

Historian to talk about U.S. 12 Heritage Trail

By HP STAFF | Posted: Monday, September 28, 2015 6:00 am

Historian Gladys Saborio will present free programs about the U.S. 12 Heritage Trail in Berrien Springs and Galien.

She will be at the History Center at Courthouse Square, 313 N. Cass St., Berrien Springs, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, and at the Galien Township Library, 302 N. Cleveland Ave., at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.

Saborio and Susan Kosky co-authored the book "Michigan's U.S. 12 Heritage Trail: America's Second Federal Highway," released in June by Arbutus Press. They helped lead the effort to have U.S. 12 designated a national heritage trail in 2004 and have written a history of the highway.

The 212-mile road that crosses southern Michigan originated as the Great Sauk Trail, named for the Indians who crossed it from Wisconsin to Amherstburg, Ontario, to collect annuity payments from the British. The U.S. government turned it into a military road in the early 1800s to link Detroit and Chicago.

Saborio and Kosky live in Saline, Mich., one of the communities along the Sauk Trail. When the federal government made funds available for historic preservation along heritage routes, Saborio co-founded and chaired the U.S. 12 Heritage Trail Council. The council was composed of representatives from each of the counties intersected by U.S. 12.

For more information about the programs, contact the History Center at 471-1202 or email bcha@berrienhistory.org, or the Galien library at 545-8281.