

# EVIDENCE FOUND

*It's not what you find ...  
it's what you find out!*

PAGE 4

# From the Director



Bill McElhone

There is nothing better than a great story. The third annual Storytelling Festival shares stories through the use of the spoken word, body language, music, and art. Plan on being here February 6-7 to be part of the story!

The annual Fretboard Festival will be celebrating its 10th anniversary, which will be held March 20-21.

In addition to these great festivals, visitors are likely to encounter highly-interactive live science and history “roving” demonstrations. These demos are purposefully held in the galleries to engage visitors, since “90% of all learning is done through doing.” Stop by and be amazed (see pages 12 and 13).

The new “Evidence Found: Explorations in Archaeology” exhibit opens February 14 to the general public, but for members of the Museum Explorers, there will be a sneak peek event on February 12. Visit the Museum’s website or front desk for more information on how to join this free members program. The “Evidence Found” exhibit is an interactive look at the discipline of archaeology, giving visitors a real sense of what it’s like to be an archaeologist in the field digging, studying found objects, and discovering new information about the past (see pages 4-5 and 10-11).

There is still time to see “Voices for Social Justice” before it closes on January 19, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Visitors will hear the personal recollections of 10 individuals living in and near Kalamazoo whose work focuses on achieving social justice for all who live in our community. Visitors are encouraged to share their own stories about working towards an equitable society.

The “Kalamazoo for the Union!” exhibit highlights the community’s contributions and daily life during the US Civil War from 1861-1865. This must-see exhibit is open through May 17.

Also new at the Museum is a penny smasher with designs based on exhibits and attractions. Choose a checker cab, mummy, moon, or architectural design, and take home a little piece of the KVM!

Please check out the Museum’s website at [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) for more information and the full calendar of programs. Consider this your open invitation to come and explore your Museum of history, science, and technology. museON, everyone!



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muse**ON**

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## museON

winter**2015**

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*Kalamazoo County Courthouse, c. 1890*

# Snow Days *of* **YESTERYEAR**

As the winter of 2015 approaches, perhaps you have not yet put the memories of last winter behind you. Or maybe you prefer not to think about those cold, snowy days.

Have you ever wondered how Kalamazoo reacted to severe winter weather a century or more ago? You may be surprised to learn that residents of the region reacted much like we do, the differences often more a matter of available technology.

Take just one example. When a blizzard disrupts transportation today, news reports focus on road conditions. We take for granted that the roads will be cleared. When severe winter weather hit in the late 19th or early 20th century, the Kalamazoo Telegraph and Kalamazoo Gazette described efforts to keep the streetcar tracks clear. On several occasions, the streetcar company hired extra men to shovel the tracks.

Eventually, the company purchased a special sweeper apparatus to clear the tracks, but sometimes even that wasn't enough, and the newspapers would report that all the lines were clear except where the hills were steep. In one blizzard in February 1901, the snow was so deep that the streetcar company linked three streetcars, a plow, and the sweeper to remove snow, but it got stuck on the east side of Kalamazoo.

A bigger problem could arise with sleet and ice. Both the local streetcars and the interurbans (streetcars that went between towns) were powered by overhead electric cables. A winter storm in March 1901 iced the wires and seriously disrupted both services.

Today, travelers watch for word of flight cancellations during blizzards. A century ago, they scanned the papers on whether passenger trains were running on schedule or even at all. News accounts told of special snow plows sent to clear the tracks and reported that some lines added a second locomotive to help pull a train through snowdrifts.

One similarity between the good old days and today was the question of maintaining power. A 1904 storm brought down the Kalamazoo Valley Electric Company's main power line for ninety minutes on the evening of December 27, disrupting service on the streetcars and interurbans. The power outage also darkened the stage at the Academy of Music theater and sent many homeowners searching for lamps and candles at their holiday parties.

So as we head into another Michigan winter, we might reflect on the old proverb, "The more things change, the more they remain the same."



It's not  
what you  
find ...

it's what  
you find  
out!



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# EXPLORE BACKYARD ARCHAEOLOGY WITH “EVIDENCE FOUND”

FEBRUARY 14-AUGUST 30, 2015

For many, the term “archaeology,” especially in popular culture, conjures images of sandy, faraway landscapes dotted with pyramids, mummies, and, for some, the swashbuckling adventurer Dr. Indiana Jones. In reality, archaeology is the study of past human activities through the examination of evidence all around us. It can be found anywhere in the world, even southwest Michigan.

