



SOUTH EVERGREEN SCHOOL, FALL 2022

South Evergreen Schoolhouse 2022

8780 LEONARD RD, COOPERSVILLE, MI 49404

A Year for Generosity and Gratitude

2022 Sees Strides in Renovation

It's exciting to see how much progress was made this year in the renovation of the South Evergreen School. We are so grateful to you and other donors like yourself who have continued to fund renovation of the school and have kept this work going. It's heartwarming to note how many of you have been backing this project since the beginning in 2013, when we first embarked on saving the South Evergreen Schoolhouse.

But this year, we're even more humbled by the generosity of two local businesses who have stepped up in a really big way. On pages three and four of this newsletter you'll learn about donations of time, labor, and materials by two local businesses. Together, they completed and donated the installation of a water supply and septic system to the schoolhouse property. We're now

looking at the possibility of completing the schoolhouse's renovation during the upcoming year.

Think about it—a full ten years of support and commitment to this special project that you've helped provide. We'll soon be able to see the result of all our efforts.

How often these days do we see this level of cooperation, patience, and mutual commitment to a project?

Thank you!

If you have a chance to work with these businesses in the future, please let them know you appreciate their generosity toward the renovation project and share that you're a valued friend of the school as well.

We're planning an event at South Evergreen School in the Fall of 2023 to celebrate this 10-year commitment and look toward plans for the next 10 years and beyond. **Watch for this later.**

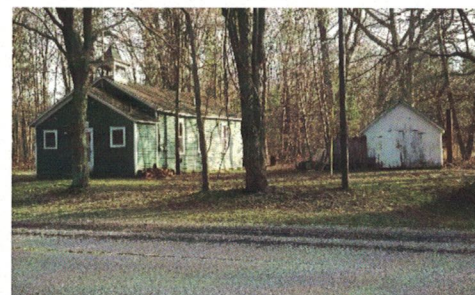
Volunteer of the Year – 2022 Sue Meindersma

Whether it's giving catering discounts for schoolhouse events, installing landscaping bark and plants, keeping the lawn mowed, seeding grass, or providing leaf control each Fall, schoolhouse neighbor, Sue Meindersma has been a steady friend of the schoolhouse project year after year.

Sue is the owner of Ms. Piggie's BBQ, a popular local catering and food service company.

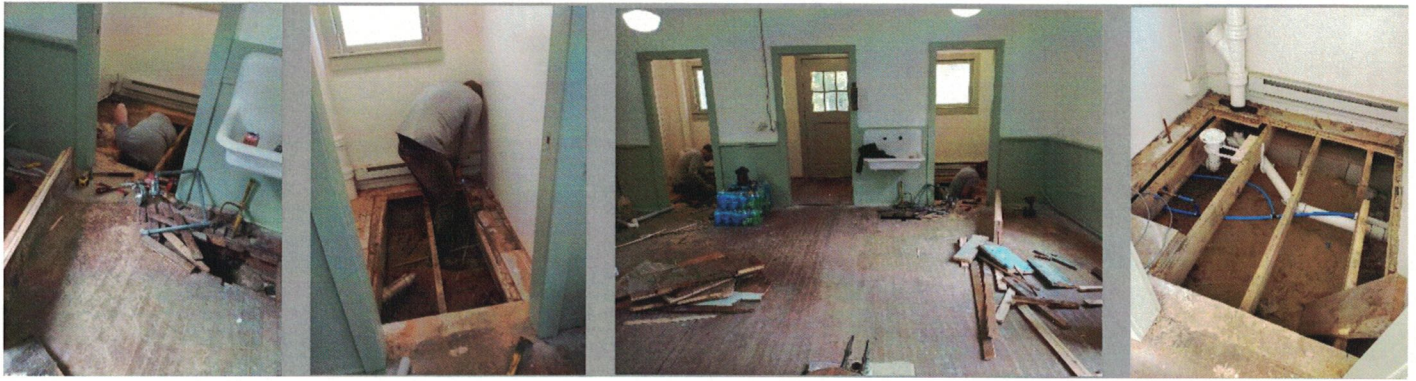
Thanks, Sue, for all you do!

Remember This?



