



Fall 2021

History Matters

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

Community Celebrates Orchard Lake Museum Reopening

After an 18 month closure that began with the COVID-19 pandemic, GWBHS recently celebrated the reopening of Orchard Lake Museum with two celebrations and 150 guests! A Grand Preview on September 10 was held for the business and civic community, and a Grand Reopening Open House on Sunday, September 12 welcomed GWBHS members and the public.



New Sports & Recreation exhibit at Orchard Lake Museum

and more artifacts. Exhibits connect to the community today with artifact loans and items donated by many municipalities and organizations. A lot of thought and energy has gone into this project so that the museum will have something for everyone. It's the product of community collaboration and it has really been a labor of love."



Jim Craft of Oakland County Historical Commission speaks during Grand Reopening.

The museum features all new gallery exhibits, walking visitors through our local history with professionally printed panels, exciting new artifacts, various sensory experiences, and new perspectives on old favorites. All new outdoor exhibit panels highlight 11 outdoor exhibits.

The museum project began in January 2020 and grew in scope during the pandemic.

"We were able to more carefully update the museum and rethink exhibits, said GWBHS President Gina Gregory.

"We've included more stories about greater West Bloomfield with engaging exhibit elements about greater West Bloomfield with engaging exhibit elements



Outdoor exhibits have been updated with new signs and metal sign posts.

"We hope everyone will come out to see their old favorites and explore new artifacts and rarely seen images that we've pulled from our archives and beyond," said GWBHS Treasurer & Museum Committee Chair Sue Williams.

"Our interactive exhibits help bring history to life," said board member Carol Fink. "We now have more interactive activities with a "two-seat" Keego theater, animal furs, and a trolley coin change machine. Outdoor exhibits include a demonstration water pump and the doctor's carriage is great for photo ops."

Orchard Lake Museum Expands Hours

We are now open from 1-4 pm on 1st/2nd/4th/5th Sundays & 3rd Fridays of each month. The Open House on the second Sunday remains a themed Open House. Come and enjoy stepping back in time at the Museum!



Board members cut the ribbon at the Grand Reopening Open House. L-R: Gina Gregory, Linda Kidd, Sue Williams, Carol Fink, Hannah Dagg, Karen Pushie (not pictured: Diane Eanes)



Grand Preview dignitaries

Upcoming Events

Open House

3951 Orchard Lake Rd

Friday, November 19 • 1-4 pm

Sunday, November 28 • 1-4 pm

Sunday, December 5 • 1-4 pm

Volunteer Opportunities Meeting

3951 Orchard Lake Rd

Wednesday, December 8 • 7 pm

Open House:

Night Before Christmas

3951 Orchard Lake Rd

Sunday, December 12 • 1-4 pm

Open House

3951 Orchard Lake Rd

Sunday, December 17 • 1-4 pm

Sunday, December 26 • 1-4 pm

From the Desk

of President Gina Gregory

GWBHS has remained active during COVID and we were so excited to share the updated Orchard Lake Museum during two grand reopening events in September. It's been exciting to curate new exhibits with more diverse elements and artifacts. All of this is possible because of GWBHS members volunteering their time and pursuing their interests in our local history. We were fortunate to have loans and donations of significant artifacts, exhibit sponsorships, professional design help, professionally made maps, and professional exhibit consultation. It has taken a team to realize this dream, especially with this large project. We appreciate the commitment of all those involved and their names are listed in the enclosed thank you list.

Expanded Museum Hours

Come see the newly renovated Orchard Lake Museum during one of our now-frequent Open Houses. For your convenience, museum hours are now from 1-4 pm on 1st/2nd/4th/5th Sundays & 3rd Fridays each month. Stop by the museum during other times to see the 11 outdoor exhibits with updated signage.

Visit Us Any Time on YouTube

With an internet connection, you can view GWBHS produced videos any time on our YouTube channel. There are now 42 videos on the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society page, ranging from quick promos to hour-long documentaries. Find us at youtube.com/user/GWBHS.

Save the Date for the GWBHS Annual Meeting

Save the date for the GWBHS Annual Meeting on January 29, with a presentation by archaeologist and exhibit designer Karl Mayry.



GWBHS Annual Meeting & Presentation by Karl Mayry: MI Archaeology & Transforming a Useless Degree

Orchard Lake Schools
3535 Commerce Rd., Dining Hall, Bldg. 15
Saturday, January 29, 2022 • 10 am -12 pm

Volunteer Highlight

At the 2021 Greater West Bloomfield Michigan Week Community Virtual Awards Presentation, Barb Krause received an Honor Roll Award for her volunteerism as the GWBHS Liaison to the Senior Resource Group of the Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce. We appreciate Barb's hard work for us!



