

# SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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## GENESIS OF SAUGATUCK CENTER FOR THE ARTS HIGHLIGHTS SDHC AUGUST 4 "TUESDAY TALK"

JULY 24, 2020 -- The story of how Saugatuck's abandoned pie factory morphed into a prominent community-based arts center highlights the next Saugatuck-Douglas History Center "Tuesday Talk", August 4. Breaking with Tuesday Talk's Old School House venue traditions due to current Coronavirus protective measures, this Talk will be hosted outdoors at the Saugatuck Center for the Arts (SCA), 400 Culver Street in Saugatuck. The one-hour program begins at 11 a.m.

Public attendance is invited and admission is free. Guests will be seated in the SCA's open pavilion area (formerly part of the pie factory floor). Due to COVID safety protocols, seating is limited to 36 guests (18 sets of chairs); guests are required to wear masks when entering and exiting the area and during direct interactions with participants and presenters (masks may be taken off while guests are seated socially distanced). Parking is available in the adjacent SCA lot and the city parking lot directly west of the Center.

SCA Executive Director Kristin Armstrong will combine photos of the initial renovation work that transformed the pie factory into a community art center with stories of key milestones along the way, from the organization's earliest days of conception through its merger with Mason Street Warehouse and the evolution of programming to its current state of service to the region. She'll also talk about how the SCA has pivoted to create COVID-safe programming this summer and how it anticipates serving throughout 2020. Her presentation will be streamed live on the SCA's Facebook page (and archived for future viewing).

Opened in the 1950s as the Lloyd J. Harriss Pie Company, the plant produced frozen fruit, creme and pumpkin pies for delivery into the Chicago market. In its early years, Mr. Harriss and his wife worked there, and had a Saugatuck home on Campbell Road. The plant was bought by Rich's Frozen Foods in the mid-late 1980s and sold in 1999. At its peak, it had recorded \$28 million in sales.

The structure began its second life as the Saugatuck Center for the Arts in 2001, which has since transformed Saugatuck's gateway eyesore -- a 32,000 square foot industrial derelict fronting on Culver Street -- into an inviting community asset where area residents and visitors of all ages can experience entertaining, educational, and enriching arts, theater, and cultural programs in a social setting.

A summertime tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August. This program is sponsored by **[ERIC?]**

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for upcoming months, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "SCAbefore")

Caption: Local residents will recall Saugatuck's pie factory as it looked when beginning its transformation into today's SCA, a feat to be revisited in SDHC's August 4 "Tuesday Talk".