



Fall 2022

# History Matters

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

## We Depend on Volunteers for Everything We Do

Do you like talking about history with other people? If so, you will enjoy acting as a DOCENT for the museum. This task involves greeting visitors at Open House and help guide them around the local history exhibits now on display. Full training provided. Hours: 1 pm - 4pm one time per month or as often as you'd like.

We are looking for volunteers as community liaisons, program presenters, financial activities, funding, greeters, hosts for children's programs, research and behind the scenes work. Fun and rewarding. Help fulfill our mission. To volunteer, contact Gina Gregory at 248.622.7570 or [gina@gwbhs.org](mailto:gina@gwbhs.org).

## Celebrating 100 Years

Residents of Pleasant Lake Highland (PLH) are celebrating 100 years as a subdivision. Formed in 1922, fronts on Pleasant Lake, south of Walnut Lake Road, between Drake and Halsted.

The Centennial Celebration Summer Party included special features and long loved children's games, including "cake walk." Pleasant Lake Improvement Association board members recognized 100 years of continuous family property ownership in Pleasant Lake Highlands at 5606 Langlois and Lots 25 and 26, block 35. A gift and recognition were presented to Yvette Hamilton, granddaughter of Fidele Magnan, an original lot owner.



Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society Presents

### Pine Lake Cemetery Tour

Sat. Oct. 8, 11 am - 1 pm  
*(east side of Middlebelt, north of Lone Pine)*

*Take part in a walking tour of Pine Lake Cemetery and learn the history of founding residents, prominent people, and sports figures.*

Rain or shine. \$5 donation requested.  
More info at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org) or call 248.757.2451



## Tour Reveals Township History

October is just around the corner and that mean we are busy getting ready to host the Pine Lake Cemetery Tour to be held Saturday, Oct 8 from 11 am – 1 p.m.

Here's a chance to learn about the residents who founded our Township and hear the life stories of other prominent people such as Charles Lindbergh's mother and famous sports figures Nick Peitrosante and Norm Cash. Find out more about Civil War veterans and other military heroes including the eleven women veterans buried at the cemetery.

This year we have included information on life contributions of Bessie Weatherston and Louie Jean Lawton, lifelong residents of Green Lake. Hear how these two women grew up in the caretaker's home on the Walter Flanders estate on Green Lake and later became environmentalists, helping to establish the early days of the Parks and Recreation and land preservation efforts. The tour will also explain the some of the unique headstones and statuary in the cemetery.

The cemetery is located on the east side of Middlebelt Road between Lone Pine and Long Lake Roads. Look for our banners at the entrance. Volunteers will guide you around the premises or you can do a self-tour with a printed guide. Cemetery President and sexton Mary Bem also be in attendance to answer your questions. Optional restaurant gathering afterwards. Rain or shine. \$5 donation requested.

# From the Desk of President Gina Gregory

GWBHS activities connected with the community in a variety of ways this summer. I've enjoyed interacting with people, in person, and learning more about our community history!

We need volunteers to lead GWBHS forward. See the article elsewhere. Consider attending the Volunteers Opportunities Meeting, Wednesday, December 8, 7 pm to see what might be of interest for you!

Personally, this summer I've enjoyed celebrating my subdivision's founding 100 years ago. What I've learned through GWBHS volunteerism is included in our book about the Pleasant Lake area. See articles elsewhere.



*The Pine Lake Marina Tour was successful, with opportunities to meet new people and learn about the Marina.*



*The Classic Car & Pelletier Open House reconnected car enthusiasts, with an opportunity to learn with a presentation by Rick Bartus*



*Stop by the Museum during an open house and interact with the exhibits: deposit and "make change" for a trolley rider; view transportation tablet slides; and check out the 1895 and 1899 Michigan Military Academy publications.*



See **The Sylvan Story** summer 2022 videos through <https://www.youtube.com/c/CivicCenterTV> and many other local history videos at <https://www.youtube.com/user/GWBHS>

Consider supporting YOUR local history in meaningful ways.

As the year draws to a close, consider supporting GWBHS now with your 2023 membership, and include a year-end donation. You can:

- Become a 2023 program or exhibit sponsor.
- Receive GWBHS email, by clicking "join our eclub" at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org)
- View Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society posts on FaceBook
- GWBHS on Instagram, using "historymattersatgwbhs."

## Save the Date!



**January Annual Meeting & Presentation**  
*Where History and Genealogy Meet:*  
*The Dash Between the Dates.*

**Saturday, January 28, 10 am-12 pm**

Orchard Lake Schools Dining Hall.

Brunch ticket donation. No annual meeting charge.

Presentation by professional genealogist Judy Muhn.

