



# Romeo Perspective

Volume 1, Issue 2 2012

ROMEO, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

[www.romeohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.romeohistoricalsociety.org)



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Renewal Reminder	2
President's Letter	2
Heritage Alliance	2
Museum Report	3
Bike Through Time	3
Special Thanks...	3
2012 Spring Schedule	4

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[www.romeohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.romeohistoricalsociety.org)

## 7th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival



**Jayda Sitkiewicz, Yvonne Wagner, Bob DeLaura, Connie Connelly and Sue Kane**

Gaze along the picturesque streets of Romeo and you will see it's a community with a rich heritage. On Saturday, May 19 that heritage will be celebrated with the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Romeo Victorian Festival.

Sponsored by the Romeo Historical Society, this year's festival runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will have something for everyone.

New this year, is an open house at Decker Music Studio, located at 228 North Main St., where talented students will play

music of the era throughout the day. Also at that location, is the Greater Romeo Washington Chamber of Commerce's Victorian Wedding and Tom Thumb display.

The Romeo Kids Foundation will be hosting children's games in Village Park from followed by the Romeo High School Jazz Band. A

Smile Parade, the First Congregational Church Semi-annual Rummage Sale and a Flea Market at Frontier are also new additions to this year's festival.

Other events include the Blacksmith Hammer-In, a Michigan Birthday Party at the Kezar library, an ice cream social at the Romeo Creamery & Tea Room, a Civil War encampment, horse-drawn carriage and trolley rides, events at the Starkweather Art Center and a garden party at Connelly's Creations.

So join us as we peel back the layers of time and find the Victorian in you. To learn more go to [www.romeovictorianfestival.com](http://www.romeovictorianfestival.com).

## Volunteers Needed for Victorian Festival

Do you love history, talking with people and entertaining others in Victorian style?

Then why join us in the celebration of our rich heritage at the 7th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival.

The Festival committee is looking for volunteers to help with everything from support to entertainment and everything in-between.

If your interested in participating, please contact

us at 586-752-4111. Or stop by the Romeo Arts and Archives Center Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m.

With your help we can make this year's festival something special.

**Three local museums**

**Romeo Art & Archives Center**

290 N. Main Street.  
( former state police building)

**Bancroft-Stranahan House**

132 Church St.

**Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop**

301 N. Bailey St.

!

**We Value your membership**  
**Please Don't forget to fill out the attached form to renew for 2012**

**Ride Through Time**  
**Tues. June 9**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Free Bike Tour with Richard Beringer, starts and ends at the Arts and Archives Center**

**Donations of non-clothing items for the Flea n'Tique will be accepted at our Arts and Archives Museum every Tuesday 7-9 p.m.**

**The President's Letter....**

**Explore Local History**

Now that spring's finally here, it's a great time to get out and the explore history of Romeo and other communities in Southeast Michigan.

Here are just a few:

On Saturday, May 19 we'll celebrate Romeo's rich heritage with the **7th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival.**

Also on the 19th, the Ray Historical Society will celebrate the Lee Cemetery restoration with a rededication ceremony

On May 21, at 6:30 p.m., the Clinton Twp. Library will host a showing of the film "Mary's Buttons," which is a film about a local murder and its aftermath.

The Fraser Historical Commission will host a rummage and plant sale on Sunday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Romeo Historical Society will be holding it's annual election, pot luck dinner and plant exchange on Thursday, June 7, from 7 to 9 p.m.

On June 9, it's back to Romeo for our annual **Flea n' Tique** sale, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Be sure to stop by and pick up



something special, all proceeds will help support the Romeo Historical Society throughout the upcoming year. Note: we are currently accepting donations of non-clothing items for the sale every Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at our Arts and Archives Center.

Richmond and Chesterfield will be hosting a Log Cabin Day on June 24.

The Bay-A Rama parade will also be held that day in New Baltimore.

On Aug. 11 & 12 the Chesterfield Historical Society will host "Civil War Days" featuring re-enactors from both sides and a special appearance from the Michigan Calvary Brigade.

New Baltimore is hosting a Civil War Muster on Sept. 22 and 23.

These are just a few events hosted by Historical Societies across the area. Each, offers an opportunity to discover the unique history that's the foundation of the communities we live in today. Have a great spring, and please take time to celebrate the past.

Sue Kane, *President*

**Notes from the 2012 Historical Alliance**

President Sue Kane, along with Curators Richard and Joan Beringer attended this year's Macomb County Historical Alliance.

The event was hosted by the Armada, Memphis and Richmond Historical Societies at the Richmond Community Center.

Topics at this year's Alliance included a panel discussion titled *Publishing Your History*. On the panel were local authors and Romeo Historical Society Members Cheryl and

Robert Allen, who discussed publishing their Civil War books.

Jim Hopkins from the Rochester-Avon Historical Society spoke about how Oakland and Macomb counties share a collective history, but map boundaries can keep us from knowing the full story. In an effort to overcome this disconnect, Hopkins has created a website called **[oaklandregionalhistoricsites.org](http://oaklandregionalhistoricsites.org)**, where he currently has a map of several historic spots across Oakland County and wants to

add a map of Macomb.

Later in the day, there was a tour of the Northern Outposts: Richmond Historical Village, Armada Grange hall and Carnegie Library and the Memphis museum. Each were unique and worth a visit if you're in the area.

