

# The Journal

of the Chesterfield Township Historical Society

## Chesterfield/New Baltimore/New Haven to Host 2011 Heritage Alliance!

The Heritage Alliance meeting was held April 17 at the Mt. Clemens Library.

Attending for Chesterfield were Roy and Eileen Rivard,  
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## Bill Wallace is Volunteer of the Year



In April, Bill Wallace was named the Chesterfield

Twp. Historical Society volunteer of the year. Rich P. is director of the Parks and Rec, Scott M. is the liaison to Parks and Recreation. Tracy is a member of the Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society as well as a Chesterfield firefighter.



Left to Right-Scott DeMuyneck, Bill Wallace, Tracy Antriken, Rich Piekarski

## Pasta Dinner

On Tuesday, May 11, the historical society held their 14th annual pasta dinner at Guiliano's Italian Ristorante. The menu of pasta, salad, garlic bread and dessert was enjoyed by all those attending. There were also door prizes. See inside for pictures!

The society is signed up with **Kroger Community Rewards**. All you have to do is sign up at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and every time you shop at Kroger's we get a donation. Also, sign up at [www.shopatmuseums.com](http://www.shopatmuseums.com) and we can get donations from this site also!

## Summer Happenings for the Society!

The Chesterfield Township Historical Society will be providing many opportunities to tour the historical village this summer. The Village will be open:

- Sunday, June 13 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.
- Sunday, July 11 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.
- Sunday, August 8 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.
- The village will also be open on June 19, 2010 for the **Chesterfield Township Summer Salute**.

- Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society also participates in **Michigan's Log Cabin Day** which is held on the last Sunday in June, this year it is June 27. Other log cabins that will be open include the one in Richmond's Historical Village, Clay Township's log cabin by the police department, and Clinton Township will have their log cabin open, which is located by the Clinton/Macomb Library on Romeo Plank at Canal

Street.

- Also on June 27, the society will march in the Bay-Rama parade with the float carrying the miniature Weller School. Meet downtown New Baltimore around noon to march in the parade.
- Girl Scouts will have opportunities to earn merit badges during the events where the village is open on the 2nd Sunday of the month this summer.

See you there!!

# Pasta Dinner 2010 is a Winner!



Photos by Roy Rivard

## Historic Village Heritage Day

On September 11, 2010, the society will host the Historic Village Heritage Day from 10:30 until 3:30. There will be games and activities for the children, guest speakers, period music, craft demonstrations, classic and antique cars, and food available for purchase!

Bring your outhouse badge and write your name on the outhouse wall! Parking will be at the Chesterfield township offices with a tractor drawn trolley ride to the village.

## Future Projects

- Thirteen lights for the circular driveway of the historical village will be added.
- The bridge fund will be changed to a barn fund, to see about adding a barn to the historical village.
- The outside of the cabin will be sealed.
- We are looking into obtaining a security system for the village.

## Grant-Writing Liaison

Roy and Eileen Rivard have attended a few grant-writing workshops and wish to invite anyone who would like to volunteer to co-ordinate the grant-writing for the historical society. We have looked into grant-writing databases and are looking into getting grant money for some of the major projects of the society.

## Heritage Alliance (Continued From Page One)

Leo and Virginia Furton, Duane and Kathy Vosburg, and Alan Naldrett. Presentations about getting a book published, the Macomb County Historical Commission, how to register for a national historical marker, and talks on programming,

marketing, and networking were given. Also, a presentation on how to become and benefit from being a certified local government was shared. After the alliance, attendees toured the Crocker

House and the Michigan Transit Museum.

The Chesterfield Township Historical Society will hold the 2011 conference at the Senior Center probably on April 30 after the spring floods, to allow

the Historical Village to be toured without mud. Attendees will also go to the New Baltimore Museum on Main Street and the New Haven Depot on Victoria Street in New Haven. More details will be disclosed soon! Anyone who wants to help is welcome!

## Looking Ahead....

The Poinsettia sale will be run by Dolly Allemon again this year. The last day to order will be in early December. The poinsettias may be picked up at the Chesterfield Township offices on December 7 in the main meeting room from 12 Noon until 7:00 p.m. Dolly will also be at Gibraltar Trade

Center with the poinsettias and wreaths on Thanksgiving weekend and the week after. For more information contact Dolly at (586) 465-0780 or e-mail at [dallemon15@att.net](mailto:dallemon15@att.net).

On Friday, December 3, 2010, the Weller School will be open in conjunction with

the township's tree lighting ceremony. We serve hot chocolate and cookies and the New Baltimore Interfaith Choir sings Christmas Carols. This is all done in the evening.

The date for the Harvest Dinner will be Thursday, October 28, at Zuccaros.

The e-mail address for Chesterfield Township Historical Society is [chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com)

Roy and Eileen can be reached at (586) 749-3713 and Kathy and Duane can be reached at (586) 949-3810.



Picture at left: Bay Rama Parade. Come and march with the Chesterfield Historical Society in the Bay Rama parade on June 27!

Picture below: Chesterfield Historical Society members at this year's Heritage Alliance in the Mt. Clemens Library.



Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month and are open to everyone!  
They take place at the Senior Center at the Chesterfield Township Office Complex, 47275 Sugar Bush Rd. at 7 p.m. Refreshments are served. 50/50 drawings conclude the meetings.

Don't forget our website at:

<http://chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org>

## Chesterfield History: Prohibition and Rum-Running

In 1919, Michigan passed a law outlawing alcohol about a year before the rest of the country became dry due to the Volstead Act in 1920. This mainly gave Michiganders more time to perfect the art of smuggling alcohol into the country. Across Lake St. Clair was Canada, where alcohol was still sold and distributed. It didn't take long for smuggling networks to form to move alcohol from Canada to Michigan. Using boats in the warm weather and just driving across the ice in automobiles in the cold weather, the Chesterfield area was never at a loss for alcohol. While at first they used false floorboards in automobiles, second gas tanks, false bottomed baskets and suitcases, and other hidden compartments, after awhile the smugglers became more brazen and operated in the daylight. By 1929 there would be caravans of cars with back seats piled high with beer and liquor driving right up to their arrival points in Chesterfield going to boat-houses along the Aux Vasse River. Kolping Park was often the unloading point.

Besides illegal alcohol smuggling, Chesterfield also had its share of blind pigs (illegal, secret bars and taverns). One was purportedly located around 24 Mile and Gratiot and had an illegal casino to go along with its illegal alcohol. Entry was through a door guarded by a mobster with a machine gun on his lap. When Duane and Kathy Vosburg were visiting Chesterfield, Virginia, they saw a gambling chip (pictured at left), purportedly from Chesterfield, Michigan, and probably used by one of the illegal casinos of Chesterfield Township during Prohibition.