# 2022 Programs

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER



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

### Pine Lake Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 8, 11 am-1 pm  
Pine Lake Cemetery  
east side of Middlebelt  
north of Lone Pine



See front page story for more information

### Pleasant Lake History Open House

Sunday, October 9, 1-4 pm, Orchard Lake Museum  
east side of Middlebelt, north of Lone Pine

Learn about the Pleasant Lake area and Pleasant Lake Highlands subdivision, 1922-2022, with historical displays and a new edition available of Our History & Remembrance of Pleasant Lake, West Bloomfield

### Autumn Nature Walk

Sunday, October 16, 2-3 pm  
Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary  
4700 Pontiac 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.

### Veterans Open House

Sunday, November 13, 1-4 pm, Orchard Lake Museum  
3951 Orchard Lake Road

See military memorabilia from WWI to the Korean War. Share/donate your family military memories and archives.

### The Saginaw Trail:

**from Native American Path to Woodward Avenue**  
Wednesday, November 16, 7 pm,  
WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road  
Leslie Pielack, Birmingham Museum Director

Leslie Pielack, Birmingham Museum Director, tells the story of those whose lives intertwined the Saginaw Trail an ancient path that transformed early Michigan. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Library. No charge.

### National Toy Hall of Fame Open House

Sunday, December 11, 1-4 pm, Orchard Lake Museum  
3951 Orchard Lake Road

See toys and learn about the National Toy Hall of Fame with Sue Grifor.

### Volunteers Opportunities Meeting

Wednesday, Dec 7, 7 pm, Orchard Lake Museum,  
3951 Orchard Lake Road

Are you looking for flexible, interesting volunteer opportunities? Come learn our needs -- from one-time to long-term commitments. We need volunteers looking to make a difference in our community and help keep our unique local history alive! No charge.

See **GWBHS** at community events:

**Senior Health Expo**, Tuesday, November 1, Abbott Middle School, 3380 Orchard Lake Rd, 9 am-2pm. GWBHS shares Society information.

**Heroes Appreciation Breakfast**, Tuesday, November 8, 9-10:30 am, West Bloomfield Middle School, 6000 Orchard Lake Road. GWBHS exhibits historical military uniforms and archives.

Open House: Orchard Lake Museum 3951 Orchard Lake Road, 1-4 pm

September Sundays: 4, 11, 25  
Friday: 16  
October Sundays: 2, 9, 23, 30  
Friday: 21  
November Sundays: 6, 13, 27  
Friday: 18  
December Sundays: 4, 11, 25  
Friday: 16

For more details and a complete list of events, visit [gwbhs.org/events](http://gwbhs.org/events).

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

[WWW.GWBHS.ORG](http://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.

## **Appreciation Reception donations**

Carol Fink, English Gardens, Friendship Circle Soul Cafe & Soul Gallery, Gino's Pizzeria & Restaurant, Great Harvest Bread Company, Trader Joe's, Sage Green Floral Shop, Smashburger, Stage Deli Fine Foods

## **Appreciation Reception volunteers**

Refreshments by Susan K. Williams, Hannah Dagg, Neil Hepburn, Rob Gregory, Karen Pushie

## **Community event volunteer**

Gina Gregory

## **Event & Open House Presenters**

Rick Bartus, James Craft, Carol Fink, Ron Hodess

## **History Matters Newsletter Sponsor 2022**

Mindell Realty

## **Museum Support**

City of Orchard Lake Village

## **Open House Docents**

Tom Bjorklund, Neil Hepburn, Karen Pushie, Gina & Rob Gregory, Derek Schraffenberger

## **Partners**

West Bloomfield Parks

## **Program Sponsors**

Gino's Pizzeria, Petite Gardens

## **Website Sponsor 2022**

Townehall Place

## *In Memoriam*

### **Lorna McEwen, 1932-2022**



This summer West Bloomfield lost a community activist with the death of Lorna McEwen (1932-2022). I came across her still poignant 2011 patch.com article the week before her passing, "Where Are the Concerned Citizens?" Lorna McEwen, formerly of Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield, believed that West Bloomfield needed a new community activism group.

She advocated for continued community dialogue and involvement. In part she recalled and shared her activities: As a longtime "activist" in West Bloomfield

Township and for many years board member and president of Concerned Citizens for West Bloomfield (CCWB), I look back with pride on the many significant quality-of-life projects which that organization initiated or supported, all of them before the digital age but all of them relying on the communication there at the time.

In the early 1970s, using mimeographed fliers placed in doors, on the posts of mailboxes and mailed (when money could be found), phone calls by rafts of citizens, cooperation with many other organized groups, CCWB stopped Northwestern Highway from cutting a diagonal swath through homes, wetlands and woodlands to a planned terminus at I-275. Radio, TV, and newspapers helped, as e-mail and the Internet were far in the future.

For more than 25 years, relying on a committed board and hundreds (often thousands) of supporters, CCWB initiated and pressed tirelessly to accomplish the purchase of the 162-acre, 4.25 mile West Bloomfield rail trail (now being extended more than two miles). When the trail was under threat of development, CCWB intervened and was responsible for the park being given free of charge to West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation.

