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## WELCOME FROM MCHS PRESIDENT, JAMES JENSEN

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### Message from the President

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Mason County Historical Society.

This has been another very busy year for your Society. The staff and members of the Board of Directors will review the activities of the past year with you tonight. We will also report on operations, our financial position and the numerous recent donations to our archives.



The highlight of tonight's gathering will be a celebration of the return of the Rose Hawley name to the City of Ludington. In recognition of the important, indeed essential, role she played in the formation and growth of the Society we will recognize the many contributions she made to our organization.

Former Executive Director Thom Hawley will share some recollections of his great aunt and the impact she had on his life. We will also review the history of Mason County Historical Society and highlight the significant role played by Rose Hawley over many decades.

Rose Hawley would certainly be very pleased to know that the archival collection of Mason County history that she worked to build is now housed in the impressive building we are in tonight. After we conclude our reports to you and conduct our annual business meeting we urge you to walk around the newly named **Home of the Rose Hawley Archives**. If you would like to visit the archival collection located on the lower level of this building tonight, please let one of our staff know and we will arrange a tour.

Through the commitment of our members, the guidance of the Board of Directors, the dedication of our employees, the generosity of our donors and the tremendous ongoing support from our many volunteers we have achieved much. On behalf of the Board I want to again offer a sincere THANK YOU to all those individuals who so generously offer their time, talent and treasure.

I look forward with anticipation to 2025 and where we will next take our Society; always working together to *preserve, protect and present the history* of our community.

Sincerely,

James R. Jensen,  
President

## WELCOME FROM MCHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, REBECCA BERRINGER

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Dear Members and Donors,

As we close another year, I am grateful for your continued support. This year has been marked by significant achievements made possible by your commitment to our mission. We successfully hosted key events, expanded our outreach, and strengthened our partnerships, all contributing to a stronger Society.

A highlight of this year's annual meeting is honoring the legacy of Rose Hawley, the first curator of the Mason County Historical Society. Rose's dedication laid the groundwork for preserving the history of Mason County, which continues to inspire and educate our community. In her honor, we will unveil two new murals: *Preserving the Past* and *Laying the City's Foundation*. These murals not only celebrate Rose's lasting influence but also pay tribute to two prominent businessmen of the lumber era, whose vision helped shape the development of Mason County. These additions serve as a visual reminder of the stories that define our heritage and underscore the importance of our work.



As we celebrate our past, we must also look to the future. Long-term sustainability is essential to ensure that we can continue preserving these stories and operating our museums for generations to come. The Mason County Historical Society (MCHS) has grown substantially since its founding in 1937, now operating three museums that highlight our rich history from the lumbering era to today. In the coming years, we will mark significant milestones, including the 50th anniversary of Historic White Pine Village in 2026, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of our nation, and our 90th anniversary in 2027, alongside the 10th anniversary of the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum. As we approach these celebrations, securing long-term sustainability for these vital community assets becomes ever more important.

In 2025, we aim to expand our Heritage Circle program to include new supporters. This program allows those who believe in the mission of MCHS and recognize the economic and cultural impact we bring to the community to contribute through planned estate giving, life insurance policies, and other forms of planned contributions. The Heritage Circle is key to building a legacy that ensures MCHS can continue to operate Historic White Pine Village, the Port of Ludington Maritime Museum, and the Mason County Historical Society – Home of the Rose Hawley Archives for generations to come.

In addition to fostering long-term sustainability, we will introduce a monthly giving program in 2025. This initiative will provide essential support for our annual operations. Although the Village and Maritime Museum is only open for six months each year, much of our critical work—including building preservation, event planning, and managing existing and incoming archival donations—takes place during the off-season. A monthly giving program is crucial to sustaining our operations during these quieter months, enabling us to plan and prepare effectively for the coming tourist season.

Your continued support is what makes all of this possible. With your help, we look forward to making 2025 a year of growth, sustainability, and lasting impact for our Society and the community we serve.

Thank you for your dedication and belief in our mission.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Berringer  
Executive Director  
Mason County Historical Society

**EIGHTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DECEMBER 5, 2024**



**MASON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MCHS MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 7, 2023**

Executive Director, Rebecca Berringer gave the opening remarks for the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

The invocation was offered by Sheriff Kim Cole.

