

# Howell Area Historical Society

Museum location: 128 Wetmore St Mailing address: P.O. Box 154, Howell, MI 48844

Phone: 517.548.6876 howellareahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

www.howellareahistoricalsociety.org

## 2011 - 2014 Board of Directors

### President

Duane Brown  
517.546.2795

### Vice President open seat

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517.548.2793

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517.672.1351

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Judy Burns  
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810.225.1389



What a busy spring, and now it is almost festival time!

Flowers are in bloom, work has begun again on the caboose, plans are in full swing for the activities during the Melon Festival, August 15th—17th. Donations are coming in for the Treats and Treasures sale. Please clean your closets and bring items by August 6th and if possible, please price the items to ready to sell.

A special thank you to Patricia Keyes who has been creating costumes for the Melon Festival Vintage Photos and to Alice Stritzinger, Don and Susan Reifert, first time volunteer docents for our Sunday Hours.

The museum has never looked better thanks to the hard work of our members. A new vintage toys and games exhibit has been very popular especially with the children who visit. Often we have heard, "My grandpa has one of those!"

At the July 2nd meeting, the board accepted the resignation of David Nagel. He will continue his efforts with the caboose crew but has stepped down as Vice President. Thank you David for your service.

And last but not least, thank you for putting your faith in me as the new president of the society.

Duane Brown



## MELON FESTIVAL AUGUST 15TH-17TH

Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
at the museum

**Treats and Treasures  
Flea Fair**

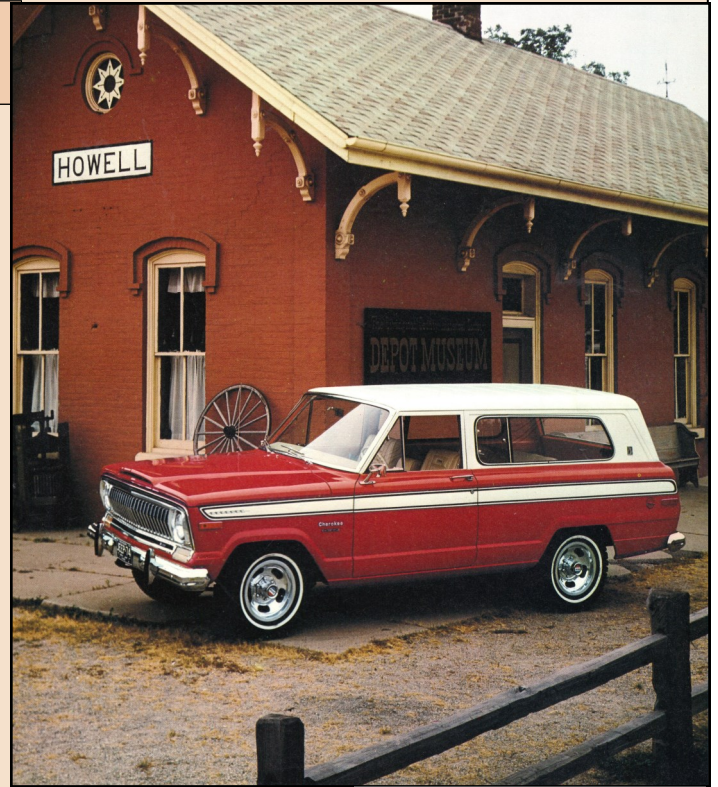
**Miniature Train Rides**

**Vintage Dress up**  
(be sure to bring your camera)

**Caboose and Museum  
Tours**

Saturday on Grand River  
**Classic Car Show**

10am - 4pm



Please  
support our  
Car Show  
Sponsors



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Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

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### Caboose Notes:

For Sale: Old C&O RR Stove which  
was made by the Indiana Foundry Co.  
out of Indiana PA.  
It's marked C&O on the base plate.  
It does have cracks which makes  
this a nice display piece only!  
The height is 65" and the width is 55".  
Very heavy. \$100.00

email:  
howellareahistoricalociety@gmail.com



## ***How the train station became a museum***

### ***Happy Anniversary***

*45 years ago.....* A group of men and women sat around an old wooden table.

