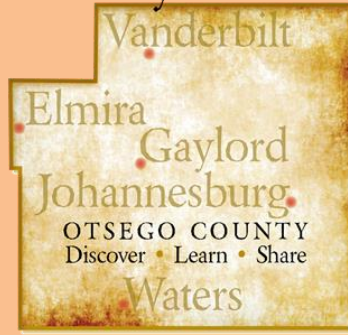


History Matters



Update # 42
October 20, 2018

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History Matters Detective



The 2018-19 class of Leadership Otsego County spent this past Thursday learning about our local history. Students learned about the lumbering era, establishment of Johannesburg in 1901, Gaylord Motor Company, Dayton Last Block Works, Claude Shannon, the importance of agriculture – especially potatoes, the Tuberculous Sanitarium / Alpine Center, the impact of I-75, and other topics.

The photo to the left shows this year’s 13 participants with Keith Gornick. Mr. Gornick gave a fascinating presentation on the history of Hidden Valley – Otsego Ski Club and the Gaylord Golf Mecca.

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By learning about the past, leaders understand the present and become prepared to plan for the future.

Three Leadership Legends from a list of 27 were selected to help our emerging leaders discover the keys to success used by past visionaries. The three featured leaders were Harold Elgas, Gordon Everett, and Jim Mongeau who played defining roles in shaping our community during the 1960s and 70s. Their circles of influence included the alpine motif, Alpenfest, banking, education & coaching, church, business, county fair, hospital, and much more.

The photo to the right shows the panel discussion.



Leadership Legends Harold Elgas, Jim Mongeau, and Gordon Everett were discussed by panelists Sherry Johnson, John Jenkins, and Dar Mongeau.

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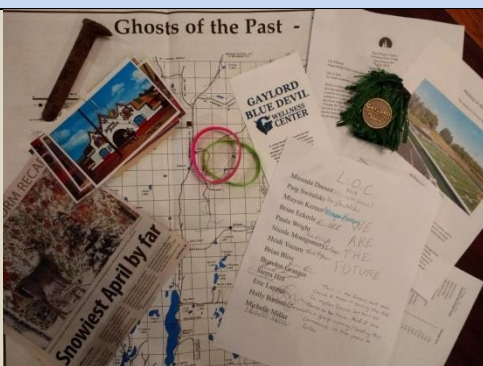
One of the resource materials used during the day long History Module was a Timeline of notable events. The 12 page document highlights more than 125 milestones that occurred since 1837 when Michigan became a state.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the Timeline



Learning also took place with a bus trip to the communities of Waters and Otsego Lake Village. Historical sites included: the original county courthouse, bottle fence memorial, 1875 vault at the township hall, and a plaque commemorating the atomic bomb discussion that took place on the beach at Otsego Lake.

Also, a guided walking tour of downtown Gaylord featured more than 30 points of interest.



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Students contributed an item to the on-going time capsule. They also gave a brief explanation of its significance and how it will help future generations understand current life in Otsego County. This exercise allowed participants to explore their creativity, use critical thinking skills, and gain experience in public speaking. Examples of the memorabilia shared by students in this “History in the Making” activity included a railroad spike, current newspaper articles, postcards of Schlang’s Bavarian Inn, drug prevention efforts, and turf sample from GHS football field.