



SHEBOYGAN COUNTY



Time Lines

April 2024

SPIES AND SPACE AND A PARTIAL ECLIPSE!

Spies and Space: Toys of the Cold War Era is at the Museum for just one more month, but what a month it will be! The excitement surrounding the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8 reminds us that space has always been a subject of adventure and fascination. The exhibit created by SuperMonster City! co-founders David Barnhill and Stephen Rueff celebrates the many ways the space race between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. seeped into the popular culture and everyday life.

Sheboygan County will experience an 88% solar eclipse is still something to celebrate! Stop by anytime during the week of the eclipse (April 8 through 13, 2024), enjoy **Buy One, Get One free admission** for the Museum, and be sure to enjoy *Spies and Space* before it blasts off to another galaxy far, far, away at fifteen hundred hours on April 27.



MUSEUM STAFF

Brett Lobello, *Executive Director*; Matthew Bayens; Nathan Chisholm; Heather Hanlon; Andy Jacksack; Tamara Lange; Liza Rosenthal; Rick Wojnarowicz, Thomas Wiegand

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

First of all, thank you for welcoming me into the community. In the last few weeks, I have met many people who have been excited to meet “the new guy.” I know I stand on the shoulders of the three previous directors: Travis, Bob, and Betty. The actions of those directors leave a deep and lasting legacy running directly through the staff, volunteers, and ultimately, into the community. That's my opportunity- to maintain the standard the community expects from the Sheboygan County Museum.

As the new Executive Director, I possess the privilege of leading the organization whose mission continues to include *collecting, preserving, and educating about the history of Sheboygan County*. I firmly believe in the power of history. History isn't just nice to have, but it is essential for our contemporary community to see how we have gotten to now. However, it is also critical to recognize the organization enjoys the responsibility to build the historic collection for generations of future Sheboygan County citizens.

With that in mind, my family and I are looking forward to experiencing the museum and the community in many of the same ways that you do. In the next couple of years, my daughter and son will both visit the museum on school field trips. But first I look forward to bringing them to the museum to develop their own recollections of home at Holiday Memories. While they will never have the opportunity to see the unveiling of the sidewalk display at Prange's, they will enjoy Bruce the Spruce and all the animations and displays at the museum. We also look forward to exploring the county and enjoying a picnic under the trees next to the Taylor House.

Finally, I want to thank everyone I have met so far who has welcomed and embraced me and my family. This includes the SCM Board, staff, volunteers, and members. I hope you can tell; my family and I are excited to become a part of this community.

— Brett, Executive Director, Sheboygan County Museum



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Did you know April 21st to 27th is Volunteer Appreciation Week? Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time and talents to the Sheboygan County Museum year-round. From our passionate Board of Directors, dedicated education volunteers, to special event superstars, we couldn't be more grateful for your support. Thank you!

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

April showers bring May flowers – and often a first pass with the lawnmower! This Collection Spotlight, the *Thrifty-Cut Lawn Mower*, manufactured by the Vollrath Company harkens back to the years following World War II. As the war came to an end, a new cultural phenomenon was born. The rise of suburban housing, the standardization of the 40-hour work week, and a transition away from wartime manufacturing combined to create a new living area for recreation and relaxation. The American backyard arrived; changing the way that people lived, socialized, and cared for their homes.



With the backyard trend came a new business opportunity. A well maintained lawn became a symbol of success and manufacturers were quick to convert their wartime raw materials like aluminum, concrete, and power systems into consumer products. In 1951, Sheboygan’s Vollrath Company announced the ALL NEW Mo-All Jr. Rotary Powered Lawn Mower. By 1954, the company added the Thrifti-Cut Lawn Mower to the product line. Each model came in a variety of sizes, boasting economical gasoline powered engines or an electric option, easy operation, and a finished lawn with a “manicured appearance.” This particular Thrifti-Cut features a 2.5 horsepower engine made by the Clinton Manufacturing Company, a partnership of the early 1960s.



