



Fall 2020

History Matters

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

Events Update: COVID-19

Our community is the reason why we do what we do and your safety is important to us. For the safety of our members and the community, all of our events through the end of 2020 will be virtual. Check the enclosed 2020 Programs insert or www.gwbhs.org/events for more details about our events and how to use your computer or mobile device to connect.

Open Houses Go Virtual

While Orchard Lake Museum remains closed, open houses will be held online. These events will still take place on the second Sunday of the month, but will be presentation style, beginning at 1pm.

Partnership with West Bloomfield Parks

GWBHS is partnering with West Bloomfield Parks to provide even more history programming. Information about these events can be found at www.gwbhs.org/events. Links to registration through West Bloomfield Parks can be found there.

Changes at the Museum

A major renovation project has been underway at Orchard Lake Museum since early 2020. The 2020 Museum Capital Improvement Project was planned to create an improved guest and volunteer experience that better aligns with the goals of the organization. Plans include: a rethinking of exhibit spaces, new exhibit content, improved storage and organization, deep cleaning, installation of durable carpet tiles, and a fresh new look.

"As with so many projects, the more you get into it, the more you recognize that other changes are needed," said GWBHS President Gina Gregory. "We were fortunate to have skilled handymen available who were able to help us adjust our plans along the way. We are pleased with the progress so far and look forward to finishing exhibit installation and reopening the Museum in 2021."

Continuing Improvements

The project was planned and begun before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the extended closure of the museum has allowed volunteers to have more time to research, bring forward some new items from the collection, and even display old favorites in new and different ways. Museum visitors will soon be able to admire the full height of the grandfather clock and look down into the canoe that once hung on the wall.

Continued on page 4...

Upcoming Events



Apple Island: 50th anniversary of WBSD Ownership Open House

Zoom* Meeting ID: 846 8315 8507
September 13 • 1 pm



The 1877 History of Oakland County Presentation**

Register with wbparcs.org
September 16 • 7 pm



Roosevelt School 100th Anniversary Open House

Zoom* Meeting ID: 836 1071 2047
October 11 • 1 pm



Great Black Women of Detroit Presentation**

Register with wbparcs.org
October 12 • 7 pm



History Outdoors: Wayside Exhibits Presentation**

Register with wbparcs.org
October 21 • 7 pm



19th Amendment: Women's Right to Vote

Zoom* Meeting ID: 878 9599 2537
November 8 • 1 pm



D-Day: The Most Important Day in 2,000 years**

Register with wbparcs.org
November 11 • 7 pm



The Night Before Christmas Collection Open House

Zoom* Meeting ID: 863 5040 2026
December 13 • 1 pm

From the Desk

of President Gina Gregory

Living in the Time of COVID-19

Like all of you, GWBHS has been shifting and living differently since last spring. We hope you are as well as can be expected during these unusual times. Apple Island Tours is planned to be rescheduled for 2021. Other GWBHS events and open houses have been made virtual events, and we have a great lineup of events for the fall. Please watch for updates at gwbhs.org and through email blasts.

GWBHS has adapted to this new normal, holding ZOOM video meetings and open houses, as well as sharing our online digital resources with the public and with West Bloomfield School District second graders who normally would have toured the museum. Shifting with the times to fulfill our Mission, we are focused on connecting with members online and through social media. Consider becoming a Society member and sign up to receive eblasts at gwbhs.org, using the link on the right hand side of the webpage. Eblasts are now focusing on our local history and wider history connection opportunities. Engage with GWBHS through social media where posts have reached 2.1K people, a new high. You can find the latest on Facebook (facebook.com/GWBHS) and Instagram (instagram.com/historymattersatgwbhs).

Apple Island Archaeology Findings Available at gwbhs.org

Learn about Apple Island archaeological dig findings by Dr. David Brose here: www.gwbhs.org/education/apple-island/ Both the full report and a 13 page summary are available.

We are very appreciative of Dr. Brose's research, which sparked interest in additional research and culminated in Apple Island's listing in the National Register of Historic Places. His formal detailed report has been downloaded 333 times since it was posted in 2015 and it is cited in 67 historical and archaeological articles and papers on the 2008 and 2013 excavations and analyses of 20 OK 476, the late eighteenth century American Indian site on Apple Island.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting & Vernors Presentation

Zoom Meeting ID: 882 7926 4312

Saturday, January 30 • 10am

Join us virtually for a brief annual meeting with a Vernors presentation by collector Tim Pawl.



Join Us Virtually for Strategic Planning Sessions

GWBHS members and the community are invited to GWBHS virtual strategic planning sessions. Returning facilitator Brian Golden will lead the meetings. Help us consider the future, brainstorm, and choose strategies that best serve the GWBHS Mission Statement. What will be our needs in 5-10 years? What might be possible?

