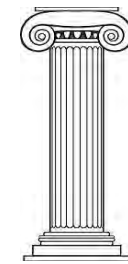


'No Strings Attached' Cash for the CCHS

Did you know you can use your Kroger Rewards card to support the CCHS? The plan is called Community Rewards. When you use your Kroger Rewards card for groceries, Kroger matches a small percentage of your total and sends it to us. All total, we've received over \$1,000! Many thanks to those who signed up. If you haven't, follow the steps below to start contributing now.



Start by going to [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) and enter your login information. When your account opens, look in the lower left task bar for "Community Rewards". Type in the CCHS number **EH450** and once our name appears click on it. Now you're contributing to our quarterly check. You pay nothing and there's no impact your reward points.



CLARKSTON COLUMNS

Spring 2025



Help Wanted: Be a part of your Hometown History

As a member of the Clarkston Community Historical Society, you've already contributed to our mission to celebrate and preserve the area's rich history for future generations. Now we hope you'll consider increasing your involvement, and we're suggesting a few ways you can help.

Join our Board: We're still looking for new Board of Directors members willing to lead the organization and set the vision for our future. We meet once a month, 9 months a year, with special meetings for signature events like Art in the Village.

Lead or join a committee: We always need volunteers to bring their skills, energy and ideas to our events and outreach projects like Art in the Village, the Clarkston Heritage Museum, our popular Ghost Tour, walking tours of historic sites, the annual holiday fundraiser and more. Whether it's a year, a month or a few hours, all help is welcome and appreciated. Learn more about the many volunteer opportunities we offer by contacting us at info@ClarkstonHistorical.org.

It's Time to Renew and Show Your Support

If you attended the 2024 Holiday Party or if you're a lifetime member, then your 2025 CCHS membership is already renewed. If not, please use the form below. Mail today to stay connected! With mailing costs rising, it's necessary for us to streamline our rolls this year. Inactive members will no longer receive our newsletters, mailings or a 2025 Holiday Party invite.

Use this form to join or renew your CCHS Membership

- Lifetime Benefactor** \$500 *A one-time contribution*
- Patron** \$250 *Yearly*
- Contributing** \$100 *Yearly*
- Family/Individual** \$40 *Yearly*

Thank You!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Mail this form with a check (made out to the Clarkston Historical Society) to
6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI 48346
Or you can **PAY ONLINE** by going to the membership page of our website at www.ClarkstonHistorical.org



CCHS Directors Kelly Crawford (L) and Debbie DeVault (R) check-in Ghost Walk attendees.

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Thanks to Maggie Sans and the Walmart Foundation for their support of our historical society! It's awesome to benefit from Walmart giving back to the community. Their contribution of \$7,500 supported our mission to preserve and protect Clarkston's wonderful and rich history for future generations.

<p>CCHS 2025 Board of Directors</p> <p>Jonathan Smith, <i>President</i> Debbie DeVault, <i>Vice President</i> Kelly Crawford, <i>Secretary/Publicity</i> Jen Herrmann, <i>Creative Design</i> Maggie Sans, <i>Sponsorships</i> Beth Kirchner Melissa Luginski Evelyn Bihl</p>	<p>Clarkston Heritage Museum</p> <p>Toni Smith, <i>Director</i></p> <p>Our Partners</p> <p>Margret McDermott <i>Website & Photography</i></p> <p>Patrick McCarty, CPA PLLC</p>	<p>Clarkston Community Historical Society & Heritage Museum</p> <p>6495 Clarkston Rd. Clarkston, MI 48346 PH: 248-922-0270</p> <p>www.ClarkstonHistorical.org Email: info@ClarkstonHistorical.org</p> <p>Follow us on </p>
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Wow, THAT Year Sure Flew by Fast

For a small group, we had a big impact on the community in 2024. Starting with a local history program held at the library. Museum director Toni Smith highlighted some of the more interesting items in the museum collection and answered questions about local history. Visitors were also encouraged to go behind the office door and check-out the museum collection. It was a great opportunity for them and a perfect way for the CCHS to showcase what we do.

Then in October, we helped sponsor a program titled “How to Research Your Old House” with guest speakers Carol Bacak-Egbo (Oakland County Historian) and Ron Campbell (principal Preservation Architect at Oakland County). Cara Catallo facilitated the program and it was very well attended. The audience was taken through the process of determining both the architectural timeline and the general history of a home on M-15. It was a fascinating program and both events were a big success!

In September, the weather held up nicely for our 53rd Art in the Village in Depot Park. This wonderful festival brought thousands of visitors to our community and helped to support the CCHS in their mission. Our total profit from the weekend exceeded \$20,000. This event is our biggest fund-raiser and proceeds allow the CCHS to continue it’s mission to collect, preserve, educate and protect our historic artifacts. It’s a huge undertaking and we hope you will consider helping us this year. It’s a great event for families and the village is always busy and full of excitement and energy. Many visitors make a day of it and patronize our shops and restaurants, so it makes a positive impact on our community.