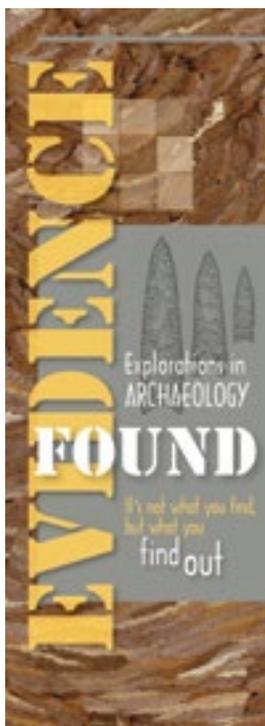
In “Evidence Found: Explorations in Archaeology,” visitors will learn through visual and hands-on elements the terminology and scientific practices utilized in systematic investigations, with a specific focus on local or “backyard” archaeology.

Visitors will see that some “evidence” unearthed is spectacular, such as the recently-conserved 2600-year-old Egyptian coffin (see centerfold article, pages 10-11) to the other extreme of very small pieces of broken pottery known as “potsherds.” Large or small, to the trained eye, these found pieces of evidence provide invaluable

insights to the past. Archaeology is not about what you find—it’s about what you find out!

Visitors will also see how a tetrapod is used to screen soil and will have a chance to identify potsherds and their various uses. The exhibit will feature a review of archaeological projects in Kalamazoo and southwest Michigan, including the work underway at historic Fort St. Joseph in Niles. This project, now in its tenth year, is a collaboration with local citizens, the Niles History Center, and Western Michigan University’s archaeology department. A number of public programs led by archaeologists and other professionals will be conducted throughout the run of the exhibit.

This special exhibit, four years in the making, was funded by the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Foundation and features artifacts and photographs from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s Collections and objects and photos borrowed from other regional institutions.



# WINDOWS

— ON THE —

# MALL

REVEAL A LITTLE

# HISTORY



*1944: Even though the street doesn't look very busy, the Uptown Theater and three major retail establishments – Home Furnishing Company, Arthur's Department Store, and Doubleday Bros. office supply – attracted scores of customers to this section of town. The façade of Arthur's in this photo is the location of the back of the Museum and the four display windows.*

Burdick Street looking north from Water Street.



As early as the 1860s, the three blocks of North Burdick Street extending from Michigan to Kalamazoo Avenue was a very lively business district. Today, it is a blend of a pedestrian mall and vehicular traffic. Old and new structures that focus on education and community services, as well as a major hotel, line the street.

The evolution of these three blocks, which run behind the Museum, is showcased in the Museum's four display windows on the Mall. Each window features a historic image of those blocks, enlarged to 10 feet high.



*Above, 1873: In this earliest-known image of North Burdick Street, two harness makers' shops, a grocer, a barber, and Rosenbaum's clothing store are visible. The building in the left center of the photo is the current location of KVCC's green space.*



*Left, 1959: The first pedestrian mall in the United States was built in Kalamazoo in 1959. It included the first block north of Michigan Avenue, as seen in this photo. The second block, lined with vehicular traffic, is directly behind the Museum and became part of the Mall in 1975.*

*Below left, 1905: All the buildings on the left or west side of Burdick Street have been razed, but several on the right side are still part of today's cityscape. Notice the streetcar tracks running down the middle of the street.*



Next time you're walking down the Mall or visiting the Museum, make your way behind the Museum to see how Burdick Street has changed over the last 140 years.



# GIBSON'S BIG SECRET

Everyone loves a good mystery, and John Thomas is no exception. But more than a quest to reveal the truth about guitars made in Kalamazoo during World War II, he wants those who toiled in the Gibson factory between 1942 and 1945 to be recognized and honored.

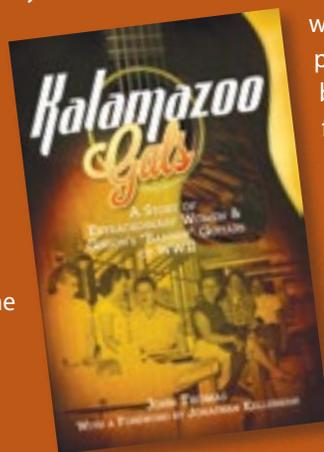
John Thomas is a law professor and a musician. Some time ago – he doesn't remember exactly when or in what circumstance – he stumbled upon a photograph that presented a mystery which nagged him for years. Then he started asking questions and, as he did so, found himself drawn deeper into an apparent secret.

The photograph, dating from the '40s, shows 70 women posing in front of the Gibson Guitar Company factory. Why, then, asked John, were there ads for the company stating that no guitars would be made during the war – that the company would engage only in the war effort and perhaps do repairs on existing guitars – when company records show that 25,000 guitars were made? Why did these guitars have a banner on the headstocks reading, "Only a Gibson is Good Enough?" Gibson guitars made before and after the war didn't have this flourish on the headstock. Curious. John became a little obsessed with finding answers and finding some of the women in that photograph.