"Our 2005, 2010, and 2015 strategy sessions resulted in a number of new initiatives," said GWBHS President Gina Gregory. "We hope to hear from members and the community for their perspectives."

Strategic Planning Sessions

Zoom Meeting ID: 891 0452 4260

Wednesdays - September 23, 30 & October 14 • 7pm

Annual Awards Presented

Last, but not least...during the Annual Meeting in January, GWBHS recognized members of the community who have supported our Mission. For support of Apple Island activities and events, Pastor Paul Thwaite accepted the GWBHS Distinguished Service Award on behalf of Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian. President's Merit Awards were presented to Bill Bertakis, Christy Forhan, Rob Gregory, Gino Santia (co-owner of Gino's Italian Restaurant), and Susan K. Williams (owner of Petite Gardens). Gina Gregory gave a presentation with highlights of our very active 45th anniversary year! Her presentation is now online at www.gwbhs.org/about-us/annual-reviews/.



Pastor Paul Thwaite (right) accepts the Distinguished Service Award, presented by GWBHS President Gina Gregory



2019 President's Award Recipients: (l-r) Gino Santia, Rob Gregory, Bill Bertakis, Christy Forhan, Sue Williams, and Gina Gregory (GWBHS President)

Please stay safe, and be sure to connect with us online, by email, and on social media!

2020 Programs

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER



Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society hosts and sponsors programs covering a wide variety of local history topics throughout the year. Visit gwbhs.org for more information and final event details.

Due to COVID-19, our remaining 2020 events will be held virtually via Zoom. Direct Zoom links for our open houses and other event information can be found on our website at gwbhs.org/events. For more information about how to join a Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->.

VIRTUAL - Apple Island 50th Anniversary of WBSD Ownership Open House

Sunday, September 13 • 1pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84683158507> Meeting ID: 846 8315 8507
Virtually celebrate Apple Island's 50th anniversary of WBSD ownership with island historian Christy Forhan through new island video, song, and images.

VIRTUAL - The 1877 History of Oakland County Presentation*

Wednesday, September 16 • 7pm

See wbparcs.org for registration information.

In March 2020 Oakland County celebrated its 200th birthday. Virtually join James Craft, Oakland County Historical Commissioner as he looks at Oakland County History, published in 1877, and discusses its background, content and value as historical literature. Free program offered in collaboration with West Bloomfield Parks.

VIRTUAL - Roosevelt School 100th Anniversary Open House

Sunday, October 11 • 1pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83610712047> Meeting ID: 836 1071 2047
Built in 1920, this facility is thought to be the oldest operating Michigan public school in an original building! Roosevelt School is in Keego Harbor and is now included in West Bloomfield School District. This virtual presentation shares some of the school's 100 year history through video and museum artifacts.

VIRTUAL - Great Black Women of Detroit Presentation*

Monday, October 12 • 7-8:30pm

See wbparcs.org for registration information.

We're still celebrating the Centennial of the Women's Right to Vote, 1919-2019. Join us virtually as Jamon Jordan, of Black Scroll Network History & Tours, shares stories of the Great Black Women in Detroit's history, including the Underground Railroad, Civil Rights Movement, Labor Movement, and more. Free program offered in collaboration with West Bloomfield Parks.

VIRTUAL - History Outdoors: Wayside Exhibits Presentation*

Wednesday, October 21 • 7pm

See wbparcs.org for registration information.

Take a virtual tour with Cory Taylor as she highlights over 25 outdoor exhibit panels in greater West Bloomfield. Maps are available online: gwbhs.org/education/wayside-exhibits. Free program offered in collaboration with West Bloomfield Parks.

VIRTUAL - 19th Amendment: Women's Right to Vote

Sunday, November 8 • 1pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87895992537> Meeting ID: 878 9599 2537
Virtually celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment: Women's Right to Vote with historian Barb Frye. Hear about local historian, painter and activist Lillian Drake Avery who worked with the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society in early 20th century. Her efforts in indexing and cataloging the OCPHS library and historical collection continue to serve the residents of Oakland County to this day.

VIRTUAL - D-Day: The Most Important Day in 2,000 years*

Wednesday, November 11 • 7pm

See wbparcs.org for registration information.

June 6, 1944 is arguably the most important single day in western history for the past 2000 years. Failure of the Normandy landings could have resulted in a very different world than we know today. Historian James Craft virtually details these difficulties, losses, and successes in a compelling presentation. Free program offered in collaboration with West Bloomfield Parks.

VIRTUAL - The Night Before Christmas Collection Open House

Sunday, December 13 • 1pm

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86350402026>, Meeting ID: 863 5040 2026
Virtually join local collector Cathy Hasse who will share her collection of 150 editions of The Night Before Christmas books, highlighting their unique features. She will discuss some of her favorite editions, what inspired her collection and where she found some of the more special volumes.

