Looking for inspiring things to do this summer? The annual Richmond Area Heritage Festival is a family-friendly celebration of the people and their innovations that created this vibrant community. Come and participate in antique farming activities, re-do some of Thomas Edison’s chemical experiments, milk a cow, and see the newly restored windmill in action. This year we are incorporating the Fiber Fest, giving you an opportunity to learn about sheep shearing, see and pet the animals that provide fiber, observe wool spinning and yarn making live, and see other fiber arts in action.

Watch logs turn into lumber at the antique sawmill. See how Model T’s were used to power farm equipment like corn shellers. Watch craft people demonstrate the techniques and products that were so critical in days gone by. And tour all the restored buildings in Richmond’s Historic Village.

The event takes place from 10: AM to 4:00 PM June 24-25. For more information contact Don Graham at 586 405-4786 or dgraham5232@gmail.com.
President’s Corner

We are looking forward to an exciting 2023. The Annual Meeting, the Historic Tea, and Weiner Roast were very successful. We are now preparing for spring clean-up, school visits, and the Heritage Festival. The spring clean-up involves adult volunteers and students working on cleaning up the gardens and buildings. We will be having 2nd grade classes coming for a tour of the village, and 5th grade classes coming for classes in the school house. The Heritage Festival committee has exciting plans for that event. Details about the festival are in another article in this newsletter.

With the addition of the Filling Station, we are in need of more people to be greeters in our buildings during events. We are looking for new members and helpers to fill these positions. We will have more signage in our buildings so volunteers don’t have to be fountains of knowledge about the building they are in. We are now using the term greeters instead of docents for the people who volunteer in the buildings. In addition, if you would like to volunteer a couple of hours during an event you are welcome to get to know us before you make a decision to join. If you enjoy gardening, we have a place for you also.

The Society also has an adopt a building program. The depot and museum are currently available for adoption. This involves cleaning the building twice a year to help keep things in order. It can be done in your time frame, and you can recruit helpers.

Amazon Smile has ended its donation program but Kroger Rewards continues to donate to the Society. You can sign up for Kroger Rewards by going to your Kroger account online. It costs you nothing and the Society gets a donation based on how much you spend at Kroger.

One of our new additions is a video camera. Rich Weinert has already done some recording at the Weiner Roast. If anyone is willing to share memories of Richmond, we would be happy to record them for future generations. Also, if you are aware of someone you think would be a good candidate to share memories, please let us know.

We are open every Thursday morning from 8:45 till noon. Please feel free to drop by for a cup of coffee and a visit. Dianne Gibson, 2023 RAHGS President

RAHGS 2023 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>Historic Tea; Men’s Cook-out</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Village Clean-up with Richmond Student Council</td>
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<td>May 15-19</td>
<td>Richmond 5th Grade School Visit</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Richmond 2nd Grade Village Visit</td>
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<td>June 24-25</td>
<td>Heritage Festival and Fiber Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>July/August (TBA)</td>
<td>Windmill dedication</td>
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<tr>
<td>July/August (TBA)</td>
<td>Filling station dedication</td>
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<td>September 9-10</td>
<td>Good Old Days Festival</td>
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<td>September 30</td>
<td>Cemetery Walk</td>
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<td>November</td>
<td>TBD – Program Historical Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Christmas in the Village</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 26, 2024</td>
<td>Annual Dinner Meeting</td>
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9th Annual Historic Tea

“Spring was welcomed in grand fashion at yesterday’s fabulous tea party for the Richmond Area Historical and Genealogical Society. The bevy of spring hats and glorious tables adorned with blooms of every variety laughed at the snow swirling outside the window as if to say, ‘Be Gone! Your time is up!’”—

Colleen Stover

The Hostesses:
Emily Allen
Jaime Greene
Louise Borkowski
Rachel Card
Jackie Cook
Jessica DeFauw
Patti Elliot
Karen Ellis
Susan Foster
Dianne Gibson
Amy Hebel
Jennifer Hollenbeck
Sue Jakubiak
Beverly Kammer
Julianne Kammer
Marguerite Little
Marsha Phillips
Barb Platz
Denise Rakic
Christine Rowley
ME Shepherd-Logan
Julie Skelly
Colleen Stover
Julie Udicki
Sue Weinert
Pam Wesolowski
Alayne Waterstraat
Penny Yelencich