You can read the whole story in his book, *Kalamazoo Gals*, in which he describes finding and interviewing 12 of those 70 women who did indeed work at the factory during the war, producing 25,000 of the finest Gibson guitars ever made. The finest Gibson guitars? How is it that these untrained women were able to make some of the best Southerner Jumbo Flattop acoustic guitars, which sold at top price for about \$125? John had an idea and an unusual way to prove his point.

He approached colleagues at Quinnipiac University, which has a medical school and a top-flight diagnostic imaging department. He asked them if he could X-ray and CT-scan these guitars. The results can be seen online at [www.guitarkadia.com](http://www.guitarkadia.com) "The True Adventures of the Great Guitar X-Ray Project." What these medical instruments were able to show is that the women's workmanship was finer than that of their male counterparts who went before and came after the war. He ascribes this phenomenon to the fact that these women had previously been accustomed to doing fine needlework for their families, whereas the men hired were often "off the farm," used to working with heavier tools and equipment.

But one mystery still remains – why does the Gibson Guitar Company, now located in Nashville, TN, continue to deny that the women built guitars at the factory in Kalamazoo during World War II?



# Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival: 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A celebration of Kalamazoo's stringed heritage, the Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival brings in an estimated 2500 patrons every year, making it one of the busiest events at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

The city's luthier history goes back to 1884, when Orville H. Gibson started a mandolin business on South Burdick Street. The shop evolved into the Gibson Mandolin-Guitar Manufacturing Company Ltd., opening up a factory in 1917 at 225 Parsons Street. The building still stands today. Before relocating to Nashville, TN, in 1984, the Kalamazoo plant produced instruments played by many of the most famous rock, country, jazz, and blues performers. The legacy of fine instrument making continues in Kalamazoo with the Heritage Guitar Company, formed by many of Gibson's employees who elected to stay here. Independent luthiers, too, add to Kalamazoo's notoriety in the stringed-instrument world.

In 2005, Kalamazoo Valley Museum employee Jay Gavan felt the urge and passion to create a festival celebrating the stringed heritage of Kalamazoo. He had previously worked for the Heritage Company, located at the site of the original Gibson factory, and realized people all over the world knew Kalamazoo for its guitars.



In 2015, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum celebrates the 10-year anniversary of the Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival with a blast from the past as well as a nod to the future. We kick off the festival on Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m. with The Real Fantastics, an 8-piece horn band out of Kalamazoo that will blow your mind with their Motown, Stax, soul, and classic R&B favorites.

The festival continues on Saturday, March 21, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Returning to the stage, Bob Rowe and the Green Valley Boys, based in Kalamazoo, do a rousing and entertaining show of classic country, folk, and inspirational music. Who Hit John?, a longtime festival performer and patron pleaser, will perform, as well as Mark Sahlgren and the Fragile Egos, and Joel Mabus.

Newcomers to the stage include Goran Ivanovic. A native of Croatia and the musical son of a Serbian father, he has crossed many boundaries in his life and music. Twelve-year-old Sammy Melchi and his band, The Generations, will knock your socks off with their blues, rock, country, oldies-newies set.

The lineup will include several luthiers, workshops, vendors, and a few surprises to round out the 2015 Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival.



*The coffin cleaned and stabilized after conservation treatment*



*Injecting glue*



*Swabbing excess glue*



*Loose painted surface needs securing*



*Top of head, before treatment*



*Top of head, after treatment*



*Before treatment*

# CONSERVING

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## A COFFIN FOR FUTURE

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# GENERATIONS

Greeting you as you enter “Evidence Found: Explorations in Archaeology” is an Egyptian coffin from the 26th Dynasty (672-525 BC). The coffin is part of the A.M. Todd Collection and was last displayed at the Museum in the late 1950s. It was excavated in 1902 by Lady William Cecil of London from Tomb 21 of the cemetery at Qubbet el-Hawa.

Tomb 21 contained two coffins – only this one survived. The other fell to pieces when it was excavated. The surviving coffin belonged to a woman named Bao-Bao. Much interest in her coffin has been shown by Egyptologists in the U.S., Spain, and Poland. Because the coffin is important to Egyptian archaeology, it is our responsibility to care for it for future generations.

Once it was decided to display the coffin in “Evidence Found,” we knew we had to have it cleaned and stabilized. The coffin was covered with a fine layer of dirt, and much of its painted surface layer was loose and unstable. We shipped it to ICA Art Conservation in Cleveland,

Ohio, where conservators painstakingly cleaned the dirt layer with damp cosmetic sponges, then used hypodermic needles to inject special glues between the wood coffin and the painted top layer.

