



# **OVERVIEW**

## **with 2015 Highlights**

# Who?

**Community members  
came together in 1974**

**as a volunteer-run, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization.**

**Supported by donations only!**

# Why?

## **HISTORY MATTERS!**

**Enriches the quality of living  
by preserving the past, to share today and tomorrow.**

# Mission

**GWBHS is a non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches, and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.**

# How, What, Where & When ?

www.gwbhs.org is a robust website with  
6,000 archives available 24/7



# Open Houses Monthly

## Orchard Lake Museum

3951 Orchard Lake Road (at Lone Pine)  
2nd Sundays, 1-4 p.m.

- local history exhibits
- monthly, often with special topics
- hands-on activities

**Research opportunities  
are available by  
appointment.**



# 2015: open house themes

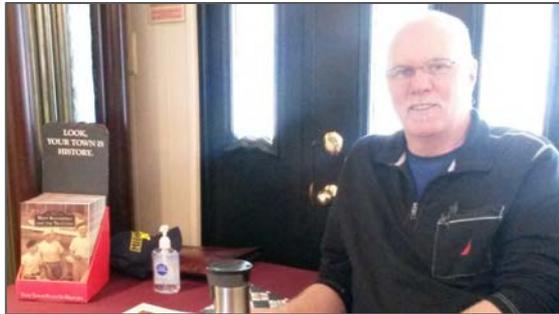
Outdoor sign: post monthly  
open house theme & event  
title with date



Hands-on exhibit & activities



WWI mementos



Author Ron Gay shares  
*West Bloomfield & the Tri-Cities, 2015*



DuAnne Sonnevile shares spinning

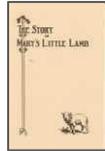
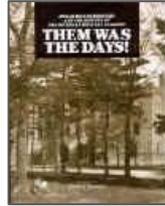
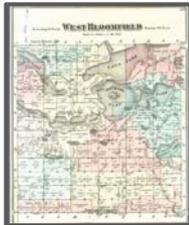
# Museum Store

Maps

Books about the area

Reproduced photos

(see [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org))



# Public Apple Island Tours Annually

250-500 attend

third May weekend

[gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours](http://gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours)



# 11-13 events annually

350-450 attend: Library presentations, Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary walks, Pine Lake cemetery tours & other events



# 2015: Archaeology class

Artifacts discovered at the historic Emmendorfer home



Archaeology 101 training session



Cistern found and explored



Exhibit of discovered items  
in foreground

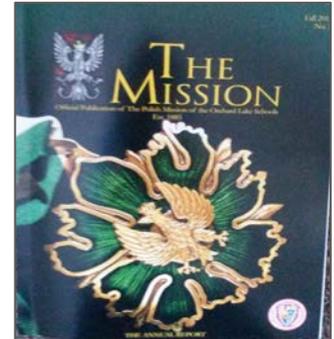
# 2015: New attendance record

GWHBS sponsored event with West Bloomfield Library: The Underground Railroad Michigan Connection had an attendance of 100.



# 2015: GWHBS Highlighted

The GWHBS event sponsored with The Polish Mission: Michigan Military Academy Morning, was highlighted in The Mission, an annual publication celebrating the 130th Polish Mission anniversary.



# 3 Group Programs

- Apple Island Tours, 250-500 attend, West Bloomfield Schools 2nd grade students & others
- Museum Tours, 75-160 attend, Bloomfield Hills Schools kindergarteners
- Area history presentations



# Attendance Records

	<b>2015</b>	<b>41 year total</b>
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>30,970</b>
<b>Large Annual Events</b>		<b>12,750</b>
<b>(Apple Island Tours)</b>	<b>(350)</b>	<b>(10,350)</b>
<b>Open Houses</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>3,120</b>
<b>Events</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>6,350</b>
<b>Apple Island Student Groups</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>6,475</b>
<b>Museum Visits &amp; Other programs</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>2,400</b>

# Statistics

<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Gwbhs.org hits	7,823	10,146 (Homes Tour)	8,929
Geocaching Museum visit total			248
Eblasts sent per month		6	52
Eblast view by phones			50%
Eblast contact list			422
Facebook posts per month	6	6	20
Facebook "likes"		172	254
Facebook most successful view rate			1,000

**2015: 71% FB fans are women.**

**The largest age demographic is 23% ages 45-54.**

## Memberships

Membership increased  
from 61 in 2006 to  
125 in 2015.

