



# The Journal



Happy Holidays 2008!

Poinsettia Sales Go Great!

### 2009 Officers

- President- Eileen Rivard
- Vice-President- John Power
- Secretary- Duane Vosburg
- Treasurer- Lucille Adcox
- Trustees-
  - Tracy Antrikin
  - Frank Adcox
  - Janine Smith
- Curator- Kathy Vosburg
- Newsletter Editor- Alan Naldrett
- Past Presidents-
  - Don Howitt
  - George Furton
  - Kermit Harris



Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias sales by the Chesterfield Historical Society were once again coordinated by Dolly Allemon. They were available at the Chesterfield Township Hall on Tuesday, December 2nd.

This has been a consistent money-maker for the historical society for over three years. Great work Dolly! More pictures on page 2.



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Elvis (Mark Christopher), left, was at the historical society's Harvest Dinner in October. Below, the gift table at the Harvest Dinner held a lot of great items. Thanks to everyone who donated! More Harvest Dinner pictures are on page 3.



### Can't Keep My Feet on the Ground

This is the title of the late George Furton's biography about life in the early days of Chesterfield Township. Now in its 3rd printing, copies are available for \$10 apiece at Tom's Mini-Mart on 23 Mile Rd. and Seaden, or by calling Duane Vosburg at (586) 949-3810. George was not only one of the founders of our historical society, but a state representative, pioneering fireman, pilot, and local businessman whose story yields much information about the early days of our township. Profits from the book will go to the historical society.

## Poinsettia Sales



### Odds and Ends

- **Welcome to New Members Dean Buchalski and Fred Strebenot.**
- **We need an electrician to run wires to the log cabin.**
- **Roy Rivard received a letter from Jim Welser whose mother taught in the Weller School. Included was a copy of her employment contract for two years. The family wants to donate the original if we will frame it!**



## Harvest Dinner 2008



On Tuesday, October 28, 2008, the society held our Harvest Dinner at Zuccaro's Banquet Center, 46601 North Gratiot, from 6:00 - 9:00, with dinner served at 6:15. Mark Christopher and his Memphis Crew did his "Elvis Reflections Tribute", and there were also live and silent auctions and door prizes. Tickets were available at Chesterfield Township Treasurer's Office, Tom's Mini-Mart on 23 Mile Road and from members.

*Thanks to the following people who donated items to the 2008 Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society Harvest Dinner:*

# Chesterfield Township Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony/Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society Open House

The **Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society** hosted Christmas carolers and tree lighters in the Weller School (formerly Chesterfield District School # 1) in the Historical Village on Friday evening, December 4. Cookies and hot chocolate were served. The Historical Village is located at 47275 Sugar Bush.



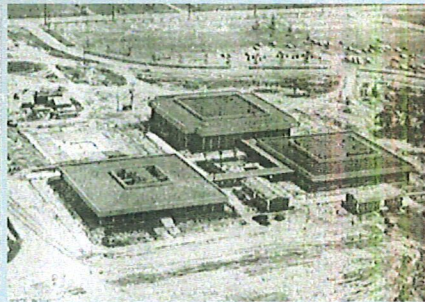
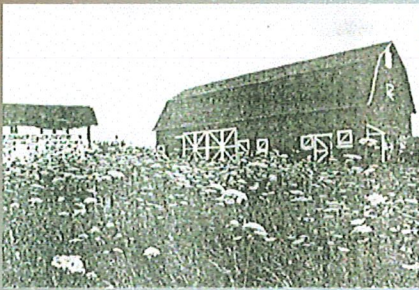
Photos by Roy Rivard



## The Albert L. Lorenzo Cultural Center of Macomb County

The history of the Albert Lorenzo Cultural Center begins with the success of the Macomb Community College of Macomb County, Michigan. The college started in 1954 and held classes in Lincoln High School of Warren, Michigan until 1962 when voters authorized the creation of the Community College District of the County of Macomb. A one-mill property tax was approved by the voters to support the operation of the fledgling college. Land was purchased in Warren, Ray, and Clinton Townships for campus sites.

The Warren site, designated South Campus, opened in September 1965 with three classroom and administrative buildings. The Clinton Township land was called Center Campus and opened its first building, a classroom building called B Building, on September, 1968, on 220 acres of land that was originally describes as "desolate farmland." In spring of 1969, A and C Buildings opened. In these early times for the campus, classes cost \$2 per credit, wayward farm animals would often wander over near the classrooms to graze, and Hall Road (M-59) was merely a two-lane road instead of the eight lane highway it is in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. (The third campus site in Ray Township was sold to the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority and used as part of Wolcott Mill Metropark.) In 1968, long-range plans for the college included building a 56,200 square foot student union on the Center Campus with plans to have it completed in September of 1971. However, construction did not begin until 1974 and was not completed until February 1976. The actual square footage when completed was 45,590. The architect was Wakely Kushner. This building became the "K Building" and was at first officially called the *Center Campus Student Community Center*. At this time, Macomb County Community College had the fourth largest enrollment in Michigan.



Amid all this growth, the college decided in 2001 that they needed a new building to replace K Building, which still housed the Student Services Department at the Center Campus. The new student center, that would replace the old one next to the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, would take on the old name; that is, the new student center would now be called *the John R. Dimitry Student Community Center*. The old center had included a student bookstore, a cafeteria, and offices. The new center, located at the other end of the Center Campus, included all the amenities of the original student center. This left the choice of either repurposing the old building as something else, or demolition.

A study was conducted by a focus group to decide if the space should be re-purposed or if demolition would be better. It was decided that the space could best benefit the community by being repurposed as a cultural center, one that would encompass many types of exhibits, especially ones centering on history and science. The building was also designated as an area that could be used for meetings, conferences, and community non-profit events. Funding would be provided by corporate and local businesses.

