

THE ??????????????

January 2014

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Otsego Food Pantry

The Otsego Food Pantry serves those in need in the Otsego School District. It is located in the First Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, Ohio but is sponsored by churches, organizations, businesses and individuals from all over the area. Their stated mission is to provide food to those in need with an emphasis on keeping our children from going to school and/or to bed hungry. The pantry is run differently than most - on a by appointment basis. Appointments maybe made by calling Sharon Current at 419-832-4214.

Lisa Hatfield does most of the shopping for the pantry and also takes over when Sharon is not available. Donna Heckler and Jean Hatfield take in donations and also dispense food on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to noon weekly. The pantry is too big a job for just one person anymore, and we all work together to accomplish the work.

Sharon Current used to do everything with the help of Andrea (daughter), but it is just too much for one person anymore. Thank God for the ladies who are so cheerful and ready to do whatever needs to be done. Lisa also takes care of all the speaking engagements for the pantry.

The pantry was started in the First Presbyterian by Ollie Mock who saw a need to have food on hand for homeless people passing thru and others who might ask the pastor for help with food. Ollie started with a few bags of canned goods and after a few years handed it off to Dorothy Heitzman. (Sharon never found what year the pantry actually started sorry.) The pantry grew under Dorothy's care as the need grew. It became the school

district-wide food pantry and with that change, the pantry became an area-wide mission. Sharon took over in 1995. They now have support from what they call Pantry Partners which includes almost every church in the school district, most organizations, and the schools as well plus many individuals. They also receive donations from outside the area sometimes. From the canned goods once available, they have come to have boxed foods, frozen foods and toiletries. They also have people in the area that seasonally donate fresh fruits and vegetables from their gardens as well as eggs from their hens! To supplement this they give families a voucher for milk and if they are out of eggs or bread, a voucher for those as well.

They have had donations for specific items such as pet foods. Sharon gives an explanation about a local lady that has no family except her little dog and how he gives her day purpose, they understand. We also sometimes help people with prescriptions or other medical items. They have given cribs, high chairs, walkers, lift chairs and other items that they have gotten as donations. First and foremost their mission is to see that no child go to school or to bed hungry. All people need do is call for an appointment to receive help. Last year they made over 500 appointments and helped over 180 families. They expect to beat those numbers for 2013. The vast majority of families come just 1-3 times during the year, so the pantry is mostly used by folks just needing a little help to get over a rough time. They always make sure those who come know that the food comes from their neighbors and is given with joy.

The Mill House Bed and Breakfast

The Mill House Bed and Breakfast is located at 24070 Front Street in the downtown of Grand Rapids. The Mill House has been operating as a bed and breakfast since 1992. Ron and Kathy Munk have been the innkeepers since June of 2006. The inn is formerly Stump's Mill which ground flour until the 1950's. Business has grown each year with 550 rooms filled during the last year. The typical clientele would be wedding night couples, anniversary couples, family reunions, and travelers enjoying nature. The main focus for The Mill House is to have place of respite for pastors and spouses which is offered at a reduced rate.

The back of the inn rests along the banks of the Sidecut Gilead Canal. The awesome views of the river and its habitat can be enjoyed from The Garden Room or on the patio with a refreshing beverage. Four guest rooms are available for the pleasure of those looking to find rest.

A typical stay would include a restful evening and a hearty home-cooked breakfast in the morning. Complimentary snacks and beverages are available all the time. Breakfast is usually served in the common room, but is also available in some of the rooms by request. Nice weather also allows breakfast on the back patio which is always a fan favorite. Some breakfast options would include oven omelettes, blueberry pancakes, or hash brown quiche. There are always Kathy's signature scones and the beverage of your choice.

The Mill House is also the home of Joyful Confections. Fudge and scones are the current products of this company. The fudge equipment and tradenames were purchased from Dandy's Lane upon their retirement from the business, so the same recipes are still in place that have been used for the past 30 years. Joyful Confections is the wholesale supplier of fudge to Olde Gilead Country Store and Majestic Oak Winery. Fundraising with fudge is also a significant part of the business. Scones are available by order only. A portion of the sales of Joyful Confections is given to a women's and children's hospital in West Africa.

The Mill House/Joyful Confections can be contacted at 419-832-6455 or online at innkeeper@themillhouse.com. Stop by for a tour. Ron and Kathy would be happy to share their home with you.

