

THE LEDGER

Happy
Retirement!



Christi
Dutcher
Thank You For 24 Years!

As 2017 came to an end, the Courthouse Square Association prepared to proceed into the New Year without one of our very stalwart and active leaders. Christi Dutcher advised the board of Courthouse Square Association during the summer of 2017 that she would not be standing for election either as President or Board Member of Courthouse Square when her present term expired. It was not unexpected; but for those of us who had worked closely with Christi through the years, it was universally anticipated there would be a void in our leadership which would be difficult to fill.

Christi had been a Board member for 24 years and served as President for the majority of that time. The stewardship of the three buildings with which Courthouse Square is charged is not an easy task. There is the 1885 Courthouse, (the centerpiece of the organization), the Sheriff's Residence, and the 1845 Courthouse at Bennett Park (one of the oldest buildings in the County). Christi loves these buildings. Her impact is displayed through their continued success.

The list of Christi's achievements with Courthouse Square is long indeed. Much too long to enumerate in this short tribute. However, starting with the exterior renovation of the 1885 building and the necessity to raise nearly \$100,000.00 to accomplish it, she displayed the leadership and acumen to get the job done. Fund raising has been one of her strongest abilities, and it served us well with the renovation. Christi's efforts are evident in the brick walkway at the 1885, the Medal of Honor and the Veteran's Memorial monuments, the revival of the Christmas dinner---- an historic celebration at the Courthouse, the golf outing and the constant engagement with the government entities for their continued support. She has recruited youth to serve on the Courthouse Square Board and helped to create the History Day Camp to further teach and encourage our children.

While Christi is leaving her official duties with Courthouse Square Association, we know she still will provide her generous assistance without reservation. The most important gift that Christi leaves with us is the vibrant spirit she instilled in everyone who has been fortunate enough to be associated with her these past 24 years.



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Courthouse Square Remembers

GAYLORD EDGERLY



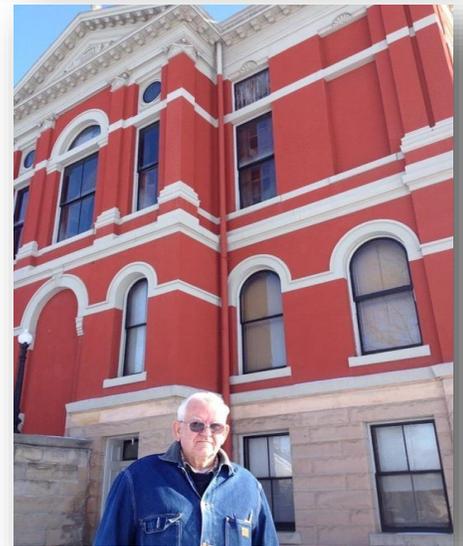
March 15, 2018

We were all very saddened to learn about the passing of one of the longtime supporters of the Eaton County Court House Square Association, Gaylord Edgerly. Through his love of old buildings and seeing the needs of the 1885 Courthouse, he volunteered much of his time and supplies toward many restoration projects continuing over 22 years. He was best known as the building's primary caretaker.

He generously volunteered his time taking care of such items as rewiring the 10,000 square foot building, maintaining the heating system, installing sinks and toilets and rebuilding the stained glass ceiling among many other projects. His family often volunteered their time as well to help him out when a little extra help was needed.

In 1996, Gaylord received the first Heritage Award presented by the Eaton County Historical Commission for his contributions to the preservation and restoration of the historical 1885 Eaton County Courthouse. He once stated "I have respect for the old time builders who put their time and energy into these old buildings and I want to keep them in good repair". Over the years, Gaylord has helped with everything from fixing the boilers to mowing the lawn.

His love of old buildings and his commitment to preserving history through restoration was truly a benefit for ECSA and he will be sadly missed by everyone here as well as the Charlotte Community.