Museum Exhibit Sponsorships

Please join Pat and Glen King in supporting your local history museum in a way that has a lasting impact. Contact us about becoming a Museum Exhibit Sponsor! More information about available sponsorships is at gwbhs.org/support/sponsorships/.



State Representative Brenda Carter and State Senator Jim Runestad present GWBHS with a certificate.



Barb Krause provided refreshments for the grand reopening events.



Ed Milkowski of Galaxy Graphics demonstrates pioneer life.

Sylvan Lake – 100 Years and Glowing

Adapted by Gina Gregory from event Co-Chair Midge Davidson

This August 26 event in Sylvan Lake celebrated 100 years since it was founded as a Village in 1921. (It became City of Sylvan Lake in 1947.) The afternoon celebration began with skits about the Interurban Railway by Brian Golden and the Sylvan Lake Inn by Helen Jane Peters. Gina Gregory, GWBHS President, gave remarks recounting Helen Jane's contributions to the preservation of local history. Mike McGuinness, Executive Director of Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, presented items to GWBHS and Helen Jane: a flash drive with scans of items from the Whitfield School cornerstone and a dozen Sylvan Lake binders, compiled by Helen Jane. Oakland History Center in Pontiac has a this saved information as well.



Helen Jane Peters and Brian Golden

There were historical exhibits, activities for children, vintage postcards with "secret send offs" to friends/loved ones, food trucks, a beverage tent, music, photo op, and memorabilia shirts and hats emblazoned with "SYL 100."

Keynote remarks were given by City Manager John Martin, followed by remarks by several past and present council members. A team of volunteers with John Martin announced an upcoming book to depict this homespun community on the lake with many pictures of its long and loving heritage. The volunteers then honored Helen Jane Peters, the Sylvan Lake Historian, with her very own street sign "Helen Jane Way."

The event concluded with a performance by the 32-member Motor City Brass Band, with John Martin singing.

Happy anniversary Sylvan Lake! Watch Civic Center TV's coverage of the event: <https://youtu.be/J8gVJrj31c0>



Helen Jane Peters was honored with an honorary street sign. (L-R: Andrew, Helen Jane, and Pete Peters)



Gina Gregory and Helen Jane Peters give an interview.

We Hear You Love Local History...

...and we need your help!

Since Orchard Lake Museum's September grand reopening, the museum has been open 4-5 times per month, as opposed to once monthly. This has provided many more opportunities to enjoy the museum and we are seeing lots of new visitors.

We are in need of additional volunteer docents to greet and guide museum guests during open houses (1st/2nd/4th/5th Sundays & 3rd Fridays from 1-4 pm). Volunteers work in pairs and you choose the dates that work with your schedule.

Training will be provided as needed. Volunteers must be 10 years of age or older. If under 18, volunteers should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Students can receive volunteer service hours.

The number of monthly visitors to Orchard Lake Museum has doubled with the expanded hours!

Responsibilities include:

- Open/close the museum (12:45 pm - 4:00 pm)
- Greet guests
- Address guests' questions (answering what you can, taking messages for what you can't)
- Sell gift shop merchandise



Visit gwbhs.org/support/volunteer/ for more information, or contact: 248.757.2451 volunteer@gwbhs.org

Out & About With GWBHS

GWBHS participates in many community events, sharing local history, spreading the word about our programs, and hearing from community members. Recent events include Juneteenth in West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show, and West Bloomfield School District's Family Fun Night.



Neil Hepburn and David Flashier discuss local 1870 census research during the **West Bloomfield Schools Juneteenth celebration**.



An old-fashioned game at **Family Fun Night**.



GWBHS shared space with West Bloomfield Police at the **Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show**.

2022 Programs

JANUARY - APRIL



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.

Museum Open House: Curling Sunday, January 9 • 1-4 pm

Curling premiered in the United States on Orchard Lake in the winter of 1831-32 by Scottish settlers. Learn about the West Bloomfield 1932 Olympian in the 1932 demonstration curling team. See curling exhibits, a curling broom, and stone. No charge.



GWBHS Annual Meeting & Michigan Archaeology

Saturday, January 29 • 10 am-12 pm

Orchard Lake Schools • 3535 Commerce Rd.

Annual meeting and Karl Mayry shares his Michigan archaeology finds and how a "useless degree" in archaeology became a dream career. \$15 brunch ticket donation. Make brunch reservations by January 20. RSVP to: rsvp@gwbhs.org or 248.518.0871. No annual meeting charge.

Museum Open House: Toy Hall of Fame Sunday, February 13 • 1-4 pm

Learn about the Toy Hall of Fame with Sue Grifor and play with vintage games and toys. No charge.