Grand Rapids Arts Council Awards Volunteer

On Sunday, Nov. 3rd, the Grand Rapids Arts Council held their annual Harvest Moon Gala fundraiser at Nazareth Hall. All present enjoyed a delicious meal, silent auction, and entertainment by Spittin' Image, talented twin brothers who presented a witty musical revue. Emcee for the event was Ron Finn from 93.5 WRQN radio.

During the evening, Chuck Thomas, the first recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award, recognized Steve Kryder of McClure as this year's honored citizen. Steve has spent a lifetime working to better the Grand Rapids community and the area. His love of history and teaching has been a thread throughout his life. Many years ago, Mr. Kryder ran a farmer's market in Grand Rapids, Ohio.

He has been involved with the Applebutter Fest since its inception, and he has served as chair and co-chair of the Fest Committee for

many years. It is the Kryder family recipe that is used to make the applebutter sold at the Fest. Steve currently serves as President of the Historical Society of Grand Rapids and has been a driving force in the work that has been accomplished for our community. He also serves on the Henry County Park Board and the Napoleon Library Board. Without his clear vision, steady leadership and guidance, and commitment to do things right, Grand Rapids would not be the community it is today. Steve was presented a certificate and blown-glass apple made by Baker O'Brien of The Labino Studio. In his remarks, Steve graciously thanked all those who have helped make the Applebutter Fest a premier event in the region and the assistance provided by others in the various endeavors that make Grand Rapids a better community.

First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church located on 17700 Beaver Street offers Sunday school at 9:15am and Worship service at 10:30am. The pastors are Rev. Dwayne Beggs and Rev. Jeff Kempton.

Everyone is welcome to the 4th Thursday meal. It is served between 5 and 6pm. It is free to all but donations are appreciated.

The church has a mission group that goes to Biloxi, Mississippi area along the Gulf Coast. The Mission Group has completed 16 trips with the 17th planned for February, 2014. The group does all kinds of building and repair work for the people who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. These trips are arranged by "Hope CDA" of Biloxi.

If you would like to contact the church they can be contacted by calling 419-832-2325 or email firstpegr@midohio.twchc.com.

Blood Mobile

The January bloodmobile date is January 30th 2014. The bloodmobile runs from 1-7pm. It's a Thursday, (always a Thursday). It is at the Hosanna Lutheran Church on Kellogg Road. People can call Jim or Gloria Kutchenriter (419-832-0146) to make an appointment. And walk-ins are always welcome.



Upcoming Concerts “Live! in the House”

The February program of the “Live!” series will feature Matthew Ball, known as the “Boogie-Woogie Kid”. He is one of Michigan’s premier blues and boogie-woogie pianists. With a performance history spanning jazz fests to symphony appearances through the Midwest and Canada, Matthew has been described as a “rising giant in the field”. Remarkably, Ball’s start in jazz only began in 2001 after he attended a hometown boogie-woogie festival. He was so awestruck by the performances he saw that night that he left his career as an attorney to become a performing artist. Today he is declared as “a nationally-emerging boogie-woogie master.” Matthew is helping to define a new generation’s contribution to this treasured American tradition.

The “Live! in the House” programs are held at 2:00 p.m. in the historic Grand Rapids Town Hall.

Tickets are available for \$10.00 at Washers Laundromat, at the door, or call 419-832-ARTS. Students are admitted free with a paying parent or grandparent. The Grand Rapids Arts Council urges you to enjoy this entertaining series right here in our village.

Please check the GRAC website for information on our upcoming events. The 5K “Run to the Rapids” is scheduled for April 12, 2014.

Seven Eagles Historical Education and EARTH Center

Seven Eagles joined the family of arts centers and cultural programs under the direction of the Arts Council Lake Erie West (ACLEW) in 2001. ACLEW operates two ‘Common Spaces’ in Toledo, as well as providing programs throughout northwest Ohio, southeast Michigan and internationally in East-Central Europe, the Middle East, Tanzania, and Russia. When founded in 1984 as Seven Eagles Lodge, Seven Eagles evolved into a Historical Education and EARTH Center and has since developed into a living history museum and complex with historical, cultural, and environmental education opportunities for all ages.