The goal of this process, called conservation, is to do the minimum treatment to stabilize the coffin. It is a different process from restoration. Restoration brings a piece back to its original glory. Conservation keeps the artifact in as unaltered a condition as possible. So while conservation may not make the object look pristine, what you end up with is the real object and all its original materials, not a completely restored object that covers up the original materials. For historical purposes, it is the original materials that are important.

Come and visit the coffin of Lady Bao-Bao in “Evidence Found: Explorations in Archaeology” (beginning on February 14) and see for yourself how her conservation treatment has preserved the original materials which were constructed, designed, and painted by artisans 26 centuries ago.



# HOW DOES THAT WORK?

Let Us Show You!



Have you ever wondered why we only see one side of the Moon from Earth? Or why someone can shock a friend after rubbing their feet on carpet? The answers to both of these curiosities can be discovered right here at the Museum in one of our many new roving demonstrations.

What is a roving demonstration, you may ask? Visitors can encounter lively demonstrations throughout the Museum that help them better understand the science and history presented in exhibits. Normally presented to school groups, these demonstrations vary from discovering what a comet is made of in *Cooking a Comet* to unraveling the lives of Kalamazoo's past residents through a *Mystery Artifacts* investigation. Now we're offering these demonstrations to the daily visitor as an unexpected bonus to their visit.

During a roving demonstration, a visitor may learn about synchronous rotation, which explains why we always see the same side of the Moon. In the static electricity demonstration, visitors can learn why rubbing different substances together, such as a person's foot

against carpet, can transfer electrons from one object to another, creating the small electric charge sometimes felt afterwards. *Toys of Times Past*, a new program wildly popular with our summer visitors, allows families (or kids at heart) to play with and discover together "old fashioned" toys that don't need to be plugged into the wall.

While our exhibits invite hands-on experiences, the live demonstrations allow visitors to ask questions and go a little deeper into the science or history being explained. It's a great opportunity for conversation with staff and other visitors, and you never know – you might find the tables turned as you provide hypotheses and answers of your own.

So if you're feeling the mid-winter blues, or even if you're just the curious sort, come to the Museum on a Saturday and see what we've cooked up. New topics we'll launch include engineering and archaeology – don't miss them! Please call the Museum at 269-373-7990 or visit [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org) for details about upcoming program offerings.

# Mourning Rituals Were Perfected During America's

# DEADLEST WAR

"And while we remember him with regretful and respectful regard, we will not forget to sympathize deeply with the widowed wife and fatherless children, thus left a legacy to his country and friends."

These words are taken from the Kalamazoo Telegraph's story of March 11, 1863, that reported the death of Captain Clement C. Webb. A local attorney, Webb had enlisted as an officer with the 13th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He was wounded at the battle of Stones River, Tennessee on December 31, 1862, and died on February 14, 1863.

The terrible death toll of the Civil War left many young women as widows. President Abraham Lincoln called on the nation in his Second Inaugural Address to care for the War's widows and orphans. But the widows were expected to observe certain prescribed mourning customs in the first months after their husbands' deaths.

In the 19th century, there were specific rituals to which the bereaved family was expected to conform. Most noticeable was the use of mourning clothes.

Mourning for a deceased spouse could last anywhere from one to two and a half years. During the first year, a period of deep mourning, the widow was expected to remain in solitude. She wore a black dress, black bonnet, black accessories, no jewelry, and a black veil. She was to receive no visitors, make no social calls, and leave home only for church and other essential needs.

A second period of full mourning followed for a shorter period in which the widow still dressed in black but without the veil and could begin to make and receive social visits.



*Woman's mourning attire on display in Kalamazoo for the Union!*

A final period of half-mourning followed in which the widow gradually was accepted back into normal daily life.

Similar customs also applied if a person lost a son, a brother, a cousin, or another relative. In those cases, the mourning periods were shorter.

It was considered highly improper for a widow to remarry for at least a year following her husband's death. Many Civil War widows were young women and frequently remarried if for no other reason than they were often left with a farm to manage. America was still an agricultural country then.

In addition to clothing, other mourning customs would appear superstitious to most people today. For example, mirrors were covered with crepe for a time to protect the next person who looked into them from death.

The bodies of many Civil War soldiers who died far from home were never returned to their families. Embalming was in its infancy, and preserving a corpse during the journey was difficult. Consequently, for many families, they had to mourn their lost relative without the return of his body.

The Civil War remains America's deadliest war. Sadly, too many American families had to practice these customs during the years 1861 to 1865.

