

JUNE 2010

CASTLE COURIER

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County

500 Federal Avenue

Saginaw, MI 48607

(989) 752-2861

www.castlemuseum.org



Jazz on Jefferson

**Wednesday
June 9th
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.**



Everyone is invited to attend Jazz on Jefferson on **Wednesday, June 9th from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** along Jefferson Avenue between Federal and Thompson. The Castle Museum will be open with free admission and we will have our famous strawberry shortcake on the back patio. There also will be a classic and antique car show along Federal Avenue, an outdoor painting competition sponsored by Magic Bean Cafe, food vendors, music and other activities. The event will culminate with a free concert by Good Company at 8 p.m. at First Congregational Church. See you there!

The Artifact

You may know that the Castle Museum preserves a collection of more than 100,000 objects. But how much do you know about the stories that these objects tell?

The Museum's collection is its heart and soul and provides the basis for all of our exhibits and programs. Each object in the collection records - and unlocks - a unique moment in Saginaw County's history. Come to the museum and join us as we celebrate our collection and explore our heritage in our newest exhibit, *Collected Treasures: Artifacts that Tell Our Story*.

The exhibit will feature more than 100 artifacts and explore the breadth and richness of our heritage while bringing together the expected as well as the unexpected. Furniture made by Feige Brothers Furniture, pianos made in Saginaw, a trunk brought to Fort Saginaw in 1822, furnishings from the old courthouse, a mid-nineteenth century cider press, and a spoon made from coins salvaged after the fire of 1893 are just a few of the items that will be on display in this marvelous collection. The spoon pictured is a poignant reminder of the great Saginaw Fire of May 20, 1893 that started on what is today Ojibway Island. By the time the fire was brought under control at Hoyt

Collected Treasures Artifacts That Tell Our Story



On Tuesday, June 8th, Deputy Director Tom Trombley will give a sneak preview of Collected Treasures at Lunch and Learn, which begins at Noon. Bring your own lunch and we will provide the dessert. Free with museum admission.

Avenue, more than 257 buildings had been destroyed. The melted coins mounted on the spoon's handle were saved by a newspaper boy and were found by his parents in the ruins of the family's home.

Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

General Admission

Adults \$1.00
Children .50¢
Members FREE

The Historical Society of Saginaw County is committed to serve the community by telling the continuing story of the people of the Saginaw region through exploration, preservation and presentation of their historical and cultural heritage.

castle connections

Jim Kanitz



It's no surprise Jim Kanitz volunteers at several organizations in the Great Lakes Bay Region. He grew up with a pretty good example of what it means to give back to the community: his dad.

"He enjoyed doing things for other people," Kanitz says about his father, who grew vegetables in the summer, sharing his bounty with others, while helping to clear people's driveways of snow during the winter.

After retiring from U.S. Graphite in 1994, Kanitz stepped up his volunteer efforts, and we are fortunate that he has lent his expertise to the Castle Museum with mailings, and now in beautifying our grounds.

While he enjoys helping out in areas he is good at - he is known for his unorthodox yet fast labeling skills - Kanitz relishes the interaction with people from all walks of life.

"I'm not a very good conversationalist," says Kanitz. "But I have been called gregarious."

He and his wife, Emilie, reside in Saginaw Township. They have a son and a daughter and three grandchildren. They are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this month. Congratulations Jim and Emilie!

A Memorial Gift has been made by
Denny and JoAnne Saari
in honor of
Leo & Kate Merlone

A Memorial Gift has been made by
Harold & Sherri Greene
in honor of
Edward G. McDonnell

Castle Museum Millage

On Tuesday, May 18th, the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to place a millage renewal on the August 3 ballot for the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.

The 10-year, 0.1997-mill tax supports the operating costs of the Castle Museum as well as other county historical museums in Bridgeport, Chesaning, Frankenmuth and St. Charles. The levy would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$10 a year.

The Castle Museum is home to more than 100,000 artifacts telling the story of Saginaw County's rich and varied history. The building, which was constructed in 1898 as a federal post office, is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

A "Friends of the Castle Museum" committee has been formed to raise money to help spread the word about the upcoming millage vote. Robert Stroebel is the Chairman of this committee, which is in need of volunteers and donations. For more information on how you can help, please contact Mr. Stroebel at 792-8930.

Plank Road Exhibit Completed

The Museum now has a permanent display on the historic plank road. The planks were discovered earlier this year during an East Genesee reconstruction project. Believed to be more than 150 years old, the planks were part of the road that city founder Norman Little laid down to give wagons, horses and stagecoaches footing along the swampy trek separating Saginaw and Flint.