**Call to Order**

President, James Jensen, called the meeting to order. Other board members present were: Vice-President Sheriff Kim Cole, Treasurer Dr. Connie Schwass, John, Holcomb, Patrick O'Hare and Rob Alway. Also in attendance were Rebecca Berringer, Executive Director, Michelle DeKuiper, Operations Manager, Amber Valentine, Collections Manager, Nathan Wietrzykowski, PLMM Site Manager, and George Faust, Head of Maintenance.

**Approval of the Minutes**

The 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were presented in the 2023 Annual Report. Rob Alway moved and Mike Nagle seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

The 2023 Financial Reports were presented and James Jensen highlighted the following: Overall the Society is doing well, and has over the last several years developed assets worth over \$7,000,000. While reviewing the 2023 Profit & Loss it shows a negative of \$30,880.00, however, Jim and the Board are confident that that income will be realized in the remaining months of the year and it is expected that the Society will finish the year in the black. There were no additional questions or discussion. John Holcomb moved and Kathy Bromley seconded a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Approved unanimously.

**Board Elections/Vacancies**

Nominations for MCHS board members were put forward for Joan Killion, Mike Hankwitz to renew their position on the Board. Jensen informed the members that there is currently a vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of Debbie Nellis. The Board recommended filling the vacancy with Dale Horowski. There were no nominations for any of the positions received from the floor. Jensen asked for a motion to unanimously approve the slate as present: Bob Vipond moved and Connie Schwass seconded a motion to close the nominations and accept the slate as presented. Approved unanimously.

**Other Business**

As there was nothing raised as other business, Jensen adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle DeKuiper  
Operations Manager

10:24 AM  
12/10/24  
Accrual Basis

**Mason County Historical Society**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of October 31, 2024**

	Oct 31, 24	Oct 31, 23
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Total Checking/Savings	98,389.96	68,632.21
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
1025 · SHCU Cert of Deposit	11,479.41	0.00
1055 · Gift Shop Inventory	125,852.45	108,737.73
1065 · Legacy Pledges Receivable	211,250.00	381,750.00
1067 · Pledge Discount	-29,303.58	-20,162.11
Total 1068 · Work In Progress (WIP)	918,742.79	861,334.01
12000 · Undeposited Funds	3,938.15	10,008.52
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>1,241,959.22</b>	<b>1,341,668.15</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,340,349.18</b>	<b>1,410,300.36</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
1056 · Equipment	167,702.64	167,702.64
1057 · Furniture & Fixtures	3,827.34	3,286.77
1058 · Software / Website	18,225.00	18,225.00
Total 1070 · Historic White Pine Village	1,123,536.77	1,117,123.27
Total 1080 · Port of Lud Maritime Museum (A)	4,506,543.99	4,493,832.74
Total 1090 · Mason County Research Center	1,069,140.47	1,067,353.97
1095 · Accumulated Depreciation	-1,320,955.62	-1,139,134.93
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>5,568,020.59</b>	<b>5,728,389.46</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>6,908,369.77</b>	<b>7,138,689.82</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Total Accounts Payable	2,146.55	3,796.91
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>		
2010 · WSB Line of Credit	617,965.38	722,898.36
2028 · Sales Tax Payable	456.26	285.20
2029 · Gift Certificates	50.00	50.00
2030 · Murals Liab	8,678.82	8,678.82
Total 2031 · Legacy Campaign	118,041.04	408,041.04
2032 · Mariners Baseball Liability	45.81	45.81
2047 · CED Liability	6,945.01	11,732.23
Total 2048 · Unearned Revenue	0.00	60.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>752,182.32</b>	<b>1,151,791.46</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>754,328.87</b>	<b>1,155,588.37</b>
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>4,199.84</b>	<b>6,510.93</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>758,528.71</b>	<b>1,162,099.30</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>6,149,841.06</b>	<b>5,976,590.52</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>6,908,369.77</b>	<b>7,138,689.82</b>

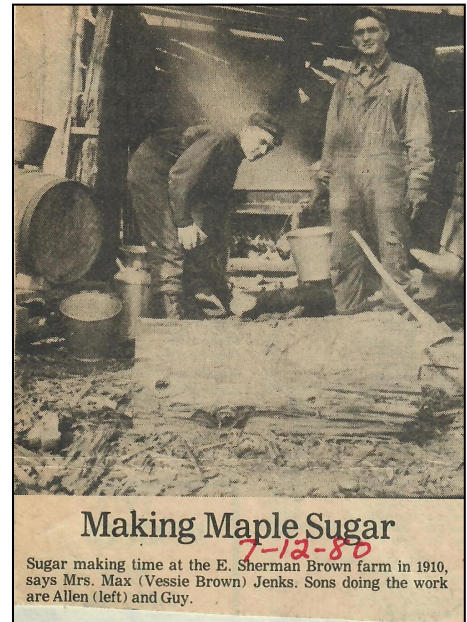
## **MCHS Operating Profit & Loss Compared to Budget**