Typically priced between \$70 and \$100, Vollrath’s lawnmowers were part of the company’s post-war expansion into a variety of power tools for the homeowner. In addition to lawnmowers, the company offered a variety of tools for the DIY inclined consumer. Many of the products built upon the company’s tradition of metal consumer products. Established in 1874 as



the Sheboygan Cast Steel Company, the Jacob J. Vollrath Company was incorporated in 1884 and featured a line of both cast steel and enameled cast iron implements. By the 1900s, the company shifted focus to cooking utensils and related kitchenware and began to add stainless steel products to their offerings in the 1930s. Following World War II, Vollrath expanded beyond just food service products. In addition to entering the power tool market, the company ventured into medical manufacturing with the Polio-Pak Heater in response to the polio epidemic. Today, the Vollrath Company remains a major manufacturer in Sheboygan.

CONTRIBUTORS

The Sheboygan County Museum relies on its members and donors to maintain its ongoing operations. We apologize to those we might have forgotten in our Annual Report. If we missed you, feel free to reach out to Liza Rosenthal, Operations Manager, (920) 458-1103 ext.7111 or liza.rosenthal@sheboygancounty.com

WE'LL MISS YOU!

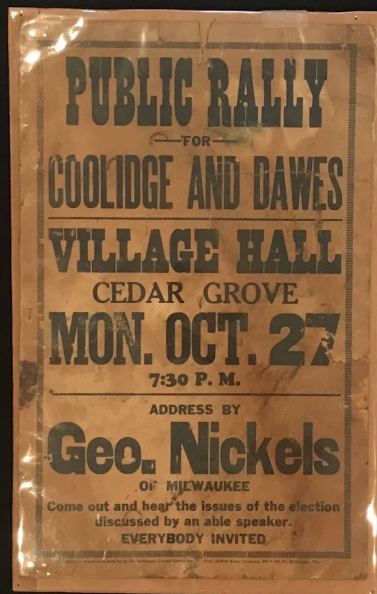
With the official end of the IMLS *Inspire!* grant in March, SCM is sad to say goodbye to Elaina Nelson, who worked in the Limited Term Collection Assistant position funded by the grant. Elaina stepped into the Limited Term position in the Spring 2023, continuing work on the organization's first collection inventory following the departure of Becca Schnabel. Her previous experience with the project as a Summer 2022 intern allowed her to seamlessly transition in, ensuring continued progress on the inventory, and collection documentation through the end of the *Inspire!* grant lifecycle. During her time as LTE, Elaina, along with several interns and volunteers, inventoried approximately half of the Museum's lower level collection storage, representing 7,177 objects. We are grateful for Elaina's dedication to both the Museum and the grant, and will miss her greatly.



As some of you might have heard our Education Program Liaison, Andy Jacksack, will be moving to a new organization at the end of April. Andy joined us this past fall and was a wonderful addition to the education program, and the Museum as a whole. We could always count on Andy to jump in and help with whatever we asked of them and do it with a smile. They will be missed by the staff, volunteers, and students. We are excited for them, as they join the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau as the Assistant Educator and Volunteer Coordinator. We know that Andy will do great there and the museum is luck to have them as part of their team. We wish you all the best Andy!



OUR NEXT EXHIBIT



When Abraham Lincoln concluded his 1864 Gettysburg Address “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth,” his words echoed the original Declaration of Independence; a document that established a radical new form of government grounded in people. Since that time, America has explored, debated, and experienced a form of government rooted in active participation. Yet with each generation, what comprises ‘the people’ - from participants to parties to individuals - has presented challenges and change.

SCM's next temporary exhibit *Of, By, and For the People: Politics and Sheboygan County* will explore the uniquely human endeavor of American democracy through a local lens. Join us beginning May 18th for this look at the way Sheboygan County has embodied the ideals of, by, and for the people.



EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Education Program staff and volunteers are in full swing with the spring semester of programs. We conclude the final two months of the school year with programs for Grade 2: *Journey To Sheboygan County*, and Grade 3: *Historic Jobs of Sheboygan County*. As the weather begins to cooperate, the students get to experience hands-on activities as well as educational experiences in each of the historic buildings on campus. With **Journey to Sheboygan County** the 2nd graders visit the Taylor House and the Wienhold Log Cabin, learning about home life and its contrasts during the 1840s - 1860s. As part of the **Historic Jobs of Sheboygan County**, the 3rd graders tour and learn about the Schuchardt Barn and the Bodenstab Cheese Factory.

