

The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) Newsletter
www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org Oakland County, Michigan



President's Perspective 2025 *OTHS President Anthony Kowalchick*

We are already halfway through 2025, and we are proud to reflect on our accomplishments as well as setting a few new goals for the upcoming year. Our biggest project was the relocation of the Goodison Signal Booth to the Paint Creek Junction Park. The new signage details the booth's history. This project took on a history of its own as the board developed a long list of who first saved the booth and where it was located all these years! The Township asked us to relocate the booth back in 2019 and between a pandemic and settling on a suitable, appropriate setting, I am happy to announce we have finally completed the task at hand. Next time you walk or ride your bike on the Paint Creek Trail please take the time to view this little treasured piece of Oakland Township History and reflect on the trains and goods that once ran through this passage and the many people who stopped at the Goodison Station not that many years ago! Another accomplishment, to be unveiled shortly, is the Historic Home Book. Gerry Schuchard, one of our board members, has been extremely busy creating a new book that showcases our Township's beautiful historic homes and landmarks. Check our social media sites for this 2025 fundraiser. It is certain to become a treasured classic. We are grateful for Gerry's time and energy in making this book come to fruition.



Announcing the 2025 Flumerfelt Flea Sale

Our annual Flea Sale at Cranberry Lake Farm, 384 W. Predmore Rd, Oakland Township, opens on Friday, September 19th from 6 to 8 pm. A \$5 donation allows early-birds to shop Friday evening for the best



selection. The sale continues on Saturday, September 20th from 10 am to 4 pm, and Sunday, September 21st from 12 to 3 pm.

Unique and vintage items such as dishes, collectibles, tools, and farm implements, as well as small pieces of furniture, are sure to excite the collector and novice alike. We might have to expand the sale into two buildings! Follow us on Facebook for more information, especially as the sale gets closer. Volunteers are needed. Do you have something to donate? Please contact Gayle Kowalchick at (586) 817-3435 or text Michelle Pfarrer at (248) 860-9945.

Coming Soon... Oakland Township Historic Homes Book

A new *Historic Homes of Oakland Township* book will be available for sale later this year. The book features 30 homes and 15 heritage sites. Original colored photographs and written historical details highlight the unique history of our area. If you happen to have a 1976 copy of *Heritage in Oakland Township*, those homes that are still standing are re-featured. Unfortunately, over the past decades some historic properties have been lost to time. In their place, the 2025 edition includes never before featured 19th-century and early 20th-century homes. Just in time for the holiday shopping season, this book is sure to become a treasured relic! We will make an announcement via social media on how you can obtain a copy.





Meet Your OTHS 2025-2026 Board Members



President: Anthony Kowalchick

Hello Oakland Township Historical Society members! I am Anthony Kowalchick, your president for the 2025-2027 sessions. I have been a member of the Society since 2011 and a board member since 2016. History is my passion along with making maps. Looking forward to seeing you all at the upcoming events!

Co-Vice President/Programming: Colleen Barkham

Colleen Barkham is a long-time resident of Oakland Township and is retired from the Troy School District as a biology teacher and counselor. She has been a member of OTHS for over 30 years. She has served on the board for 2 terms as President and is currently serving as V.P. in charge of programming. In the past, she chaired Appraisal Day for 8 years and started the Flumerfelt Flea in 2016. Colleen co-chaired with Janine Saputo, The Reuther Exhibit, 2008, The Goodison Exhibit, 2011, and The Ed Noble Exhibit, 2013. She currently represents OTHS on the Oakland County History Coalition.



Co-Vice President/ Social Media: Alexis Pfarrer



Alexis Pfarrer is a recent graduate of Oakland University, majoring in history. She has a special interest in 19th-century U.S. History. When she is not tending to her chickens, her spare time is spent researching genealogy for family and friends. She has been a member of the society since 2023, and a board member since 2024. She has recently taken the lead for OTHS social media. You may have seen her dressed in a period school teacher's dress at the July Open House or Down on the Farm. Since she is heading off to pursue a PhD., you will not see her often. She wants members to know that she is working hard on our Facebook and Instagram accounts and the Newsletters. If you have any stories about, photos of, or artifacts from OT, she would love to hear from you.

Correspondence: Barbara Barber

Barb Barber has a passion for historic preservation and joined the OTHS board in 2014. She enjoys promoting Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, the Township's historic park, and educating others about the local history. She earned her Master's in Historic Preservation Planning from Eastern Michigan University in 2012.



PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org under NEWS.