	<b>2023 Actual</b>	<b>2024 (Through October)</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Admissions	\$ 107,510.00	\$ 109,974.03	\$ 142,500.00	
Adopt a Building	\$ 22,050.00	\$ 10,250.00	\$ 22,500.00	
Business Partners	\$ 16,630.00	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 17,417.00	
Donations	\$ 211,891.00	\$ 65,489.29	\$ 184,000.00	Traditional Donors
Conference Income	\$ 823.00			
Endowment	\$ 5,622.00	\$ 5,870.00	\$ 7,000.00	
Events	\$ 5,665.00	\$ 4,399.04	\$ 4,500.00	
Event Sponsors			\$ 10,000.00	
Gift Shop	\$ 84,176.97	\$ 55,948.23	\$ 79,000.00	
Grants	\$ 32,300.00	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,000.00	
Tours	\$ 6,261.50	\$ 13,114.00	\$ 10,200.00	
Facility Rentals	\$ 3,425.00	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 4,500.00	
Fundraising Events	\$ 22,520.00	\$ 24,901.00	\$ 30,000.00	
Interest Income	\$ 128.50	\$ 2,762.51	\$ 2,500.00	
Memberships	\$ 28,790.00	\$ 16,711.00	\$ 28,000.00	
PMMA Service	\$ 1,263.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Research Library	\$ 631.75	\$ 302.25	\$ 500.00	
School Groups	\$ 18,809.00	\$ 12,510.00	\$ 22,500.00	
Town Hall Concessions	\$ 5,332.00	\$ 4,689.00	\$ 5,000.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 573,828.72</b>	<b>\$ 358,170.35</b>	<b>\$ 641,000.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>				
Adopt a Building	\$ 3,389.09	\$ 3,478.85	\$ 22,500.00	
Exhibits			\$ 48,000.00	
Financial Services	\$ 9,941.83	\$ 9,382.58	\$ 21,550.00	
Gift Shop	\$ 41,325.00	\$ 37,540.00	\$ 36,000.00	
Building & Grounds	\$ 16,182.93	\$ 7,928.50	\$ 39,500.00	
Operations	\$ 171,688.56	\$ 105,403.12	\$ 163,674.00	
Personnel	\$ 221,809.30	\$ 176,173.73	\$ 295,109.00	
Professional Services	\$ 47,586.37	\$ 37,078.85	\$ 50,650.00	
Special Events	\$ 19,317.28	\$ 20,327.40	\$ 22,900.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 531,240.36</b>	<b>\$ 397,313.03</b>	<b>\$ 699,883.00</b>	
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 42,588.36</b>	<b>\$ (39,142.68)</b>	<b>\$ (58,883.00)</b>	2025 Annual Appeal

## MCHS MEMBERS 2024

Warren & Christy Abrahamson  
 Ed Anderson  
 Robert & Mary Anne Andrews  
 Brigitte Becker  
 Avery & Jane Benedict  
 Doug & Rebecca Berringer  
 Alan & Linda Bigger  
 Sharon Bluhm  
 Sharon & Carl Bradley-Johnson  
 Jayne & Douglas Budzynski  
 Jean Chesney  
 Christi Clay  
 Michael Collis  
 Jim & Barbara Cooley  
 Leslie Cooper  
 Linda Cronenwett  
 Sara Cronenwett  
 Robert & Deborah Dornbos  
 William & Sherine Dornbos  
 Randy & Melinda Dougherty  
 Dick & Dee Falk  
 Mark & Laurel Felsenfeld  
 Joe & Janet Gagen  
 Gerald Genter  
 Stephen Graham  
 Ralph & Susan Griffin  
 Margene & Terry Hankwitz  
 Mike & Cathy Hankwitz  
 Meredith Hanson  
 Bill Harris  
 Peter & Sherry Heyse  
 John Holzbach  
 Dale Horowski  
 Duane & Elaine Ingraham  
 Sharon Jennings  
 James & Judith Jensen  
 George & Noreen Johnson  
 Ronald & Ann Johnson  
 Axel Johnson III  
 Carolyn Jorissen  
 Joan & David Killion  
 Debra & Jeff Kinnaird  
 Paul & Patricia Korte  
 Michele Krauchenko  
 Claudia & Ralph Kruska  
 Paul Kruska  
 Thomas & Jackie Lane  
 Sandra & John Langknecht  
 Will & Keely Lent  
 Ruth Lorenger  
 Terry & Sandra Luxford  
 Raymond Madsen  
 Terry & Suzanne Major  
 Mary Mitchell & Steven Heldt Mitchell

