



HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

A PUBLICATION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MARINE CITY, MICHIGAN

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FIVE NEW “PAINT THE TOWN” GRANTS IN 2018

Over the past 10 years, HSMC has awarded over 80 grants to Marine City property owners to help maintain, restore or enhance residences or businesses. In 2018, 5 new grants were awarded to Marine City residents, including the residential properties at 355 S. Main, 312 St. Clair, 525 N. Main, and 605 N. Main and the commercial property of the Westrick Real Estate One. Each owner received \$500 in paint and materials purchased through our corporate partner, Lumberjack, in Marine City.

HSMC would like to Thank all the “Paint the Town” grant recipient owners (past and present) who have participated in our program and have helped beautify our city. HSMC looks forward to more improvements to come and new grants will be awarded in the Summer of 2020 after our 10th Anniversary special “Paint the Town” contest: “The Portals of Marine City”. (See “Portals” article on page 3 in this newsletter.)



One example of this year's Paint the Town improvements was 605 N. Main Street. This home has undergone an amazing transformation as the owners have chosen to add a new porch to their façade.

SHIPS MOSAICS IN THE PARKS FUNDRAISER

by Heather Bokram

The Mocktails and Cocktails at The Fish Company event on September 10th was a great success with a packed house of 100 guests total; bringing us closer to our final fundraising goal to complete the “Ships Mosaics in the Parks” project. All our guests seemed to be having a grand time and the food was really delicious. Our thanks go to Missy at the Fish Company for her organizational skills and to Jeremy for his great cooking. The restaurant staff members were wonderful. All our board members attended and did much to make the evening a



success. Barbie Heisler did yeoman's work, taking care of advertizing and ticket sales which included a personal delivery service! Thank you, Barbie!

Terry Avery became our carpenter, helping to make sure the mosaic of the “Marine City” was safely displayed that evening.



Thank you to Char Faucher for getting us into the Calendar of the Port Huron Times Herald.

Thank you to Jay Heisler for being our event photographer. Jay has taken great pictures that you can browse throughout our website. Thank you to Sherrill for her signs and balloons at the Fish Company and a big thank you to everyone else who worked throughout the evening, making sure our guests had a great time.

“Yours-Truly”, was responsible for displaying the artwork among a host of other things.

A “VERY IRISH” CAPTAIN LESTER HOUSE CELEBRATION IN 2018 BENEFITS PAINT THE TOWN

It was a “Very Irish” evening at the Captain Lester House as the community celebrated St. Patrick’s Day to benefit the 2018 Paint the Town Grants Program. This year the HSMC was joined by 37 corporate sponsors and donors to make the Irish Magic begin. Our corporate sponsors who funded the evening included: Acme Industrial, The Heather House, JGMP, North Bay Building Co., Westrick Real Estate One, and Zimmer Chiropractic to bring a taste of Ireland to Marine City.



The Lester House was filled with real Irish Music provided by Karen Otsby and Co. and to really enjoy the “Emerald Isle Lifestyle” was Irish beer, wine, and food provided by the HSMC many volunteers and the Riviera Restaurant, The Sweet Tooth, VG’s, Wolverine Market, and Zimmerman’s Meat Market.

The Irish “Green” was aplenty as Abbey Road Music, Anita’s, The Antique Mall, The Antique Warehouse, Big River antiques, Blue Mitt, Bridge Street Station, Amy Bouren, Garden of Peace Flowers, Gars, Great Lakes Art and Antiques, the Heather House, Lazy llama, Marine City Music and Collectibles, My Sister’s Closet, The Nail Lounge, Over the Toe Kick, Petz Paradise, Rantiques, Riverbank Theatre, Unique Boutique, Jason Wilder, Zimmer Chiropractic donated over 150 items for the silent auction, helping HSMC gather a “Pot O Gold” for the funding of the Paint the Town program.

And What an Evening!!! The Captain Lester House was filled to capacity with guests dressed in “Lots O Green” from Marine City, Algonac, St. Clair, and Canada filling the air with “Lots O Irish Cheer”! HSMC wishes to thank all the sponsors, donors and volunteers who made this truly a “Very Irish” Success!

MARINE CITY MARITIME MOSAICS

The idea for creating the mosaics was originally for a larger project, a maze to be set in a downtown park with seating, landscaping and mosaics of ships originally built in Marine City. While the project was approved by the city, it was realized that this project was going to be extremely expensive.

In the spring of 2017 some generous donors came forward with offers, and who asked us to create the mosaics on their own and have them displayed in the various downtown parks on permanent platforms placed in landscaped areas. It was agreed that this would be the best solution to display our beautiful mosaics. The artwork for these was already done, and we searched for an experienced person who could transform the art into magnificent murals.

This done we have forged ahead and we have 6 mosaic murals completed and a seventh almost done. We hope to have all 8 completed by late spring. These ships were among the many built here in Marine City in the 1800’s, and they will be part of our Marine City Outdoor Maritime Museum.