The planks are made of pine and the road helped the city to develop faster. The display is located in the Museum lobby.





The concrete work is completed for the Museum's front entrance. New railings are expected to go up soon along with a few other final touches and the project will be completed. Thank you for your patience!

Have You Renewed Your Membership?

It's never too late to show your support for the Castle Museum and the Historical Society of Saginaw County by becoming a member.

Society dues are only \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a family. Members and their guests receive free admission to the museum, a 10% discount at the museum store, a monthly newsletter, sneak previews of our exhibits, and discounts on special events.

Please take a few minutes to send in your membership card and join an organization that promotes the preservation of Saginaw County's rich history.

Castle Celebrates Culture

The Castle Museum of Saginaw County History is pleased to announce a summer program celebrating the many cultures represented in our community. The programs are for all ages and will begin at Noon on Tuesday, June 22 where guests will learn how to make Korean Lotus Lanterns. On Thursday at Noon we will continue our focus on Korean culture by learning how to make Korean Knots or *Maedeup* and taste some delicious Korean pancakes.

All of our cultural events will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the summer and all of them will begin at Noon. Guests are welcome to bring a sack lunch - we will provide dessert. Please contact Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315 to request a registration form, or visit the museum website at castlemuseum.org to print one off and mail to the Castle Museum.

While all of the events are free, we are asking people to pre-register to make sure we have enough supplies.

On **Tuesday, June 29**, Circuit Court Judge William Crane will give a fascinating talk on the U.S. Constitution as part of our tribute to American culture and on **Thursday, July 1** we will have an ice cream social and play games that Americans loved to play years ago.

Other cultures we will feature in July and August include: Native American, Hispanic, African American, French Canadian, German and Italian. It promises to be a summer of fun and food, all while learning about this county's incredible heritage. See you at the Castle!

The Castle is a proud partner of Saginaw Celebrates Summer, sponsored in part by Hemlock Semiconductor Group.



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Historic Walking Tour

Brady Hill Cemetery

Sunday, June 27

2:00 p.m.

Planned in the 1860s, Brady Hill Cemetery is one of Saginaw's oldest cemeteries.

During this walking tour, we will explore the cemetery's history, the design of the monuments and the lives of some of the people buried there. \$10.00 per person. Free for current HSSC members.

Meet at the entrance to the cemetery, 300 block of East Remington. Pre-registration is required. Contact Tom Trombley at 989-752-2861, Ext. 304.

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JUNE CALENDAR

- Thursday, June 3:** **Michigan Archaeological Society Meeting.** Morley Room. **7:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday, June 8:** **Lunch and Learn: Sneak Preview of *Collected Treasures: Artifacts That Tell Our Story*.** Tom Trombley will give a sneak preview of the Museum's newest exhibit, featured on Page One of this newsletter. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **12:00 Noon.**
- Wednesday, June 9:** **JAZZ ON JEFFERSON!** Strawberry Shortcake at the Castle Museum! **5 p.m. - 8 p.m.** More details on Page One.
- Wednesday, June 9:** ***Collected Treasures: Artifacts That Tell Our Story*** opens in Centennial Hall (See Story on Page One)
- Tuesday, June 15** **Pages of History Book Club:** *One of Custer's Wolverines* by James H. Kidd (937.7 KI) Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. Co-Sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. **12:00 Noon.**
- Tuesday, June 22:** **Lunch and Learn: *Learn How to Make Korean Lotus Lanterns*.** **Please see Page 3 for more details.** Pre-registration is required. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **12:00 Noon.**
- Tuesday, June 22:** **American Girl Camp at Hoyt Library.** This is a two-day camp for girls of all ages. Bring your favorite American Girl doll and come enjoy some fun activities, crafts and history. \$30.00 per person for the two-day camp. Please call Heather Thompson at 752-2861, Ext. 311. Pre-registration is required. **9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Wednesday, June 23:** **American Girl Camp at Hoyt Library.**
- Thursday, June 24:** **The Castle Celebrates Culture: *Learn How to Make Korean Knots & Korean Pancakes*.** **Please see Page 3 for more details.** Pre-registration is required. **12:00 Noon.**
- Sunday, June 27:** **Historic Walking Tour: *Brady Hill Cemetery*.** **Please See Story Above.**
- Tuesday, June 29:** **Lunch and Learn: The Castle Celebrates Culture: *America*.** The Honorable William Crane will share the fascinating story behind one of America's most treasured documents, the Constitution. **Please see Page 3 for more details.** Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **12:00 Noon.**