The Donors:
Bill Waun
Doug Waun
Jackie Cook
Amy Foster
Don Graham

The Sponsors:
Action Home Setters PGS
Dentistry
American Energy
PrintAll
Dr. Julie Cichoracki
Richmond Flower Shop
Foster Blue Water Oil
Sincerely Susan’s Fashions
Mlgardener
Northstar Bank
Weeks Food Corporation

The Raffle Donors:
1. Louise Borkowski: Pysanki Eggs
2. Hannah Douglass: Gift Cards and Lottery Tickets
3. Marguerite: Honey Bee
4. Marguerite: Flamingo
5. Marguerite: Wine Tote and Merlo Scarf
6. Varga Chiropractic: Massage and More
7. Marsha P: Hand Crocheted Cotton Rag Rug
8. Bev Kammer: A Vera Bradley Summer Vacation
9. Sue Weinert: “Out of the Blue” quilt
10. Susan Foster: Grand Hotel Basket
11. Susan Foster: American Girl Doll Clothes
12. North Star Bank: Michigan Basket
13. Julianne Kammer: Pamper Yourself
14. Sue Jakubiak: Start to Sprout
15. Tom Hebel: Tito’s, Your Way
16. Sue Jakubiak: Doggie and Me
17. Dr. Julie Cichoracki: Style Your Smile
18. Christine Rowley: Perfect Scones
19. Lori Nye: Coffee and Tea Basket
20. Lori Nye: Mini Easter Bunny Tea Set
21. Wild Birds Unlimited: Treats for Your Tweets
22. Nino Salvaggio’s: Basket of Treats
23. Jessica DeFauw: Self-Care Saturday
25. Kris Nolan: DIY afghan

Two of the hat contest winners: Ann Borda, Ann Cornell.

Jean Heath bought the silent auction prize: a 2 night stay for two at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Thank you, Jean!
The Guests Say It Best…

It is just the place to be in March! Our guest speaker, Chef Donna Louwers, made us proud to be Michiganders whose claim to the elegant and timeless beauty of The Grand Hotel is the envy of the entire country. While I would not last one week in the grueling pace of those kitchens, Chef Donna just beamed as she spoke of the privilege of working for the Musser family alongside dedicated staff. We all will try the scone recipe with high hopes! … Colleen Stover

My whole family had the most memorable day. I hope my granddaughters tell their grandchildren about the Richmond Tea they went to w their grandmother. Great job :) Lucy

...had such a fun time yesterday. A great showing for the annual event, endless tables and the drawing prizes were beautiful. You are amazing and the hard work is appreciated…My guests are looking forward to next year.... Jackie Cook

... Thank you again for providing me with that last- minute ticket and for including me in your RAHGS tea fundraiser. Donna Louwers - our guest of honor/speaker; Lucy Prawdzik, Lucy’s two granddaughters - Olivia and Norah, and I arrived together in anticipation of experiencing a special afternoon. And a special afternoon it was! The menu, the venue, the ingenious table settings… Outstanding! Perhaps most importantly because of the efforts and obvious enthusiasm of the people, the tea was a most memorable affair. Congratulations on your execution of such a successful and unforgettable event. We all had a most delightful afternoon. As we drove home afterwards, we reflected on so many special moments and imagined what kinds of table themes we would design. The youngest grandchild said she would design a “gymnastics” table. Thanks again! Thanks a million! Nancy Richardson I just want to say “thank you” to you and your committee for putting on such a wonderful and delightful tea! The hard work, dedication, and creativity are very much appreciated. Everyone at my table just loved it. I could just sense the whole room buzzing with positive and excited vibes. I do think this year’s tea was the best ever. All of the tables were creative, amazing, and the event so well attended! I think March is a great time to have it—right on the brink of spring when everyone needs a little excitement. It’s a classy affair—I can’t wait for next year’s. I really like being a hostess. Fantastic job! Dee Rakic

Please plan to join us next year as we celebrate the 10th Annual Historic Tea on Saturday, March 16, 2024. If you are interested in setting a table, contact co-chairs Christine Rowley 810 392 0261, or Sue Jakubiak: 810 305 6338
In Memoriam

Donley (Walden,) Karen Lee
December 28, 1936—February 8, 2023  Wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, Karen lived a life of hard work, service to others, commitment to her church, and dedication to family and friends. Karen was a passionate educator. Karen and her late husband Michael Donley were supporter of RAHGS and could often be seen stopping at the Village to walk the grounds.