Between two generous grants from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, funds created by some of our events and then the pledged funds from our major donors, we have the majority of the funds needed to finish this project. We still need to raise about \$10,000 to complete the whole project.

Our goal is to have this project completed by spring of 2019. At that time we plan a dedication ceremony, with representation from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, our donors and the general public.

We welcome new ideas from our readers and encourage you to submit your ideas and photos. You may see your idea and photo in our newsletter! You can contact us at:

- historicalsocietyofmarinecity@gmail.com
- www.historicalsofmarinecity.org
- facebook.com/historicalsofmarinecity

INTRODUCING...

“THE PORTALS OF MARINE CITY!”

The Historical Society of Marine City is celebrating the 10th Anniversary of “Paint the Town” Grants!

In the last 10 years, HSMC has awarded over 80 grants to owners of homes and businesses in Marine City! This year we have a new and exciting competition open to all home owners and business building owners in Marine City.

We are offering a prize of \$1,000.00 for the most innovative and beautifully Painted Entrance Doorway. (aka: “The Portals of Marine City!”)

To get some great ideas, we suggest you go on-line and type in Painted Doors or The Doors of Dublin. Among others, “Pinterest” has some amazing pictures of doors around the world which should help you with ideas. However, none should be copies, but be original. Businesses could reflect the type of store or business you own, and for homes, they could reflect the style of the home or a passion of the owner. Applicants should keep in mind the aesthetics of their building and their creation should add to its appearance.

The cost of entry is \$25 per door

Applications and rules will be available at LumberJack on June 1, 2019

Judging for the competition will be on September 1, 2019

The award for the best Portal will be \$1,000.00!!

An Award Ceremony will be planned for September, 2019 and a photo poster will be available of the best “Portals of MC!”



Image courtesy of Pinterest



Image courtesy of Pinterest

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MARINE CITY

In 1993 a small group of Marine City residents formed the Historical Society of Marine City. The group, spearheaded by Heather Bokram and Mickie Hulscher, wished to protect the special significance of Marine City’s architectural history. The small town had an abundance of late 19th Century and early 20th Century buildings, most of which were in fair condition. Surrounding the downtown are fine examples of large and small Victorian homes, quite a few Arts and Crafts style homes, and Four Squares sprinkled in between. In the seventies, the City Fathers had the good sense to avoid the Federal Urban Renewal program which offered small town grants to modernize their downtowns. This attempt was a disaster, causing quaint downtown areas to be leveled and replaced with unimaginative and ugly “strip mall” style buildings.

The Marine City downtown area maintained its “old time” feeling with mostly Victorian style buildings and shops. As it was, many of these had perished from fires throughout the early 1900’s. However, enough were still in place to keep the homogenous historical warmth of the town. When buildings were constructed in the gaps caused by the fires, there were some attempts to keep

the styles compatible, although some were definitely more modern! The Historical Society has worked throughout the years to raise funds to help citizens restore and repair their homes and businesses. Today the group offers small grants from their “Paint the Town” project and now, two new larger “Gingerbread Grants” for owners trying to restore or add the architectural details lost over time. These grants add up to \$6,000.00 each year which the Historical Society donates to deserving projects.

A major contribution to the City by the group was making sure Old City Hall at 300 Broadway, was not torn down. A major restoration effort began and continues today under the direction of “Friends of City Hall” and with help from the Historical Society. A new steering committee is in the process of being formed with members from these two entities, and as well as from other non-profit organizations in Marine City. The goal of this group will be to come up with an exciting new purpose for the lovely old building that will attract grant and donor money from not only Marine City, but also from the Greater St. Clair area and beyond. With all the exciting new life in our downtown, we feel that the best is yet to come! We will keep you posted.

Historical Society of Marine City
P.O. Box 23, Marine City, MI 48039

Preserving our Architectural and Cultural History

NEW & RENEWING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP COUPON
2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00

- MEMBERSHIP DUES HELP TO FUND SEVERAL HSMC PROJECTS •
- Preservation of Marine City's City Hall • Gingerbread Grant • Drake Park Amphitheater
- Ships Mosaics in the Parks • Paint The Town Matching Grant Fund
- Marine City Endowment Fund • HSMC Newsletter

Please fill out and return with dues to: HSMC, P.O. Box 23, Marine City, MI 48039

NAME: _____

MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MARINE CITY

The Mission and Goals of the Historical Society is to safeguard the Heritage of Marine City through our efforts to preserve and restore the Architectural History of the buildings, to foster Civic Beauty, and by doing so, strengthen Property Values and the Local Economy for the betterment of the Community. Also, by expanding the Marine City Outdoor Maritime Museum, the Historical Society will increase local pride and interest in Marine City's historically recognized Ship Building Industry of the 1800's.



BOARD MEMBERS

- Sherrill Zimmer *President*
- Terry Avery *Vice President*
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