The Schoolhouse 10 Years Ago

BATHROOMS & ORIGINAL SINK GET NEW PLUMBING



A crew of Coopersville area plumbers from All-Pro Plumbing in Coopersville, installed new plumbing and fixtures in the schoolhouse's two bathrooms in October.

Originally installed around 1946, none of the old plumbing was useful and some careful thinking and planning was needed.

The plumbers' first step was to determine if the old drain and septic lines were clear and able to function. They scoped the old pipes with a camera and found they were too old and unusable, meaning all new plumbing would be needed.

Their next step was to hand-dig outside to find the connection to the old and new septic lines going to the new septic tanks. Roots from a nearby maple tree had grown around the old cast iron septic lines, and a few Sawzall blades were used up.

The next thing was to find where the old septic lines ran under the floors. They had to cut through and remove three layers of the bathroom floors to replace the septic and water lines.

Drilling through the footings to install outside faucets for draining the pipes for winterizing presented additional challenges. The clearance from the bottom of the floor joist to the ground was only about 18" to 24" and did not allow much space to work.

With significant care and effort, the plumbers were able to run the plumbing between the bathrooms under the front entranceway without having to remove the entrance floor.

The final steps will be to reinstall new flooring and then updated toilets, which will be in different locations in the rooms than their original spots – a necessary change due to plumbing constraints.

The Schoolhouse Woodshed adds History

Photo below is the inside door of the woodshed

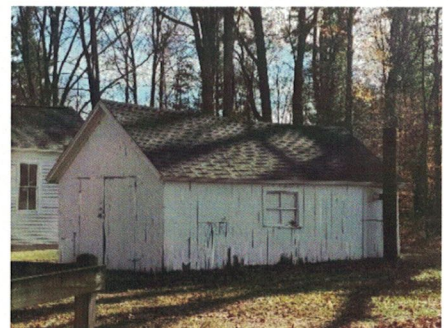


This woodshed served the schoolhouse for many years

No one really knows when the school's woodshed was originally constructed. Its poured concrete foundation and floor hints that it was built some time much later than the schoolhouse. Six- to eight-inch-high concrete walls form the base on which its wood walls were built.

As a boy in the sixth grade, Doug Hehl remembers being one of the lucky kids who arrived at the school very early in the morning, to bring in wood from the woodshed. He would start a fire in the school's stove before the teacher and other students arrived. This stove was situated in the main area of the school and was the only heat source in the building.

A stove pipe at the end of the woodshed is shown in the photo on



the right. This was added in the 1970s when a tenant used the woodshed as a heated workshop.

The woodshed now stores lumber and various materials that have been used during the schoolhouse renovation.

The photo to the left is a current photo of the inside of one of the woodshed's doors. It shows a long history and the fixes of many handy hands over the years.

School Gets a New Septic System

Local Excavator Donates New System for the Schoolhouse

Last year we wrote in our 2021 newsletter that Mark Kuperus of Kuperus Excavating, was donating a new septic system for the schoolhouse. At the time of printing last year's newsletter, we were anticipating this work at any time.

Early in 2022, Mark did, indeed, donate not only his time and his crew's time to the effort, but he also donated the materials. One hundred percent of the septic system was installed for the school without cost to the schoolhouse renovation fund. This allows us to use precious funds toward interior work, such as plumbing and floor refinishing.



The new system has two large tanks and is positioned on the west side of the schoolhouse.

We are deeply grateful to the entire crew of Kuperus Excavating for their work and this generous donation.

Ottawa County Schoolhouse Tour



The South Evergreen Schoolhouse participated in 2022's Ottawa County Schoolhouse Tour on Saturday, June 5th.

During this one-day annual event participants travel to six different one-room schools in Ottawa County and tour the properties.

Sixty-two people visited with committee members Jim Key, Leah Spinner and Jan Kimble at the school, learning more about the school's history, renovation, and plans for the future.

Summer 2022 Fundraiser

Once again, the volunteer group, the Hanchett, South Evergreen and Lawrence Schools Committee organized a fundraising auction for one-room schools, and South Evergreen Schoolhouse in particular.

The group has promoted the schoolhouse renovation with fundraising and volunteer support for many years.



Attendees, including Nancy Hazekamp, former South Evergreen teacher and Jim Fitzpatrick enjoy conversation at the Summer Fundraiser.

Thank you for your continued support!