Clarkston Mason Kevin Boldery spoke about paranormal activity in the Masonic Temple. Located at 2 S. Main Street since 1854.

When we decided we’d bring back our popular Ghost Walk in August, we had no idea we’d hold it again in October. The first walk was our biggest, with over 200 tickets sold. Groups were taken by guided tour to stops within the village where actors told the story of the paranormal activity at that location.

We are very grateful to the many volunteers

who worked that night to make this happen. We are also especially thankful to the homeowners who were enthusiastic and willing to let us include them. We hope we didn’t hurt any ghostly feelings with our stories and no new ‘bumps in the night’ resulted from our visits!



The home at 61 S. Holcomb was extremely popular with our curious crowd. Former (and deceased) resident George likes to hang around and play tricks.



Dates to Remember!

Whether it’s old school or on your phone—please mark your calendars so you don’t miss any of our great events this year.

Art in the Village

Saturday, September 20th
Sunday, September 21st
Depot Park

GHOST WALK

In partnership with
Union Joints

Saturday, October 18th
More details to come

Holiday Party

CCHS Members Only
Hosted at the home of
*Melissa Howell and
Kevin Knapp*

Friday, December 5, 7 pm
62 N. Main Street

We recently completed a project with Meijer, which will use some of our historic photos to decorate the new store, opening soon on Waldon at Sashabaw. We love seeing our photos in local businesses and there are already several local establishments doing this. We charge \$50 per historic image and it’s a win-win for everyone. Watch for the grand opening coming this spring!



Are you an artist or do you know one?

Then we would like to encourage you to apply for a booth space at our 2025 Art in the Village Show. Or, if you deal in vintage antiques or make a mean dessert—we have a place for you!

Go to ClarkstonHistorical.org to download the information and application page. We would be happy to have you join us this year.



Do YOU Know Who YOU Are?

We do! But we want to clarify the difference between the two groups in town that deal with Clarkston's history and historic character. For reasons unknown to us, a small group of citizens continues to willfully spread misinformation that the Clarkston Community Historical Society (CCHS) and the Historic District Commission (HDC) are the same group. WE ARE NOT.

Do we have members who are active in both groups? Of course, it's a small community and volunteers are in short supply and high demand. But that's where it ends.

According to the city—The five members of the HDC are appointed by city council to regulate and review proposed changes on a property within Clarkston Historic District. Historic preservation is declared a public purpose and the City of The Village of Clarkston may by ordinance regulate the construction, addition, alteration, repair, moving, excavation, and demolition of structures and landscapes within historic district. That is their assigned purpose.

On the flip side there's us. The CCHS was created in the early 1970s by people interested in the history of our community; and to collect and preserve such things that are of historic interest. The board of the CCHS comprises volunteers who believe in our mission and care about local history. In 1999, we opened the Clarkston Heritage Museum to house and display



To date, the CCHS has placed sixteen historic markers throughout town.

the many artifacts we have acquired over the last 50 years. We are funded solely by funds raised through membership, events like Art in the Village and donations/grants. The museum has one part time employee, Toni Smith. She has been the museum director since it opened in 1999. She oversees the collection, curates new exhibits, runs the CCHS office and spearheads many of our events. We also have an amazing Board of Directors who give so much of their time to make both the CCHS and the museum a success for this community. Few small cities have a history museum like ours. We're very proud of what we have, and you should be, too!

Simply, the HDC are the ones to call if you have renovation questions regarding a home or business in the Historic District. The CCHS are the ones to visit and view a letter written by Enos Church or Clarkston founder Nelson Clark. Or a photo of Main Street in the late 1800s. How about Butler Holcomb's gold pocket watch? These irreplaceable artifacts are examples of where we focus our time and energy. We hope this will settle the issue once and for all and more importantly, we hope you'll stop by the museum and see exactly who WE are.



Continued from page 2

Shortly afterward, we were approached by Union Joints to consider a second Ghost Walk in partnership with other Halloween promotions at The Woodshop. We said yes and what a great night it was! The format was a bit different and worked even better. Guests were given a map and they could hit any location, in any order, that they preferred. Afterwards, they were encouraged to present their ticket for a free spooky treat upstairs in the Woodshop. Many stayed to enjoy one of the specialty Halloween 'spirits' at the bar. Several attendees asked if we would be doing it again in 2025 and the answer was a definite yes! See our 2025 calendar for the date.