# WHAT IS IT?

**1** This smooth piece of steel was used to make something very sharp. What is it?



**2** This stretcher adjusts to different sizes. What did it stretch?

**3** The hand crank and wooden paddles are a hint to what was made in this kitchen appliance. What did it make?



**3.** Butter. This butter churn was made by The Dazey Churn & Manufacturing Company in St. Louis, Missouri. It was patented in 1922.

**2.** Hats. The stretcher was placed on the inside of a hat, and when the metal handle was turned, the wood pieces would expand and stretch the hat to the desired size. The initials of the owner, Rudy F. Hanson, are etched into the wood. Hanson was the owner of Why Shoe Works in Kalamazoo in the 1970s, although the shop had been in business since the 1920s.

**1.** An EMCO Razor Sharpener made by the Frank C. Emrick Machine Company in Kalamazoo around 1930. A razor blade would be rocked back and forth with just enough pressure to cause traction for about 20 strokes to give a thin, sharp edge that allowed for a closer shave with less irritation.

# FEATURED EVENTS

Check out the full calendar at [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org)

## SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

### Kalamazoo for the UNION!

#### KALAMAZOO FOR THE UNION!

THROUGH MAY 17, 2015

Immerse yourself in Civil War history through the eyes of the people of Kalamazoo County. The exhibit showcases their efforts through stories and events of the time, along with hands-on activities.

#### EVIDENCE FOUND: EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

FEB. 14, 2015 – AUG. 30, 2015

Learn the real science and methodology of archaeology in this new visual and hands-on exhibit. Identify potsherds and their uses, learn about stratigraphy, and see our newly-restored 2600-year-old mummy coffin!

All exhibits are **FREE!**

#### SPECIAL EVENTS



#### MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Jan. 19 (Museum hours: 1–5 p.m.)

The Mockingbird Project by students of Kalamazoo Central High School. This play answers the question, "What does an equitable society look like?" Performance begins at 2 p.m.

#### MUSEUM EXPLORERS

Join the Museum Explorers for an archaeology extravaganza and an exhibit sneak preview and reception on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 5–7 p.m. All you have to do is show up, sign up with your e-mail, and become part of a special group of people who will get invitations to special events like this one.

## HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

#### January 10: Heroes in Time, 1–4 p.m.

Discover local heroes by creating artifact reproductions and going on a scavenger hunt through our History Gallery.



#### January 24: North Versus South, 1–4 p.m.

Learn more about the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, and life on both sides while creating story tellers, vendor fair, arts and crafts, and books galore during this full-day festival!

#### February 21: Archaeology, Fragments from the Past, 1–4 p.m.

Learn more about the human side of history with artifacts, fossils, and anthropology.

#### March 7: Festival of Health, 12–4 p.m.

Area health organizations come together to share about health and nutrition.

#### SPRING BREAK HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS:

##### Sportilicious! 1–4 p.m.m.

Come for a full week of arts and crafts focused on fun sports and some creative books. Enjoy ten different crafts each day and story times throughout the program.



##### April 6: A Splashing Time!

Hear Red Rubber Boot Day by Mary Lyn Ray

##### April 7: Punches, Kicks, and Crashes!

Enjoy The Three Ninja Pigs by Corey Rosen Schwartz

##### April 8: Up, Up, and Away!

Take off with Kite Flying by Grace Lin

##### April 9: Picking Sides!

Prepare for Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare by Patricia Polacco

##### April 10: Batter UP!

Vegetarians and Meat Eaters compete in Dino-Baseball by Lisa Wheeler

Check our website for special daily planetarium shows and Challenger missions during spring break.

All Hands-On Programs are **FREE.**

Performances, Missions, and planetarium shows, \$3 per person.

Visit our website for details on all programs.

## PLANETARIUM

### FEATURE SHOWS

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 3 p.m.

#### Back to the Moon for Good

January 3 – March 20

This show chronicles teams around the world competing for the Google Lunar XPRIZE by landing a robotic spacecraft on the Moon for the first time in more than 40 years.



#### Wildest Weather in the Solar System

March 21 – June 19

Fly through the thick atmosphere of Venus, magnetic storms on the sun, and anticyclones whirling at hundreds of miles per hour on Jupiter.

### FAMILY SHOWS

Mon – Fri at 11 a.m. through March 20,  
Sat at 1 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

#### Sky Legends of the Three Fires

January 3 – March 20

Gather around a flickering campfire with Larry Plamondon, known as Two Hawks, for three stories about the night sky.



#### Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

March 22 – June 19

Join in the story of two children who build a rocket out of a cardboard box and take a fantastical voyage through the solar system.

### SEASONAL STARGAZING SHOW

Tue, Thu at 3 p.m.; Sat at 2 p.m.

#### Orion Nights

January 3 – March 19

#### The Artists' Sky

March 24 – June 18

### LASER LIGHT SHOWS IN THE PLANETARIUM:

Every Friday night at 8 p.m.

