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Rochester-Avon Historical Society to host Antique Appraisal Day

By Mary Beth Almond



Posted February 23, 2016

ROCHESTER — The antiques gathering dust in the attic or taking up space in the basement could be worth some cold hard cash — or their value could be merely sentimental.

The only way to find out for sure is to visit the Rochester-Avon Historical Society's annual Antique Appraisal Day noon-4 p.m. March 6 at the Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow Ave., to have items assessed by certified appraisers.

Event chair Carol Tough said the Rochester-Avon Historical Society has hosted the event for over two decades.

"We have 13 appraisers, all of which donate their time, and we have about 50 volunteers that help out," Tough said.

"Last year during the four hours that we were open, over 400 appraisals were done. These appraisers are working very hard."

This year, local appraisers have offered to donate their time and expertise in a number of areas — including books, manuscripts, first editions, coins, clocks, glass, pottery, collectibles, china, lighting, furniture, military items, antique weapons, dolls, teddy bears, costume and fine jewelry, Eastern art, engravings,



Jill Lapau brought in a guitar to appraiser Robert Wilson, who was at the Antique Appraisal Day for the first time last year. (Photo provided by the Rochester-Avon Historical Society)

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needlepoint, art, kids' toys, and musical instruments.

People from all over Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties attend, and many return each year.

"We've even had people come from as far away as Charlevoix," she explained. "Since I have been doing it, many people have come back year after year. They literally look forward to this event."

Visitors can bring up to five items to be appraised. For larger items, people can simply bring photographs and any details that may be helpful to the appraiser.

Admission to the event is free and open to anyone in the tri-county area, but appraisals — which are verbal only — cost \$5 per item. Appraisals for items appraised at less than \$20 are free.

"What people find from the appraisers is not only the value, but they get more information on the article itself — such as how it was made or where it was made and some history on it," Tough said.

Historical Society member Leslie Mack said people who attend seem to really enjoy sharing their own treasures with others, and they seem to enjoy the opportunity to see and learn about what others bring.

"It's kind of like an adult version of show-and-tell," she joked.

Proceeds benefit the Rochester-Avon Historical Society's mission to "help preserve, collect and interpret the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations."

"All the funds we raise do go back into historical projects benefiting the community," said Tough.

The first 50 people in line will receive a free gift from the Historical Society.

For more information, visit [rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org](http://rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org) or call (248) 375-0084.



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Staff Writer Mary Beth Almond covers the city of Rochester, Rochester Community Schools and Avondale Schools for the Post. Almond has worked for C & G Newspapers since 2005 and attended Michigan State University.

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