Welcome New Members:

Colleen and Rusty Stover, Casco
Chris Stevens, Casco

Heritage Festival Committee Asks for Help

Hello Fellow RAHGS Members & Friends! We are going to be adding a General Store to our Heritage Days Festival, Saturday & Sunday June 24th & 25th.

There will be "Heritage Bucks" that all of the kids, parents, visitors, etc. will be able to earn. They will earn Bucks for every game they play, and buildings they tour. We are currently working out the details, but it should be loads of fun. After the visitors have collected enough Bucks, they can go to our General Store and purchase items.

THE REASON FOR THIS LETTER IS TO ASK ALL OF YOU TO DONATE ITEMS FOR OUR STORE!! Dollar Stores are excellent places to buy stuff for kids. Even the grocery stores, Walmart, Meijer, etc. You may also have items in your home already that you might like to donate. I am donating to the store that I already have in my home!

Please drop off any items that you buy or have to donate on Thursdays between 9 am and noon. If you would like your items picked up, we will do that. We would like all of the items at the Museum by the end of May so we have time for pricing etc. There will be candy at our store, but we are going to purchase that closer to the date, so please do not buy candy items.

If every person bought one item we would have enough to stock the store! Of course, you can buy and donate as many items as you like! Monetary donations are accepted too. Make checks payable to RAHGS, with Heritage Festival in memo line!

Some items that you could purchase for our General Store: Squirt guns, Nerf toys, Pool toys, Water Balloons, Balloons, Bubbles, Games, Balls, Hoolah Hoops, Chalk and Sidewalk Chalk, Crayons, Markers, Books, Color Books, Game Books, Puzzles, YoYos, etc. If you donate a more expensive item it will be priced higher in our store, so it will give kids the incentive to earn more money. Thank you, Marsha Phillips, RAHGS Heritage Festival Committee Member. For more info call me: 586-321-8519
Recent Acquisitions

Elsie Manchester: Green Richmond souvenir bowl
Al Collins: Barrel groove tool, painting of Methodist Church
Rev. David Strong: Drawing of Methodist parsonage, Korean War uniform, 1960 wedding dress
Angela LaHaie: Spoked Wheels, Feb, Mar, Apr, 1972
Bob Kohlhagen: Driveway signal gong, St. Augustine History,
Ken Simmons: Baby Land Magazine, National Bank of Richmond blue money bag,
Coin holder, bottle top, Three 6 in. rulers
Charlotte Ward: Security Bank envelopes

World War I Letter
Submitted by Norm Gibson

This is a letter home from France April 20, 1919. It was written by Walter Stoecker to his cousin Alvin Schwark. Interestingly Walter writes about Alvin having Spanish influenza, which would eventually kill more people than World War I did. It should also be noted that the letter passed the military censors. The letter was donated to RAHGS by Doug Porrett.

Touls, France 20/4 1919

Dear cousins,

I received a letter this past week in which they wrote that you had been afflicted with that terrible Spanish influenza and that your were on the way to recovery. I hope that you will be none the worse for it, and that you will be able to enjoy this happy easter Sunday.

The folks wrote that the winter over there was very mild also it was the mildest winter that I have ever put up with we had only about one week of winter here around the first of february.

We have had some nice sunshiny weather the last few days, today it is cloudy.

I expect to be back in the old U.S.A. or Gods country as some call it on this side of the pond by next summer barring unexpected eventualties which you always have to consider in the army.

Will close now wishing you a happy Easter tide.