Memorial Services for

Gaylord Edgerly

Saturday May 19, 2018

2:00 pm

Located on the First Floor
of the 1885 Courthouse

Eaton County Courthouse Association will truly miss our friend Gaylord Edgerly



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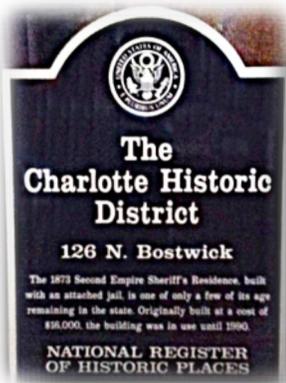
What's New? *the latest news*

ROOFING EVALUATION -

The Board approved D.L. Z. Architects and Engineering firm from Lansing to do an evaluation of the roofing for both the 1845 and 1885 Courthouses to address chronic roof leaks. D.L.Z. completed their site visits late March and the Board hopes to have a written report with recommendations by the end of April.

NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT -

Bill Rutter was hired in 2016 by the State Historic Preservation Office to apply for creation of a Historic District in Charlotte. Once approved, the historic buildings within the District would be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since the application has been submitted for sometime, it is anticipated that approval will be forthcoming late April. In anticipation of the approval, Courthouse Square has designed a prototype sign that could be purchased and displayed at each historic location.



The picture to the left is an approved replica of what our Historical Marker will look like.

To find out more and search the buildings and homes that are on the National Registry of Historical homes in Charlotte, check out our website at

CSAMuseum.net

A big thank you to Sherry Copenhaver for uploading this searchable application to our website.

ELEVATOR RESEARCH-



A committee has been formed to begin research on the feasibility and cost of installing an elevator in the 1885 Courthouse. This would allow more to visit and enjoy the museum collections on the 3rd and 4th floors. In addition it would make the building more

appealing for weekend rentals for weddings and other events. The committee will be visiting other historic courthouses who have installed elevators as well as interviewing elevator companies for preliminary information.

“Demented Mitten Tours” plan to tour Eaton County’s 1885 Courthouse!

DEMENTED MITTEN TOURS



"We are the weirdos, mister!"

The group specializes in the weird and macabre, offering tours of historically notorious and rumored haunted locations in the Mid Michigan area. Led

by author of Arcadia Publishing’s Haunted Lansing (coming Fall 2018). We are excited to announce our 1885 Courthouse will be on the Demented Mitten Tours on August 11, 2018. To order tickets or find out more information on where and when they will tour, check out their website at

<https://dementedmittentours.com/>

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Eaton County History Newspaper Project

2018 PROJECT UPDATE



The Eaton County History Newspaper Project continues to work on converting microfilmed Eaton County Newspaper to digitally searchable images. Tom Tryniski of Fulton County, New York has been doing the scanning work for us. We currently have all available microfilm for the Charlotte, Bellevue, Grand Ledge, Diamondale, Olivet, Sunfield, Mulliken, Springfield and Middleville newspapers scanned.

Most recently, The County Journal and Eaton Rapids Flash have agreed to contribute their digital images from 2006 to present. We have also contacted the Potterville Library in hopes they will contribute their scanned copies of the Potterville News to the project. We hope to hear from their Board next month. We intend to approach the Grand Ledge Historical Society soon to see if they would be willing to include their newspapers to our scan project.

Next will be the tedious process of checking each file of images to make sure that all newspapers have been scanned and labeled properly. At that point the files can be sorted by newspapers or regions of the county to be searched. And finally, it is our goal that all interested libraries, schools and museums around the county can supply us with an external hard drive that we can load with newspaper images for them to search.

Thank you to our Sponsors



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Charlotte MI 48813
Phone: 517-543-1099
Fax: 517-543-1993

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316 N. Washington
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*" We are pleased and proud
to be members of the Court-
house Square Association"*



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517-543-4240 or email
Charlottelionsclub@gmail.com

*Lions meet the needs of local
communities and the world every-
day because they share core belief
to serve their community."*

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SUMMER CONCERTS COMING SOON!



It will soon be time once again to enjoy Thursday evening concerts on the Courthouse Square! The lineup of talent will be announced soon so be sure to watch your local paper for details.