The former student center at Macomb Community College was repurposed and refurbished to include two large spaces, one which can be converted to three smaller rooms using a portable wall. One of these rooms serves as the projection room where movies and videos can be viewed. Besides the larger spaces, there are two smaller rooms off the main exhibit area, an office area with three main office spaces, and a "Founder's Room" which serves as a meeting area for committees and the Board of Trustees. Integrated Designs Solutions (IDS) were the architects and 5,705 square feet was added to the original total.

The center was officially designated the Cultural Center of Macomb County, and was launched on September 28, 2006. The inaugural program was titled *Science and Space Exploration: Imagining the Future*. John Glenn, the astronaut, made an appearance and discussed his first space flight and his shuttle flight undertaken at age 77.

It was planned from the start that the center would provide a variety of perspectives and experiences and include hands-on activities, and that the main focuses would be on science and history. The first exhibit ran through December of 2006 and included programs that encompassed "serious" science as well as science fiction.

The second program at the center, *A Legacy of Service of Courage: the World War II Generation* was very popular, winning three state history awards from the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan Museums Association. Attendance was over 13,000 visitors. Some of the programs included the Tuskegee Airmen, the nurses of World War II, a re-enactor of General George Patton, a "Road Show" type of evaluation of World War artifacts that people brought in, a program on collecting World War II artifacts with displays featuring shell casings, a World War

II jeep, parachutes, and maps, a program about nearby Selfridge Air Base, and soldier's personal accounts of D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, Iwo Jima, and the B-17 Flying Fortresses. A flyover of an authentic B-17 concluded this program. Michigan women of the armed forces was the focus of one program, and women who had "Rosie the Riveter" types of defense work in Macomb County were featured in another program. There was a program about the war journalist Ernie Pyle, as well as one given by a pilot who was shot down in a B-29 over Japan and spent time in a Japanese POW camp. One program recreated a USO dance, complete with a swing band and period costumes. World War II era films were screened, including *To Be or Not to Be*, with Jack Benny and Carole Lombard, and *Casablanca*, with Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin presented a program on presidents during time of war with an emphasis on the World War II president Franklin Roosevelt.

The next program of the Macomb Cultural Center was one based on the Great Lakes. It was titled *Great Lakes, Great Stories: Michigan's Maritime Heritage* and ran from October 6 to December 2, 2007. This program included the history of the Great Lakes as a "maritime superhighway," as it was referred to in the publicity. It also featured programs on the lighthouses of the Great Lakes, shipwrecks, and ecology and preservation.

In November, 2007, the Board of Trustees acted to change the Macomb County Cultural Center's name to the *Albert L. Lorenzo Macomb County Cultural Center*, to honor Lorenzo's years of service as Macomb Community College president and his role in establishing Macomb Community College as a nationally recognized academic institution.

The next major exhibit for the Cultural Center was *Michigan's Fight for Freedom: The Civil War Era*. It ran from February 27 to May 4, 2008. Highlighted themes included the Political Prelude to War, the Underground Railroad, Economic Divergence of the North and South, Life as a Civil War Soldier, and Life on the Home Front with an emphasis on Michigan men and women. One salient fact about the Civil War that was brought out was that 50% of the military-age male population in Michigan—over 90,000 men—served in the Civil War. Wartime manufacturing in Michigan centered on the iron mines in the Upper Peninsula. The mines set production records which fueled the industrial growth of the North to meet expanded wartime manufacturing.



*First picture—Civil War Exhibit; Second Picture—Immigration exhibit.*

The most recent major exhibit was titled *A Journey of Hope: Michigan's Immigrant Experience*. This program was held September 27 to November 23, 2008. The exhibit was a multifaceted perspective of the challenges, experiences, and dreams of the pioneers who immigrated to Michigan over the years. Many local people of Macomb County gave presentations on their own experiences as immigrants, or accounts of their family experiences.

The next major exhibition is *The Sixties: a Decade that Defined a Generation*, held from February 28 until May 16 in 2009. Some of the exhibits planned include the Vietnam Moving Wall and a wall such as the one used on the Rowan and Martin Laugh-In Show of the 1960s.

Following the Sixties exhibit will be one about Michigan sports titled *More than a Game: How Sports Shape our Culture* which will be held in the autumn of 2009. Be sure to go and visit sometime! The Cultural Center is located at 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI (cross street is Hall Road, M-59) on the Center Campus of Macomb Community College, next door to the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. Their phone number is (586) 445.7348 and their website is: <http://www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com/>, their E-mail address is [culturalcenter@macomb.edu](mailto:culturalcenter@macomb.edu).



## Chesterfield Historical Society Website

The Chesterfield Historical Society has a website now! As part of the membership we have with the Michigan Historical Society, we have been entitled to a website. If you have access to a computer and haven't seen it yet, be sure to check it out! The website has information regarding the historical village, the Trinity Archives housed at the Chesterfield Township Public Library at 50560 Patricia, near 23 Mile and Gratiot, society annual events, dues and membership, and a history of the Chesterfield Twp. Historical Society.

**WEBSITE :**

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

## Meetings and Dues Information



**There will be no meetings in January or February of 2009. The next meeting of the Chesterfield Township will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 in the Senior Center at 7 pm. For any additions, corrections, or other information please contact [chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:chesterfieldhistory@yahoo.com).**



Chesterfield Historical Society was at the *New Baltimore History Fair* September 20, 2008! Manning the table for the society was Brenda Rivard and Marcia Lathrop.

## Membership Types and Annual Dues

Student	\$5.00
Individual	15.00
Family	25.00
Business/Organization	30.00
Individual Life	100.00
Family Life	150.00

*Membership expires one year from when first paid.*

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.