From your cousin

Pvt Walter Stoecker
2nd Army Headquarters Troop Am.E.F
Your Board in Action

February 13:

- New president’s goal is increasing membership.
- LTP chair reported filling station electrical work in will be finished soon. Furnaces in the school and museum were serviced. Fire extinguishers have been serviced, and a shop vac was purchased.
- It was recommended to further discussions with Venture Creations to help increase membership.
- It was suggested that building use guidelines be updated.
- A windmill dedication was discussed. A plaque for filling station was discussed.
- A maintenance schedule for every building was discussed.

March 6th:

- Christine Rowley informed the Board of the following:
  - she will be stepping away from the duties of membership chair and newsletter editor.
  - over 250 tickets have been sold for the Historic Tea—a 36% increase in sales.
  - the Richmond 5th Grade will visit the School Section School the week of May 15.
  - The Richmond 2nd Grade will visit the Historic Village on Thursday, May 18th.
- Richmond Middle School will be cleaning the grounds on Wednesday May 3.
- The Weiner Roast has 12 guest signed up as of this date.
- The Filling Station project is nearly completed.
- The Windmill will be operational this spring.
- Building rental possibilities is being researched.
- The Filling Station will be Headquarters for the Heritage Festival.
- A motion was made and passed to hire Venture Creations in an amount not to exceed $1800.00 with the assurance that attendance at HF attendance will increase.
- The President suggested opening the Village during summer evenings.
- Discussion took place regarding replenishing The RAHGS clothing for sale.
- Kris Nolan has agreed to record acquisitions in the computer data base.
Thursday Afternoon Restoration Work  
Submitted by Norm Gibson

When we restored the logging sled back in 2016-17, we replaced almost all of the wood. We tried to save the two upper bolsters. This past summer we removed the logs on the sled, and determined that it wasn’t possible since the wood was rotting from the inside out in the years since we installed the sled at the village.

The first photo shows the amount of rot. Mike Buckert and Norm Gibson made two new ones. The third photo shows the new bolsters with pins to hold logs and center pins to mount the bolsters on the sled.

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**Recent Brick Orders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purchased by:</th>
<th>For:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee Curtis:</td>
<td>Dean Leverenz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logans:</td>
<td>Lucia Marshall’s 90th</td>
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<td>RAHGS:</td>
<td>David Foster</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Treend:</td>
<td>Sue Treend</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Treend:</td>
<td>Richard Kling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Korbus:</td>
<td>Jean Perkins</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Young:</td>
<td>Sharon Ann Selby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Beard:</td>
<td>Jon and Marla Beard</td>
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<td>RAHGS:</td>
<td>Karen Donley</td>
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<td>RAHGS:</td>
<td>Wilbert Gierk</td>
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<td>RAHGS:</td>
<td>Linda Schenburn</td>
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<td>Doug Waun:</td>
<td>Doug Waun Family</td>
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<td>Judy Gramzow:</td>
<td>G. Zinny</td>
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<td>Margaret Young:</td>
<td>Richard Young</td>
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</table>
The Village Gardener
By Marsha Phillips

It's time to start spring clean-up all ready! Our winter has been pretty mild. My snowdrops have been blooming for a while, and the daffodils are pretty tall.

I LOVE Spring!!! But on that note there is a lot of work to do at the Village.

If ANYONE has some time to spare we could use extra people to help out in the flower beds. There is ALWAYS something to do. Even if you only have 1 hour to give, we will take it.

Just a reminder: The first Spring Fertilizer should be made this month to your lawn. The mower blades should be set at 2" for the first mowing and after that they should be set at 2-1/2" - 3". Start cleaning up your beds and borders, remove weeds, old debris, leaves etc. and work a couple of inches of organic matter into the beds to improve soil aeration and microbial activity. Also, I throw fertilizer (12,12,12) around in all of the beds. PLEASE CALL ME AND LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY! Have a Happy Spring!! :) Marsha