Pink Floyd's **The Wall**

All shows are **\$3 per person.**

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

## SUNDAY SERIES

Mary Jane Stryker Theater

All programs are on first and third Sundays and begin at 1:30 p.m. FREE! Seating is limited.

**Jan 4**

**Murders Most Foul** (Tom Dietz)

**Jan 18**

**A Black Woman's Journey to the 21st Century** (Betty Brown-Chappell)

**Feb 1**

**Township History: Prairie Ronde** (Tom Dietz)

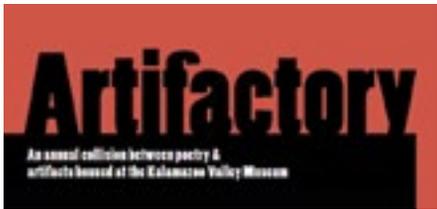
**Feb 15**

**Civil War Quilts** (Leslie Goddard)



**Feb 22**

**Artifactory** (Tom Dietz)



**March 1**

**Photographing the Night Sky** (Eric Schreuer)



**March 15**

**Township History: Richland** (Tom Dietz)

**April 5**

**Closed for Easter**

**April 19**

**Past Forward: Bringing an Old House into the 21st Century** (Sharon Ferraro)

**May 3: Archaeology in Kalamazoo** (Tom Dietz)

**May 17: Forgotten Experiences of SW MI Soldiers in the Civil War 1861-65** (John Urschel)

## CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

*In memory of Alvin H. and Emily T. Little*

The CLC is a space-flight simulation experience for all ages. Go to our website for details on public program dates and times and to make reservations for groups.

### PUBLIC PROGRAMS

#### The Challenger Experience

Young children and their grown-ups lift off from Earth, dock with a space station, and return to Earth – all in 20 minutes! Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. \$3 per person.

#### Mini-Missions

This 45-minute session in the spacecraft simulator will fly you to Mars and back. For ages 8 and up; each child aged 8 to 11 must be accompanied by a partner aged 12 or older. \$3 per person.

### GROUP PROGRAMS

#### Reservations required

#### Junior Missions

90-minute missions designed for small groups of up to 14 participants, ages 8 and up. \$5 per person.

#### Full Crew Missions

This 3-hour program is designed to build teamwork and leadership skills for adults or students in grades 5 and up. \$25 per person.

## Spring Break Specials

**April 6 - 10**

**Additional Planetarium shows are offered during the holiday break:**

#### The Little Star That Could

Daily at 1 p.m.

A sweet animated story about a little star who is born and searches for a place in space to call home.

#### Space Park 360

Daily at 2 p.m.

Travel through an amusement park that spans the Solar System.

### Special Challenger Learning Center Programs:

**Challenger Experience each day at 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.**

**Voyage to Mars Mini-Mission each day at 3 p.m.**

## MUSIC, MOVIES, AND MORE

Mary Jane Stryker Theater

### FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

Movies, concerts, Art Hops, special events, and laser light shows every Friday night!

Check our website for details on all offerings.

**Art Hop** events begin at 6 p.m.

**Live events and movies** begin at 7 p.m.

**Laser Light Shows** begin at 8 p.m.

Prices listed individually below:

**Jan 9 Art Hop: Mid-Season Kick-Off Concert Dixon's Violin** (digital violin) **FREE**

**Jan 16 Fantasia Ballet Folklorico** (Mexican native folk dance) **\$5**

**Jan 23 Unified: A Kalamazoo Music Experience** **\$5**

**Jan 30 Chuck Whiting and The Tip Rail Ramblers** (honky-tonk blues & swing) and **Moxieville** (swing, soul, R&B, jazz, roots) **\$5**

**Feb 6 Art Hop/Storytelling Festival Kickoff: Karen Libman** (storyteller) **Benjammin** (educational music) **FREE**

**Feb 13 Abraham Lincoln in Song** (Civil War era music) **\$5**

**Feb 20 Kevin Collins and Kuungana** (African drum and dance) **\$5**

**Feb 27 The Hired Hands** (Americana) and **The Moody Coyotes** (rootsy Americana, bluegrass, rock, country) **\$5**

**March 6 Art Hop: 2015 Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival Play-In Contest** **FREE**

**March 13 St. Patrick's Day Celebration with Peat in the Creel** (Celtic/world) and **Belfast Gin** (Celtic rock) **\$5**

**March 20 2015 Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival Kick Off Concert, The Real Fantastics** (classic soul) **FREE**