Ellamae McDonald  
 Jim & Valerie McDowell  
 Jerry & Beverly McGowan  
 Dianne Miller  
 Janet Miller  
 Edward Miller  
 Richard Muciek  
 Clay Olmstead  
 Mike & Buffy Nagle  
 Dave Nelson  
 Charles & Glenna Paukstis  
 Karen Pauler  
 James & Mary Peters  
 George & Jill Peterson  
 Daniel Petterson  
 Valerie Vandyke Phillips  
 Carolyn Ptaszenski  
 Rick & Mary Ann Randall  
 Shirley Rasmussen  
 Charles Reagan  
 Fred & Cindy Reader IV  
 Connie Reik  
 Amber & Corey Ressler  
 Audrey Robertson Boals  
 Carlton & Margaret Sanders  
 Bob & Susan Sasin  
 Ronald & Connie Schwass  
 Susan Shook  
 Tom Sibley  
 Sherry Skridulis  
 Paul & Patricia Spaniola  
 Carol Spence  
 Kim St George  
 Carrie Ann Strong  
 Deborah Tennant  
 Gordon & Sondra Tushek  
 Donald & Mary Truax  
 David & Mary Van Arsdale  
 Brett & Julie Vanderwater  
 Valerie Vandyke Phillips  
 Kaila Vanloon  
 Brandy & Kristi Wetherington  
 Keith Williams  
 Charles Williamson  
 Richard & Sandra Wiseley  
 Richard & Diane Wells  
 Keith & Mary Wolnewitz  
 John & Karen Yakimow  
 Alex & Linda Zaydel



## MCHS DONORS 2024

Warren & Christy Abrahamson  
 William & Anna Anderson  
 George Andrews  
 Judy Bach  
 Karla Barber  
 Brigitte & William Becker  
 Roger & Margo Behler  
 Doug & Rebecca Berringer  
 Jolly Birtwistle  
 Marilyn Boese  
 Cornell & Melissa Boggs  
 Mike & Rhonda Braybrook  
 Kathy Bromley  
 Wayne & Ronnie Buskirk  
 Jim & Jane Clark  
 Kim & Gina Cole  
 Community Foundation for Mason County  
 Jim & Barbara Cooley  
 Becky Cornett  
 Phyllis Cox  
 Sara Cronenwett  
 Gordie & Sue Davidson  
 Delta Foundation  
 Wayne & Karen Disegna  
 Nancy & Doreen Sloan  
 Robert & Deborah Dornbos  
 William & Sherine Dornbos  
 Emanuel Lutheran Church Council  
 Dick & Dee Falk  
 Filer Credit Union  
 Delores Gariepy  
 Adde Lou Garter  
 Dennis & Karen Genson  
 Ryan & Kristi Glanville  
 Stephen Graham  
 Great Lakes Energy  
 Daniel & Yvonne Greene  
 Mike, John, Betsy, Lidia Greene  
 Patrick & Julie Greene  
 Nathaniel & Jane Griffin  
 Sally Grimm  
 Mike & Cathy Hankwitz  
 Phylis Harden  
 Jen & Dan Hinderer  
 Deborah & Jeremy Howe  
 Hungry Howies  
 Interlake Maritime Services, INC  
 Kenneth & Cathy Iteen  
 Jamesport Brewing Co  
 James & Judith Jensen  
 Axel Johnson III  
 Carolyn Jorissen