The final classroom session of the new Middle School Pilot Program: *The Technology Revolution in Sheboygan County* will be conducted with 8th grade students from Horace Mann and Urban Middle Schools. Session 3 focuses on some final activities for the students that are based on the **future of technology** in Sheboygan County.

This new program brings the Museum to the classroom, as we provide artifacts for the students to make inquiries about, regarding industry and technology over the years as it relates to Sheboygan County.

A special shout out to the teachers and students helping to pilot this program, Emma Robeson and 8th graders from Horace Mann Middle School, and 8th graders from Urban taught by Mary Meyers-Wenninger. Both of these teachers are also advisors to the pilot program. Happy History Day!



APRIL - MAY PROGRAMS

Moments of Care: 2024 Programming Theme

Born out of the political nature of the two rotating exhibits for 2024, SCM has established a 2024 programming theme of “Moments of Care.” The theme provides participants a focus area in considering objects, relationships, and community.

Object Exposure

SCM | Free and Open to Members-only

A community leader chooses one object out of SCM’s collection as a way to talk about history, make contemporary connections, and engage YOU in conversation. Be surprised at the object reveal and build community with fellow members.

Thursday April 25, 5:30–6:30pm | “Protected from the Wind” with James Schuessler, Certified Master Instructor with the Wisconsin Department of Justice

May Preservation Month Opportunities

SCM | 5:00–7:00pm

May 9 | Badger Talk “Museum Feelings: How Museums Care for Collections and Carry Stories”

Sarah Anne Carter, Executive Director of the Center for Design and Material Culture at UW–Madison, unpacks the powerful emotions, stories, and decisions behind collecting.

SCM | 5:00–7:00pm

May 23 | Our Attic/Your Basement

Tamara Lange, Curator of Collections and Exhibits at SCM, receive insight for long-term care of your personal treasures.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY MUSEUM

3110 Erie Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081
(920) 458-1103
sheboyganmuseum.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Sheboygan, WI
Permit No. 84

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Moir, *President*
Dr. Patrick Marsho, *1st Vice President*
Kyle Karstaedt, *2nd Vice President*
Jim Renzelmann, *Secretary*
Richard Balge, *Treasurer*

Laura Bickford, *Director*
Frank Carcara, *Director*
David Gallianetti, *Director*
Jamie Haack, *Director*
Carol Kolzow, *Director*
James Olson, *Director*
Vanessa Vanderweele, *Director*

Brett Lobello, *Executive Director*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

 **YouTube** **Mark Your Calendars!**



MUSEUM HOURS FEBRUARY 1 THRU OCTOBER 31

Monday — Friday,

10a.m. to 5p.m.

Saturday, 10a.m. to 3p.m.

Closed New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve.

Admission

- Members – Free
- Adult (18 – 61) – \$10
- Seniors (62+), Active Military – \$7
- Youth (6-17) \$5
- Child (5-) Free

Memberships and other financial contributions support our mission, “to collect, preserve, and educate about the history of Sheboygan County.” Memberships support preservation, educational programs, maintenance, exhibits, events, and other necessary expenses.

Spies and Space: Toys of the Cold War Era, A Traveling Exhibition by SuperMonster City!, February 3 — April 27

Solar Eclipse Week, April 8th — April 13th, Buy one get one admission during regular museum hours

Object Exposure: Protected from the Wind with James Schuessler, April 25, 5:30pm — 6:30pm, Members Only

Preservation Month Badger Talk: “Museum Feelings: How Museums Care for Collections and Carry Stories” with Sarah Anne Carter, May 9, 5:00pm — 7:00pm

Preservation Month Curatorial Talk: “Our Attic/Your Basement” with Tamara Lange, Sheboygan County Museum Curator of Collections and Exhibits, May 23, 5:00pm — 7:00pm

Of, By, & For the People: Politics & Sheboygan County, An exhibit by the Sheboygan County Museum, May 18th to October 26th

Museum Closed: Memorial Day, May 27th, we will be back open for normal museum hours the following day

Our mission ...to collect, preserve, and educate about the history of Sheboygan County.