

FRIENDS
OF THE
RAY TOWNSHIP
LIBRARY &
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

BOOKMARK
2025

Thurs, Feb 6th 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

Fri, Apr 25th 6:00pm

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

by Beverly Bishop

Thurs, May 8th 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

May - TBD

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
Indian Trail
Cleanup
MDOT

June

SILENT AUCTION

in the Library

Thurs, Aug 14th 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

Thurs, Nov 13th 6:00pm

Friends of the Library &
Historical Society

MEETING in the Library

The Back Shelf

RAY TOWNSHIP, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ISSUE XVIII FEBRUARY 2025

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS: WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE

Fires continue to be a big threat to local communities. Much has changed in the past 150 years, but our regular and volunteer firefighters still answer the call when fires threaten our livelihoods.

Beverly Bishop will present the history of our area's local firefighters on **Friday, April 25th at 6:00pm** in the **Ray Township Public Library**. Many men left their farms and businesses to quench the flames engulfing structures when fires arose from wood burning stoves, matches, and even spontaneously from stored hay.

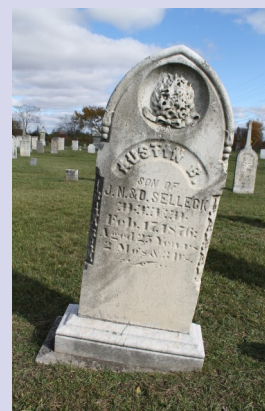


Learn about firehouses, equipment, alarm systems, insurance, and water systems used from 1880 to 2000. Register for this free hour-long event by April 21st at raylibrary.org/calendar/events.

PROCTER CEMETERY PHASE III

The second part of Phase III of the Procter Cemetery Restoration is expected to restore fifty marble headstones that are dirty and leaning at an estimated cost of \$20,000. Our Society currently has \$6,000 committed for the project thanks to our annual Calendar sales and Silent Auctions along with generous donations from the community and our members.

Our goal is to survey the Cemetery this spring to determine exactly which headstones to restore then request updated cost estimates. Fundraising efforts will continue with plans to apply for additional grants.



FRIENDS OF THE

Ray Township

LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



64255 Wolcott | Ray Township | Michigan 48096

RayLibrary.org/RayHistory | info@rayhistory.org | 586.749.7130

The Society was formally organized in 2005 as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and added support of the Library in 2015. Our mission is to engage passionate individuals to enrich cultural experiences, enhance literary and educational opportunities, and enliven history.



Our 2025 Calendar, **HIDDEN TREASURES**, is selling quickly. A few copies can still be purchased on **SALE** for **\$5** at the Ray Township Public Library, Ray Township Offices, Jarvis Accounting, Jarzyna Farms Fine Meats & Deli, and KO Music Studio.

Thank you to all our sponsors for covering the printing costs of the calendar. All proceeds go toward Phase III of the Procter Cemetery Restoration Project. Check out our website for a list of all our sponsors.

We are also looking for images for our future calendars. Military or service photos and images celebrating Ray Township are needed for the 2026 & 2027 issues.

VOLUNTEER

If you have a couple hours available, we could always use a hand with our upcoming activities. Volunteers can assist with setting up refreshments at our next presentation on April 25th or help put baskets together for our silent auction in early June. If you are creative and/or tech savvy, we could use help with our website, flyers, and calendars. This can be done at your convenience.

DONATIONS

Our annual Silent Auction is a major fundraiser for the Society. We could use baskets of all sizes. If you have any unwanted gift cards or know of a business who will donate a gift card or item, consider donating as they make great additions to our baskets. Monetary donations are always welcome. For those over 70, a qualified charitable distribution can benefit our charity and possibly lower your taxable income.

JOIN

It's time for our membership drive. Forms to renew or become a new member are available at the Library and online at RayLibrary.org/RayHistory. Annual membership levels start at just \$10.

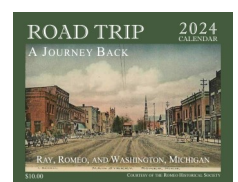
In 2024, our Society raised over \$5,000, including \$2,139 from our Silent Auction in June and \$520 from our Silent Auction during Holiday DeLights in December. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising activities.



Kroger Rewards
\$769.91



Bottle Returns
\$171.40



2024 Calendar
\$1,205.00