



**MANCHESTER AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Manchester, Michigan

FUN FACTS of MANCHESTER

Did You Know...

- Manchester was named after Manchester, England in hopes of spurring economic growth and business.
- Many of the founding fathers came from upstate New York - side note, many were Mason's so the Masonic Lodge in Manchester predates the Village and was chartered on January 14, 1864. Most prominent businessmen were Masons.
- Manchester wasn't a back woods settlement. Many of the residents were well to do and advertisements of the day in the Enterprise featured luxury items which wouldn't be found (or considered) in most rural towns.
- River Raisin is the "crookedest river in the world".
- River Raisin was first named Me Riviere aux Raisins by the French because of the grapes That Grew along the river.
- Manchester's Preserves and Nature Trails are rated some of the highest in the area.
- The current Old National Bank location was once a butcher shop, Haller's Meat Market from 1946-1952.
- Manchester had their own currency in the 1830's; you can find \$3 notes from Manchester Michigan at antiques stores and flea markets.
- Some of the local organizations in Manchester in the early years were 20th Century Club, Shakespeare Club, Saturday Club, Manchester Dandies Club, and Southwest Farmers Club. We also had a Democratic Caucus at the Township clerk's office in 1910.
- Manchester now has two museums. One is at the Blacksmith Shop, which features blacksmithing demonstrations, old tools, and a pre 1909 carriage that was built by William Neebling, who was the first owner of the Blacksmith Shop. The Blacksmith Shop is open every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 4-8, and Sunday from 1-4. The second museum is at the Kingsley Jenter Home, which houses the Manchester Area Historical Society. The recently added museum currently features Manchester's early businesses, a one room school house, war artifacts, Manchester Railroads, the woolen mills artifacts and quilts, and more. The museum is open every Sunday from 1-4.
- In the late 1800's - early 1900's Manchester was the third largest town in Washtenaw County. This was due to the fact that we had two railroads for transportation in and out of the town, and that we had a river with currents strong enough to support five dams and power several factories.
- In the mid 1800's to mid 1900's there were 40 one-room schools houses in the Manchester area; one every square mile so children wouldn't have to walk too far to get to school.
- The Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, completely ran by volunteers.
- Manchester has a large music scene. We have some very widely-known musical acts that perform at the many musical events around town; 3rd Thursdays, Blacksmith Shop Concerts, Gazebo Concerts, Open Mic Night at the Tap, and Manchester Underground Concerts at the Mill, just to name a few.
- The Manchester Area Chamber of Commerce is responsible for putting on the following events for the community, mostly in part to the generosity of our business community: 3rd Thursdays, Christmas in the Village, Christmas Lights, Carmel Apples at Halloween, and the Golf Outing with Manchester's CRC.