

## Happy Meal Toys Subject of New Exhibit

Saginaw is home to one of the oldest McDonald's in the state of Michigan. And one of the most iconic symbols of this mammoth fast-food chain is the Happy Meal.

The Castle will open a traveling exhibit from McDonald's displaying many of their most memorable Happy Meal toys and packaging. The toys were first introduced more than 30 years ago.

The exhibit will run from November 15th - January 15th. Bring the entire family and take a walk down memory lane with toys everyone can remember.

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
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Saginaw, MI

NOVEMBER 2011

# CASTLE COURIER

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County  
500 Federal Avenue  
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www.castlemuseum.org



## Thank You for Being a Member! Brunch & Open House to Kick Off 2012 Campaign



Our members are a big reason why the Historical Society of Saginaw County continues to thrive as one of Saginaw's leading cultural institutions. We are on pace to set a new record for attendance at the Castle Museum this year, and again, it is because of YOU.

To celebrate and show our appreciation for your support, please make plans to attend our Membership Brunch & Open House on Sunday, November 6 from

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free pancakes, sausages and scrambled eggs are on the menu. While you're here, don't forget to renew your Historical Society membership for 2012. Everyone who renews by November 6th will be entered into a drawing for prizes. You do not need to be present to win, but we sure hope you attend.

In addition to a fabulous brunch, we also are giving members a sneak preview of our newest exhibit, *Fossils of the Michigan Basin* and *Dinosaur Prep Lab*. Curator Paleo Joe will be here as well.

**Looking For  
That Perfect  
Present?  
Give the  
Gift of  
Membership!**

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Tuesday, Nov. 1:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Mining for Prosperity: Coal in the Saginaw Valley. Deputy Director Tom Trombley and Exhibits Coordinator Geoff Pelkey will discuss our newest exhibit about the history of coal mining. Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Thursday, Nov. 3:** **MEETING:** Saginaw Valley Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society. **7:30 p.m.**
- Sunday, Nov. 6:** **MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH & OPEN HOUSE (See Story on Page One)**
- Tuesday, Nov. 8:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Toys, Toys and more Toys! Saginaw Valley Antique Society member Larry Brethauer will share his fabulous collection of antique toys circa 1880s through the 1920s. Free with Museum admission. Dessert & beverage provided. **Noon.**
- NEW EXHIBIT! PALEO JOE'S FOSSILS OF THE MICHIGAN BASIN & DINOSAUR PREP LAB OPENS**
- Thursday, Nov. 10:** **PALEO JOE AT THE CASTLE:** Watch Paleo Joe work in his dinosaur prep lab. **10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Nov. 15:** **PAGES OF HISTORY BOOK CLUB:** The group will discuss "Echoes of Distant Thunder" by Frank Slaughter. Mr. Slaughter is a lifelong Michigan resident and will be here to discuss his book. This event is co-sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Saturday, Nov. 19:** **FREE HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE CASTLE: Santa and Mrs. Claus, Games, Crafts, Treats & More! (See Story on Page Three)**  
**Noon - 4:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Nov. 22:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Help Decorate the Castle Museum's holiday tree with Victorian ornaments. Learn how to make these charming decorations so that you can make one for the Museum and one to take home. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**
- Saturday, Nov. 26:** **PALEO JOE AT THE CASTLE MUSEUM! 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**DIGGIN' DINOSAURS PARTY AT THE CASTLE Noon - 2:00 p.m. (See Story on Page One)**
- Tuesday, Nov. 29:** **LUNCH AND LEARN:** Museum Archaeologist Jeff Sommer will share his team's findings from "Project 1893", an urban archaeology dig taking place in Saginaw's Cathedral District focusing on a home that was involved in the Great Fire of 1893. Free with Museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **Noon.**

## PALEO JOE APPEARANCE DATES

If you can't make it to the Membership Brunch to see Paleo Joe, check out the dates below for all his scheduled appearances at the Museum

### Thursday, November 10

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations

### Saturday, November 26

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations

### Tuesday, December 6

10 a.m. - Noon  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations  
Noon - 12:45 p.m.  
Lecture - *Fossils of the Michigan Basin*  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations

### Saturday, December 17

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations

### Saturday, January 14, 2012

10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations

### Tuesday, January 24, 2012

10 a.m. - Noon  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations  
Noon - 12:45 p.m.  
Lecture - *Dinosaur Day with Paleo Joe*  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Bone Cleaning Demonstrations

## Diggin' Dinosaurs Party

**Saturday, November 26**

**12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Watch Paleo Joe clean real dinosaur bones, dig for fossils, enjoy a treat, get a tattoo and have fun with our dinosaur activity.**

**Free with Museum admission**

**Avoid the holiday shopping crowds and come to the Castle instead for a fun-filled afternoon!**

### 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 serving 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.

# The Artifact

The Museum has recently acquired - on long-term loan - a Powerbike built in the 1940s that is now on display in our history of automotive manufacturing exhibit. Here is the background on this gem of a machine:

A 1948 advertisement proclaimed that Saginaw Products Corporation's "Smart New Powerbike - gets you there safely and economically." The Powerbike is a self-contained motorized unit that replaces the rear wheel of an ordinary bicycle and magically transforms it into a practical, effortless means of transportation.