The discussion - how to save the historical artifacts, many of which dated back to the settlement of the community, and where to house them.

In 1968, the library had requested the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution relocate the museum outside of the building as the youth services department was expanding and the DAR museum space in the lower level was needed.

Some of the members of the Philip Livingston Chapter DAR along with many local ambassadors to history decided to form the Livingston County Historical Society and work towards finding a place to house the historical pieces. The exhibits from the collections were placed in the care of the Society and stored at the "Old Howell Shop" owned by Norman Pettibone until such time as a permanent location was found.

Report of the Museum committee of the Philip Livingston Chapter DAR 2/20/1968

On Monday morning Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> 1968 four members of the executive board of the Chapter, Mrs. Sydney Clark, Regent, Mrs. Ora Red, Secy, Mrs. J.S. Hage, Trea and Mrs. E.H. Glenn, Librarian, and Ch of the Museum Comm. Met at the Museum room in the Howell Carnegie Library, to pac and arrange for storage of the articles of the museum which the Library Board had asked be removed from the room designated since 1910 as DAR Museum. This packing and dispersal was required on account of proposed remodeling of that part of the building.

Membership drives, fundraisers, auctions, donations and community support raised the \$2,500.00 needed to purchase the 1886 Ann Arbor Railroad Station. The society membership, 400 strong, began the process of restoring the building which had sat idle for many years. Through hard work and dedication, the building, close to becoming a memory of the past, was brought to life and the DAR collection had a new home.

In later years when other historical societies were formed in the county, the focus of the Livingston County Historical Society changed to concentrate on the Howell area, and so in 1991, it became the Howell Area Historical Society.

As the years have passed so have our founding members. The preservation of this historic site falls to us. It is a historical landmark and without membership, stewardship and our diligence, this and other amazing buildings will be a distant memory. As with any other preservation, it takes funding to keep a building in repair, the heat, lights, water turned on, and collections preserved.

Your time and talents as well as your membership are important to sustain this community jewel.





## HAPPENINGS AT THE DEPOT

Late in June, many spectators gathered at the depot to catch a glimpse of the Nickel Plate 765 Road as she traveled from Fort Wayne to Owosso, Michigan to participate in Train Expo 2014. Several local photographers and videographers captured the sight and sound as she passed by the museum.

Check out our website's new page "Trains, Trains, Trains" to see the drone video shot by Ben Kairys of *photographycopter.com* of the Nickel Plate Road 765 passing through Howell along with coverage by ABC News 12 Flint of the Expo.



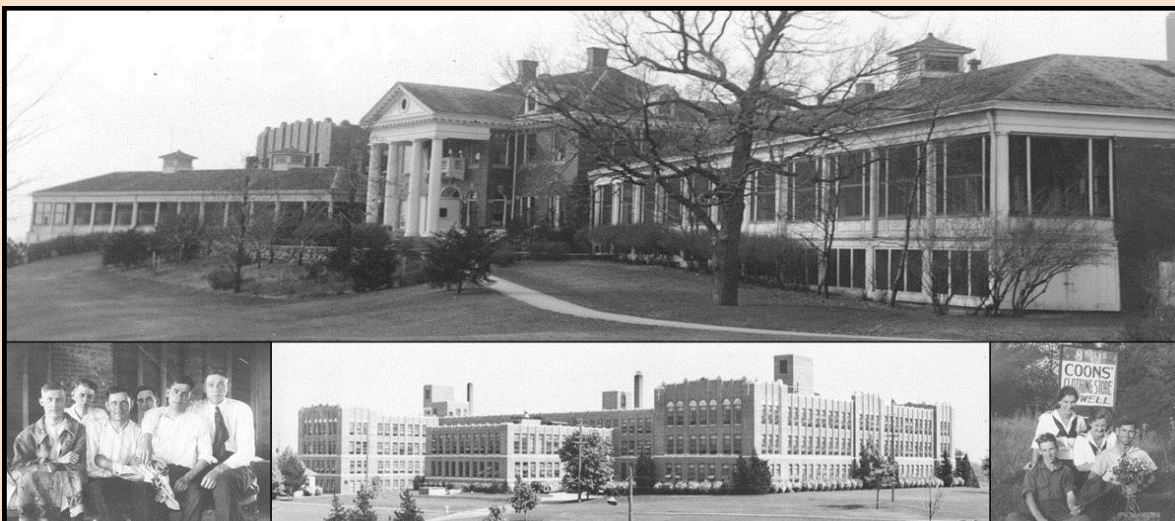
Photo courtesy of Greg Jacek of Unique Photo and Video