Leslie Kannon  
 Kendra C. Thompson Architects P.C.  
 Joan & David Killion  
 Rich & Beth Kirby  
 Sheila & Marlene Kowatch  
 Douglas Leafstrand  
 Ludington Beverage  
 Ludington Daily News  
 Ludington Historic Bed & Breakfast  
 Association  
 Terry & Suzanne Major  
 Richard & Elizabeth Mallon  
 Mason County Garden Club  
 Ed McCumber  
 David & Elizabeth McFadzean  
 MI One Room Schoolhouse Association  
 George Miner  
 Mary Mitchell & Steven Heldt  
 Richard Muciek  
 Mike & Buffy Nagle  
 Bob & Kay Neal  
 Dave Nelson  
 Patrick & Maria O'Hare  
 Clay Olmstead  
 Pat & Melissa Patterson  
 Charles & Glenna Paukstis  
 Karen Pauler  
 Pere Marquette Memorial Association  
 Pat Perez  
 Jeanine Petersen  
 Daniel & Susan Petterson  
 Anne Pettigrew  
 Joseph Plantamura  
 Ted & Kathleen Radtke  
 Shirley Rasmussen  
 Doug & Dawn Rollenhagen  
 Safe Harbor Credit Union  
 Janelle Schade  
 Phyllis Schmansky  
 Ronald & Connie Schwass  
 Margaret Scott  
 Scottville Clown Band, Inc  
 Sonja Siewert  
 Diane Sleeper  
 Dick & Ruth Smith  
 Patricia Smith  
 Larry & Julie Snyder  
 Tom and Kaye Sorensen  
 Paul & Patricia Spaniola  
 Kim St George  
 Mark & Mary Stefaniak

Vanstan & Blair Stevenson  
 Edgar & Lauri Struble  
 Robert & Stephanie Sundholm  
 Superior Electric of Ludington  
 John & Marianne Terzano  
 Troubadour Aid Foundation, Inc.  
 Turf Care/Mole Man  
 Gordon & Sondra Tushek  
 Bob & Carole Vipond  
 West Shore Bank  
 Brandy Wetherington  
 Keith Williams  
 Lisa Wolven





## MCHS VOLUNTEERS

Mike Braybrook  
Bob & Joyce Beute  
Gail Burkhardt  
Kathy Burns  
Donald & Carol Copeland  
Gordie & Sue Davidson  
Diane Davis  
Deb DeJong  
Deb Del Zoppo  
Melinda Dougherty  
Nancy DuVall  
Dennis Fast  
James Fay  
Anne Flutur  
Diana Gabbard  
Tom Griffor  
Loretta Gunberg  
Deb Gundersen  
Ron Harris  
David & Marie Hartman  
Bonnie Henretty  
Barbara Jacobs  
Carol Johnson  
Karen Klukowski  
Reagan Knudsen  
John Kreinbrink  
Liz Krupa  
Edward Larsen  
Nancy Letts  
Elizabeth Mallon  
John Marek  
Scott & Linda McKinley  
Eileen Micho  
Chris, Jen, Eliza & Emily Miszewski  
Elizabeth & Carmela Moma  
Maggie Momenee  
Mike Nagle

Joan Nelson  
Ned Nordine  
Bonnie O'Bryan  
Patrick O'Hare  
Judy Olson  
Sarah Patton  
Ron Pepper  
Pat Perez  
Anne Pettigrew  
Gary Powers  
Carolyn Ptaszenski  
Jax Rico  
Dawn Rollenhagen  
Sandy Rozwalka  
Larry & Barbara Scherer  
Connie Schwass  
MaKenna Schwass  
Camille Shepler  
Sandy Spangler  
Mark & Mary Stefaniak  
Debra Weaver  
Jenny White  
Ron White  
Ruth White



## ADOPT-A-BUILDING PROGRAM FOR 2024

Abe Nelson – Dornbos Family  
Artisan Center – Anne Pettigrew  
Blacksmith Shop – Patrick & Maria O'Hare  
Burns' Farmhouse - George Miner  
Coles General Store – Kim & Gina Cole  
Doctor's Office – Chuck & Glenna Paukstis  
George R. Petersen Admissions Office - James & Judith Jensen  
Hamlin Lake Cottage – Kathy Bromley  
Jorissen Barn – The Jorissen Family  
M&O Train – In memory of Jim Gariepy  
Museum of Music – Edgar Struble & Scottville Clown Band  
Pere Marquette Town Hall – In memory of Jim Gariepy  
Phoenix Fire House – Ellamae McDonald  
Post Office - Delores Gariepy  
Time Building - In memory of Jim Gariepy  
Trapper's Cabin - Tom & Kaye Sorensen  
White Pine Village Chapel – Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Wm. E Anderson Hardware Store – Suzanne & Terry Major



### **Buildings/Exhibits Available:**

Agriculture Shed East & West  
Car Museum  
Caswell Courthouse  
Lumber Camp Buildings  
Marchido School  
Military Bldg.  
Port Huron Sawmill  
Siddon Print Shop  
Sugar Shack

Other buildings are available for adoption; adopt one for \$750.00.  
Please contact the Society if interested!