**March 27 REBEL: Loreta Velazquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War** (film) **FREE**

**April 3 The ErlKings** (singer-songwriter/pop) and **Groove Platter** (blues rock) **\$5**

**April 10 Art Hop: Zeemo the Yo-Yo Man: The Story of the Yo-Yo** **FREE**

**April 17 Black Arts Cultural Center Showcase** **\$5**

**April 24 Boheme Tribal Belly Dance and Wisaal** (Mediterranean fusion) **\$5**

**May 1 Art Hop: Double-Strung** (country, bluegrass, gospel, acoustic rock) and **Steve Pesch** (classic rock) **FREE**

**May 8 "Spoken Murals" Poetry Showcase** (spoken word poetry) **\$5**

**May 15 Blues Night** with the **Kalamazoo Valley Blues Association** **\$5**

**May 22 Memorial Day Observance: Capt. Guy D. Gruters, Fighter Pilot, P.O.W. 5 Yrs** (motivational speaker) **FREE**

**May 29 Fancy Pants Theater Presents!** (live performance) **\$5**

**June 5 Art Hop/Jump into Summer Kick-Off Event: Digital Storytelling** (KVCC Center for New Media students) **FREE**



## Recent Acquisition

# FIRE ALARM BOXES

If a fire breaks out today, most people pick up a cell phone, dial 911, and quickly let the dispatcher know exactly where the fire is. In the early years of fire fighting, before telephones were widely used, Kalamazoo, like many other cities in the United States, used an alarm box system.

In September 2014, Donald Biscomb donated many of the components of the old fire alarm system that was used by the Kalamazoo Fire Department. The collection included two fire alarm boxes. Fire alarm boxes were mounted on posts in different areas and neighborhoods throughout the city. Each box had a number painted on the front. If someone witnessed a fire, they could go to the nearest fire alarm box and pull down the handle. This would transmit an alarm that would register at the fire department's headquarters and indicate which box number had been activated.

Fire fighting has come a long way since 1843, when Kalamazoo first became a village. An early village ordinance required all storekeepers and occupants of buildings to have two ladders and two buckets that were only to be used in case of a fire. Although Kalamazoo's first organized fire company, the Kalamazoo Hook and Ladder Company, was established just three years later, in 1846, it would be many

years before Kalamazoo had a structured fire alarm system to alert the department of a fire.

The first fire alarm system was installed in 1873 and was originally a telegraph line from Corporation Hall, where the fire department was located, to the water works, Kalamazoo's water supply. The cost of the system was \$684.00. As Kalamazoo grew, more boxes and lines were added, and by 1900, there were 32 alarm boxes and over 18 miles of wire line. The more boxes and lines that were installed, the more quickly and accurately information was able to be transmitted. The boxes were used through the late 1950s.

According to a 1916 report of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, the alarm boxes were more accurate than most people who used a telephone to report a fire. Many times, the caller would be so excited that they would give the wrong location, relay incorrect directions, or forget to give any location at all.

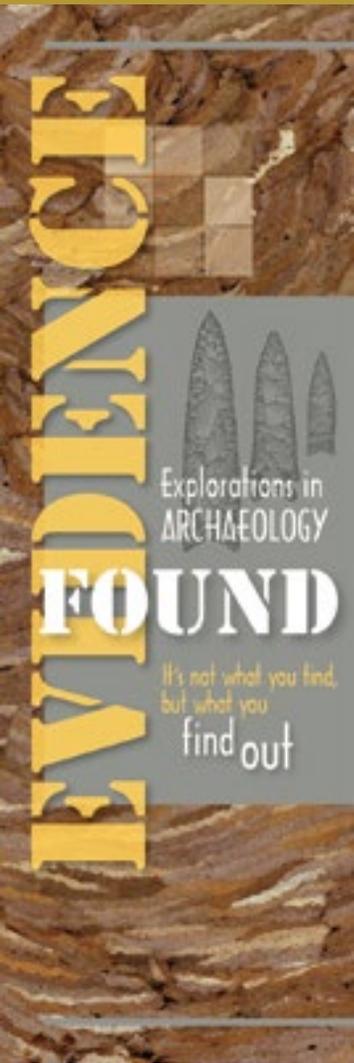
Even as technology changes, these fire alarm boxes serve as a great reminder of technology of years past. They are a welcome treasure to the Museum's permanent collection.

# MUSEUM EXPLORERS NIGHT

February 12

5 - 7 p.m. **FREE**

## Fun with Archaeology!



Drop in for an evening of hands-on fun with archaeology. Get a sneak peek at our new exhibit, Evidence Found!

Play some archaeology games, see demonstrations, and meet Dr. Michael Nassaney, guest curator for the exhibit and principal investigator for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project in Niles, MI.

Refreshments and door prizes will be part of the fun!