# Communications & Community Exhibits

3 newsletters yearly, available at civic blgds.

Municipal & Library exhibit cases

Brochure, event postcard

Email, social media & online listing sites

Civic Center TV promos



West Bloomfield Library

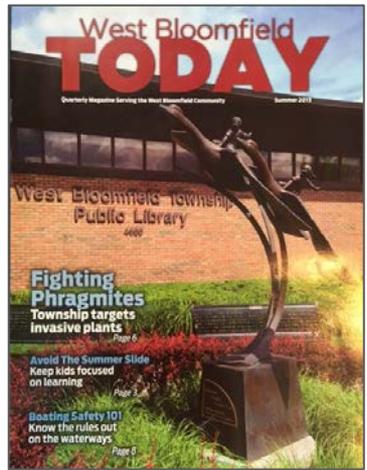
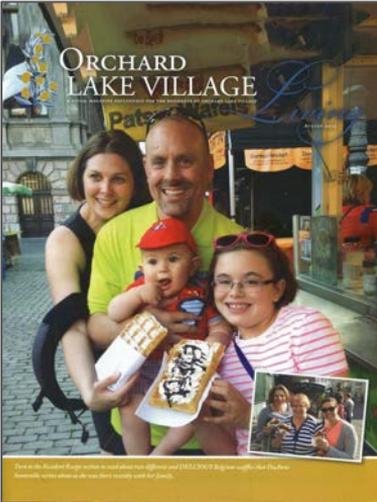


West Bloomfield Town Hall

# Community Involvement frequently

Articles: Orchard Lake Living & West Bloomfield TODAY publication

Participate: Keego Harbor & Sylvan Lake parades,  
Sylvan Lake Ice cream social & more

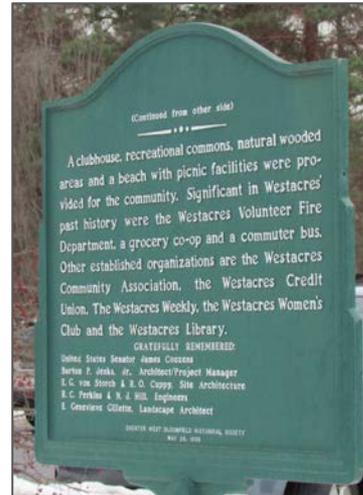
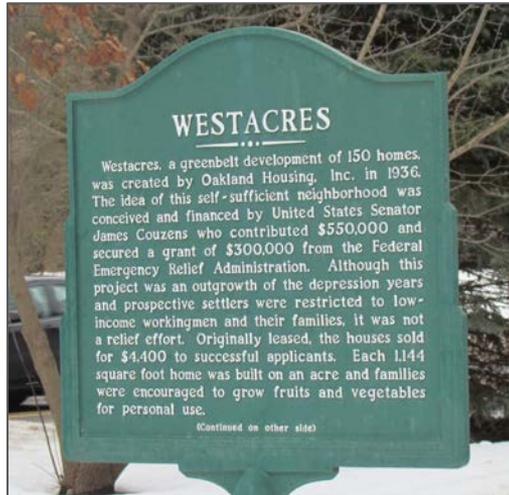


# Early Special Projects

Installed historical markers

Spoke out on issues

(Sale of Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary & renaming of Green School)



# Sponsored Archaeology Digs

resulting in 2016 historic Apple Island designation  
application submission



Digs: Madonna University Dr. Ted Gish 2007  
Madonna University, WBSD, GWBHS Dr. David Brose 2008  
Western Michigan University Dr. Louise Wurst 2013 & 2014

