The Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society presents

LIVING HISTORY CEMETERY WALK

Saturdays, October 14, 2017
1:00–3:00 P.M.

Enjoy a unique walk of sites where local persons will be honored as costumed docents act out the tale of their lives.
$15.00 (age 5 and under free)

Walking Tour: Every half-hour—RAIN OR SHINE
Enter at Main Entrance of City of Richmond Cemetery—M-19
Check in located at the Chapel

Advance ticket purchase available:
Contact Marguerite Little 810-580-9594
Visit us any Thursday at The Village 9-12
36045 Park St. Richmond, MI
Also on sale during Good Old Days

The event is designed to be educational, and the Society takes every precaution to be respectful of the final resting places of Richmond residents.

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MEMBERSHIP:
Life member: $150.00
Annual: $20.00
Newsletter subscription: $7.00
RAHGS recently replaced the Centennial Farm Sign that is hanging on the Donley Log Cabin. The original sign had been vandalized years ago, and it had been weathered over the years. The Centennial Farm designation is bestowed on farms that have been in the same family for over 100 years. When I contacted the Michigan Historical Society to inquire about a replacement, they approved our request only when I told them it will be used in a museum setting. The new sign is hanging on the side of the cabin, just in time for the visit of the Donley family. Our members are invited to stop by the Village about 2 pm on Saturday September 30th for cake and a chat with this fine family that has been so good to RAHGS.

The picture of the Monarch Butterfly that you see on the front page was taken by Rich Weinert on August 3rd. When Marsha pointed out that the beautiful creature was laying her eggs on one of the milkweed plants, it was imperative that we capture the moment for you. Just so you know, we have named her “Marsha’s Monarch.”

In June of 2012 we began the Richmond High School Graduation Picture Project. Since that time, we stored all of the composite pictures in a secure environment, we raised the money for a new kiosk, and we worked with a design team to create and build a new display case. The unit is now nearly ready to move to Richmond High School lobby so that the students and community can once again enjoy this part of our area’s history. However, we need your help to find pictures for the class of 1988 and 1989. Spread the word, and let me know if those pictures are available anywhere.

I encourage everyone to attend the Cemetery Walk on October 14th. Everything you need to know about the walk is on the flyer on the front page of this newsletter. Everything you need to know about the City’s Cemetery Restoration Project you can find on page eight. This walk is a first for us, but it has been in the “thinking” stages for many years. With the Richmond Community Theatre working with us to portray many of the early settlers, it is certain to be a successful event. It is just one more way for us to get the word out about our local history.

Ready or not, here comes Fall!

Christine
Science Explorers at SSS

The Science Explorers, under the leadership of Carol Lippman, completed a second year of learning in the schoolhouse and the cabin. The new agricultural museum was an added attraction for them. Everyone had fun, and all of them went home with a project to complete over the summer. Well done, Carol!

Good Old Days

It's all fun at the Village!

Serving delicious shortcake daily Noon until Dusk

The “Stuff” Sale

Vintage and more something for everyone Daily: 9:00-4:00

The Mum Sale

Beautiful fall colors and only $7.00 each or 3 for $20.00!

DAILY DEMONSTRATIONS: Woodcarving, Lace Making, Rope Making, Corn Husking, Candle Making

All historic building will be open with docents

Good Old Days

Sept. 8-10: Good Old Days: Village & Gardens Open, Strawberry Shortcake Sale, Stuff Sale, Mum Sale

Oct. 4: Program, “101 Things to Know about Mackinac Bridge”

Oct. 14: Cemetery Walk

Donations Received

Thank you for your support!

Kroger Rewards
Log Cabin Day Raffle
Phylis Fuerstenau (barn)

Strawberry Shortcake Sale

Serving delicious shortcake daily Noon until Dusk
EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING AT THE VILLAGE

The Barn Project is on the move. The foundation and slab floor were completed in early August. Thank you to Drew Davidson Construction and his crew for a fine job. Also thank you to Gary Bertossi who dug the foundation. A big thank you to Tom Hebel, Dave Foster, Warren Schwark, Norm Gibson and Rich Weinert for helping get the fill sand spread out and compacted. A special thank you to Bob Eisenhardt Construction for the donation of fill sand. And thank you to Dave Foster for the use of his skid steer to move the sand and auger in the post supports.

