

Talks and Displays at the Library

Theme: Huron Businesses

TUES, JUNE 11th, 6– 7:30PM, ROOM A

Where's the Beef? The Hart and Thomas Markets and Myers Butchering:

Enjoy Wileswood Country Store popcorn and peruse displays on the library's lower level and Williams Street entrance.

TUES, JUNE 18th, 6 – 7:30PM, ROOM A

Huron Lagoons Marina and the Development of Huron Heights

Annual Society Membership Meeting Tuesday, June 25th, 6:00-8:00 pm Barnes Nursery (3511 Cleveland Rd W)

Reservations required by June 18th for this member-only event. 1-2 people per membership. Email us at huronohiohistory@gmail.com or call 419-433-5009(x 1144)

The hosts for the evening will be Sharon Barnes, of Barnes Nursery, and Julie Spitzley, of Storm Mountain Coffee. Sharon will lead a first-floor tour of their 19th Century Italianate home that is adjacent to the garden center's lot. Under the tent, Julie, who is the proprietor of Storm Mountain Coffee, will share the history of her company and then host food pairings of coffee and wine with appetizers and ice cream. Ben Langan, vintner of Mulberry Creek Wine and Mike Trabel of Trabel's Bagels will also be joining us. Regarding accessibility at this event, there will be a golf cart available at the garden center and there are five steps at the entry of the home. We hope to see you there!

You may bring your membership dues to this meeting. The treasurer will greet you at check-in.

Year 2024 marks 200th Anniversary of the Old Plat of the Village of Huron

Although Huron was founded in 1809, the town's business and residential districts weren't platted until 1824. The village's first official map was filed that year in Norwalk, the seat of Huron County, which at the time included Huron. Board members will attend the Old Plat Anniversary Picnic at the end of June. Congratulations, Huron!

The Huron Historical Society office and displays are in the Library's Lower Level. The office is staffed Wednesdays, 3-5pm and by appointment. The displays will be available for viewing all summer.



Please renew your annual membership by mail or online.

- 1) BY MAIL: Detach this form with your completed information and mail a check payable to the Huron Historical Society for the amount of your membership level.
Address: P.O. Box 222, Huron, Ohio 44839. A receipt will be sent to your email.

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

- 2) ONLINE: Pay with a credit card: www.thehuronhistoricalsociety.org/about/membership

Membership levels: Student (\$5); Individual/Family (\$35); Senior (\$25); Business (\$50); Benefactor (\$250) Lifetime (\$500) Lifetime members will be automatically renewed. Benefactors are renewed for 5 years.
Questions??? Email us at: huronohiohistory@gmail.com

Fire Department Documentary this Fall

Since January 2023 the Society has been networking with fire department personnel to gather and celebrate the Huron Fire Department's 150th Anniversary. The Society is in the production phase of a professional documentary that explores the evolution of the department from bucket brigades to the sophisticated fire equipment and techniques used today. The video will include interviews with retired and current firefighters, footage of past fires and rescue/recovery operations, as well as photos of restored fire engines. Society members will have the opportunity to view the documentary before the public. Stay tuned for premier date!



Barnes Nursery turns 75

In 1950, brothers Harold and Guerdon Barnes of Norwalk purchased the Linker property across the road from Slate Cut, the former overpass of the Lake Shore Electric Railway. Harold had gained experience growing roses as a horticulture major at Ohio State University. The brothers determined that because of the land's close proximity to Lake Erie the area was perfect for growing roses. Within a year they propagated 11,000 roses, and included a formal garden and lighting for night visitors. Barnes Roses soon began hosting annual rose festivals.

The Barnes' purchase included the Andrew Linker home. Linker was a fruit farmer whose apple trees extended all the way to the lake. Due to the Great Depression, the Linkers opened their home to tourists, naming the home the Ridgewell Inn. The property grew to include cabins, tennis courts, and miniature golf.



The following generation of the Barnes family expanded the garden center to include an award-winning landscape business, an excavating business, and a composting business. The family has taken a leadership role in Ohio's green initiatives and recycles about 20,000 tons of yard trimmings,

Huron loses century home to fire

The citizens of Huron were saddened for the Swanbeck and Kay families at the loss of their historic residence at 304 Center Street to fire. It had been home to Huron physicians through the years. The Society was fortunate to have received the donation of a 1821 text of surgical essays prior to the fire, whose hardcover was adorned with the signatures of physicians, Drs. Morris, Pollack, Caldwell, Judge, Esch, Haskins, and Swanbeck.



Many folks have been sharing their fond memories of their visits to Dr. Carl Swanbeck, the last physician to have his office in the building. At right we share a photo taken of the house by Sue Shamhart at Christmas. a photo of Doc Swanbeck on a house call around 1945, and a photo of state representative and wife of Carl, Ethel Swanbeck, at the Firelands College groundbreaking ceremony in 1967. Mrs. Swanbeck served the 13th District of Ohio for over 22 years.

There are many stories regarding Mrs. Swanbeck's tenure in the Ohio House of Representatives, including this one shared by Society board member Steve Myer..Mrs. Swanbeck picked up Ohio Governor Jim Rhodes at Sandusky Griffing Airport to take him to the ground breaking ceremony of Firelands College. Their short trip involved their crossing the tracks on Rye Beach Road, near the Boos Road intersection. Penn Central Railroad, at that time, was notorious for allowing trains to block the railroad crossing for extended periods. There were not flashers or gates at the crossing, which Ethel realized was a safety hazard for the many students who would be driving to Firelands College for classes. As the story goes, Ethel abruptly stopped her car on the tracks as a train was approaching. She took the opportunity to tell the governor that flashers and gates should be installed at the crossing as soon as possible. Governor Rhodes supposedly said, with increasing urgency and volume, "Ethel, Ethel, ETHEL!!!" until she finally pulled off the crossing just before the train reached it. Governor Rhodes said later she had made her point and not long afterward, lights and gates were installed at the Rye Beach Road crossing with help from the State of Ohio.