*Thank You to all for making  
our Adopt-A-Building Program  
a huge success.*



## Gardening Angels Memorial Gardens Report 2024

This year the Gardening Angels started working in the gardens in early May. We work every Tuesday morning from 9 or 10am to Noontime for about 18-20 weeks (into mid- October).

There is an average of 12-15 Angels per week. This adds up to approximately 1000 donated hours for the season! We have a total of 21 Angels on the roster this year.

This season we amended all the garden beds which includes 20 beds as well as 14 container gardens. Seven large barrel containers needed to be replaced at the end of the season; the rotted wood was just falling off! Those containers were located along Main Street and in front of the Administration Building.



The Heirloom Vegetable Garden located by the Burns Farm house was rebuilt by George and Don, the maintenance crew. Both gentlemen diligently worked on this project and completed the raised beds and white fencing that encloses the garden. We were able to plant a few vegetables but still are in need of protecting the area with deer netting. We hope that final phase of the project will be completed in the Spring of 2025.

Two of our Angels passed away this year. The Angels donated money to purchase 2 Butterfly Bushes to plant in Memory of them. One bush is planted next to the Burns Farm house by the front porch and the other is planted at the Chapel by the “donor” brick stairway.

The *Mason County Historical Society* provided \$300 for the Angels to purchase mulch, barrel containers, and plant products such as Milorganite, Deer Off, and garden soil. The *Mason County Garden Club* also gave a generous donation which went for annuals for the containers and garden beds. *The Giving Tree* donated annuals for 2 large flower containers for use at our White Pine Chapel. *Gustafson Greenhouse* donated 2 flats of begonias which were planted in front of the Time Building.

This year *White Pine Village* proudly received a First Place award from the *Michigan Garden Clubs, Inc.* for “**Landscaping of Historic Areas**”. *White Pine Village* also received a “*Certificate of Appreciation*” from the *National Garden Clubs, Inc.* for “**Landscaping of Historic Areas**”. To receive the *Certificate of Appreciation* for the *National Garden Clubs, Inc.* is quite an honor!

### Wish List for 2025

Heirloom Vegetable Garden deer netting surrounding the garden.  
More garden soil for the raised vegetable beds, compost, mulch, garden products to repel the deer.

This has been another enthusiastic season for the Gardening Angels and their Labor of Love. The friendships continue to grow and it is a pleasure to work together. *White Pine Village* looked lovely this season and many thanks again to everyone who helped. This includes staff that help water the gardens/containers during the droughty summer when the Angels were unavailable to come out on other days other than Tuesdays. They have been a huge help to us gardeners.



Looking forward to Spring 2025 when we can come together again and work in the gardens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gardening Angels Co-Chairs:

Judy Olson  
Barb Scherer  
Carolyn Ptaszewski



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# Mason County Heritage Circle:

## Preserving Our Past, Ensuring Our Future



We invite you to become a cornerstone of history by joining the Mason County Heritage Circle—designed to secure the legacy of the Mason County Historical Society (MCHS) for generations to come. By designating MCHS in your will or trust or including MCHS as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy, you play a crucial role in preserving, presenting, and protecting the rich history of Mason County.

No matter what your station in life is, now is the perfect time to include the Mason County Historical Society in your estate plans. The Mason County Heritage Circle program recognizes those who have designated MCHS as a beneficiary in their wills or trusts.

### Why Join the Heritage Program?

Your commitment to the Heritage Circle program ensures that the museums under the Mason County Historical Society continue to thrive as they provide culturally rich programming that blends the stories of old with present times.

There is no minimum level of support required to join the Heritage Circle program. Simply notify us that MCHS is included in your estate plans, and you have become a Mason County Heritage Circle member.

**Members of the Heritage Circle Program enjoy exclusive benefit** from recognition, if you desire, to special invites to MCHS donor receptions where you can connect with fellow history enthusiasts. In addition, each year, Heritage Circle members receive a number of guest passes to our museums to share with loved ones who want to discover the rich history of Mason County.