Old Islam in Detroit Presentation

Tuesday, February 22 • 7 pm

Connect - West Bloomfield Parks

Orchard Mall • 6335A Orchard Lake Rd.

Michigan is home to one of the oldest, most diverse, and best incorporated Muslim communities in the U.S. Explore Detroit's earliest Muslim communities' growth, 1900-1980s, with author Sally Howell, Associate Professor of History and Director of the Center for Arab American Studies at University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Museum Open House: West Bloomfield Tornado Sunday, March 13 • 1-4 pm

See exhibits and videos about the F4 tornado that damaged dozens of West Bloomfield homes and businesses on March 20, 1976. No charge.



Here Lies Chief Pontiac: Mythmaking and Mythbreaking on Apple Island

Sunday, March 20 • 2pm

Connect - West Bloomfield Parks

Orchard Mall • 6335A Orchard Lake Rd.

Catherine Cangany, PhD unravels the ties that bind Orchard Lake tall tales with Avalon (the mythical island), settler colonialism, and nineteenth-century advertising schemes. It will change everything you thought you knew about Apple Island.

Museum Open House: Tax Rolls Sunday, April 10 • 1-4 pm

Come see West Bloomfield historical tax rolls and learn more about the history of your property. Hands-on activities. No charge.



Epiphany Glass Tour

Thursday, April 21 • 10-11:30 am

Register with West Bloomfield Parks

Epiphany Studios • 770 Orchard Lake Rd.

Tour epiphany studios, a 4,000 square foot hot glassblowing studio and gallery. They will demonstrate the steps, and discuss the history, techniques, terminology, and tools used in glassblowing. Time for shopping is included. In partnership with West Bloomfield Parks.



Spring Nature Walk

Sunday, April 24 • 2-3 pm

Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary • 4700 Pontiac Trail

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

Museum Open House Dates

1-4 pm

January

Sundays: 1/2, 1/9, 1/23, 1/30
Friday: 1/21

March

Sundays: 3/6, 3/13, 3/27
Friday: 3/18

February

Sundays: 2/6, 2/13, 2/27
Friday: 2/18

April

Sundays: 4/3, 4/10, 4/24
Friday: 4/15

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

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

Our Mission 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

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.

Archive Donation

Dave DeBoer, Glen King, Bill Nicholson, Hertha Woodruff

Community Event Volunteers

Tom Bjorkland, Carol Fink, Christy Forhan, Gina Gregory,
Neil Hepburn, Linda Kidd, Barb Krause, Anita MacSorley,
Christian Sonnevile, Sue Williams

Event & Open House Presenters

Bill Bertakis, Carol Fink, Rob Gregory, Mikwandan (Mike) Jewell,
Tom McClure, Ed Milkowski, Helen Jane Peters,
Genot Winter Elk Picor

Grand Reopening Support

Gino's Italian Restaurant

Museum Exhibit Artifact Loans

Cranbrook Institute of Science, Paul Gregory,
Mikwandan (Mike) Jewell, and Oakland History Center

Museum Exhibit Consultants

Catherine Cangany, PhD, Mi-kwan-dahn (Mike) Jewell, Karl Mayry
(owner of Through the Learning Glass, LLC)

Museum Exhibit Contributors

Eleanor Aaron, Katherine Cangany, Neil Hepburn, Heiner Hertling,
Deb Macon, Oakland County Office of Economic Development,
Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary Committee, United We Walk, West
Bloomfield Township, West Bloomfield Fire Department, Hertha
Woodruff, Police Departments of Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake,
Orchard Lake, and West Bloomfield

Museum Exhibit Designers & Writers

Carol Fink, Gina Gregory, Christy Forhan, Sue Grifor, Neil Hepburn,
Linda Kidd, Helen Jane Peters, DuAnne Sonnevile,
Susan K. Williams

Museum Exhibit Graphic Art Design

Hannah Dagg

Museum Exhibit Sponsor 2021

Pat and Glen King

Museum Exhibit Installation

Hannah and Josh Dagg, Carol Fink, Gina and Rob Gregory,
Neil Hepburn

Program Sponsors

Gino's Italian Restaurant, Petite Gardens, Melaleuca: The Wellness
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Museum Support

City of Orchard Lake Village

Tribute Donation

Gwynne and Jim Cherfoli

Web Sponsor

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WB Parks Summer Guide GWBHS ad sponsor

Sunrise of Bloomfield Hills



Assistant Fire Marshall Dave DeBoer tests his custom exhibit fire hose holder.



GWBHS Treasurer Sue Williams works on research.



Orchard Lake Museum
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Orchard Lake MI 48323

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Board of Directors

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Office & Activities Coordinator

Cory Nummer

GWBHS Mission Statement

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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.

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

Membership • Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

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