When the township board refused to wire the new Town Hall for cable because they couldn't afford to pay for personnel to "man the cameras," CCWB members took the training to do so, leaving the township no excuse not to provide this service.

She continues: Every one of these projects has a story to tell, and Patch will make stories available for the telling, for us to learn from, and benefit future generations of West Bloomfield residents...Many quality-of-life projects are just waiting for a dynamic group of citizens to pursue. Source <https://patch.com/michigan/westbloomfield/where-are-the-concerned-citizens>. Gina Gregory.

# Archival Work Is On-going



Archive volunteer Lana LaFortune looks in one of seven filing cabinets containing local history information.

Volunteers have been working for the past seven months to organize and store historical records, photographs and collections to ensure public archival accessibility. We hope that researchers will be able to easily gather first-hand facts, data, historical letters, and more, about important people and events that happened in our communities.

Focusing on local history, the archives include files containing over 100 general categories, plus 200 biographies, 85 homes and farms, and 17 special subject boxes, which cover the history of West Bloomfield Schools, Michigan Military Academy, Apple Island, and the cities of Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake and Keego Harbor.

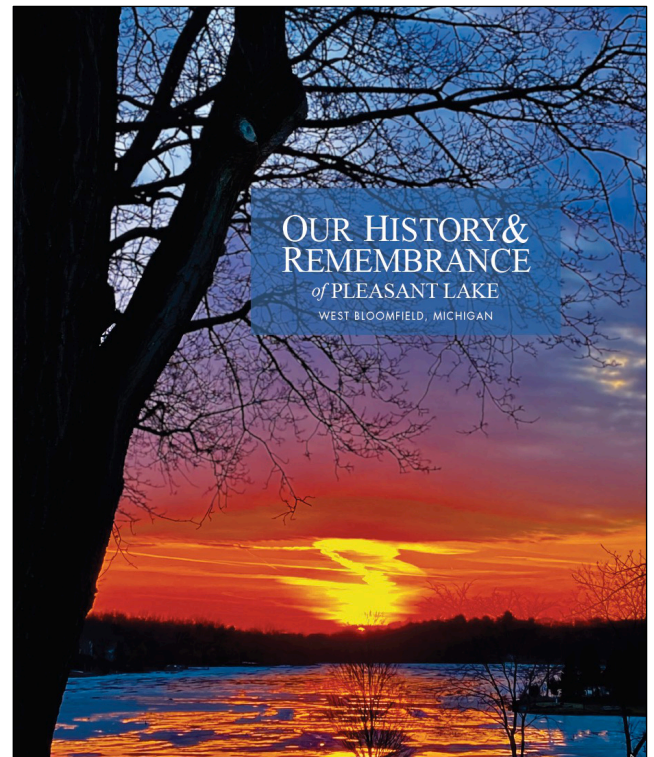
Volunteers are Sue Williams of Keego Harbor, Ryan Wiliski of Sylvan Lake, Lana LaFortune of Orchard Lake. More help is needed (We mostly work on rainy days). To volunteer, call 248-757-2451. Sue Williams.

## Pleasant Lake Book

Whether your memories of the southwest section of West Bloomfield include a time of dirt roads and local farms or are more recent memories, the third edition of "Our History & Remembrance of Pleasant Lake, West Bloomfield, Michigan" by Gina and Robert Gregory will entertain you with new anecdotes and stunning pictures.

Anticipating the 100th anniversary of Pleasant Lake Highlands, 1922-2022, this edition includes new memories and information about the creation, habitation, development, and current status of Pleasant Lake and its surrounding areas. "Rob and I enjoyed adding recent developments, more aspects of our early history, and our area's natural beauty," said Gina Gregory. "People really appreciated our natural surroundings while they were isolated during Covid-19. We received 300 responses to our photo submission request."

The Pleasant Lake History Open House, October 9, 1-4 pm, is an opportunity to learn about the Pleasant Lake area and Pleasant Lake Highlands subdivision with historical displays. The book will be available for purchase. To purchase a book at other times contact Gina at [ginagregory1951@gmail.com](mailto:ginagregory1951@gmail.com).





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

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### Board of Directors

Gina Gregory	President
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Hannah Dagg	History Matters Editor
Karen Pushie	Database & Membership

### Committee Chairs

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(Vacant)	GWBCC Liaison
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*GWBHS enriches our communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing history and has served Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, and West Bloomfield since 1974.*

*Thank you to our newsletter sponsor!*

Alan Mindell.com

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**REALTY**  
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## GWBHS Membership & Donation Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ Please contact me about volunteering with GWBHS.

Make checks payable to GWBHS. Credit card payments are accepted through PayPal at [gwbhs.org](http://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

• Individual	\$20
• Family	\$40
• Premier	\$50
• Patron/Business	\$100
• Life	\$600

### Donation

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