



WORD FROM THE WATERFRONT

PRESERVING HISTORY AND GROWING COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER 2025

From the Editor

Where did summer go? What about fall? Seems like I only blinked once and it's almost Thanksgiving! Yikes! Temps are certainly cooler and the trees are showing their beautiful fall colors . . . all along the ground, too! And, the museum is officially closed for the season. Where did the time go?



"The Ice Cream Scoop"!

Ice cream sales were very strong over the spring, summer and early fall months! Alas, the ice cream freezer is now officially closed. Don't cry—it was a great season!! And, the season's profit was an amazing \$650! That IS INCREDIBLE! Thank you so

much, Marsell, for all your work!!!



What's Been Happening

Tis the Season! The Museum has been decorated for Christmas and on the front porch sits an incredible **CHRISTMAS TREE**. It's beautiful! Thank you so much to all the volunteers making this possible. Personally, I LOVE IT!



The 2025 MWM Silent Auction

officially took place from November 2nd through 5:00PM on November 8th. The auction items ran the spectrum from beautiful hand-crafted creations and basket assortments to artwork and everything in between! Bidding for some items came down to the wire, so to speak—it was interesting to watch! Congratulations to all the winning bidders! Net proceeds were \$3,480! Amazing! A very special thank you to those that setup and ran the auction and to the incredible donors (individuals and businesses), that helped make this possible. YOU are THE BEST!



The **Monster Mash - Halloween Party** in the Pavilion on Saturday, November 1st was SO MUCH FUN! Lots of great costumes and, of course, LOTS of great food too. Spooky (but, friendly) decorations were everywhere! A very special “thank you” goes to the host—you did a fantastic job! It was a *mortifying* and simply *ghoulish* evening and SO MUCH FUN!!



You may have noticed the delightful new playground behind the pavilion. A very special and heartwarming **Playground Dedication** took place on Saturday October 25th in memory of Kay Shelton. Glasses of champagne and light hors d'oeuvres were shared in celebration of this beautiful addition to our museum grounds in honor of the life, the spirit, and love of Mrs. Shelton. From the dedication:

“For those of us who had the blessing of knowing Kay, we know she wasn’t just a resident of Morattico — she *was* Morattico. Kay spent her entire life growing up right here in this little riverside village, surrounded by the people, places, and memories that shaped who she was. She loved this place deeply — its beauty, its people, its stories. And she carried that love in her heart every day.

It feels only fitting that the playground we dedicate today stands as a tribute not only to Kay’s life but also to the generations of children and families who have made their

own memories here — who have fished off the docks, played tag in the grass, and chased fireflies as the sun set over the river.

This playground isn't just swings and slides. It's a symbol — a reminder of what community means. It's a place where laughter echoes, friendships begin, and stories are written that will be told for years to come. Just as Kay's life touched so many of ours, may this playground continue to touch the lives of those who come after us.

As we dedicate this space, I'm reminded of the words from Matthew 19:14: *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* Kay had that same kind of welcoming spirit — one that embraced others with love, patience, and joy. I think she would smile knowing that children will gather here, play here, and grow here in the light of that same love.

Kay loved the simple joys — family, the comfort of familiar faces, and the beauty of a Morattico sunset. And so, as we dedicate this playground in her memory, we are really celebrating all of those things she cherished most: family, community, love, and the timeless joy of being part of something bigger than ourselves.

May every laugh that rings out here remind us of her spirit.

May every child who plays here grow up knowing the warmth of community that Kay helped create. And may we all carry forward her legacy of kindness, connection, and love for this little village, with a big heart, by the water."



The 17th Annual Oyster Roast was held Saturday, October 18th from 3 to 5PM. In addition to raw and steamed oysters, the menu included barbeque, slaw, clam chowder, kale salad, hushpuppies and delightful desserts. Net profit was \$5,949!

Museum Corresponding Secretary Connie Conley took a few special minutes to honor Mr. AB Levere, who is 95 years young! Mr. Levere has been shucking oysters at the museum for the past 13 years! Thank you, Mr. Levere!



 The **13th Annual Crab Feast** was held on Saturday, September 13th from 3 to 5PM. All-you-can-eat crabs, hot dogs, sides and desserts were enjoyed by the holders of the 130 event tickets sold. It was truly a feast! The talented and courageous crab-servers stayed very busy delivering the yummy delicacies to tables. Net profit was an amazing \$5,392!!!



Approximately 35 people attended the **Community Coffee** on Saturday, August 30th, 8 to 10AM. The morning was warm and both coffee and good conversation flowed freely. Great stories and laughter were plentiful, as always. THANK YOU, TINA



Thirty artisans of all ages attended the **Stained-Glass class** with a “glass art bar” on Saturday, August 9th from 10 to 12 and hosted by River House Creations. Choices were a crab, sunflower, flip flops or a heron and all were beautiful and very unique. This was a great event!

Biscuits and Bubbles were available in the pavilion on the morning of Saturday, Jul 5th. Scrumptious homemade sausage biscuits and delightfully refreshing mimosas were on the menu. These were a bargain

for only \$10! Thanks to everyone who made this happen!

