

**Grand Island Historical Society**  
**Programs, Events and Open Houses**  
**September 2026-December 2026**

**Please join us for our monthly meetings and interesting lineup of programs and speakers. Meetings are at River Lea unless otherwise stated. Members attend for free. Nonmembers are asked for a \$5 donation. Delicious refreshments are always served!**

**Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026- 6:30 p.m.**

**POTLUCK PICNIC** for members **OR** become a member and join us! Please bring your **own place setting** and a **dish to pass**. **Beverages and desserts will be provided.** Save a stamp and bring your membership dues to the dinner.

**Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, OPEN HOUSE AT RIVER LEA -2:00-4:00 p.m.** Items and information will be on display about the East Aurora Roycroft Community and comparing what was happening at River Lea in the same time period of late 1800's.

**Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026 -7:00 p.m.-** meeting and program. Alan Nowicki, Director of Programming at the Roycroft Campus, will present ***Western New York: Epicenter of the American Arts and Crafts Movement*** and will explore the importance of WNY in this movement. Members will be asked to sign up to help decorate River Lea for the Christmas season and prepare the Christmas Boutique. As in past years we also will need volunteers to bake cookies for our popular cookie sale.

**SATURDAY, October 17, 2026, OPEN HOUSE AT RIVER LEA-2:00-4:00 p.m.** Items and information about Buckhorn and Navy Islands from the Historical Society's collection will be on display.

**Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026- 7:00 p.m.-** **NOTE: NEW DATE AND MEETING LOCATION!!!** Our meeting will be held at ***The Grand Island Cultural Center***, 2106 Baseline Rd. (the old St Stephens Church). Curt Nestark, Mary Cooke and Jodi Robinson will present ***Right in Our Own Backyard: History You Never Knew about Buckhorn and Navy Islands.***

**Friday, December 4, Saturday, December 5 and Sunday, December 6, 2026**

**RIVER LEA OPEN HOUSE AND HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE AND COOKIE SALE**

**10:00-3:00 p.m. each day.** Enjoy the decorations, refreshments and sounds of the season in our historic farmhouse museum. Shop in our boutique for gifts, decorations and homemade cookies. Live seasonal music on Friday and Saturday by Grand Islander and retired music teacher, Betsy Thomas.

**Mark your calendars:**

The first Historical Society meeting & program in the new year will be March 4, 2027, at 7:00 p.m. at the GI Golden Age Center, 3278 Whitehaven Road. Erie County Historian Doug Kohler will present "The World Came to Buffalo: Remembering the Pan American Exposition 125 Years Later."

**GRAND ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**