Saginaw Products Corporation was organized in 1919 as Saginaw Stamping and Tool Company. As Saginaw's automotive industry grew, the company thrived and eventually changed its name to Saginaw Products Corporation.

The company specialized in anything related to wheels - except the wheels on cars. The firm's product line was diverse. It ranged from equipment used in automotive factories to parts that were put into the components produced at Saginaw GM plants. An owner of the company developed a prototype car, the Pribil Safety Car.

Saginaw Products Company expanded greatly during World War II and the Powerbike was a means of expanding its line into the post-war market. Although innovative and aggressively marketed, within seven years it appears that production had ceased.

The Powerbike on display at the Museum is on loan from Wayne Bloomfield. Originally it was owned by Lyle Pacholke who used it for transportation to work.



## Looking for a Great Group to Join?

Consider becoming a member of the Saginaw Valley Antique Society. The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May at Butman-Fish Library. Each month the group invites a guest speaker who has expertise on a particular antique item, historical venue or person unique to the Saginaw Valley area. Collections, pictures, or printed matter accompany all our presentations and some meetings involve a field trip.

The meetings are free and open to the public. If you would like to join the Society, the annual fee is only \$10 a person or \$15 a couple.

On Tuesday, November 8th, the Castle Museum is pleased to welcome SVAS member Larry Brethauer who will display and discuss a portion of his collection of antique toys. Mr. Brethauer's talk begins at Noon.



## You're Invited to a German Christmas Dinner

The Board of Trustees of Friends of Theodore Roethke Foundation cordially invites you to attend a German Christmas Dinner with their Annual Membership Meeting. The event is slated for Wednesday, December 14, 2011, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Castle Museum. Dinner tickets are \$30 per person.

If you would like to attend, please send your name, address and payment by December 9 to: Friends of Theodore Roethke, P.O. Box 20362, Saginaw, Michigan 48602. For more information, please call 989-280-6499 or email [events@roethkehouse.org](mailto:events@roethkehouse.org).

Friends of Theodore Roethke is a concerned group of educators, business people, and writers in the Saginaw area who are committed to promote, preserve, and protect the literary legacy of Theodore Roethke, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, by restoring his family residences in Saginaw, Michigan, for cultural and educational opportunities.

## Castle Museum Gets into the Holiday Spirit

*Holidays in the Heart of the City* is set for Friday, November 18th and Saturday, November 19th this year with wonderful family events planned for both days. The best part? Almost all of it is free. Concerts, tree lighting, a parade and much more is scheduled including the FREE Holiday Party at the Castle

Museum. This event takes place from Noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 19th. This year, we have lots of fun activities planned including a holiday craft, face painting, and the chance to visit with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

In addition, the Saginaw Downtown Lions Club is offering a free vision screening and the Saginaw Amateur Radio group will let children send a Santagram to the North Pole.

Please make plans to visit downtown Saginaw for a weekend of free family fun, and make sure to stop by the Castle Museum on Saturday to help us kick off the holiday season.



## CONGRATULATIONS BILL!

Our very own Bill Falkenberg has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Michigan Museums Association. Bill received the much-deserved award at the MMA's annual conference in Harbor Springs on October 16-18, 2011.

Bill runs the model railroad exhibit, the largest HO-scale operating model railroad in the region. For the last five years Bill has volunteered his time for 6 hours a day, 6 days a week, for 52 weeks with just a handful of days off for illness.

The Castle Museum is fortunate to have a volunteer like Bill, said President Ken Santa, who nominated Bill for this award.

"The railroad exhibit is one of our most popular attractions and all the credit belongs to Bill," Santa said.

The next time you are in the Museum, stop by and offer your congratulations to Bill. He would love to see you!

**The Museum is closed Thursday, November 23 for Thanksgiving. However, it will be open all weekend - Friday, Saturday and Sunday, so please bring visiting family and friends to see all our new exhibits, including Paleo Joe's Fossils of the Michigan Basin and a collection of McDonald's Happy Meal toys.**

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