

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS
HISTORY
CENTER

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SDHC COMMUNITY PHOTO PROJECT LAUNCHES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MAR. 30, 2020 – What images do you think capture the history we’re living through right now? The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center (SDHC) is asking everyone to help create a photographic documentary of the many ways life in our tri-community area of Saugatuck, Douglas, and Saugatuck Township is changing under Michigan’s Shelter-in-Place directive for slowing the viral spread of COVID-19.

“We’re living through a period that promises to be every bit as impactful on daily life as Pearl Harbor or 9/11”, notes project creator, photographer and SDHC board member James Cook. “We see the threat of Coronavirus as an historic event that will alter the way we live, possibly for the rest of our lives. Despite the fact that the Spanish Flu of 1918 killed 675,000 Americans, there’s barely any record of what it did to us locally. Now that we’re responding to a similar pandemic threat, we feel a responsibility to document its effect. It will forever be part of our history.”

Titled *Tri-Community Shutdown: A Small Community’s Response to a Global Pandemic*, the project starts now and is intended to run for as long as Shelter-in-Place is in effect, Cook explains. Views of empty streets, empty shelves and closed businesses are obvious images, but the more personal depictions of sheltering at home are perhaps even more important. Pictures showing how people are coping, working, exercising or even socializing under these new rules for our lives are highly desirable. Visualizations of inconvenience, illness and suffering are also a part of telling the complete story, as are those showing innovative ways folks are dealing with seclusion.

Imagination and creativity are encouraged, but no one should consider this as cause to overlook or ignore the very important guidelines for Shelter-in-Place and social distancing. Public health and safety are paramount.

Images may be posted to Instagram, tagged @sd_historycenter, or on Facebook using @sdhistorycenter, with hashtags #3CShutdown and #MySDHistory. Photos also may be e-mailed to 3CShutdown@SDHistoricalSociety.org, where SDHC volunteers will review submissions. All photos must provide the name of the photographer and a brief description of the image.

Submittal of photos will be deemed permission for SDHC to archive them for educational and historic purposes, as well as consideration for publication by The Commercial Record.

Photographs will appear on social media as they are posted. SDHC volunteers will collect photographs and repost them at regular intervals. Selected photographs will be considered for publication in The Commercial Record, published weekly on Thursdays.

“I anticipate future programs reflecting on what we’ve learned from this grassroots project, shared on line and in person once we can gather and celebrate together”, said SDHC director Eric Gollanek. “Ours is a strongly bonded community and we’ll get through this,” Gollanek concludes. “A complete and sometimes personal chronicle of the process will provide future generations with a compelling story of our strength and resilience.”

For questions about participating in this project, contact Eric Gollanek by phone at 302.528.0361 or e-mail at efgollan@gmail.com. For general information about the History Center, its Museum in

Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "OpenShutdown")

Caption: Messages in this local restaurant's window exemplify images of community resilience anticipated in SDHC's new photo-documentary project.