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ENTERTAINMENT

'Who ya gonna call?': Ghost hunters investigate old police station

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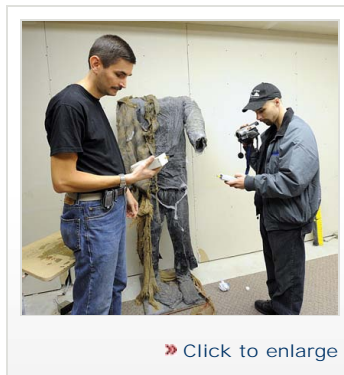
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By Andrea Blum

Visitors to Hellblock 13, the haunted house inside the former Wyandotte Police station, may get more ghostly encounters than they anticipate.

The Motor City Ghost Hunters, a paranormal investigative team based in Dearborn Heights, visited the abandoned police station and nearby Oakwood Cemetery last month.

The group uses scientific methods to prove or disprove hauntings or sightings in residential and commercial buildings as well as historical sites.



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The Wyandotte Jaycees, who run the haunted house, contacted MCGH's founder, John McCormick, to ask the group to investigate the 13,000-square-foot building at the corner of Biddle Avenue and North Line Road.

"They wanted to see if there was any validity to the rumors that were going around," McCormick said.

Whisperings that the station was built on top of a burial ground and tales of prisoner deaths were part of the lore surrounding the former police headquarters.

About 10 investigators turned out for the search at 10:30 one dark night and spent three to four hours perusing the jail, offices, visitation area, shooting range and police locker room.

One of the first things group members noticed was that their camera batteries drained quickly.

"We change the batteries out at the beginning of every investigation," McCormick said. "A lot of times if there's activity, what will happen is the batteries will drain. We went through a ton of batteries that night."

Using digital voice recorders, digital cameras and night vision cameras among other equipment, the group tracked Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVPs), which are recordings that reveal voices other than those of the investigators.

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77

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"We have octaves that show up on the recorder," investigator Chassidy Jamnick said. "Spirits are lower and of a different frequency."

They also measured electromagnetic fields, which can indicate otherworldly presence, using meters.

"Anything ranging from .1 (megahertz) to .3 or .4 could possibly be a spirit," Jamnick said. "Anything above that is considered manmade."

According to McCormick, several investigators had what are known as "personal experiences," in which activity is experienced by someone, but not caught by equipment.

"A few of us had personal experiences — pressure headaches, a feeling of being watched and a couple thought they heard their name called," he said.

"Chassidy and myself were in the visitation area, and she felt something grab her leg. When she looked, she had a scratch on her leg."

The most unusual occurrence took place when Jamnick and a fellow investigator heard the sound of a typewriter in the visitation area.

"It was a strange, unexplained thing," she said. "There was nobody else there, but we both heard it."

On the flip side, McCormick said things at Oakwood Cemetery, which has graves dating back to 1850, were relatively quiet during the investigation.

Older places tend to be more spiritually active than newer sites, according to Jamnick.

"A lot of times, the older places have the most paranormal activity," Jamnick said. "Places that have been around 200 or 300 years, Civil War sites, anywhere that had a lot of tragedies and deaths."

Most of the time, the group knows that tragic events took place at a site. But once in a while, they won't discover it until they explore an area.

"We've been to quite a few locations that had a lot of activity," Jamnick said. "Wyandotte was in between."

The River Raisin Battlefield in Monroe and Battle Alley Arcade Antiques Mall in Holly are two of the sites with the most paranormal activity, according to the group.

The Battle Alley area in Holly is a noted historic site, and the antique shop is next to the Holly Hotel, which local lore suggests is haunted.

Holly is famous for the attention given to it by Carry Nation, the famous "saloon smasher" who tried to rid towns of alcohol during Prohibition.

The Motor City Ghost Hunters formed about 2 1/2 years ago, but McCormick has spent more than 30 years investigating paranormal activity.

He said the group conducts a lot of home investigations stemming from complaints of unexplained loud noises, footsteps, voices and objects flying off shelves.

"Our one common goal is to help people having problems with paranormal activity," he said.

And more people seem to be reaching out for their help these days.

"The paranormal has picked up in popularity," he said. "With all the shows out there now, it's said that 50 percent of people believe there is some kind of activity out there."

73
70
68
66

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August 2011						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Snapshots



FILE - In this April 6, 2011 photo, actor Alec Baldwin speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, to discuss the Fair Elections Now Act. Baldwin will host "Saturday Night Live," during the premiere of the show's 37th season on Sept 24, 2011. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh) AP Photo/Susan Walsh

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Box Office Poison or What AM I Doing?



Eric Tuchelske is starting a second career in Michigan's film industry. As an extra, he has been a part of 50 projects so far - some will see the box office, and others won't. He hopes to give a behind-the-scenes account of what goes into making a movie.

Friday Night Bug Juice



James and Anthony Morrison are two brothers who are old enough to know better, but don't. Perpetually immature, they are most happy when Friday night rolls around and cold beer is served in a dark tavern. The deepest question posed on these weekly excursions is, "Didn't I buy the last round?" There is virtually nothing redeeming about this blog, and is recommended to adult readers only.

The Oscar Project



Matthew Gorsline, an avid movie watcher, is on a mission to watch and blog about all 82 "Best Picture" Oscar-winning films.

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