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## How your support makes a difference:



**Preserving History:** Your gift guarantees the preservation of Mason County's historical artifacts, documents, and stories, ensuring they are safeguarded and shared with future generations.



**Historically Relevant Programming:** Your contribution supports ongoing programs and exhibitions, making history come alive for community members and visitors alike.



**Sustainability:** Your support keeps MCHS financially sound and focused on our mission to preserve, present, and protect the history of Mason County at our three museum venues.



**Supports Education:** Provides critical funding for history rich programs such as History in Action Days, Maritime History Days, and our annual Mason Memories Speakers Series.



**Preserve Cultural Attractions:** Your gift provides valuable funding to preserve the Ludington Murals, Mason County Sports Hall of Fame, Scottville Clown Band, and the Pere Marquette Memorial Cross.



**A Thriving Community:** Your support not only sustains our historical preservation efforts but also plays a pivotal role in shaping Mason County as a destination that seamlessly blends the allure of our natural landscapes with the compelling narratives of our past. The events, exhibits, and educational programs curated by the Mason County Historical Society contribute to the economic vitality of Mason County by fostering tourism and creating opportunities for local businesses.





# Mason County Heritage Circle: Preserving Our Past, Ensuring Our Future



## Testimony

“We enjoyed childhoods in Mason County that included exploring nature, working on family fruit farms and around a lumber and building supplies yard, enjoying water sports, and watching seven carferries come and go. Although we’ve lived more than 50 years in Pennsylvania, throughout these years we’ve always felt that our “home” is Mason County. Yet, we didn’t fully appreciate Mason County’s history and landscape until the *Mason County Historical Society (MCHS)* taught us about the area where we grew up. The MCHS is a remarkable county historical society with three outstanding learning centers: *Historic White Pine Village*, *Port of Ludington Maritime Museum*, and *downtown Research Center*.

The MCHS commitment to preserving and sharing local heritage allows present and future generations to know the remarkable changes that occurred during Mason County’s history. The dedication and enthusiasm of the MCHS staff, Board, and volunteers allows residents and visitors to learn the region’s vibrant history and how earlier county residents worked and lived. But without support of the MCHS, the region’s stories of logging, timber mills, salt production, farming, manufacturing, railroads, ships, and earlier days may be lost.

We are delighted to financially support the MCHS both now and in the future via a bequest. Supporting MCHS ensures continuation of its mission of preserving, presenting, and protecting the history of Mason County”.

Warren & Chris Abrahamson  
Lewisburg, Pennsylvania





# WINTER

## *Speaker Series*

Every 2nd Thursday of the Month  
Starting January 9th-April 10th



7 PM



130 E Ludington Ave,  
Ludington MI, 49431



Visit us during the Downtown Cookie Walk  
The Mason County Historical Society presents:

## Cookies and Canvas

### **Local Holiday Shopping and Michigan Artist Meet & Greet**

Shop local for old fashioned candies and unique holiday gifts. Meet award winning illustrator and fine artist Karen Parker Moeller.

Art exposition and special raffle opportunity —  
North Breakwater Lighthouse fine art print.

**Saturday, December 14th 1 pm - 4 pm**



**Mason County Emporium & Sweet Shop**  
130 East Ludington Ave



The **Mason County Historical Society**, a private non-profit, educational organization, formally organized on November 30, 1937 is dedicated to the perpetuation of Mason County's history.

**The Society's Mission and Purpose is:**

- ◆ To foster a deeper understanding of and appreciation for Mason County history.
- ◆ To collect, preserve and present for viewing historically important artifacts, archives and buildings of the inhabitants of Mason County.
- ◆ To stimulate and encourage the interpretation of Mason County's past through publications, educational programs and related historical activities.
- ◆ To cooperate with appropriate individuals, organizations and institutions on the local and state level in projects and activities which promote and sustain a general interest in history and preservation.

**MCHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

James Jensen – President	Kim Cole – Vice President	Joan Killion – Secretary
Dr. Connie Schwass – Treasurer	John Holcomb	Mike Hankwitz
Rob Alway	Patrick O'Hare	Dale Horowski

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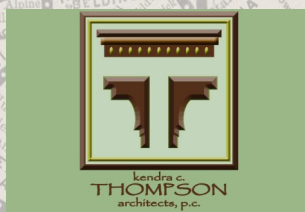
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**Thank you for your support!**