# Burton Henry Upjohn CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

Mondays–Fridays 9 a.m.–3 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sundays 1–5 p.m.

Children five and under are encouraged to play and explore in three rooms of interactive exhibits and playful environments.

### CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS

**Mondays-Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 a.m.**

*(No Circle Time during Spring break, April 6-10, but play hours extended until 5 p.m. each day)*

These literacy-based 20-minute programs are free of charge to families and preschool groups. Programs are designed for children ages 3-5 and may include stories, musical activities, games, and art projects.

**December/January** Let's All Get Along  
**February/March** Health and Safety  
**April/May** Taking the Scare out of School

## TINKERTOY® Build Your Imagination

**June 6 – Sept. 20, 2015**

Giant replicas of the classic TINKERTOY® construction set provide the framework for fun and educational activities.



— — — — — Cut and keep for Spring Break Happenings — — — — —

## SPRING BREAK HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

April 6–April 10, 1–4 p.m. **FREE**

### Sportilicious!

**Come for a full week of arts and crafts focused on fun sports and some creative books. Enjoy ten different crafts each day and story times throughout the program.**

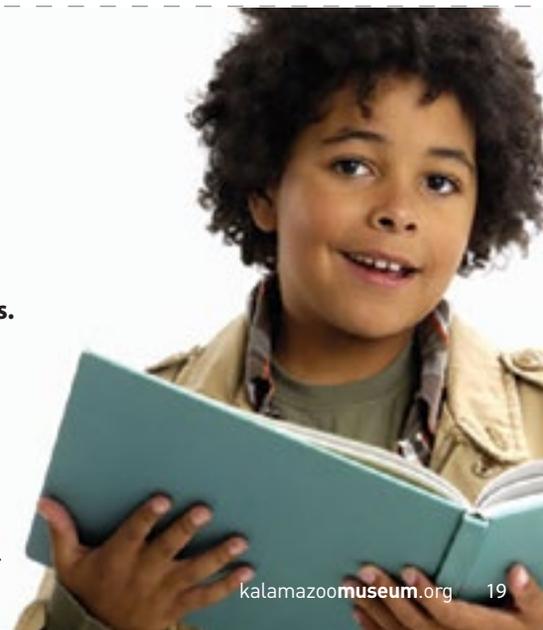
**April 6 A Splashing Time!** Hear Red Rubber Boot Day by Mary Lyn Ray

**April 7 Punches, Kicks, and Crashes!** Enjoy The Three Ninja Pigs by Corey Rosen Schwartz

**April 8 Up, Up, and Away!** Take off with Kite Flying by Grace Lin

**April 9 Picking Sides!** Prepare for Rotten Richie and the Ultimate Dare by Patricia Polacco

**April 10 Batter Up!** Vegetarians and Meat Eaters compete in Dino-Baseball by Lisa Wheeler



# STORYTELLING

—2015—

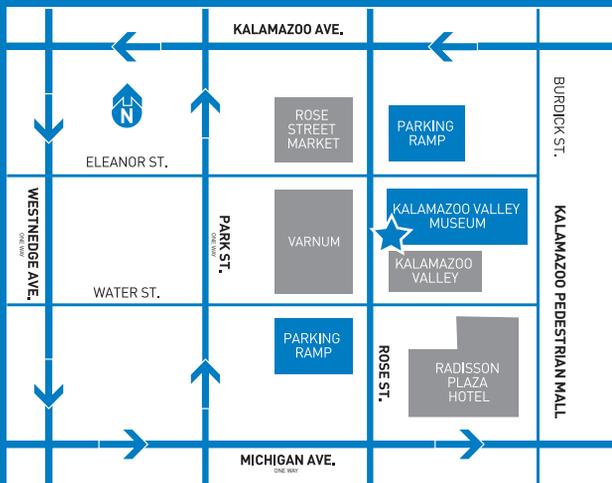
# FESTIVAL

KALAMAZOO VALLEY  
 MUSEUM

**Saturday, February 7, 2015**  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | **FREE**

Storytellers, a vendor fair, preschool story time, arts and crafts,  
 and books galore during this full day festival!

For more info visit [kalamazoomuseum.org](http://kalamazoomuseum.org)



## FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
 Friday (Oct-May) 9 a.m.–9 p.m.  
 Sunday + Holidays 1 p.m.–5 p.m.  
 Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve,  
 Christmas Day, and Easter

## Kalamazoo**VALLEY**<sup>™</sup> **Museum**

230 North Rose Street  
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370

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

[f /KalamazooValleyMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooValleyMuseum)

[@kalamazoomuseum](https://twitter.com/kalamazoomuseum)

Handicapped accessible. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the Planetarium. Our TDD number is 269.373.7982



The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley  
 Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees