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Meet Your OTHS 2025-2026 Board Members *continued*

Treasurer: Sue Fox

Sue Fox retired from Michigan Schools about 25 years ago. Since 2007, she has been busy with the OTHS in various ways. She became a board member in 2009 and has served as the membership chair, recording secretary, archive chair, and treasurer. Sue is interested in genealogical research and is happy to help others research their pioneer family. You will find Sue at Cranberry Lake Farm most Wednesday afternoons.



Recording Secretary: Michelle Pfarrer

Michelle Pfarrer is a recently retired automotive engineer with a passion for the past. She and her husband raised two daughters in Oakland Township. She loves to go antiquing and is passionate about gardening and art. She joined the OTHS in 2023 serving as recording secretary since 2024.

Director: David Phillips

Dave Phillips has been an OTHS Board member since Aug 2012, and has always been involved in history and genealogy. His mom, Jeanne Phillips, was a founding member of The Oakland Township Historical Society, and both his parents volunteered in raising the Flumerfelt Barn. In keeping with his family's service history, Dave is also a member of the Historic District Commission and recently assisted with the Garling barn move.



Director: Gerald Schuchard



Gerald Schuchard is a retired automotive designer, teacher and now an artist who paints Oakland Township in water colors and oils. He has lived in Oakland Township for 22 years and previously served on the OTHS board as a director.

Director: Diana Borrusch: Diana moved to Oakland Township in 1972 and was a member of the North Oakland concert band for 38 years. She has been a board member since 1974, when she joined as a founding member. She has volunteered in each position, currently serving as the donation chair. She loved working on the barn survey in the early 2000s and appreciates the lasting friendships made through the society. Diana hopes for the Society's continued progress in Oakland Township's historic preservation.



**A sincere thank you to Mary Tischler and Tom Asmus for their many years of service on the board!
Their time and efforts will be missed, though we will hopefully see them at future events!**



<https://www.instagram.com/oaklandtwphistoricalsociety/>



<https://www.facebook.com/OTHSMI/>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Marlene Hughes
 Kelly Kaata and Ken McCarthy
 Andy and Sandy Knaack
 Joey Scola
 Kristin Syverson
 Addison Tangney

Membership Renewal

It's membership renewal time. If you are not sure of your status, reach out to Sue Fox by email at othsmember@comcast.net or call her at 248-342-7464. When sending your annual dues, indicate if you have a phone number or home/email address change. Your continued membership ensures that we can offer valuable services, programs, and resources. Even so, the real value of paying membership dues goes beyond monetary contributions, we are building a sense of community and leaving a legacy for future generations.

The **OTHS store** has many great gift items for sale - A few popular items: Ed Noble prints,



Lyn Seiffert large color prints, Lyn Seiffert note cards, *It's the Berries* Cranberry

Recipe Book, Carolyn Dulin ceramic art, Mill sack dish towels and aprons, and many other items! Contact Sue Fox.

Don't forget that your Kroger purchases can help support OTHS. Sign up for Kroger 'Community Rewards' and choose Oakland Township Historical Society as your charitable organization.

**OTHS BOARD**

*Anthony Kowalchick,
President*

*Colleen Barkham,
Co-Vice President and
Program Chair*

*Alexis Pfarrer,
Co-Vice President and
Social Media Chair*

*Barbara Barber,
Correspondence*

Sue Fox, Treasurer

*Michelle Pfarrer,
Secretary*

David Phillips, Director

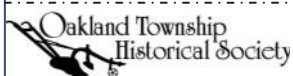
*Diana Borrusch, Director,
Donation Committee Chair*

Gerald Schuchard, Director

OTHS Membership

Help us continue to be a Society to be proud of. We welcome new members!

Share the form below with a friend or neighbor.

**Membership Application Form**

Membership Category:

Additional Donation:

Individual \$18 _____

\$ _____

Family \$25 _____

Total Enclosed

Patron \$50 _____

\$ _____

Business \$100 _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail: _____

Make checks payable and mail with this form to :

Treasurer, Oakland Township Historical Society

384 Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363 (do not send cash)

For more information contact Sue Fox at 248-342-7464 or

e-mail othsmember@comcast.net

We need your help! Consider donating your memories, time, money, or skills to help us preserve our heritage. Do you have a story to share? Do you want to submit a written memoir to our archives or have us tape an interview with you? Do you have a barn more than 50 years old? Have you found any old arrowheads or other ancient artifacts? Do you want to help with the plant sale at Heritage Days, Flumerfelt Flea, Down on the Farm, restoration of Cranberry Lake Farm, or other fun things? Please indicate below. We will contact you!