Timbers are beginning to be moved by the Amish construction company, Miller Construction, to the new foundation at the Village to begin the reassembly process. New replacement beams, floor boards, posts and rafters are being milled. Siding and cedar shingles also have been ordered from the mill. We look forward to seeing the barn take shape.

Members of the LTP Committee made a special trip to see some of the potential historic farm implements that will be exhibited at the barn to get a feel for their size and condition. We want the barn to be set up to display examples of local farming tools and implements in a way that isn’t too crowded and still has room to move around and see everything.

The Depot’s old cement steps were replaced with a new deck and railing last week by the Work Bee Team. Hopefully this will make getting in and out of the Depot easier and safer. Also Norm Gibson has cleaned and oiled the floor in the freight side of the Depot.

The Garage has been cleaned up and painted this summer and now houses the temporary Agricultural Exhibit. Many thanks to Norm Gibson, Tom Hebel, David Waun, Al Collins and Rich Weinert for their work. The doorway entrances were repaired and patched with new cement to make getting in and out safer. Take a look at some of the agricultural items on display the next time you’re at the Village. We still have plans to convert the garage into an early filling station to showcase some local automotive history.

More Signs of Progress at the Village

Norm Gibson, the Museum Curator and all around get ‘er done guy at the Village, has installed three new Museum Signs. Two signs on the Museum Building to help identify the building and one directing visitors to the main entrance. And a new sign on the garage for the temporary Agricultural Exhibit. Rich Weinert helped design the signs and Print All made them for us. Thank you Print All for a nice finished product. Norm made the handsome frames.

Another sign of progress is the restored logging sled has been moved over across the street near the garage to make room in the log cabin yard for the Strawberry Shortcake Social during Good Old Days. We’re looking forward to some tasty shortcake!
WHEN: Oct. 4, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: Richmond Community Center
36164 Festival Drive Richmond, MI
WHAT: “101 Things That Happened On The Mackinac Bridge”

DONATION: $10.00
Sips and Sweets will be available

Hear the stories of the Big Mac from renowned author, broadcaster, radio and television personality, Mike Fornes. He will be sharing with us the many sad, funny, and tragic events that took place on the bridge. Learn about lives lost and lives that began on the bridge—yes, there have been three babies born up there! Hear the history of one of Michigan’s greatest icons from the man who has been passionate about it for over 26 years and has written two books about his favorite subject.

Don’t delay...mark your calendar... Oct. 4 at 7:00 P.M.

Author and Presenter
Mike Fornes
Into the Village and Into the Gardens

The Historic Village welcomed many visitors during Richmond’s Rummage and Relics weekend. The gardens were exploding with vibrant colors showing off the hours of love they have been receiving by the RAHGS garden crew. Every inch of the grounds had something special to share with those who walked the brick pathways while sipping cool lemonade and enjoying homemade cookies. Our head gardener, Marsha Phillips, shared her knowledge of gardening with the many people who questioned gardening techniques and who were yearning to make their gardens as beautiful as those at the Historic Village.

Ringing the school bell by the children visiting the School Section School reminded everyone to step into the past and visit the school, Donley Cabin, train depot, and museum. We were very pleased that for two hours our docents were busy sharing history with local people as well as some who came from as far away as Washington state. It was a beautiful afternoon at the village.

Bricks Purchased

Jeanne Treend
Jeanne Treend  in memory of
Jerry and Pattie Papuga  in memory of
Jill Baker  in honor of 50th Anniversary

Aggie Esper
Robert Bertossi
Milton W. Heath, Jr.
Joe and Judi Baker
This summer has gone by way too fast for me. I can’t believe it is already time to start planning for fall flowers and bulbs! I want to say again a special “Thank You” to Chris Hensch and Charlotte Pierzynski who come out faithfully once a week to do the watering at the Village! Without the extra watering there would not be nice healthy flowers! The flowers were at their peak for the Garden/Village Walk on July 29. The weather was just perfect that day. The city of Richmond “Garage Sales” were going on and that really generated a lot of people who were walking by the Village. Because of that we had many visitors who came through our buildings and gardens!!

Just a reminder that during the Good Old Days we will be selling mums again. They will be $7.00 each or 3 for $20.00. It is a small fund-raiser but it helps!

