

Caseville Museum reopens its doors

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Business will be closer to usual this week for the Caseville Historical Society.

With the exception of a brief period of having its doors open last fall, the Caseville Museum has been closed to visitors for over a year during the pandemic. At its recent meeting, the society decided to move forward with reopening the museum doors and again welcoming visitors.

"We are open as of Wednesday (June 3), for our normal schedule from Wednesday through Saturday," said Joyce Miller, the organization's president. "Naturally, we're pleased to have the museum back open."

The historical society's staff and visitors hope this reopening isn't temporary, as the one was last fall. Miller said that a perceived glimmer of hope prompted the museum to open but that pandemic data from Huron County threw shade on that glimmer, limiting the society to occasional meetings attended by small groups of members.

"We opened briefly in the fall when it looked like things would be able to be open and people were very excited to see we were open, but we closed again because the (COVID-19) numbers in Huron County went up," she said. "In the meantime, we met from time to time to conduct business. We wore masks and did our best."

The museum and staff, which Miller said has been completely vaccinated, will operate with at least some pandemic



The Caseville Museum is set to return to normal business hours this week. (Caseville Historical Society/Courtesy Photo)

safety protocols still in place. Masks initially will be required for entry, hand sanitization stations will remain available and the number of people allowed in the museum at the same time will be somewhat limited. Another request is being made to museum visitors, which seems to be a standard request of any museum.

"We're asking people not to touch any of the displays," Miller said. "We think we can still have a very successful reopening with these

safety measures in place."

While the plan is for the museum to return to normal operating hours on a long-term basis, members will continue monitoring pandemic facts and figures for the foreseeable future. Barring another wave of infections, the museum should remain a stop on the activities list for those in Huron County.

"We were hoping for 70% vaccination in the county before the museum reopened,

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but we will address the situation monthly and see what Huron County's vaccination numbers are as we go forward," Miller said.

Another statistic that will be monitored is the number of society members and visitors.

Miller said she hopes people haven't forgotten about the museum or developed new hobbies that would consume the time and effort previous-

ly dedicated to the Caseville location.

"When we open up for membership, we'll find out how many have come back and how many are visiting," she said. "As far as we know, nobody has said they don't want to be involved anymore or they've found other things to do."

"It's too early to tell how much, or if, this (pandemic) has permanently affected us. So far, everybody has been very positive, open and cooperative."

Starting Wednesday, the museum will be open from noon to 4:30 p.m., through Saturday each week.

Brief History of Caseville

Caseville has undergone a number of different names through the years a few include, The Mouth, Pigeon River Settlement, Port Elizabeth or Elizabethtown 1852-1856, Pigeon River Settlement or Caseville 1856, Caseville Township -1859, Caseville Post Office -1863, 1874 recorded plat of Caseville, 1898 incorporated as Caseville, City of Caseville established in 2010

Caseville has seen many changes through the years from fur trading to lumbering, fishing and farming, and finally as a family attraction for tourism for its beautiful beaches, fishing and scenic nature.

Brief history of the Maccabees

The Knights of the Maccabees were a fraternal and benevolent "Legal reserve society." families of deceased members received benefits in the form of legal-reserve insurance. All white persons of sound health and good character, from birth to 70 years of age, were eligible for membership. Their name comes from the Biblical Maccabees. The order was founded in London, Ontario in 1878 and reorganized in 1883. before 1914, it was known as the Knights of the Maccabees. Subsequent to 1914, it has been simply called "The Maccabees." at one time about one third of the membership was in Michigan.

Historical Society of Caseville

Founded in 1993 The Historical society of Caseville was an off shoot of the Caseville Kiwanis. For a few years starting in 2000 the museum was located in the Independent Bank. In 2002 The Maccabees hall was donated to the society as a home for the future museum. After undergoing a major renovation the doors to the museum were opened in 2008. The society holds a monthly meeting the third Thursday of each month. Many annual events are held including a Christmas Extravaganza, The Afternoon Tea, The Ice Cream Social and the Cheeseburger Museum.

Caseville Historical Museum 6733 Prospect St.

The Knights of the Maccabees (KOTM) were founded in 1878 as a fraternal and benevolent "Legal Reserve Society." The KOTM formed in Caseville in approximately 1887. The Knights met at various halls in Caseville until this hall was built -c- 1896. For many years this was the place to have special meetings or large parties. Whether for government, parties, plays or concerts, this hall did it all. After many owners and businesses, the hall fell into disrepair. John and Cynthia Koss donated the building to the Historical Society of Caseville in 2002 as a home for the future museum. After undergoing major renovations, the doors to the museum were opened in 2008.

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