

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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AFTERNOON TOUR OF FENN VALLEY VINEYARD HIGHLIGHTS JULY 11 SDHC PUBLIC PROGRAM

JUNE 29, 2018 -- A day trip to Fenn Valley Vineyards & Winery will highlight Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next free, monthly public program on Wednesday, July 11, starting at 2:30 p.m. on site at 6130 122nd Avenue in Fennville.

The program begins with an educational vineyard tour aboard Fenn Valley's tractor-drawn "Grape Train", specially enhanced with guides discussing the history of Fenn Valley Vineyard and explaining how Southwest Michigan's environment has made the region a grape growing and winemaking center. At one point, touring guests will be invited to exit the wagons for an approximate 100-foot walk into the vineyard. Afterward, guests (those 21 and older) will sample Fenn Valley's wines and receive a souvenir wineglass.

The "train" wagons require a few steps to board and are not wheelchair accessible. Due to wagon seating limitations, reservations for program attendance must be made in advance either by e-mail to info@sdhistoricalsociety.org or by phone call to 269.857.5751. The tour's normal charge of \$10 per person will be waived as Fenn Valley's in-kind donation to SDHC.

Attendees are reminded to dress for the day's weather forecast, and bring their own sunscreen, insect repellent and water bottle if desired

The program is hosted by Aaron Harr, who left a previous social work career to join Fenn Valley in 2000 as Tasting Room Manager, has since worked in all areas of the winery including six years of winemaking, and is now their Outside Sales Manager.

Fenn Valley Vineyards, a third-generation, family owned and operated enterprise established in 1973, occupies a 240 acre farm located five miles from Lake Michigan. The site was selected for its ideal combination of climate, soil, a temperature-moderating proximity to the lake and a ridge topography that extends growing season by allowing denser cold air of frosty nights to drain off toward lower surrounding land. The winery initially produced natural fruit wines, has since expanded to a broad variety of European-style table wines, winning numerous awards along the way.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for 2018, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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Fenn Valley's guided "Grape Train" tour highlights the July 11 SDHC public program.