

Michigan Time Traveler

An educational supplement produced by Lansing Newspapers In Education, Inc. and the Michigan Historical Center.

KIDS' History

Michigan Week
Michigan Week is May 17-26. The Time Traveler discovers that it has been going on for 50 years.

Michigan Week Has a History

In 1950 fifty Michigan business leaders formed the "Promote Michigan Task Force." They looked at ways to tell the nation—and Michiganders, too—why Michigan was a great place to live, work and start new businesses. Then they formed Greater Michigan, Inc., and created Michigan Week. The state celebrated its first Michigan Week in 1954. We have celebrated every year since then—this is the 50th Michigan Week.

The first Michigan Week ended with the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Mackinac Bridge. In 1959 the "Great Lakes Friendship Committee" proposed bringing other state or Canadian provincial officials to Michigan during the week as special guests. The state hosted guests from Canada on "Ontario Day" in 1961. In 1969 Governor William Milliken helped promote Michigan's bean industry by ladling black bean soup for visitors on the Capitol lawn.

The Mayors Exchange is Michigan Week's longest-lasting event. Greater Michigan started it in 1954; the Michigan Municipal League has sponsored it since 1991. On a day during Michigan Week, city and village mayors and/or city managers and other officials visit each other's city. They exchange ideas about city operations and programs, learn how the other community deals with problems, develop working relationships with other local government staff members and share success stories. In some years more than 200 mayors have participated.

Michigan Week is expandable. It has ranged from seven to ten days in length. Until this year, each day celebrated a special part of Michigan. Factories often held tours on Our Livelihood Day, and schools put on programs or fairs on Education Day. The yellow card from 1957 names seven days. Michigan Week had eight days in 1973; this year there are ten days.

At the Michigan Historical Museum

- ◆ Learn something you never knew before about your state.
 - ◆ See the red Corvette in the 1957 Auto Show exhibit.
- The Michigan Historical Museum, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, is located two blocks west of the Capitol in downtown Lansing. Museum admission is free. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. The museum telephone hotline: (517) 373-3559. The museum is part of the Michigan Historical Center, Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Visit us on the Web at www.michiganhistory.org.

Why Michigan Week?

The founders set three goals for Michigan Week. It would be a celebration that would help Michigan citizens learn about and appreciate their state. It would tell the nation and the world about Michigan's advantages for industry, business, education and recreation. It would bring Michigan communities and people together to work to make the state even more livable and attractive.

Each Michigan Week has a theme that reflects these goals. The first theme was "This Is Your Michigan" (1954). Some themes have been used only once while others stayed several years. These have been some of the Michigan Week themes: "Michigan—Dynamic in World Progress" (1965-67), "Michigan—Land of Hospitality" (1968-1972), "Michigan—A State for All Seasons" (1974) and "Michigan Week 2000—Bridging the Centuries" (2000).



The 2003 theme is "Great Lakes, Great Traditions! Celebrating Michigan's Heritage." Governor Jennifer Granholm is the honorary chair and Dr. William Anderson is the chair of Michigan Week. Kellogg Company characters Tony the Tiger™ and Ernie Keebler™ are the Michigan Week celebrity co-chairs.

Awards Make It Special

Awards have always been part of Michigan Week. Persons who contribute to their communities receive Volunteer Leadership Awards. Community groups are eligible for Community Achievement Awards. Government employees who have helped preserve Michigan history, even though such activities are not part of their job, are eligible for the Governor John B. Swainson Award.

Michigan Week 2003 also has poster and photo contests. The Department of History, Arts and Libraries and Michigan State University's Extension 4-H Youth Development will give awards for photos of historic sites taken by young people ages 9 to 19. After May 17 the winning photos will be on display on the Web (www.michigan.gov/hal) and at the Michigan Historical Center. Then the photos will be displayed in different cities around the state.

