



Fall 2014

# History Matters

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society  
Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield



## *A Civic Celebration: Ice Cream Social & Hands-on History*

**Sunday, September 14, 1-4 p.m. Orchard Lake Museum,  
3951 Orchard Lake Rd.**

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of GWBHS at a fun family event on Sunday, September 14 from 1-4 p.m. at Orchard Lake Museum and Orchard Lake Village City Hall. This year's event also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the City of Orchard Lake Village. There will be activities for all ages, including music and entertainment, and the Museum and City Hall will be open for tours. Ice cream and all event activities are free of charge!

### *Highlights include:*

- Period American music by Vintage Strings throughout the afternoon
- Vaudeville style entertainment by The Josh & Roy Show at 3 p.m.
- Old time photos with period clothing
- Hands-on activities: lawn games, household chores, old home tools, crafts
- Spinning demonstration

### **Of Grave Concern: Pine Lake Cemetery Tour**

**Saturday, October 11, 10-11:30 a.m. Pine Lake Cemetery,  
northeast corner of Lone Pine & Middlebelt Rd.**

Visit Pine Lake Cemetery and learn about prominent local residents buried there, from pioneer John Green to football hero Nick Pietrosante, and Detroit Tiger Norm Cash. \$5. Optional restaurant stop following. Contact Sue Williams to docent at 248.757.2451.



CELEBRATING **40** YEARS  
1974-2014

### **2014 Apple Island Archaeology Project**

Students from Western Michigan University (WMU) spent a week on Apple Island in July. Led by LouAnn Wurst, Associate Professor of Archaeology at WMU, the team found 1300-1500s American Woodland Indian pottery sherds and 1800s vacationers artifact pieces. This information will be included in the Michigan & National Register of Historic Places designation application to be submitted in 2015.



### *Save the date for the GWBHS Annual Meeting*

#### **Annual Meeting & 1900s Light Rail Presentation**

**Saturday, January 31, 10 a.m.-noon. St. Mary's Dining Hall,  
Bldg. 15, Commerce Rd. entrance**

Annual meeting and presentation by historian Brian Golden on Farmington Junction: A Trolley History of the Detroit United Railway's interurban system. \$15 includes brunch. Reservations by January 27 to [rspv@gwbhs.org](mailto:rspv@gwbhs.org).

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## *From the Desk of President Gina Gregory...*

What a busy 40th anniversary year! Here are some ways GWBHS has worked this spring and summer to keep local history alive:

- GWBHS was honored with a **Community Achievement Award** at the Michigan Week Community Awards breakfast in May. The event also celebrated the area Wayside Exhibits and Sylvan Lake Garden Club.
- Despite cool weather, **Apple Island Tours** (May 17-18) were a success, providing that annual opportunity for guests to enjoy the Museum and the history of Apple Island.
- The **Keego Harbor Memorial Day Parade** included a group from GWBHS with a Green School bell float, a Peal of the Bell display and historic car. The last time GWBHS was in the parade was over 10 years ago!
- Celebrating Scotch 25 Years Strong was a school district event in June celebrating the 25th anniversary of the current Scotch school. It included the dedication of a bell tower and historic information gathered through the **Peal of the Bell** project.
- The June 7 **National Trails Walk with Wayside Exhibit Signs Dedication** highlighted the collaboration of many organizations, including GWBHS, which led to the installation of historic signs throughout the community.
- On June 21, for the first time in 27 years, GWBHS held a historic homes tour. Sixty-five volunteers and a hardworking planning committee helped make **Living With History: Historic Homes Tour** of Greater West Bloomfield a success.
- In July, GWBHS hosted a team of student archaeologists, led by Dr. LouAnn Wurst of Western Michigan University, for the **2014 Apple Island Archaeology Project**.
- The August Evensong event provided an evening of music and information celebrating the 140th anniversary of Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian.

Don't forget A Civic Celebration: Hands on History & Ice Cream Social coming up on Sunday, September 14 (see page 1 for details). When you are at the Museum, be sure to notice all the improvements inside and out. Recent projects have improved spaces for volunteers to work on writing, research requests, filing, and exhibit creation and installation. We need your help to keep this organization running smoothly. If you are interested in being involved, let us know at [volunteer@gwbhs.org](mailto:volunteer@gwbhs.org).

Check the events list for other great fall events that help us connect with our past. Lastly, please show your support by renewing your membership this fall for 2015. Then mark your calendar for the annual meeting on January 31, 2015. See you there!



### **Museum Updates**

Paul Mellerowicz works to spruce up the Museum exterior to prepare for the 40th anniversary ice cream social and "A Civic Celebration" that will take place on Sunday, September 14 from 1-4 p.m.

**Star Wars Exhibit:** From the collections of GWBHS board members, Melissa Gilbert and Sue Williams, comes an exhibit from a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. See this collection of Star Wars memorabilia now at Orchard Lake Museum.