The Charlotte Artisan and Farmers Market will also be back every Thursday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Bring your picnic lunch, blanket and lawn chairs and head to the Square.

Eaton County Genealogical Society

Mission Statement

To promote genealogical research and historical information for Eaton County through education, preservation and distribution.



In case you missed the first training sessions in April, Sherry Copenhaver of the ECGS is planning to host these again in May.

The Classes include how to research in the ECGS Database, Digitized Newspaper Search and navigating the ECGS Website. There will be a class on May 16th at 5:30 pm explaining how to research the digitized newspapers using the Fulton history website as an example.

If you have an interest in Genealogy you won't want to miss these training sessions.

For dates and times you may contact Sherry at ecgsboard@gmail.com or Eaton County Genealogical Society on Facebook.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS .

May 3, 2018 - *Artisan & Farmers Markets on the Courthouse lawn opens and will continue every Thursday 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm during the summer*

May 16, 2018- *Dick Thelen -ECGS Speaker*
Dick will be on hand to speak about his experience on the USS Indianapolis

June 15, -17, 2018 - *Charlotte Celebrates Father's Day Weekend*

August 11, 2018- *Demented Mitten of Michigan tours the 1885 Courthouse.*

October 20, 2018- *Motor City Ghost Hunters*
3 Tours available : 8:00 pm • 9:00pm • 10:00pm

October 26 & 27, 2018 - *Haunted Courthouse*

December 1, 2018- *Annual Christmas Cuisine*

Dick Thelen to speak at ECGS



Dick Thelen will be hosted by the Eaton County Genealogy Department at their meeting on Wednesday May 16, 2018 and invite those from the community who would like to attend to hear him recount his memories of his time on the USS Indianapolis during WWII.

- Wednesday May 16, 2018
- Main Floor of the 1885 Courthouse
- Social Hour & ECGS website training at 5:30 pm
- Program (Dick Thelen) at 7:00pm



Let us help you Make your Dream of a Perfect Wedding Down Memory Lane become a reality!

Above is the restored Circuit Courtroom of the Historic 1885 Courthouse which is a perfect setting for a wedding! The Courtroom has a capacity for up to 180 guests as well as a dressing room for the bride. There are also other rooms available from one room to the entire building and grounds for your special event.

Mr & Mrs

RENTAL PRICING

- \$250 Historic 1885 Courthouse (Above)
- \$100 Historic 1845 Courthouse (Below)



This Historic 1845 Courthouse offers a \$100 Wedding Special (weekend access.)
 This location is in a beautiful setting located next to Bennett Park and has a capacity for up to 80 people.

Contact the CSA office today for reservations at:

Courthouse Square Association
100 W. Lawrence Ave. Charlotte, MI 48813 P.O. Box 411 Phone 517-5436999



**Eaton County's Museum at
Courthouse Square**
100 W. Lawrence Avenue
PO Box 411
Charlotte, MI 48813

WWW.CSAMUSEUM.NET



Keeping History Alive on The Square!

Courthouse Square Association is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Other times can be arranged for special events and by appointment.

Museum Admission

\$1.00 pp
Children 12 and under free
CSA Members Free
Group & Family rates available!

We are happy to make special arrangements with sufficient notice. Please call the museum office at 517-543-6999 for more information. You can always email us at csamuseum@yahoo.com.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Eaton County Genealogical Society is also located in the 1885 Courthouse and is open Tuesday thru Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Call ECGS at 517-543-8792 for more information.

Other businesses located in the 1885 Courthouse include:

- ◆ *Alpha Video & Computer Services*
- ◆ *Ann Prater Attorney & Counselor at Law*
- ◆ *Johnson's Framing*

Located inside the 1873 Sheriff's Resident adjacent to the Courthouse are:

- ◆ *Cobalt Communications / William St. Amour*
- ◆ *PotterVilla Applied Technology*
- ◆ *Precision Investigations / Chris Walker*
- ◆ *United Way*

Remember to bring your family and friends to your favorite Museum!

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