Western Michigan University MA candidate Skylar Bauer prepared 108 page evaluation & application, 2015  
University of the Americas Ph.D. candidate Mark Hook plans an Apple Island dissertation project, 2016

# Research & Funds Support Outdoor Wayside Exhibits

Over 20 signs erected throughout the community



Dedication of  
West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation  
Wayside exhibits, 2014



. Unveiling of GWBHS  
Wayside exhibit, 2014

# Developed Our School History with West Bloomfield Schools

2016:

- Our School History resource web pages at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org)
- Exhibit panels installed in each building

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. The header includes the society's logo and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, EDUCATION, RESEARCH, GALLERY, VOLUNTEER, EVENTS, APPLE ISLAND TOURS. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area features the title "Our School History" and a paragraph describing the township's history from wilderness to agriculture. Below this is a "Mission Statement" and a "Superintendents" list. A "Contact Information" section at the bottom provides the address: 3951 Orchard Lake Rd, Orchard Lake, MI 48305, and the phone number: 248.757.2451.

The exhibit panel is titled "West Bloomfield SCHOOL DISTRICT Our School History" and features the tagline "Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!". It displays a central map of the district divided into five colored regions: District #1 (Green), District #2 (Blue), District #3 (Red), District #4 (Yellow), and District #5 (Purple). Each district is surrounded by historical photographs and text boxes. A "Superintendents" list is provided on the left, and a "Contact Information" section is at the bottom. The panel also includes a "District #5 History" section on the right, detailing the consolidation of Districts #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, #32, #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, #39, #40, #41, #42, #43, #44, #45, #46, #47, #48, #49, #50, #51, #52, #53, #54, #55, #56, #57, #58, #59, #60, #61, #62, #63, #64, #65, #66, #67, #68, #69, #70, #71, #72, #73, #74, #75, #76, #77, #78, #79, #80, #81, #82, #83, #84, #85, #86, #87, #88, #89, #90, #91, #92, #93, #94, #95, #96, #97, #98, #99, #100.

# 2015: Summer intern

## Jonathan Watson

Texas University, MA candidate

Developed for GWBHS an extensive manual of best practices and recommendations for museum collections, archives, & exhibits

Our School History - shared exhibit perspectives which improved panel design



Recorded a Civic Center TV Archaeology 101 promo

# Past Perfect – Fully searchable online catalog

**2015:** Entry procedure shared

Volunteers trained

Priorities defined

Board gives approval to move thousands of  
“locked” items so descriptive information can be  
updated and then be available online

**Resulting in better searchability!**

**2016** will see online use!



# 2015: Strategic Plans Updated

## with facilitator Brian Golden



Develop focus areas:

1. Strengthen board
2. Vibrant museum
3. Education
4. Volunteers



# 2015: Board member support

## Hired part time independent Communication Coordinator Karen Huyghe

- Handle & increase PR communication
- Develop event & open house speaker information
- Develop content for Beacon listings, email blasts & social media postings, localstew.com



Karen makes a point when sharing her strategies during a spring board member meeting

# Who?

## Volunteers and volunteer leaders



2015 Board Members



2015 Finance Committee



# Receive Awards

## Michigan Week Breakfast & Municipal Recognitions



Lifetime Achievement Awards to Bessie Weatherston 1999, Cara Kazanowski 2007, Dave & Betty Bradbury 2010, Nancy Salo, (Doris Bonneville not shown)

Honor Roll to Richard "Buzz" Brown, 2013

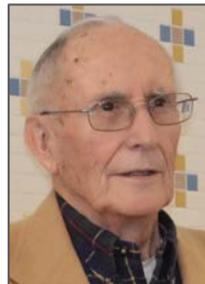


Community Achievement Award to GWBHS 1990, 2014, and Wayside Exhibits, 2014



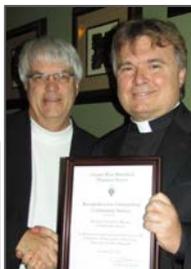
GWBHS 40th Anniversary Proclamation from City of Orchard Lake Mayor Jacqueline Beach & GWBHS board members (award from West Bloomfield not shown)

