



History Matters

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield



Phase 1

Timeline of the Society and Orchard Lake Museum



1974
The Reverend Walter J. Ziemba and eight others form the Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society (OLSHS) on January 28, 1974.



1976
OLSHS is active in area Bicentennial celebrations.



1982
Gift shop items for sale include: 1870 Orchard Lake Polka, 1986 map, note cards and Scenic Historical Tour map.

1987
City of Orchard Lake Village offers GWBHS a museum space and West Bloomfield Township contributes \$4,000. Donated items finally have a home and the group (now 100 members) has a permanent meeting space.

1992
GWBHS gives residents of Orchard Lake Village free annual memberships in appreciation of their millage to purchase the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary.

1996
An outpouring of supportive letters from the community secures the renewal of the Museum's lease.

1998
Keego Movie Theater artifacts donated.

2000
The St. Francis Foundation of Michigan awards GWBHS with a grant.

2004
"Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield" by Charles Martinez is published by GWBHS Press.

2008
GWBHS participates in activities for West Bloomfield's 175th anniversary.

2010
GWBHS creates a QR Code.

2012
West Bloomfield Beacon begins publishing GWBHS events list three times yearly.

1975
A logo is created to properly represent the growing organization.



1978
The name of the Society changes to Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) to better acknowledge the strong volunteer and financial support from the adjacent communities of Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.

1990
A rare 4,400 lb. conglomerate boulder is placed on the grounds of the Orchard Lake Museum.

1991
Detroit artist Roy C. Gamble's painting, "Mary and Her Little Lamb," is relocated to the Museum from Whitfield School before its demolition.

1995
A Westacres and Orchard Lake School/Joseph Tarr Copeland historical marker is erected.

1997
West Bloomfield and Keego Harbor municipal support of GWBHS continues.

1999
GWBHS hosts a 25th Anniversary Gala.

2002
A page about GWBHS is posted on Wikipedia.org.

2006
The Museum's renovation is featured in the Detroit Free Press.

2009
Geocaching comes to Orchard Lake Museum.

2011
GWBHS presents resolution strongly objecting to the renaming of Green Elementary School.

2013
A \$10,000 grant from The St. Francis Foundation of Michigan funds Apple Island archaeological project.

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS

1974-2014

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