Teams of 6

APRIL

Friday, April 5
Lakeland Artists Spring Show Opening
Reception. The public is invited to the opening. The exhibit runs through April 26.
FREE, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Centennial Hall

Wednesday, April 3
New members welcome!
Call Cate at (616) 842-0700 for more information or to join.

"Grew up in this area. Wonderful to see names of people from our childhood explained!"
John & Karen B.

MAY

Thursday, May 2
Lecture: "Icebound: The Ordeal of the S.S. Michigan," presented by Valerie van Heest
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

Thursday, May 16
Tri-Cities A to Z exhibit Opening Reception for Museum Members Only
6:00-8:00 p.m., Centennial Hall

Sunday, May 19
Tri-Cities A to Z exhibit Community Open House
FREE, 10:00 – 5:00 p.m., Centennial Hall

Thursday, May 30
FREE, 6:30 p.m., Akeley Building

FIRST WEDNESDAY’S HISTORY BOOK CLUB
3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6
Wednesday, April 3
Wednesday, May 1

New members welcome!
Call Cate at (616) 842-0700 for more information or to join.
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