For more details and a complete list of events, visit gwbhs.org/events.

*Register online at wbparcs.org.

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

WWW.GWBHS.ORG

ORCHARD LAKE MUSEUM • 3951 Orchard Lake Road • Orchard Lake, MI 48323 • 248.757.2451

Open House every second Sunday of the month • 1-4 p.m. Research opportunities by appointment.
Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



...Continued from Page 1

Changes at the Museum

A partial list of project accomplishments so far:

- Deep cleaning of entire museum
- Lighting improvements

Exhibit Areas

- Unified first floor appearance with new paint and carpet tile installation
- Permanent exhibits were arranged chronologically



The grandfather clock was relocated to the Frances Gadd Room, which has a higher ceiling that can accommodate its height.

- Increased accessibility
- Dugout canoe is viewable in a natural position
- Grandfather clock is fully viewable

Storage

- New off-site storage for Apple Island Tours materials was made available at City of Orchard Lake Village facilities
- More functional storage was created for farm archives, shelved archives, event supplies, and operational supplies.
- Tax roll books were cleaned, moved to more reachable locations, and chronologically shelved.
- An easy to use archive library was created.



Reorganization and relocation of items stored in the basement make the space more functional.



The canoe is a highlight of the main exhibit room, and now it will be displayed in a way that is easier for everyone to enjoy.

COVID-19 Local History Project

By Cory Taylor, Office and Activities Coordinator

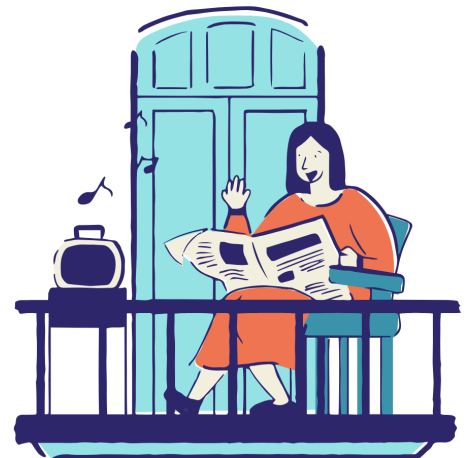
Part of our mission at the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is to collect and preserve the history of the four communities we serve. That history is made by you. Your stories. Your challenges. Your experiences. Even though we are all experiencing some level of quarantine and isolation, the impact it has had on our lives is far from the same. The world we're living in now is different than anything we have ever experienced.

Despite the hardships we are enduring, we are all coping in some form or another. Whether it's through a new hobby or finding new ways to make connections, we're each dealing with this situation in our own unique ways.

Our stories and experiences are what connect us as a community, especially during trying times like these. For this reason, we here at the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society would like to ask for you to share your stories. Tell us how your life has been impacted by COVID-19. How has the situation impacted you on a personal, community, or global level?

You can submit your story in any format you feel most comfortable with - a written document, a photograph, a piece of art, a video, a song, or anything else you'd care to share. Start by filling out the online form (<https://forms.gle/NyJ4jsKsSNzaBsfG6>) and following the instructions in the last question to upload your files. You will have to sign in to a Google account to upload documents through this form. If you do not have a Google account you can email your documents to cory@gwbhs.org. You can also upload your files to a file sharing service you prefer and share the link with the same email address. Additionally, if you do not wish to submit your story digitally, you can mail your story to Orchard Lake Museum (3951 Orchard Lake Rd Orchard Lake, MI 48323).

If you have any questions or comments related to this project, please contact Cory Taylor, GWBHS Office and Activities Coordinator, at cory@gwbhs.org or (313) 549-3545.



Keego Harbor

The “harbor” of Keego Harbor is actually Dollar Lake. Real estate developer Joseph E. Sawyer connected the small lake to Cass Lake with a canal in the early 1900's.



This is the canal that connects Dollar Lake with Cass Lake on September 10, 1923.



This is the canal as it appears today.

Orchard Lake Village

The City of Orchard Lake Village is centered around Orchard Lake. This beautiful lake has always been valued for its recreational opportunities.



Boat Livery on Orchard Lake

More than a century ago, a boat livery at the current site of the DNR boat launch provided a place for the public to enjoy Orchard Lake.



The photo on the left is Bob Mitchell's Boat Livery on Orchard Lake in 1907. Bob Mitchell is on the left and Scotty (middle) took over the livery after Bob died.

The photo on the right is the boat livery in 1918, with Apple Island in the distance.

Sylvan Lake

After being incorporated as a village in 1921, Sylvan Lake became a City in 1947. While the lake's summer camps are gone, Ferndale Beach is still enjoyed today.



1906 – 1962 Detroit Free Press Fresh Air Camp

Underprivileged children came from the city for two weeks in the summer. The camp provided the children with fresh air, good food, and fun.