# Give recognition (2011 - 2014)



## Distinguished Service Award

2011 Helen Jane Peters, 2012 Buzz Brown & Sebrina Borth, 2013 Charles Martinez, 2014 City of Orchard Lake council members



## Outstanding Community Service Award

2011: Countryside Improvement Association on 100 anniversary, Westsacres on 75 anniversary, Father Whalen, Don & Iris Green.

2012: West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation (West Bloomfield Library not shown)

## Merit Award

2014 Angela Cini, Paul Mellerowicz  
(Judy Kerr & Hannah Dagg not shown)

# 2015: Volunteer recognition

GWBHS gives 2015 recognition with  
Distinguished Service Award to William McIsaac  
Merit Awards to Anita Pinson, DuAnne Sonnevile, Melissa Gilbert



# Appreciate new volunteers

**2015:**

Tanya Sharon- Storage Coordinator, shopper

Karen Faett- Vintage Clothing refreshment chair

Sue Murphy - events

Chris Considine - events



Chris Considine



L to R: Tanya Sharon, Karen Faett, Ella Baker, Sue Murphy, Diane Eanes

# 2015: Board Members & Continuing Committee Volunteers



## Board Members

back L - R: Editor Hannah Dagg  
Corresponding Secretary Carol Fink  
Membership Chair DuAnne Sonnevile  
Volunteer Coordinator Diane Eanes

front L - R: Vice President Anita Pinson  
Historian Helen Jane Peters  
Treasurer Sue Williams  
President Gina Gregory

## Continuing Committee Volunteers

Melissa Gilbert - Accessions  
Don Newman – Group Program Coordinator  
John Hartwig – Finance Committee  
Jim Bayson – Finance Committee  
Christian Sonnevile – Finance Committee &  
Fundraising Chair  
Anita Pinson - Michigan Week Award  
Breakfast Committee  
Ron Montgomery – Outdoor sign wording  
Paul Mellerowicz – Museum maintenance  
Tanya Sharon - Storage, shopper

# Appreciate 2016 new volunteers & commitments



Sue Grifor  
Membership Chair & volunteer

Sue Grifor & Ron Montgomery - Digital cataloging

Christian Sonnevile - Fundraising chair

Mary Dunkley - Fundraising, Apple Island Logistics

Eric Weigand - Library case

Pat Glasgow - Materials distribution coordinator

Take newsletters to:

Sue Williams - Keego Harbor board meeting

Jennifer Oram - Orchard Lake board meetings

Helen Jane Peters - Sylvan Lake board meetings

Larry Weisman - West Bloomfield board meetings

# How? Only with a small budget supported by

Memberships

Donations

Grants

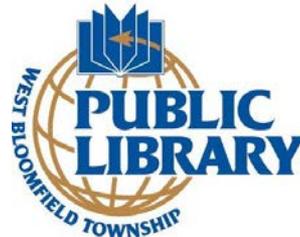
Civic & Retail Support



Bellacinos, Sylan Lake  
Galaxy Graphics  
Great Harvest Bread Co., Commerce

Frances Gadd  
Bequest 2011

Apple Island archaeology project grants from  
Saint Frances Foundation of Michigan  
2007, 2013, 2014



# What's needed?

**A small group of dedicated volunteers fills many needs.**

**More support is needed at all levels  
to continue successfully.**

Volunteers in all areas

Financial support for

increasing operating costs

special projects, such as online fully searchable collection catalog web hosting

# Join us!



We need your support  
so **GWBHS** is vibrant and sustainable  
because our local

# HISTORY MATTERS!

Thank you  
for your attention!