Donations
Vicky Chegash: General Fund
Robert and Sabrina Miller: David Foster Memorial
Martin and Louise Borkowski: David Foster Memorial
Cheryl Almstadt: Filling Station
Kathleen Dolan: General Fund
Larry Donley: General Fund
Stanley Hirt: General Fund
Jim and Alice Woodward: Filling Station
Kathleen Claggett Schlegel: Claggett/VanInwegan Families
Michael and Sue Misteravich: General Fund
Weeks Food Corporation: Historic Tea Sponsor
Robert Hirt: David Foster Memorial
Virginia Foster: David Foster Memorial
Keith and Linda Marthen: Filling Station
Jean Mahaffy: Filling Station
Edward and Anita Calomeni: Porrett, Rickert, Dibley Memorial
Robert Bush: In Honor of Ursula Adamson
Foster Blue Water Oil: Historic Tea Sponsor
PGS Dentistry: Historic Tea Sponsor
Norm and Dianne Gibson: General Fund
“Musical Tables” by Billy Collins
Random House, New York: 2022

In honor of National Poetry month (April), I give you Billy Collins, former Poet Laureate of the United States. Collins is fascinated with small poems, and now I am, too. He writes, “I love the suddenness of small poems. They arrive and depart at the same time, disappearing in a wink.”

Small poems are poetry’s way of squeezing large content into small spaces. Here are a few small poems that I hope you enjoy as much as I did. Christine

**Children**
There’s a new movie out titled Children.
I don’t know what it’s about
but I like the voice on the radio
when it says: “Children: now playing everywhere.”

**Carbon Dating**
He tried it once as a last resort
but most of the women were a million years old.

**Teenager**
Even a branch on an evergreen may take an unexpected turn up, down, or sideways
and grow substantial in some weird direction

**3:00 A.M.**
Only my hand is asleep, but it’s a start.

**Dog**
When she runs in her sleep, eyelids twitching, legs churning sideways on the floor,
I wonder if she’s chasing a squirrel or being chased by an angry farmer with a rake.

**Zen Backfire**
The only time I cut myself shaving is when I’m aware that I am shaving

**Children**
Even a branch on an evergreen may take an unexpected turn up, down, or sideways
and grow substantial in some weird direction

**Teenager**

**3:00 A.M.**

**Dog**

**Carbon Dating**

**Zen Backfire**

Historian Readers,

As I put the finishing touches on this, my final issue as editor of the RAHGS newsletter, I am reflecting on the previous people who have held this position. The immediate past editor and my mentor, Pat Hendrickson, showed me how to insert photos and how to make the best use of space. But more importantly, I learned the importance of keeping the readers engaged and informed, and that has been my goal throughout my eight years in this position.

The records indicate that previous members who worked on early newsletters include Doris Fuerstenau, Donna Bartell, Ursula Adamson, and Laurel Emerson.

It has been a privilege to share the history, to promote the events, and to showcase RAHGS accomplishments. Now I am stepping aside and making room for others to become involved. Please know that I will continue to be an ambassador for RAHGS wherever I go. My cheer always has been and always will be, “Go RAHGS!” Christine Rowley
The 7th Annual RAHGS Historic Wiener Roast Was Filling!

Submitted by Rich Weinert

Filling as in Filling Station that is. That was the theme for this year’s event. The lovely green plastic table clothes were set to receive our guests with historic photos of old Richmond Filling Stations decorating the room.

We gathered to eat, socialize, review old images of historic Richmond Filling Stations and share ideas. Many stories were offered along with some razzing of each other. 17 RAHGSter men showed up to enjoy Brats, Hot Dogs, Beans, Macaroni Salad, Potatoes, Chili, Deviled Eggs, Veggie Snacks, Deserts, Refreshments and much more. A brief meeting was held by the RAHGS Long Term Preservation Committee to discuss projects for the upcoming year.

I would like to thank Norm Gibson for gathering the photos of all the historic Richmond Filling Stations. And for helping put together this event. Also, a big thank you to all the guys (and their significant others) for preparing the dishes for the pot luck luncheon.

We hope you will consider joining us next year for the RAHGS Historic Wiener Roast. Please stop by on any Thursday morning or any other time you see someone at the village to join in the fun and preservation of the history of the area.

Our mission statement:

• To share with others the legacy left to 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 buildings 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 Cabin 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.