



SOUTH EVERGREEN SCHOOL – JANUARY 2018

South Evergreen Schoolhouse

2018 - A year of Changes

Your Support Matters!

2018 was a busy year at the South Evergreen One-Room School.

Because of generous donors such as yourself, we were able to make significant advances to the schoolhouse's renovation.

Your support as a volunteer, financial donor or contributor of materials, artifacts or stories, is important. It matters!

Thank You!

Schoolhouse Kiosk

Last year Boy Scout Troop 281 of Walker, MI and their families built a kiosk for the front of the schoolhouse.

In the Spring of 2018, Raap Signs of Marne, MI helped the schoolhouse committee create a storyboard and sign to attach to the new kiosk.

The storyboard gives early history of the school, its founders and first teacher. Also included is information about the school's purchase by Polkton Township and renovation events. This information will be updated periodically.



Schoolhouse Kiosk with Sign

A new sign and township logo are attached to the South Evergreen School's kiosk built by volunteer Boy Scouts in the Fall of 2017.



Storyboard Tells History

The storyboard on the back of the sign gives early school history and renovation information that will be updated.

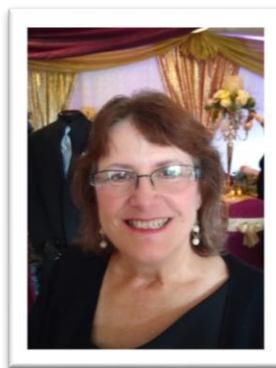
School has a New Access Ramp

This year the Michigan Township Participating Plan and the Coopersville Area Community Foundation awarded generous grants for the purchase and installation of an access ramp compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The ramp was installed at the school's rear door to have closer proximity to the school's adjoining parking lot. It can be used year-round and allows easy access to the school for those with disabilities or who have difficulty using traditional steps and access.



New SESH Committee Member >>



LEAH (TIKKANEN) SPINNER

Leah, her siblings, father and father-in-law all attended South Evergreen School. A Coopersville native, she served as its City Clerk for many years, now retired. She lives near the school with her husband of 36 years, Dale Spinner.

Welcome Leah!



New plaster work on east wall of main school room.

New Plaster Walls for the School

A Summer Project to Restore the Original Plaster Walls in the Main School Room and replace old walls in the bathrooms and front entry.

It was a huge project to re-plaster the school's main room this summer.

On the right is a photo of the walls and ceiling before the project began. The Master Plaster Patcher did a beautiful job restoring the school's original plaster walls.

The first step was to install metal lath to those areas where the old plaster had deteriorated, and/or

the original lath had fallen off or was damaged.



Once the walls were stabilized, new plaster was installed

throughout the main schoolroom. Since the two bathrooms and entryway had never had real plaster installed before, plastered blue board was installed in these rooms.

But the prep work was volunteered...



Jim Key tears out old insulation and ceiling and wall boards in the entryway.



Jim Fitzpatrick removes old wall covering that was mildewed and damaged. He also replaced insulation in the ceiling.



Volunteer Gage Stasko takes a minute to assess his tear-out work.



The west wall in the main room, showing the installation of tar paper covered by metal lath to repair damaged areas of the wall before plastering.

The windows have also been removed by volunteers to repair them with new glass, glazing and painting. Coopersville Hardware and Feed re-glazed the windows at a generous discount to the schoolhouse renovation effort.

Plaster experts at The Master Plaster Patcher install blue board in the "girls" west bathroom.



Below: Views of the main room before and after plaster work.



Beautiful Results!



New Electrical Service Installed & Ceiling and Walls are Repaired

The old, outdated and unsafe electrical system was replaced by volunteers at the Electricians' Union, IBEW Local 275, led by David Kitchen, Training Director, in the Fall of 2018. A new electrical board was installed next to the kiosk. Antique interior ceiling lights from a one-room school, baseboard heating and exterior yard lights were installed. An exterior security camera is also planned.



Consumers Energy Co. installs new electrical service, Fall of 2018.



Ceiling Repairs Too!

The main room's original tongue-and-groove wood ceiling was discovered after old fiber-wood squares were removed. The newly-exposed ceiling was full of holes needing repair and a good cleaning before it could be repainted. Lakeside Woodworks did an expert job matching the old-style boards and repairing damaged wood and holes in both the ceiling and lower wood walls.

Thank you for your generosity

The South Evergreen Schoolhouse Committee of
Polkton Township

Jim Key, Jim Fitzpatrick, Kathy Walt, Jan Kimble, Leah Spinner



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Left: Rear doorway before re-framing
Middle & Top: Ceiling and wall repairs
Right: Jim Key scrapes a window