The old septic system had been installed around 1946 but hadn't been operational for many years.

Its concrete block construction had multiple lids with horseshoe-shaped handles.



Thanks to all donors for your generosity – it's because of you that we've been able to do so much!

The South Evergreen Schoolhouse
Committee of Polkton Twp
www.southevergreenschool.com

Donate: Grand Haven Area
Community Foundation, One South
Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Write "South Evergreen School" on the
note section of your check

Contact the Committee:
info@southevergreenschool.com

Committee Members: Jim Key, Jim Fitzpatrick,
Kathy Walt, Jan Kimble, Leah Spinner

Another Big Donation Gives the School a New Well

Raymer Water Supply Contractors Install New Well at the Schoolhouse

This past early summer Raymer Water Supply Contractors of Marne, Michigan, completed the installation of a new well and water supply for the schoolhouse and donated the entire cost of the project.



The property's old shallow well had been closed for many years and was not viable. The installation of this new well was one of the final steps toward having fully functioning bathrooms and water supply to the school.



Raymer is a full service well drilling and pump company licensed, insured, and bonded. The company has 125 years of family-owned experience in water supply covering the Michigan, Indiana and Ohio region. www.raymerwaterwells.com.

A big thank you to the folks at Raymer for this very generous donation to the school!

Local Master Craftsman Engaged in Renovation

Tony Brown, local master craftsman and owner of Talizman Dezigns of Coopersville, has agreed to provide his expertise to help reconstruct various wood features that were part of the original school.

Tony will ultimately restore the school's wood floors when plumbing and other utility work is complete. We are expecting this to be finished by the end of this year or early 2023. This will consist of installing new flooring in the bathrooms to replace what was torn out during plumbing installation, repairing broken or damaged hardwood floors in the main room and entranceway, and refinishing the hardwood floors in a way that reflects their original finish as well as retains their history of perhaps a hundred years of students' steps. The bathroom floors will be finished with a new sub-floor and the original black and green linoleum-style flooring.

He has already completed the reconstruction of the wood bookshelf that was situated at the southeast corner of the school but was either removed or destroyed at some time.

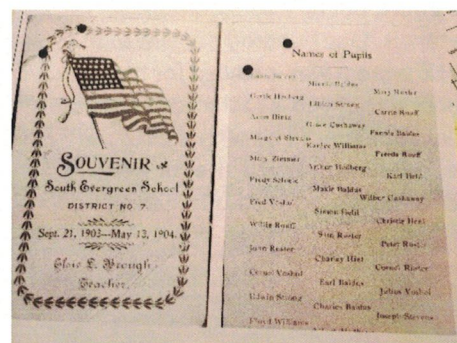


In addition, Tony is reconstructing coat hangers and shelves for the entranceway,

with an aim to preserve the look of the originals that were removed a long time ago.

Tony works in heirloom quality woodcrafts and has helped restore several homes and historic buildings in the Ottawa County area. We are fortunate to have his expertise and participation as we begin working on these final stages of the restoration of the South Evergreen Schoolhouse.

Students 1903-04



It's difficult to read the information shown on the above small photo of a Souvenir of South Evergreen School, District No. 7, donated by James and Jacqueline Hedberg.

It shows the school year of September 21, 1903 to May 14, 1904, with Elsie Brough as teacher. It also lists the names of the students that attended that year. They are:

Laura Baldus, Minnie Baldus, Mary Ruster, Gertie Hedberg, Lillian Strong, Carrie Rouff, Anna Hintz, Grace Cushway, Fannie Baldus, Margaret Stevens, Eunice Williams, Freeda Rouff, Mary Zimmer, Arthur Hedberg, Karl Hehl, Fredy Schiele, Maxie Baldus, Wilbur Cushway, Fred Voshol, Simon Hehl, Christie Hehl, Willie Rouff, Sam Ruster, Peter Ruster, John Ruster, Charley Hint, Cornel Ruster, Cornel Voshol, Earl Baldus, Julius Voshol, Edwin Strong, Charles Baldus, Joseph Stevens, Floyd Williams and Albert Hedberg.

You may recognize the names of many of these students. They contributed to the history of the local community, building lives and families as neighbors and friends.

Thank you, donors and supporters, for helping us preserve the South Evergreen Schoolhouse that helped shape their childhood and futures and our community.