1939 – Ferndale Beach

The land was donated by Cynthia Mills Cleveland, daughter of Merrill B. Mills. In the 1940's, the land was filled in to create Ferndale Beach and Park.

West Bloomfield

Henry Ford Health System

In 1975 the West Bloomfield Center opened at 6777 West Maple, West Bloomfield as a satellite center. In 1994 additions were constructed and are still in use today. With major construction and renovations the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital opened in 2009. The hospital is a certified Level III trauma center and a primary stroke center, with 24-hour emergency care, 191 private beds, and 30 private emergency room beds. With 2,300 team members and over 300 volunteers, it is the township's largest employer.



Thank You

GWBHS could not do so much good work without the help of our wonderful volunteers.
Thank you to those who have recently given their time and helped out.

Web Sponsor

Porch.com

History Matters Sponsor - Spring/Summer 2020

Sunrise Senior Living Bloomfield Hills

West Bloomfield Parks Spring Guide Ad Sponsor

Townehall Place Senior Living

Museum Improvement donated exhibit cases were accepted by

Heritage & History Center in Farmington Hills, Orchard Lake Pioneer & Historical Society, and Orion Historical Society

Museum Improvement Project GWBHS Handymen

Rob Gregory, Paul Mellerowicz

Museum Improvement Professional Services Provided by

D. E. McNabb Flooring. We used the current gwbhs.org sponsor, porch.com, a webservice offering connections to local contractors for home professional services to find and employ RJ Painting & Home Improvement LLC for gallery and office painting.

Museum Improvement Support

Banks Vacuum, City of Orchard Lake Village

Museum Improvement Volunteers

Hannah Dagg, Diane Eanes, Carol Fink, Gina Gregory, Sue Grifor, Karen Pushie, Sue Williams. Special thanks to Karen for steam cleaning, and Gina and Sue G. for restroom, small gallery, exhibit platforms painting and other improvements.



Past Volunteer Shares Early GWBHS Memories

Member Mel Rycus recently sent a letter to share some of his early memories (circa 1973) of how GWBHS began.

Original facts behind the founding of the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society:

I think that it was a Labor Day picnic, on the grounds of the former Michigan Military Academy, Orchard Lake Schools. It was my first, and only, attempt to make home brew wine. My daughters picked the dandelions from the back of our property, and I had the large demijohn canister sitting on our kitchen counter, fermenting.

I brought two bottles of white, dandelion wine to the picnic, and my wife, Barbara, Father Stan, and Father Wally, and I consumed a couple glasses of home brew. I mentioned to the Fathers, that someone should preserve the history and historical facts of the area. We felt that Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield, Keego Harbor, and Sylvan Lake, should all be included in the history.

Father Wally and Father Stan thought that, that was a great idea, and that I should be first President, I immediately declined, and after much debate, it was agreed that Father Walter Ziemba, and Mel Rycus, would co-chair the leadership, to get it off the ground.

The rest is History!!!

Mel Rycus served as Vice President of the new Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society, which would eventually become known as Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society. Mr. Rycus is a previous owner of the historic Emmendorfer Home and a former Mayor of the City of Orchard Lake Village. He now resides in Arizona.



Orchard Lake Museum
Phone 248.757.2451
3951 Orchard Lake Road
Orchard Lake MI 48323

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALLED LAKE MI
PERMIT NO. 88

Board of Directors

Gina Gregory	President
Diane Eanes	Recording Secretary
Carol Fink	Corresponding Secretary
Sue Williams	Treasurer
Linda Kidd	Historian
Hannah Dagg	History Matters Editor
Karen Pushie	Database & Presenter

Committee Chairs

Christy Forhan	WBSD Liaison
Sue Grifor	Membership
Barb Krause	GWBCCLiaison
Don Newman	Group Programs
Christian Sonnevile	Development/Fundraising

Office & Activities Coordinator

Cory Taylor

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.



Thank you to
our newsletter
sponsor, Sunrise Senior
Living of Bloomfield!

SunriseSeniorLiving.com



GWBHS Membership & Donation Form

☐ New Membership ☐ Renew Membership ☐ Gift Membership* ☐ Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

*Gift membership from: _____ Phone _____

Address _____

☐ Please contact me about volunteering with GWBHS.

Please make checks payable to GWBHS. Credit card payments are accepted through PayPal at gwbhs.org.

GWBHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS regulations.

Membership includes access to Time Travelers reciprocal membership network.

Please ask your employer if they match employee charitable donations.

Please remember the Society in your wills, living trusts, and estate plans.

Membership • Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Premier	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Business	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$600

Donation\$_____

My donation supports:

☐ General fund ☐ New carpeting
☐ Improved display for temporary exhibits
☐ Searchable Our School History files
☐ Display case for Military Academy sword

☐ This donation is in honor of:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Total Amount \$_____