



South Evergreen Schoolhouse

2017

Your Contribution Made a Difference!

2017 was a busy year at South Evergreen School

Because of your support the school's renovation has continued and we are pleased to send you this 2017 review.

Whether you contributed with dollars to the Grand Haven or Coopersville Area Community Foundation or our GoFundMe Site, you volunteered time and effort to one of our projects, or donated tools, materials or talent we appreciate you!

Thank You!

Expanded Parking

In January, Polkton Township purchased one acre of land from Bob and Linda Lemieux. This important parcel located adjacent to the school's west property line now provides off-street parking for about sixty vehicles.

In September, the Ottawa County Road Commission installed a culvert at Leonard Road, giving access to the new parking area. The lot was already used this year by the patrons of the school's 150-Year Celebration (more about this later).

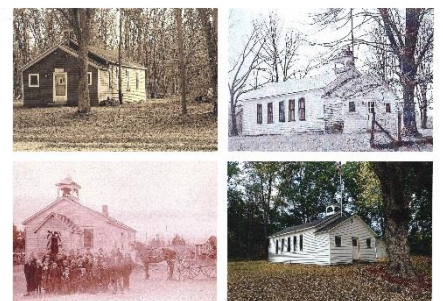
GoFundMe Site

In February, a GoFundMe page was created. See gofundme.com/south-evergreen-schoolhouse/



New Parking Lot

Entrance to the parking lot is just west of the schoolhouse.



Renovation Continues

South Evergreen School has undergone many changes since 2013 when saving the school was first imagined.

Time Capsule

The schoolhouse committee gathered memorabilia to install in a time capsule placed in the renovated belfry's ceiling.

Some items that were included were photos of the belfry before and after repair, newspaper articles about the schoolhouse restoration, photos and other memorabilia.

See more about the belfry's repair and photos of its interior on nunica.com/schoolhouse/.



March Pancake Breakfast

The Schoolhouse Committee participated in Crockery Township's monthly pancake breakfast. The Concerned Crockery Citizens are generous supporters and donated a portion of the proceeds to the schoolhouse's renovation fund.

Nunica.com/schoolhouse/

Glenn Fitzpatrick continually updates the schoolhouse's website. Please keep checking for new photos and stories!



May Yard Clean-up

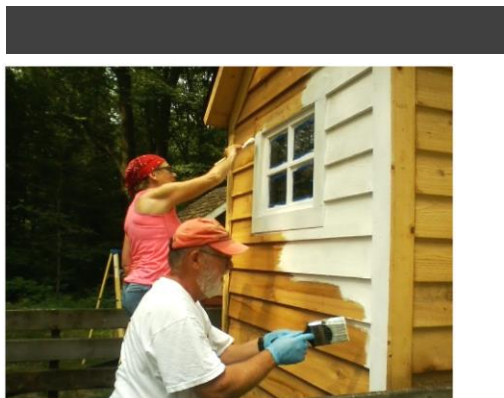
The Bit-O-Luck 4-H Club donated a Saturday in May to provide yard clean-up around the schoolhouse. The group and their parents worked hard raking leaves, picking up tree branches and hauling them for disposal. What a special gift this was!

CAYAC Grant Awarded

In May, the Schoolhouse Committee was awarded a \$2,000.00 grant from the Coopersville Area Youth Advisory Committee (CAYAC) for a project to restore the school's original outhouse. The project was partnered with the Coopersville High School Industrial Arts Dept and students.

Original Outhouse Returned

When it became known that one of the original school outhouses was still in existence, plans were made for its return. Owned by neighbor Jack Fisher, it had been refashioned into a potting shed. The Coopersville High School Industrial Arts students worked during their winter semester to build a replacement potting shed to trade for the original outhouse. A part of the school's history was returned (complete with students' initials carved on its walls).



Painting the Outhouses

Jim Key, Jim Fitzpatrick, Jan Kimble, Gage Stasko, Dave Key painting the new building and original outhouse which now stands on the property near its original location.



Second Outhouse Planned

The schoolhouse committee still has plans for the construction of a replica of a second outhouse that was originally on the opposite side of the property.

Construction of this second outhouse is planned for some time in 2018.

The photo above shows its original construction (enlarged from an 1896 photo).

Summer Projects

South Evergreen School alumnus Doug Hehl donated his own hand-milled oak lumber for a new front door. Les Lindberg, another former student built the door from scratch. The original door latch and lock was reinstalled.

Jim Fitzpatrick built new steps and a landing for the back door using scrap lumber found in the school's wood shed.

The school belfry's reconstruction was completed by Jim Fitzpatrick and it reinstalled in September with the help of Ken Van Doorn of John's Towing Service. More pictures of the belfry structure, its reconstruction and installation are found at www.nunica.com/schoolhouse/.



150-Year Celebration



September 2017 was the 150th anniversary of the South Evergreen Schoolhouse. While no records confirm the exact date the school opened, its first teacher, Fanny Wilson, began teaching around 1865-67. From this information we know that the schoolhouse has sat on its original site since this time. Its exterior has changed over time, but the original structure remains intact as it was for the many generations of students who attended this one-room school.

A celebration of these 150 years was held at the schoolhouse on September 23rd. Over 200 visitors enjoyed live music by the Homemade Jam Band, food by Ms. Piggies BBQ, free ice cream, vendor booths and renovation photos and stories. Previous students and teachers rang the new bell in its restored belfry.

2017 saw the culmination of many individual projects that served to restore the school to its original exterior design. The crowning step was re-installing its original flag pole, saved and refurbished by Jim Key.

Scouts Build Schoolhouse Kiosk



A group of local Boy Scouts and their families volunteered their work to construct a kiosk for the schoolhouse. Many thanks to Jake Barkel, his grandfather and parents and Troop 281 of Walker, MI! The kiosk will provide schoolhouse information, photos and history.

Thank You!

We sincerely appreciate your support

If you would like to help with the South Evergreen School renovation:

*Tax-deductible donation: **GHACF, One South Harbor Dr, Grand Haven, MI 49417***

*Online donation: **GoFundMe.com/south-evergreen-schoolhouse***

*Volunteer: **Contact a member of the schoolhouse committee***



The South Evergreen Schoolhouse Committee of Polkton Township

Contact: southevergreenschool@gmail.com

Website: www.nunica.com/schoolhouse/