Our next newsletter won’t be out till the end of October so I will remind you of some things that I do for success in growing certain perennials:

A. Do not prune roses in the fall. Wait until spring.
B. Do not cut back any hardy mums in the fall. Wait until spring.
C. Do not cut back clematis in the fall. That does depend on when yours flowers, but to be on the safe side, wait until spring.
D. Butterfly bushes and hydrangeas, wait until spring to prune back stems.
E. If you have any dahlias, cannas, etc., wait until after the first hard frost and then dig them out of the ground or pots. I do squirt them off and let them dry for a couple of days and the put them in a box or paper leaf bag with some shredded paper. Make sure you store them in paper so they don’t mold. I put them in a cool spot in my basement or you can put them in a garage as long as they don’t freeze!
F. Lavender should not be pruned in the fall, wait until spring to cut back or trim the plant.
G. Perennial grasses should be cut back in the spring.

If you have any gardening questions please feel free to contact me. I will try to help!

Marsha
586.321.8519
CEMETERY RESTORATION EFFORTS

The following information was provided to RAHGS from the City of Richmond

The City of Richmond Cemetery is operated with revenues from burials, lot sales and the transfer of money from the City’s General Fund to the Cemetery Fund. While the City strives to keep the Cemetery looking as nice as possible, there is always more work than time and resources allow. The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Cemetery seasonal help have been working to restore many of the oldest headstones in the Cemetery.

In the oldest sections of the Cemetery graves and headstones were often installed without proper foundations that are standard practice today. As these graves and headstones age, the lack of a foundation often causes the headstones to lean or even fall over. While the grass is neatly trimmed, many headstones in the oldest two sections of the Cemetery needed some attention. At times, it was simply a case of realignment or straightening.

Sometimes, foundations for some of the larger monuments had to be leveled out.

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Through the decades, some that tipped over became overgrown with grass. These were uncovered and placed back upright.

Some headstones that had been covered up and broken presented a bit of a challenge.
Quite a few headstones just need some minor repairs or cleaning to make them more presentable.

Unfortunately, there were a few headstones so deteriorated, there was little staff could do except lay out the pieces in a respectful manner.

Several years ago, former Public Service Director Paul Fejedelem and the seasonal cemetery workers began the work shown above. A considerable amount of work was done those first couple of years. The Cemetery Sexton assisted when the backhoe was needed to disassemble some of the larger monuments and assisting with installing foundations. Because of the potential of damaging unseen headstone, powered equipment could not be used to locate and/or uncover headstones. Locating was done with a probe rod and digging was done with hand shovels. It was very time-consuming work to ensure that an unseen headstone was not missed.

By the end of October 2012, the first 86 lots of the Original Section had been checked for missing headstones, and when found, repaired and/or reinstalled. Each lot had either 7 or 8

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grave plots in them. The oldest headstone in the restored area was dated 1831. There were 17-graves with no markers for which we know the names of the deceased.

There were also 18-graves without markers for which we do not know the names of the deceased. All the hard copy files at City Hall state is “Unknown”, without a date death. It was Paul’s understanding that a fire destroyed a lot of records many years ago. It is regretful that we will probably never know the names of the deceased. We do know the names of the families who originally purchased these lots.

As a result of the work performed, we found that some of the hard copy records did not accurately reflect information that was on headstones. The layouts for the Original Section, Hall Addition, and Sections 4, 5 and 6 were drawn on computer. The hard copy information was inserted for each grave, after which, the information was visually field checked against information on the headstones and markers. Any hard copy information that conflicted with information on headstones and markers was corrected.

The current Cemetery Sexton Jim Franklin, DPW staff and the Cemetery seasonal workers continue the restoration efforts started by Paul Fejedelem. Each year as time permits, old markers are straightened, at times reassembled and often placed on new foundations.
Our mission statement:

- To share with others the legacy left us by our forefathers, the migrants from the East and the immigrants from Europe, who with foresight and conviction built a better future for themselves and their children, and for the generations that followed.
- To honor and remember those who cleared the land, grew the crops, educated the young, and to pay homage to those who fought in the wars and sacrificed their lives for something they believed in.
- To encourage our community leaders to preserve the few historical building remaining today.
- To provide assistance to those who turn to us for help in finding their roots.

The general membership meetings/programs, which are open to the public, are held throughout the year. The Historic Village is open during Winter Festival, on Log Cain Day, during Good Old Days, Thursday morning work bees, special events, and by special appointment. Watch the newsletter, the website, and Facebook for dates, times, and program information.

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