Then it was on to the CCHS Members' Holiday Party. Usually, this is held in one of the beautiful homes in the village, but this year we decided to hold it in our 'home.' By hosting at the library, guests could stroll through the museum and then move out to enjoy the party in the main building. How do you 'dazzle-up' a big space for a party? You decorate 10 Christmas trees for starters. Then lots of space for our silent auction, delicious food and a beautiful charcuterie table from The Board. Throw in a bar and a pianist with some holiday music and you've got a great party. The silent auction had some fabulous items up for bid and one even decorated Main Street throughout the holiday season. Did you notice the full-size Santa sleigh on the front lawn of 58



North Main Street? The result of a lucky bidder in our silent auction!

Check out our calendar on page 7 for the 2025 dates already planned and make a point to be there to support the CCHS. WE NEED YOU.

L: Greg Stewart won the prize for the craziest Christmas sweater.



What's New in the Museum?

It's been a great year for interesting donations to the Heritage Museum, so we thought we would showcase just a few of our new artifacts..

From the estate of Gini Schultz, we received several items related to Clarkston's history. Here are just a few. First, there are two small ruby flash glass souvenir glasses. Each is embellished with the Clarkston name and were sold in local shops to visitors in the area. Remember, Clarkston was a tourist destination for several years. These items came in all shapes, sizes and colors, and we have several varieties in our collection.



and we have several varieties in our collection.

The stately Queen Anne style house at 43 N. Main Street was once the home of the Lambert family. Charles Lambert owned Clayton & Lambert Manufacturing Company in Detroit and did very well for himself. The large beautiful home on the shore of the millpond was their summer 'cottage.' The bronze calendar, dated 1907, was likely a promotional gift to clients. However, time marches on and now it's a wonderful addition to our museum.



Norman and Esther Ellis once owned a home and beautiful barn on Dixie Highway. The home was moved back to be included into a new subdivision and the barn was moved to Springfield Oaks County Park in the early 2000s. The farm

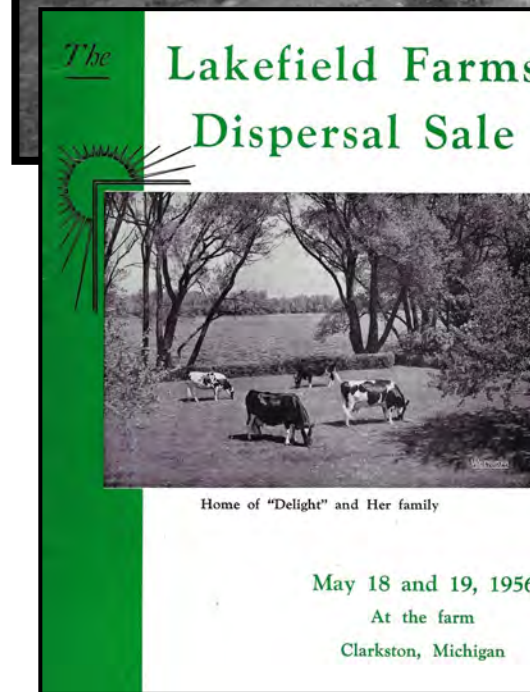
was successful due in part to a black Percheron stallion Norman purchased in France for \$2,000 in 1882 (almost \$62,000 in 2025 dollars). Both the horse and the farm were named Ingomar. Besides horses, the Ellis family surely raised additional livestock on the large farm. This brings us to the wonderful sterling bowl shown here. It's engraved with the image of a sheep and the names of Norman J. Ellis and H. D. Hodge. We aren't sure whether it was a gift or a prize, but either way it must have been very special because the bowl is from **Tiffany & Company**, not something one could easily purchase in the small town of Clarkston!



Continued from page 4



This summer we had a visit from Richard and Barbara Foster of Northport, MI. Richard's father was O.F. Foster and managed Lakefield Farm for many years. If you aren't familiar with the farm, it's now the site of Heather Lakes Estates along



Clarkston Road. The large, unusual house directly along the south side of the road began as a barn on the farm. Lakefield Farm was a highly successful dairy farm with a nationally known prize-winning herd. They supplied milk to businesses such as Harper's Hospital and the J. L. Hudson flagship store in Detroit. In the spring of 1956 the farm was closed and the herd was individually auctioned off. Several of the cows went to Carnation Farms (milk) in Washington State as well as other locations across the country. The auction program has over 50 pages and

includes the statistics of each cow. The average cow sold for over \$1,000, with the champion 'Forbes Delight' selling to Carnation for \$13,000.

We're so grateful to the Fosters for taking the time and effort to deliver this wonderful collection of Lakefield Farm artifacts. It's a fitting addition to the museum since it speaks to Clarkston's early history as a farming community.

An additional heartfelt thanks to Sarah Schultz for supporting our collection with many historical items from the home of her parents, James and Gini.