YES! _____ I have artifacts or historical photos, stories or other information

YES! _____ I would like to Volunteer with an event, committee, program, etc.

The OTHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions and membership fees are tax deductible as provided by law.

OTHS Fall/Winter 2025 Events & Programs

September 3, Wednesday

Program: The Arsenal of Democracy

Presented by Chris Causley from the Michigan Military & Technical Society, Eastpointe, MI.
Time: 6:30 pm Picnic Potluck. 7:15 pm Program.
Location: Cranberry Lake Farm - Flumerfelt Barn



September 19-21, Fri, Sat, Sun

Flumerfelt Flea Market

Please donate vintage and antique items, volunteer to work, and shop at our annual barn sale!
For more details, see the page 1 article.
Time: 6-8 pm Friday early-bird \$5, Saturday 10 am-4 pm, and Sunday 12-3 pm.
Location: Cranberry Lake Farm - Flumerfelt Barn



October 4, Saturday

Down on the Farm

Bring the family and join us for some good ole fashion fun. Farm activities, games, pumpkins, apple picking, chickens, cider, live music, and more! In collaboration with the Historic District Commission.
Time: 11 am - 2 pm.
Location: Cranberry Lake Farm



November 8, Saturday Sunrise

Program: The Salem Witch Trials

Join us for coffee and donuts!
Presented by Michelle Pfarrer.
Time: 10:00 am.
Location: Cranberry Lake Farm - Main House



December 3, Wednesday

Program: Holiday Traditions in the Period Rooms,
the DAR Museum of Washington, D.C.

Presented by Gail Pietrzyk from the Stoney Creek DAR.
Holiday gathering with potluck appetizers and desserts.
Time: 6:30 pm Appetizers and Desserts Potluck
Location: Paint Creek United Methodist Church, 4420 Collins Rd., Goodison



A bad snow storm will mean that we would cancel our program and reschedule it. Join our Society to stay on our mailing list and receive more information about program location, time and details.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. The public is welcome to our programs. There is no charge for our programs. For program information or to submit program ideas and speaker suggestions, email Colleen Barkham, Program Chairperson, othspresident@gmail.com. For membership or other information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chairperson, (248) 342-7464.

Visit our Facebook Page @othsmi or our website: www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org

Social Media

We are excited to announce that the Oakland Township Historical Society is now on Instagram as well as Facebook! *Follow, Like, and Comment on our Facebook and Instagram accounts to stay in the know!*

Thank you to past social media chair Gayle Kowalchick for researching and sharing Oakland Township history of local schools and teachers on our Facebook page. Shared memories are the reason we love what we do—keep them coming! Watch for future posts about township boundaries and mapping, including plots and subdivisions.

We love our members and volunteers and want to hear from you! Reach out with your ideas, stories, photos, special topic requests, or if you would like to donate cash or articles or volunteer. Any amount of time you can spare is welcome as there is plenty to do at the farm! A big bonus is that community service hours are awarded for students and scouts. Some big and small ways in which you could make a difference: Share historical knowledge by speaking at programs • Be a docent at Cranberry Lake Farm • Perform garden maintenance • Program and event setup/takedown • Encourage your friends and neighbors to join the Society and follow us on Social Media! Email othspresident@gmail.com to reach an event coordinator. We hope to see you at the Farm!



<https://www.instagram.com/oaklandtwphistoricalsociety/>



<https://www.facebook.com/OTHSMI/>

Collections We hope you enjoyed the antique camera display in our exhibit case at the Paint Creek Cider Mill. Once the construction dust settles be sure to stop in and see our new collection featuring *Antique Hats*, including both men's and women's fashion accessories from the early 20th century. Stay tuned to Facebook and Instagram for updates!

Historical Archives The OTHS historical archives collection is located on the upper floor of the main house at Cranberry Lake Farm. Cataloging of reference materials into PastPerfect Museum Software has been ongoing for several years. Next steps are to start uploading the historical artifacts data. This database storage of artifacts, documents, photographs, and library books will make research about our township's history much easier. Our collection is open to researchers most Wednesday afternoons. Contact Sue for archive access or if you have historical photos, diaries, letters, or other artifacts to share with us. We appreciate the opportunity to make a copy if you'd like to keep your originals. Email othsmember@comcast.net or call at 248-342-7464.



Mission Statement: OTHS is dedicated to gathering, interpreting and preserving the history of Oakland Township. It's your memory, it's our history, it's worth preserving!



384 West Predmore Road
Oakland, Michigan 48363



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Recycle!

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