

## Fall History Weekend set for September 6-8



Grand Island's Fall History Weekend, sponsored by the Grand Island Historic Preservation Advisory Board, will take place on Sept. 6, 7 and 8. A variety of activities will be held throughout the Island during the weekend, including a dedication of the cupola that was part of the former Town Hall, built in 1918. According to information provided by the Historic Society Preservation Advisory Board, "We hope you will join us for as many of these activities as possible. We promise you will gain a new appreciation for the efforts of those citizens and organizations that are working hard to preserve the best of Grand Island for the future."

A variety of events and activities have been scheduled, and "more will be added as we get closer to the date," according to information provided by the Board. A listing of activities and updates will be available on the official town website (website ([www.grandislandny.us](http://www.grandislandny.us))) as well as on the IsledeGrande website.

### Sept. 6

- ✓ Blue Water Marina, 340 East River Road. Historic Paddle will be held from 4-6 p.m. Enjoy a kayak tour of the Niagara River, while learning about Grand Island history from the perspective of the river. This event is geared toward people aged 16 and over. Kayaks, including tandem kayaks, will be available for rental from Blue Water Marina. You are also welcome to use your own kayak. For reservations or for more information, contact Blue Water Marina at (716)773-7884. The rain date is Sept. 8.

### Sept. 7:

- ✓ Buffalo Launch Club: 503 East River Road. Come from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. to see the Niagara Frontier's Antique and Classic Boat Society's antique and classic boat show. On this date, the boating history room will be open to the public. The cost

is \$10 for parking, the show and access to the boating history room. For more information, call (716)773-9224.

- ✓ Ferry Village tours: This is a walking tour, held from 2-3:15 p.m., of the area near the former ferry landing site. It includes homes and other historic sites. A \$10 donation is requested. Reservations are required. To make a reservation, call Sharon Nichols at (716)773-2421.

Sept. 8:

- ✓ The Alt Farm, 2489 Whitehaven Road, will be open for visits between 1 and 4 p.m. The Alts are one of Grand Island's first settler farming families on land that was earlier populated by the Haudenosaunee, the Neutral Nation, and the Wenrotronon people. The farmstead dates back to the mid-1800's when the Alt family migrated from Germany. The farm was an agricultural location with an apple orchard, crop and hay fields, and a dairy and cattle farm. The first Chevrolet dealership in the Niagara region was started on the property by George Alt, Jr. in Grand Island's one-room schoolhouse #8, which was moved to the property in the early 1900s. The schoolhouse has recently been renovated into the Alt Nature Center. The 40 acre property is one of the few remaining farmsteads in the community and the land is now permanently protected by the Western New York Land Conservancy. The farmstead also has the original 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and barn, along with an ice house, and native plant gardens have been created around the property. The Grand Island Historic Preservation Advisory Board has included the Alt farm in its list of Historic Home designations and the Alt homestead received the 2024 Preservation Leadership award from Preservation Buffalo Niagara.
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- ✓ Grand Island Historical Society's museum at River Lea, in Beaver Island State Park (– History Museum maintained by the GI Historical Society in Beaver Island State Park (2136 West Oakfield Road). It's located at the far eastern end of the parkway, around the circle. River Lea will be open from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, call (716)864-8697.
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- ✓ Original Town Hall Cupola: Town dedication ceremony at its new permanent location at 12:30 p.m. at Baseline Road in front of Grand Island Town Hall. This cupola was part of the Town Hall that was built sometime after 1852. learn the history of Grand Island “enemy spotters.”

Sept. 7 and 8:

- ✓ St. Stephen 'Old Church', 2106 Baseline Road: The first mass at this church was held on Feb. 16, 1862. It continued to be St. Stephen's house of worship until March of 2000. This historic church is being transformed, with the goal of it

becoming the Grand Island Cultural Center. All are welcome to see the work underway to make that goal a reality. For more information, call (716)773-4752.

- ✓ DeGlopper Memorial: visit on your own. The park includes a statue designed by sculptor Susan Geissler, depicting Medal of Honor recipient Charles DeGlopper. Other statues she has designed include the Tuscarora Heroes Monument in Lewiston and Freedom Crossing, also in Lewiston. A representative will be on site from 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

For more information about the Grand Island history weekend, contact June Crawford, chair of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board at [j3c1945@gmail.com](mailto:j3c1945@gmail.com).