



Tyson Brown, president of the Auburn Hills Historical Society.

AHHS Is City's 'Keeper of Historic Flame'

by Gerald Scott

The Auburn Hills Historical Society lives in the past, you might say, but this serves the community well as it moves forward into the future.

The AHHS is the great collector of Auburn Hills and northern Oakland County-related historical artifacts and the community benefits as a result because of the old saying that you can't see where you're going until you review where you've been.

With an office at the Auburn Hills Public Library, AHHS President Tyson Brown discussed the collection and prosperity of the society recently.

Brown is well-versed in local history, as you'd expect.

"Oakland University sits partly on Auburn Hills property," Brown said. "Another interesting fact is that Oakland Community College used to be a Nike missile site during the Cold War. It was bordered by M-59, Featherstone Road, Squirrel Road, those three roads kinda-sorta surrounded it."

"Another interesting fact, we've done some research, we determined there was a house that was potentially used in the Underground Railroad."

Pointing to a framed photograph of a house, Brown added, "This is when it used to sit on Lapeer Road, it's actually been moved to Shimmons Road, about 3,000 feet from where it originally stood."

"Lapeer Road is right on the trail, essentially, from Pontiac on to Oxford and onto Lapeer and so forth. There are photos showing trap doors, possibly. Doing genealogy research, Edward Johnson was the owner of the house, and we have a biography of Oakland County people written in the 1870s, it mentions that he was an abolitionist, so it gives some credence (to that claim)."

"The Underground Railroad was never something that was heavily advertised, so to find information about it now is difficult, but from the best we can determine, the house was used, or intended to be used, for that effect."

So it goes in a discussion with Brown, who notes that membership in the Society is now up to 20 people.

All in all, the Society collects a wide variety of memorabilia and ephemera related to the city's wider history, including its earli-

er role as Pontiac Twp.

As its website notes, "The Historical Society is always looking for photographs and other items concerning Pontiac Township, Auburn, Amy, Auburn Heights and Auburn Hills."

"The Historical Society will also gladly help with requests for information about Auburn Hills history. Please come attend a meeting and bring a friend, it's free to learn how the Auburn Hills Historical Society is involved in our community. Events of today become tomorrow's history - so join us and become a part of history," it reads.

Brown described an overall collection that's more ambitious and comprehensive than the public might first guess. Besides various historical documents and maps, the Society collects so much more.

The AAHS archive collection includes, but is not limited to, a variety of Auburn Hills newspapers dated up to 1958, 1948-1983, and 1985-1991.

There are also maps of Auburn Hills with various dates and information content, Pontiac Township tax records, pictures and information pertaining to

various homes and buildings in Auburn Hills, the 1830-1870 U.S. Census Records pertaining to the area, some artifacts belonging to the Austin Farm and other artifacts related to Wesson Seyburn.

Seyburn's fading green Army satchel, which is believed to date back to World War I, is a keeper along with a large timber of wood from the 1823 grist mill and a bank of postal mailboxes that came from an earlier post office.

Some school district artifacts are also collected including some yearbooks and individual school photos from either Avondale or Pontiac, from an earlier era.

Note that the newly reprinted Auburn Hills History Book "Pontiac Township 1827-1983" is now available from the Society for \$10 apiece.

Here's a final fact you may not have known:

Brace Beemer, the voice actor who portrayed "The Lone Ranger" on the radio in the 1930s and 1940s, and his family lived on Walton Road for a short time in the early 1940s. The farm was on the north side of Walton across from Snellbrook Road, according to research provided by Brown and the Society.

Golling Inviting Everyone To Sept. 15 Car Show

One of the last big, late-summer car shows will be hosted by the Golling Buick-GMC dealership in Lake Orion.

Scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 15, the show runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with entrant car registration beginning at 9 a.m. as well. Trophies will be awarded about 3:30 p.m. All makes and models of classic cruiser cars are welcome to visit and participate.

There is free admission for all to the car show, located at the Golling dealership at 1491 S. Lapeer Road in Lake Orion.

Highlight of the show are as follows: there will be a variety of food for visitors to enjoy and there will be a music band playing popular favorites from the 1950s and 1960s - all to reflect the cruiser cars from that same era. Expect cover songs from the likes of The Beach Boys, Beatles, Bruce Springsteen and even some Motown classics.

Otherwise, visitors can expect to encounter booths and tables from area service clubs, which are seeking help with donations and volunteers. Community and senior service vendors will also be on hand.

What's more, there will be a 50/50 raffle, local businesses will participate and there will be a ladies boutique and special free raffle related there.

Next, there will be a kids area for youngsters to play in, so the dealership stresses that this is definitely a family event.

Other family entertainment will include visiting clowns, plus Hooper, the Pistons mascot will be on hand as well as the ever-popular Paws, the Detroit Tigers stadium mascot.

The rain makeup date for the event will be the following Saturday, Sept. 22.

For more details, call the dealership itself at (866) 806-7397.



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