It was also announced the next Historical Alliance will be held and the Lorenzo Cultural Center and Simpson park will host the event in 2014.

## Museum Reports: News from our Curators

We continue to move forward and share our magnificent historic resources.

Our curators have been working to bring our presentations in line with the state's suggested curriculum, and they continue to reach out to area schools as an educational resources

Last year, we offered a grant of up to \$100 to Romeo Schools to cover the cost of bus transportation to our museums. Here are some of our other accomplishments:

### **Bancroft-Stranahan**

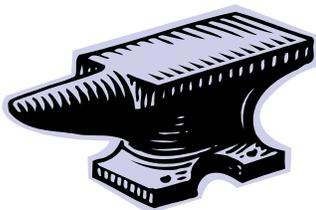
Joan Beringer –Curator

The museum was a hub of activity in 2011. We were able to replace part of our sewer line, thanks to a \$2,200 grant from the county. We also collected \$2,000 for our new roof.

Joan and Richard Beringer hosted a two-part talk about William Gibbs that was based on the re-

search of Richard Daugherty. Trustee, Doug Prichard made a video of presentation for WBRW, and a copy is available at the Arts and Archives center for viewing Tuesday evenings.

Descendants of the Douglas family, brought two truckloads of furniture from Texas and donated it to the



Museum. Joan Beringer has used this windfall to create an Isaac Douglas room on the second floor, which is filled with items used by the same family. Additional Douglas items have been placed on the first floor.

Beringer also created an inventory book that includes photographs and descriptions of major museum items.

Several tour groups came to visit including the Michigan State Questers, the AAUW and 500 Romeo School children.

### **The Arts & Archives Center**

Richard Beringer—Curator

School programs were offered for 500 area children, grades 2-4. Many of them came for our Underground Railroad display. We also brought Harriett Tubman, played by historic re-enactor Rosie Chapman, to speak at Gray's Opera House.

Robert and Cheryl Allen put together a wonderful display about Romeo's Black Civil War heroes. Nearby is an Emancipation Proclamation display and items from the Lincoln White house on loan from Richard Daugherty.

Richard Beringer, organized the storeroom, and has used a donated cabinet to house an extensive photo collection.

Beringer also hosted two interactive presentations about "Romeo in 1870" at the Kezar Library.

### **Clyde Craig Blacksmith**

Tours of the shop were given to 400 area school children, who were treated to demonstrations by Todd Jenema, Richard Beringer, Stewart Walters (Trustee) and Steve Alling.

The museum is surrounded by a new fence thanks to the hard work of Beringer, Treasurer Tim Billo and Jason Arnot. This will allow us to offer programs about Michigan's Lumber History on the premises.

### **Did You Know?**

The Michigan Artist Blacksmith Association began in our shop.

Our State Police Display includes a gas mask, two police radios, cameras, finger printing equipment, handcuffs, manacles and a drug kit.

We have more than three cabinets filled with information about the Clyde Craig Blacksmith Shop.

## ***Bike Through Time with Richard Beringer***

Join Curator Richard Beringer on Tues., June 5 to ride your *Bike Through Time*. Beringer will be hosting a leisurely (slow) bike ride tour of Romeo's past.

Riders will cover a great deal of historic material over a short distance including a Romeo Hospital, integration with a bullet, Laura's wedding and wedding dress, The streetcar depot, carriage shops, Henry Ford's

Foundry, the Detroit Auto Vehicle Company, The Perry



Auto Exchange, the Christian Church, the oldest clock in America and Marble Hall.

The hour-long, free tour starts at 7p.m. starts and ends at the Arts and Archives Center, located at 290 N. Main Street.

The tour is part of an ongoing series hosted by Beringer on the first Tuesday of the month. Each covers a different topic from Romeo's unique past.

### **Special Thanks.....**

Amber Electric and Brenda from Seal-Tight for your help with repairing the Bancroft- Stranahan Museum.

Richard Beringer for improving the exterior of that same museum by rototilling and planting grass seed

Janine Saputo for all your support over the years.

### Romeo Historical Society

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ADDRESS LABEL

Romeohistoricalsociety.org

#### Preserve our Heritage!



#### EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT

7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Archives and House

Museums are OPEN!

Send suggestions,  
ideas and photos!

#### Email addresses....

We need your email address to add to our membership files! Please, please send us a message with your email address to info@romeohistoricalsociety.org or make sure you write it on your membership renewal.

**RHS Editor and Reporter,  
Barbara Merryfield**

### Upcoming Events:

**Coffee With Kim** – Stop by the DDA office, 134 W. St. Clair St. Wednesday Mornings and Romeo’s new DDA Director, Kim Hale.

**Sat. May 19**—Join us as we step back in time and celebrate our unique heritage at the 7th Annual Romeo Victorian Festival from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Tues. June 2**– Join Historical Society Curator Richard Beringer on a leisurely bike ride through time. The tour is free and starts at the Arts and Archives Center at 7 p.m.

**Thur. June 7**– The Romeo Historical Society will be holding its general Election, potluck and plant exchange from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Sat. June 9**– Pick up something special at the Romeo Historical Society’s Flea n’ Tique from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## 7th Annual Victorian Festival

### Saturday May 19!