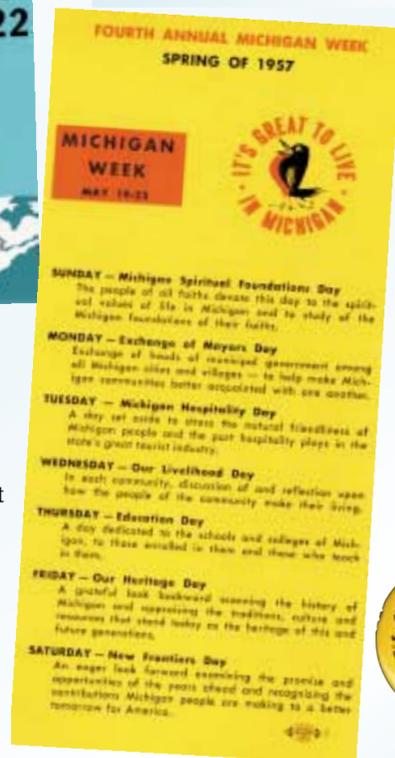
For many years the governor awarded "Minuteman" Awards. The 1984 Michigan Week

Manual explained that Michigan service clubs would nominate a person who was "a loyal, enthusiastic and

knowledgeable citizen who is quick to TAKE A MINUTE to talk up Michigan, particularly when one meets someone from outside the state."

Other Michigan Week awards have honored the Product of the Year and the Agricultural Product of the Year. Some Michigan products that received the "Product of the Year" award include the Hush Puppy shoe, Apache Camping Trailer, Redstone missile and the Enstrom F-28 helicopter.

Among the agricultural developments given awards were a new variety of blueberry, a mechanical blueberry harvester, a process for making fruit juice and Gerber's development of the sweet potato as a successful Michigan crop.



Law Day was May 1, but learning about Michigan's laws and legal system can be an interesting activity for Michigan Week, too. These students explored business law to learn about product liability at the interactive Supreme Court Learning Center in the Michigan Hall of Justice. Many school groups visit the Learning Center, the Capitol and the Michigan Historical Museum for Michigan Week.

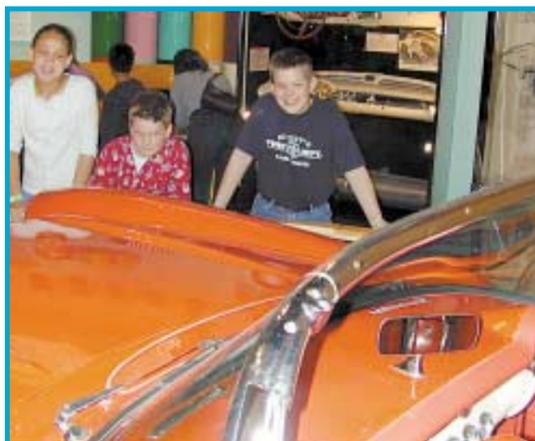


Time Line

- 1950** Promote Michigan Task Force forms.
- 1953** Greater Michigan, Inc., is started in Michigan's Economic Development Commission.
- 1954** The state holds its first Michigan Week.
- 1959** Michigan Week gives its first "Product of the Year" award.
- 1960** Sturgis becomes the Michigan Week "Kick Off" city.
- 1961** Greater Michigan, Inc., separates from state government and becomes the Greater Michigan Foundation.
- 1963** Michigan Week begins giving the "Agricultural Crop Award."
- 1987** A committee of 15 educators produces a "Teacher's Guide to Michigan Week and the Sesquicentennial" during the state's 150th birthday.
- 1990s** The Greater Michigan Foundation closes. Michigan Week becomes a project of the Michigan Department of State.
- 2001** Michigan Week moves to the new Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

Everyone Loves a Parade

Since 1960 the city of Sturgis has been the Michigan Week official "Kick Off" city. It still hosts the Michigan Week Gateway Festival with a parade and "Kick Off" Brunch. This year the Michigan Parade in Lansing will help kick off Michigan Week at 11:00 a.m. on May 17. It will feature baseball broadcaster Ernie Harwell as the grand marshal and more than 150 legendary Corvette automobiles.



This year the Michigan Parade helps celebrate the Corvette's 50th anniversary. Mariah, Nathan and Brian, 4th grade students at Custer Elementary in Monroe, stopped to figure out what makes the Corvette special while visiting the Michigan Historical Museum's 1957 Auto Show gallery.

Things to Do

- ◆ Celebrate Michigan Week in your school and home. You can find ideas in the Michigan Week pages at www.michigan.gov/hal. Read Governor Granholm's proclamation. See winners of this year's awards there, too.
- ◆ Find articles and ads in this newspaper about Michigan Week events.
- ◆ Take a virtual tour of the Supreme Court Learning Center on the Web at courts.michigan.gov/plc/.
- ◆ Promote Michigan by telling someone else why this is a great place to live.



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