### Public Learns About Nature & History on Apple Island

The annual Apple Island Tours were held on the weekend of May 17-18. Mark your calendar now for next year's tour on the third weekend in May!



### Historic Home Enthusiasts Come Out for GWBHS Tour

Thanks to our sponsors, advertisers and many volunteers, Living with History: Historic Homes Tour of Greater West Bloomfield on Saturday, June 21, provided a chance to see how people preserve and live with history right here in our community.

#### **Sponsors:**

Bellacino's  
CAYA Smokehouse Grill  
English Gardens  
Great Harvest Bread Co.  
Just Add Water  
Petite Gardens  
United Productions



#### **Friends of the Tour:**

Joanna & Jay Abramson  
Gina & Rob Gregory  
Denise & Thomas Kozina

#### **Other support:**

Civic Center TV  
The City of Orchard Lake Village  
The Friendship of West Bloomfield Library  
West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation





*Greater West Bloomfield*

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

*Historical Society*



## 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Final details will be listed in the History Matters newsletter and at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org)

### **A Civic Celebration: Hands on History & Ice Cream Social**

*Sunday, September 14, 1-4 p.m.,  
Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Celebrate the City of Orchard Lake Village's 50th anniversary and the GWBHS 40th anniversary with ice cream and hands-on activities outdoors and inside the Orchard Lake Museum.

### **Of Grave Concern: Pine Lake Cemetery Tour**

*Saturday, October 11, 10:00-11:30 a.m.,  
northeast corner of Lone Pine & Middlebelt Rd.*

Visit Pine Lake Cemetery and learn about prominent local residents buried there, from pioneer John Green to football hero Nick Pietrosante, and Detroit Tiger Norm Cash. \$5. Optional restaurant stop following. Contact Sue Williams to docent at 248.757.2451.

### **Autumn Nature Walk**

*Sunday, October 19, 2 p.m., Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary,  
on Pontiac Trail west of Old Orchard Trail*

Join Naturalist Carol Fink for a guided tour. Walk through rolling terrain and explore seasonal autumn beauty. Sponsored with the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary. No charge.



# Thank You to GWBHS Volunteers!



*GWBHS could not share so much local history with the community without the help of many dedicated volunteers.*

## **Open House Docents:**

Gwynne Cherfoli, Jim Cherfoli, Bill McIsaac, Larry Weisman

## **Museum Improvement Projects:**

Gwynne Cherfoli, Christy Forhan, the Gilberts (Grace, Melissa & Shaelyn), Gina Gregory, Matthew Keil, Paul Mellerowicz, Cameron & Ron Montgomery, Sue Williams

## **Community Exhibit Cases:**

Diane Eanes, Nancy Perkins

## **Spring Second Grade Apple Island Tours:**

Gwynne & Jim Cherfoli, Paul Thwaite

## **2014 Apple Island Tours:**

Helen McAllister, Phyllis Berryman, Betty & Dave Bradbury, Steve Briggs, Mikki Chase, Angela Cini, Gwynne & Jim Cherfoli, Liam Collins, Hannah Dagg, Diane Eanes, Carol Fink, Gina & Rob Gregory, Cathy Hasse, Barb Hoffman, Aaron Howe, Mike Jewell, Alan & Judy Kerr, Linda Kidd, Glen King, Mary Ann Lisac, Anita MacSorley, Bill McIsaac, Paul Mellerowicz, Jeanne & Merrill Miller, Steve Missaghi, Natalie Molnar, Ron Montgomery, Don Newman, Helen Jane & Pete Peters, Genot Picor, Kristine Ridgway, Steve Saponis, DuAnne Sonnevile, Elinor Sturm, Jeff Vallender, Larry Weisman, Sue Williams, LouAnn Wurst

## **Memorial Day Parade:**

Julie & Nolan Beaty, the Cherfolis (Gwynne, Jaime, Jim, Justin, Reagan, Roman and Ross), Angela Cini, John & Sharon Cini, the Daggs (Josh, Hannah, Adeline and Alexandra), the Douglasses (Hailey, Keaton, Kevin and Kirsten), Christy & Gary Forhan, Becky Lin, Shelley Millman, Bill Phillips, Christian & DuAnne Sonnevile, Sue Williams