Saturday, July 5th, was a special day at the museum and around Morattico with the **Village July 4th Parade** followed by a **free hot dog lunch** in the pavilion. Janet Barrack was the Grand Marshal.

The parade line-up started at 10:30AM on Sunnybrook Lane, as you enter Morattico. The procession began at 11:00 and included decorated golf carts, bicycles, fire trucks and an ambulance. Crowds gathered on lawns to watch and be part of the merrymaking.



At noon-ish, the hot dogs, chips and soda's FLEW off the serving table. 240 hot dogs were prepared . . . and gone in a snap!

A BIG thank you goes to the many volunteers that helped make this a very special success.



Let's talk about "**First Friday's**"! Hooray! Oh yes, we have enjoyed a few this season and they are always fun. November 7th was the last "First Friday" for the season and the theme was "Fall Celebration".

Approximately 30 people attended, listened to good music, shared in good conversation and great food.



Host Rob McArdle and his very capable co-host Gary Bradley have done a fantastic job with this event all season long. Let's hear it for Rob and Gary! Yeah!!



Previous "**First Friday's**" include:

-October 3rd aka Oktoberfest with 35 happy, joyous and hungry people. All

the food was incredible.



-September 5th was a very warm day. The food was wonderful, as always, and the crowd was a pleasant 30+. Music and incredible hosting-duties were provided by none other than famous Oscar Farley! (Rob, our prevailing First Friday host, was traveling).

A photo board was placed near the kitchen entrance and photos were provided by Kim Gittman. Kim is a talented photographer and her photos are fantastic! Thank you for sharing, Kim!



-August 1st was another very-very warm “First Friday”! Ok, it was HOT! Instead of a theme, donations were requested for the Little Pink Food Pantry in Lancaster and a true abundance were received. What an incredible outpouring! Attendance was approximately 40 people and all the food was scrumptious.

-Friday, July 4th, had the largest crowd to date—approximately 76 people! WOW! Of course, we had an abundance of wonderful food, great music and all-around good times. It was hot—I’m talking weather temperature. Humm . . . what were YOU thinking? Spicy? A few apps did have a bit of a delightful kick.

Behind the Scenes

Docents – THANK YOU! The team of incredible museum docents are so-so-so very appreciated. The museum has closed for the season and we want you to know how much you are appreciated. THANK YOU again! We couldn’t do it without you!



On the Maintenance Front

Have you noticed construction in the pavilion? It’s coming along and we’re excited! Due to a generous donation from Tim and Lisa Benusa, we are in

the prep stages for the addition of **garage doors** in the existing pavilion openings. WOW! The garage doors will primarily remain open but the goal is to be able to close doors as needed (to protect from wind, rain, etc.) and accommodate more use during the year, especially cooler months. We're excited! Stay tuned for additional updates.



Maintenance always continues on “this, that and the other”, as my mom-in-heaven would say, “It never ends”! However, if you see something off, off-kilter, broken, leaky or just wacky, please inform one of the board members. They will be glad to investigate.

Upcoming 2025 Events

Unfortunately, the list is short for upcoming 2025 events. Rest assured, 2026 plans are under discussion so be prepared for excitement, good food and, of course, fun! In the meantime, please mark your calendar for the **Photo Opportunity . . . from this corner of Paradise!**

Please join friend, neighbor, museum member and photographer, Andre Garipey, on Saturday November 29th

from 1:00 to 4:00PM, to have your photo taken with the museum in all it's decorated glory as the backdrop. This is a FREE service! Thank you, Andre! The museum will be open for shopping during this time to help with holiday gifting: Morattico towels, sweatshirts, ABC's of Crabbing, mugs and so much more!”



New Year's Eve Gala

Wednesday, December 31st @ 7PM.
Information to be shared soon so be sure to check email, Facebook and the museum web site!

And other items



Thinking about gift-giving?

Well, it is the season! Just a thought—how about an **MWM museum membership**? Or, a wonderful and meaningful memorial brick for the **MWM Memorial Garden**? Contact one of the board officers or directors for information.

It's early but if you're considering a venue to host an outdoor event during the 2026 museum season, please consider the beautiful MWM pavilion. The pavilion will be available for rent to **MEMBERS-ONLY** during the open season. **You MUST be a member for a minimum of 1-**

year prior to the rental date and in good standing. Cost is \$150 per day (\$100 for rental plus \$50 for security/cleaning fee which is refunded following a positive inspection of the property after the event). If interested, please email our rental coordinator, Marian Howell, at marian.howell@outlook.com.

You may wonder why I repeat this information in every newsletter. It's worth repeating--honest! Pavilion rental is a bargain! It's truly a wonderful place with a spectacular view. The sunsets are outstanding!

New Museum Acquisition!

Friend, neighbor and museum member George Shelton recently made a donation of the original bell previously rung by Amelia Lankford at the Frog Pond School! George and Kay had the bell at their home for 50 years (or more) and wanted the museum to have it.

The Frog Pond School was a frame schoolhouse located at the corner of Morattico Road and Mulberry Creek Road and was attended by residents of Morattico in the 1930's and 1940's. The colloquial name, Frog Pond School, came from the pond at the rear of the building. (Information from Morattico.org). We are excited

to have this new amazing and historical artifact!



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THANK YOU for your continued support. Stay safe!