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Join us on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 at 6:30pm  
Howell Carnegie Library in the Meabon Room**

### **A Healing Place: Memories of the Michigan State Sanatorium, Howell State Hospital and Hillcrest Center**

**For 75 years, the "Hill" served patients with tuberculosis and in later years, those who were developmentally challenged. Join us for an informal panel discussion with the people who worked, lived and grew up on the "Hill".**



**Presented as a part of the Great Michigan Read with support by the Michigan Humanities Council, Meijer and the National Endowment for the Humanities with contributions from the Howell Archives and the Howell Area Historical Society.**



## HOWELL—ALWAYS READY TO THROW A PARTY

Long before the Melon Festival, Balloon Fest, Fantasy of Lights, the streets of Howell were closed at the drop of a hat when someone said it was time to party. A four day closure was normal and some would extend clear to the fair grounds (near what today is National Street). It was not uncommon for ads to appear in the paper eight weeks before the event to allow the paper to spread the word far and wide. The ad below ran in the August 15, 1900 edition of the Livingston Republican. Each week the ad grew larger until the final week of the event when the ad stretched to a full page.

LIVINGSTON REPUBLICAN. AUGUST 15, 1900.

7

# THE HOWELL FREE STREET FAIR!



## Great Attractions Every Day

## BALLOON ASCENSIONS!

With Torpedo Attachment and Parachute Drop, daily

## WILD WEST INDIANS!

In All Their Wildness and Native Costumes

## A. Siggard, The Snake Eater

## Battle of Gettysburg!

100-foot Tent. Life-like Cyclorama

## Band and Street Parades!

As Announced by Montana Charley

## A. John's 3 Great Shows!

Haunted Swings, Palace of Illusions, Etc.

## Stock Exhibits!

Best Flocks and Herds of the County

## — A Hot Time in The Old Town —

The Committee are busy at work booking attractions and making necessary arrangements. It is expected that the Fair will surpass anything ever seen in the county. The above attractions are given as a sample of what may be expected.

There will be a hot time in the old town, and no doubt about it. Don't miss it.

## 2014 Paid Membership

### Our mission:

Historical preservation, community education and appreciation of our local history.

Life Members - John Jankiewicz, Pam Rietsch

Contributing Members - Kitty Dickson, Louis Eaton family, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Francis.