Centered in the natural surroundings of the Great Black Swamp – the rural Ohio woodlands environment makes the Center a must-see for all ages of school groups, scouts, children or adults. Visitors soon discover an 1800 working pioneer log house with outdoor summer kitchen, a French fur trapper’s earthen lodge, Native American wigwams, longhouse and tipi, blacksmith shop, a trading post stocked with goods, and Marlow Hall – a venue for conducting programs. ACLEW and Seven Eagles have enhanced the original venue, its period festivals, special events, and classes to introduce visitors to the history, environment, and culture of Ohio between 1600 and 1840.

Seven Eagles is available for tours, programs, and primitive camping by reservation only. For reservations or further information, please call 419-509-0095 and visit us at www.seven-eagles.com.

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Dear Grand Rapids Citizens,

We are offering a news letter to all of the Grand Rapids area zip code. It will bring you information about all the organizations, businesses, and events in the area. It will also bring you news about all the people who have accomplished something be it an award, marriage, birth, anniversary, or any other monumental event. Just like any newspaper. We also will include some fun tidbits about the community present but mostly of the past.

If you have anything that you would like to share with the community about a person, place or event, please send it to us. This paper will come out every other month—January, March, May, July, September, and November. Information should be sent to jltonges@frontier.com by the first of February, April, June, August, October and December. If you don't have a computer please call 419-832-7135 and leave a message including your name and phone number.

The Historical Society is funding this newsletter so a big THANK YOU for making this possible. There is no name yet because we would like to hold a contest for the name. We do not want a name that has already been used. We would like a name the captures the community so put on your thinking cap and send us your idea to jltonges@frontier.com or call 419-832-7135 by February 1, 2014. For your creativity you will win Grand Rapids Village Bucks from the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

Looking forward to serving you,
Judith Tonges, Editor

Community News

Civil War Project

This year at Otsego Junior High School, the Grand Rapids Historical Society is sponsoring a Civil War Project. We are working with Professor Scott Martin from BGSU and one of his students, a host of re-enactors, a local historian, Larry Zachrich from Northwest State (who has made available to us 188 pages of letters from a soldier that fought in the Civil War), and teachers and administrators from Otsego in order to bring the Civil War to life for our students. The students will be studying the following areas over a four week period: Camp Life - weapons, medical, role of animals; Home Front - underground railroad; The Arts- music, photography, literature; and the roles of men, women, and minorities in each of these areas. The Historical Society and 120 eighth graders from Otsego Junior High will bring this all to life on Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 on a field on Sycamore Road in Grand Rapids, Ohio. The students with a host of re-enactors will be at six different stations after an introduction at 9:30am. From 9:30am till 1:00pm the parents, grandparents and general public will be invited to tour the grounds and ask the students at their stations what life was like during the American Civil War. At 1:00pm the drummers will start drumming and we will have a Civil War battle take place.

After the battle, students will read selected letters from the soldier they have been studying to the crowd. The Historical Society will be providing bleachers, tents, restroom area, food and a Historical Environment for all to learn.

Did You Know?

The community has had many newspapers over the years starting with The Grand Rapids Triumph in the 1880's. In fact a copy was placed in the corner stone of the Wood County Court House July 4, 1894. The next paper was the Tri-County News started in 1897 and discontinued by 1930. For one year we had the Rapids News by Donald and Glenna (Kepling) Warner. In 1976 the Wood County Free Press edited by Cheryl (Davis) Kepling was printed once a week. Then Betsy Boyle and June Huffman put together the Rapids Record. The last newspaper we had was the Rapids Reader edited by Carolyn Erdody. (some of the information was obtained from the Grand Rapids, Ohio and area July 1978)

Remember

- Twenty years ago you could walk down Front Street and
 - buy Fenton Lamps at Crafts by Janet
 - have the special memento framed at Front Street Framing Co.
 - find that special doll from Nantiques
 - buy facial tissue at Rapids Family Pharmacy
 - obtain Emmett Kelley, Jr. figurines at Cabbages and Kings.
 - get 2% milk for only \$1.89 at the Rapids Meats and & Grocery
- Twenty years ago and today you could/can walk down Front Street and see Davis Peters Insurance Agency, Angelwood Gallery, Old Gilead Country Store, LaRoes Restaurant, and a dentist office, bank and firehouse