

## **37<sup>th</sup> Holiday Traditions Tour- Home Information**

### **#1 -- Ron and Carol Nichols, 5459 Riverbend Circle.**

Ron and Carol Nichols enjoy the spacious two story contemporary home in the woods at 5459 Riverbend Circle in Oneida Woods Subdivision which they purchased in 2005.

The land was originally part of a 100 acre farm owned by the Newkirk family until it was sold to Leon Clark and developers. Forrest Vandeventer built the home in 1989 and lived there about five years.

The grand piano and large Christmas tree with family photo ornaments dominate the cathedral ceiling living room, which flows into the dining room. Carol is setting the table for dinner with her Christmas dishes.

The lower level with floor to ceiling windows looks out on their wooded yard. The comfortable media room area showcases original historic image photography of famous people and photos by Ron's Professional Photography friends.

The guest bedroom features watercolors by Carol and her grandmother's handmade quilt.

Photography by these two talented photographers and their friends fill the halls and walls of all of the rooms in this comfortable home in the woods.

### **#2 -- Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St.**

The 1884 restored Opera House serves as ticket headquarters for Holiday Traditions Tour and offers a variety of displays and music throughout the weekend.

It was built as a roller skating rink, soon became a community center named the Opera House hosting cultural activities, both local and professional. It was also the home for high school basketball, plays and graduations until it became a furniture store. A major restoration was undertaken from 1984 - 1993 when it returned to the Opera House.

The Grand Hall will showcase decorated Christmas trees by groups, schools and businesses including Seedson's Greetings, the Elves and the Shoemaker and a Tiffany-Inspired Christmas. Midway Circus Scenes will be presented by the Magic of Miniatures group. The Holiday Market will provide handmade and donated items by the Garden Club and other individuals for you to purchase.

Santas from the smallest to the largest to the most beautiful and unusual will be displayed in the Blake Room.

Festive tables from formal dinners to a Christmas buffet to casual settings will be shown in the Terrace Level.

The 1928 Barton Theater organ will be providing music Saturday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Sunday, 2 - 4 p.m.

### **#3 -- Inspired Green, 223 S. Bridge St.**

Inspired Green is the first tenant in the newly restored 1877 commercial building at 223 S. Bridge St. They offer assessments and solutions for your energy conservation needs.

In 2004 Lynne MacDowell bought the building from Doreen Crandall who operated Creative Gifts and Ceramics from 1965 - 2004.

The building was built in 1877 by S. B. Granger for Tabor and Spencer Meat Market, later used for cigar and barber shops, lunch rooms and by Bob Earl's Western Auto store from 1940 - 1965.

In 2009 Bruce and Lynne MacDowell started the 1 1/2 year restoration. They removed the aluminum siding from the front, rebricked and replaced the windows. Note the original hoods over the second story windows. They removed wood siding from the back of the building, created a new rear entrance, second story deck and rebricked

On the main floor they removed all of the interior walls and plaster to expose the original brick and added laminate and ceramic tile flooring.

The upstairs apartment was reconfigured and brick walls were exposed. A new galley kitchen was added. At the present time the upstairs is being used as office space.

The MacDowell's investment in the restoration of this early building is an asset to the downtown.

### **#4 -- Grand Ledge Counseling Center, 207 W. Jefferson St.**

This 1905 ornamental concrete Princess Anne house is a successful example of adaptive reuse of a late Victorian home to a business without changing the character and integrity of the house and neighborhood.

It has been the Grand Ledge Counseling Center since 1984. Art & Cindy Myers bought the building in 1987. They use all three floors for the business.

The oak entry with open staircase leads to the large waiting room with fireplace, carved cove ceiling molding and pocket doors to the former dining room turned office. Cindy's office has the original beamed ceiling, plate rail and leaded glass windows.

At the base of the stairway you see an unusual bowed leaded glass window. The second and third floors house client rooms.

Elmer Edwards built this lavish home for Amos and Lena Russell, insurance, realty and loan business. The exterior blocks were made by Wm. Devine Concrete Co. in Grand Ledge. The upstairs was converted into an apartment in 1954 by the Russell Vroomans, but was later restored.

Much care has been taken to preserve the original amenities and period feel of the house with appropriate furnishings on the main floor.

### **#5 & #6 -- Riverwalk Townhomes, 101 Perry Street**

Melissa Cade and Peg Cook both enjoy their 2nd and 3rd floor townhomes in the former 1906 Grand Ledge Chair Company building on Perry St. with fantastic views of the Grand River.

The Chair Company closed in 1981 and reopened in 1988 as Riverwalk Apartments with 50 townhomes showcasing the original massive beams and brick walls. Spiral staircases lead you from the second floor living areas to the third floor.

The entry and hallways will be decorated for Christmas and feature pictures and furniture from its first life as the Chair Company.

**MELISSA CADE** uses a floral motif in her living area furniture and prints on the wall.

Cade family history and crafts play a prominent role in her decorating. You will see several collages of Cade family memorabilia.

She will display her Police Department Blue Sky collectables including buildings and angels.

Melissa uses her well organized craft room in the loft at the top of the stairs to work on her many projects. The bedroom features her great-grandmother's antique cherry dresser.

**PEG COOK** loves Christmas and her townhome. She has decorated the apartment entrance area with a Christmas tree and Manger Scene.

Peg uses period family furniture and memorabilia throughout her home and adds interesting pieces she finds along the way.

She has chosen a primitive Christmas tree theme for the living room and a formal wall tree in her loft bedroom. Green and lights add to the festive mood.

Her Grandchildren like to visit so they can see the train go across the river on the trestle and hear the whistle.

### **#8 -- Leo & Elva Maguire**

Leo & Elva Maguire's 1870s ample home is set on a picturesque farmstead with barns and horses at 3725 Saginaw Hwy. In 1854 John & Mary Wickham Barker settled in a log cabin in Oneida Township across the road from the present house. About 1870 they built the present farmhouse -- two stories in the front and one story in the back.

In 1909 Joseph & Mary Strange McMullen bought the farm for \$6,400.00. They added the second story to the back wing. The farm remained in the McMullen family until 1974 when Leo & Elva purchased it.

The Maguires added a family room with a large colonial fireplace made with stones from the farm and Grand Ledge bricks. They also enclosed the back porch. The home still has all of the original oak woodwork.

The round oak table in the large farm kitchen will be set for a party for the Grandchildren. They will also help decorate the family room Christmas Tree. The living room features a gold and white tree and a large Nativity Scene. Santas from Elva's collection will be shown throughout the home.