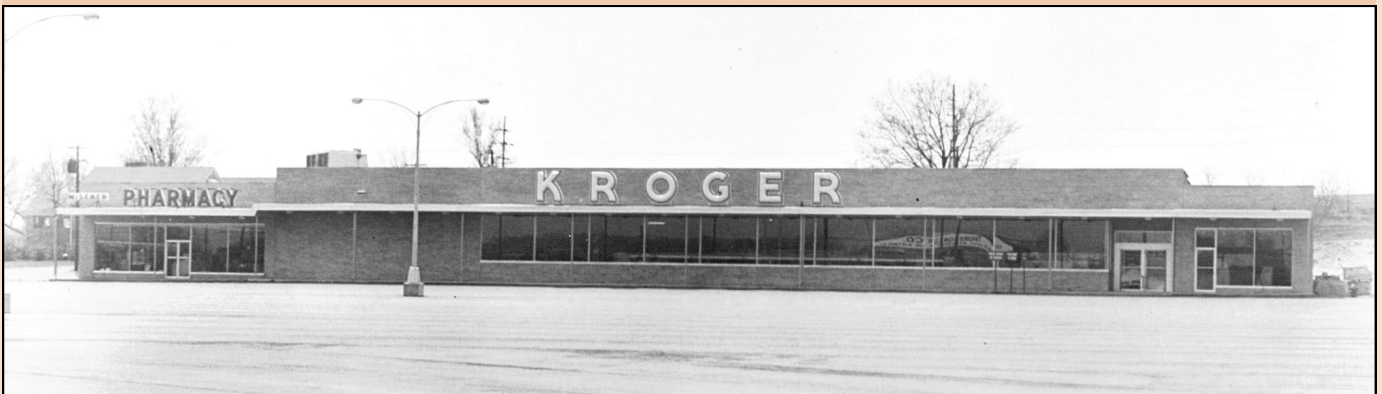
Family Members - Bailey Family, Berch Family, Brinker Family, Brown Family, Burns Family, Campbell Family, Coles Family, McNenly Family, Griffith Family, Gurney Family, Hansen Family, Hougaboom Family, Jamieson Family, Kuehn Family, Manor Family, Moen Family, Rosenthal Family, Russell Family, Senik Family, Stiner Family, Stritzinger Family, Bowen Family, Widmayer Family, Wilkinson Family, Ziegel Family

Individual Members - Sue Alt, Norma Bushrey, Mark Cowles, Joan Croy, Jan Dieball, Robert Eager, Joyce Fisher, Elaine Grote, Susie Hill, Sandra Hoover, Thomas Kellogg, Patricia Keyes, Audrey Murray, David Nagel, Bruce Powelson, Thomas Rice, Jane Thierfeldt, Evelyn Thomas, Robert Watson, Sally Witt

The goal of our society is the preservation of the Ann Arbor Railroad Depot and to continue to make a difference by inspiring young and old to treasure their heritage.

With supporters such as you, we will continue to connect people with the amazing history of our area and to those who settled here and left an amazing legacy.

## DO YOU REMEMBER ME?



**1957 - Meisner Pharmacy and Kroger move to their new location on East Grand River in Howell.**

As the mall expanded over the years, Matthew's Pharmacy, Dancer's Fashions, Sears and Roebuck, Ben Franklin along with Merithew's TV, Denton's Drugs, Betty Lou's Beauty Salon, Standard Office Supply, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hibbs Shoe Store, Secretary of State, Wards, Dodd's Shoe Store and many others found their way to the Promenade Mall.



Over 500  
students  
learned  
of local  
Historical  
Structures



During the months of May and June, the 2nd grade classes of Voyager, Challenger, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest, Hutchings, and Three Fires Elementary Schools toured downtown Howell in May and June. They paid a visit to the Depot Museum as well as the Court House, the Opera House, Library and other structures of historical significance.



### VG'S COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM STILL SUPPORTS THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Don't have a computer to register? Call us, we will be glad to help

REGISTERING YOUR KROGER CARD ON LINE WILL ALSO SUPPORT THE SOCIETY.

Special thanks to:

**Spirit of Livingston** for their support by providing print copies of our newsletter and to **Green-Up Landscaping and Garden Center** for providing 6 flats of annuals for the large planters.

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Not a member? Join today!  
Your support is vital to the preservation of local history

Our updated website gives us the opportunity to share more history, our current projects, and to preserve memories shared with the society. You can even renew your membership, purchase a "This Place Matters" brick, drop us a email, sign up as a volunteer or make a donation online.

"like" our facebook page for updates on coming events.



### **2014 Annual Membership**

January 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

Single - \$15.00

Family - \$25.00

Contributing - \$100.00

Lifetime - \$500.00

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