## **Living with History:**

Historic Homes Tour: Angela Cini (Event Chair), Marilyn Amberger, Meriam Atisha, Ella Baker, Jackie Beach, Roland Benberry, Phyllis Berryman, Fred Boldt, Kerry Boone, Betty Bradbury, Dave Bradbury, Tammi Carter, Ye Chen, Gwynne & Jim Cherfoli, Laurie Chisek, Kailey Crowe, Hannah Dagg, Mikki Chase, Meghan Gailbraith Crowe, Diane Eanes, Terri Emerine, Nora Feinberg, Carol Fink, Jason George, Sioux Goodman, Brian and Kim Granger, Elise Gregory, Gina & Rob Gregory, Ann Haase, Denise Hammond, Emily Hancock, Peggy Hawke, Tina Herzberg, Barbara Hoffman, Catherine Hoffman, Nicholas Hoffman, Janet Horvath, Carole Hovsepan, Annie Hunt, Dwight Keith, Alan Kerr, Linda Kidd, Barb Krause, Dan Krause, John Linemeyer, Deb Macon, Anita MacSorley, Bruce McIntyre, Bill McIsaac, Helen McAllister, Paul Mellerowicz, Steve Missaghi, Natalie Molnar, Ron Montgomery, Laurie Onopa, Teddi Ostrowski, Nancy Perkins, Helen Jane & Pete Peters, Anita Pinson, Molly Rozycki, Lucy Shan, Christian Sonnevile, Kyle Stalter, Gina Summers, Melanie Torbert, Michele Economou Ureste, Eric Weigand, Larry Weisman, Karyn West, Kathryn West, Mike West, Sue Williams, Judith Wiser, Josephine Wu





# 40 Years: GWBHS Events & Initiatives



As Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) celebrates its 40th anniversary (1974-2014), here is a look back at the history of its events and initiatives. Part of the mission of GWBHS is to collect, preserve and research local history, but the sharing of this history through events and initiatives is what really highlights the value of the organization to the community.

In the early days, there was a large annual 4th of July picnic and Apple Island tours began in 1982. There have always been great opportunities for members and the public to get together to learn about history and have fun doing it. Other initiatives have resulted in printed items for the Orchard Lake Museum gift shop and the sharing of area historical information on signage in parks and in the schools.

A generous bequest in 2011-12 by Frances Y. Gadd, a founding member of The Orchard Lake Scenic & Historical Society, has allowed GWBHS to expand and enhance its offerings in recent years. There is now an average of more than 2.5 events per month, in addition to many special projects and ongoing initiatives.



CELEBRATING **40** YEARS  
1974-2014

# GWBHS Initiatives & Events



**1974-81**

Annual July 4th Picnic  
with 300 attending



**1987**

Michigan Week Committee  
Historical Home/Church Tour,  
in honor of Michigan's  
Sesquicentennial

**1994**

Open House for GWBHS  
20th Anniversary

**1999**

120th anniversary reenactment event of Union Army's  
General William Tecumseh Sherman's commencement  
address to graduation cadets of the Michigan Military  
Academy at St. Mary's Schools

**2009**

35th GWBHS Anniversary Apple Pie  
& Ice Cream Social



**2010**

Historic photos sold  
at area gallery

**2014**

Community Achievement Awards received by  
GWBHS and Wayside  
Exhibits volunteers



Living With History: Historic Homes Tour of  
Greater West Bloomfield  
with 200 attending



Museum & outdoor sign improvements

A Civic Celebration to celebration GWBHS  
40th anniversary & City of Orchard Lake  
Village 50th anniversary



**1983**

First Apple Island Michigan Week  
tour (continues to present)

**1983**

First Historic Home/Church Tour of West Bloomfield  
Township Sesquicentennial Committee

**1986**

Scenic Historical Tour map developed

**1990**

Photo clinic



**1997**

Orchard Lake Museum 10th  
Anniversary Ice Cream Social

**2008**

Gift shop items: 1957 section aerial photos, 1872 maps.  
Four videos posted on Youtube.com

**2009**

GWBHS receives Frances Y. Gadd  
large bequest



**2013**

GWBHS offers 13 events

Over 20 Wayside Exhibit signs, through MotorCities National  
Heritage Area, developed by GWBHS & area volunteers

"Mary and Her Little Lamb"  
DIA painting restoration begins



Whitfield School principal  
WWII letters project makes  
front page of Detroit News



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### Board of Directors

Gina Gregory	President
Anita Pinson	Vice President & Recording Secretary
Sue Williams	Treasurer
DuAnne Sonnevile	Membership
Carol Fink	Corresponding Secretary
Helen Jane Peters	Historian
Bill McIsaac	Historian/Website
Melissa Gilbert	Museum Committee Chair
Hannah Dagg	History Matters Editor

### Committee Chairs

Don Newman	Group Programs
Judy Kerr	Volunteer Coordinator
Christian Sonnevile	Development Co-chair
Angela Cini	Historic Homes Tour
Christy Forhan	Peal of the Bell, Part II

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our website.



### Membership Application

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

Individual	\$20	Family	\$40
Senior Indiv.	\$15	Senior Couple	\$30
Premier	\$50	Patron/Business	\$100
Lifetime	\$600	Donation	\$___

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I support **40 for 40**, an additional \$40 donation to mark the 40th Anniversary of GWBHS, 1974 - 2014.

Membership year is January 1 to December 31.

Please make checks payable to GWBHS.  
Mail to GWBHS: 3951 Orchard Lake Road  
Orchard Lake MI 48323

Looking for volunteer  
opportunities? Planning for  
2015 events and projects is  
already underway. Let us  
know what interests you at  
[volunteer@gwbhs.org](mailto:volunteer@gwbhs.org)

#### GWBHS Mission Statement

*The Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.*

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