

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

August, September, October 2013
1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

Editors: Jeff Day, Muriel Lobb
313-386-3137; lpmuseum@gmail.com

A Time to Look Ahead and Plan Ahead

Earlier this year we found ourselves working long hours in preparations for the Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Chief Pontiac's War Council, held in late April at Council Point Park. We have had a quieter few months since that time, allowing us to get caught up on some of the museum's seasonal cleaning and the ever continuous filing and archiving. We are always in need of **VOLUNTEERS** who might be able to assist in various capacities. If you are able to help out an hour or two each week, please contact the curator, Jeff Day, here at the museum, 313-386-3137.

"Is the museum closing?"

In case you haven't heard the rumors, this one has been circulating for a few months now, initiated by discussions at city hall of budget cuts and the curtailing of municipal services and programs. No, the museum is not closing, not today, tomorrow, or in the future. After forty years of becoming a community resource that offers learning and cultural opportunities often lacking in small towns, the museum has learned to absorb its share of the vagaries of city life along with the ups and downs of economic upheaval.

From first-time visitors to our weekly workers and volunteers, we see that the opportunity to learn about our city's history is paramount to the community's future. The many adults and children who visit us take with them an enriched view of Lincoln Park which makes them feel a part of this community. What more can be asked of a museum?

Having lost the support of the city in its annual budgets, for the second year running, due to the city's financial straits, the Historical Commission, which is responsible for the museum's operations, has had to be more innovative in seeking funding. This past year we were extremely fortunate to have the DDA come to our aid and provide assistance to the tune of \$16,000, covering most of our annual operating costs. For the 2013-14 fiscal year, the Commission is again looking for ways to get us through the year, including approaching the Historical Society. The Historical Society has always been the backbone of the museum; society memberships, which bring in around \$2,500 per year, are used to fund office expenses, postage and mailings, and to provide for special projects, exhibits and events. Our Annual Giving campaigns bring us needed improvements, as well; but none of these are intended to cover our daily operating costs. We are seeking suggestions from our membership on ways to "*think outside the box*" for future funding of the museum. Members, let us know what you think.

CURRENT EXHIBIT –

On View in our Main Exhibit case is a collection of farm tools from local farms of the families who were early settlers in this area, including the LeBlanc, Goodell, Keppen, Schonfeld, Raupp, Quandt, Montie, and Bondie families. Come by and take this unique look into our rural past.

UPCOMING DATES

OCTOBER 2, WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. General meeting; program TBA

NOVEMBER 6, WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m. General Meeting; program TBA

NOVEMBER 11, a **MONDAY** at 11:00 a.m. VETERANS DAY Ceremony and Bell Ringing held on the Historical Museum's lawn. All area veterans are invited to attend and participate. A short reception will be held inside the museum following.

"Simpler Times" by Don Wallace

Lincoln Park native Don Wallace has written a memoir-based book entitled "Growing Up in Simpler Times". Wallace, a retired police officer now living in Tennessee, published his book this year and held a local book signing on July 13 at Fort Street Brewery, attended by many townspeople, including Mayor Pat Krause. The Museum will have copies of his book for sale at our gift shop for \$10. – the books are on their way from the printers as we write this. This fall -- date yet TBA -- the Museum will host Don here to give a talk about



his book and make available copies for signing. You can also purchase the book directly at Amazon.com or CreateSpace.com.

Two years ago, Wallace's sons gave him a laptop computer, and soon after he began writing vivid stories about growing up in Lincoln Park and posting them on the internet. He quickly gained a following from Lincoln Park residents who, along with family and friends, encouraged him to compile his stories into a book. This feel good, easy-to-read book of nearly 60 stories will lead readers to think about simpler times and yearn for them again.

We thank Mayor Pat Krause for her recommending that Don give a program at the museum. Our thanks also to Don's son Bruce for his help in arranging for the books and the upcoming visit.

NEW BROCHURE

We are working on a new brochure for the historical museum & society, and are seeking input from our members. If you think something is important to place in the brochure and to promote to the community, let us know. We appreciate any input and will take all ideas under advisement. The new brochure is expected to be ready by the end of this year.

Please note that our email address has changed to lpmuseum@gmail.com. Web site address: www.lphistorical.org

FROM MURIEL'S DESK:

You are hearing so much about the money problems of our Michigan cities, I thought you might be missing the good things that have happened, and are happening. Downtown's RiverWalk extends from Cobo Hall almost to Belle Isle, with Chene Park developed as a music venue. Cobo Hall has been enlarged and renovated. The Pontchartrain Hotel reopened, and is very busy. Eastern Market is much larger with the surrounding stores upgraded. The theater district is thriving, as is Greektown and the casinos. Hockey fans just heard that they will be moving to an area further down Woodward across I-75, as part of a huge development involving housing and shops. And you have heard about the second bridge to Canada - that's still ON.

Closer to home, the Mellus News bldg. is gone; the apartments built on Electric are filled; there is finally activity on the Park Theater property, being renovated for commercial use, with 22 apartments and garage parking being built on the property behind. The raised cement planters have been repaired and re-planted on Fort, thanks to the DDA, with four blocks of landscaping in the median. Chiarelli's Market has reopened as family-owned Los Arcos Mexican Market. The Fort Bowling Alley is now a commercial auction house. Carter's hamburger at Fort and Rose is now a corned beef restaurant. We also have a large antique store at Dix and Champaign doing well. We told you in a previous letter that our High School Football program has a new playing field surface, new bleachers, lights and scoreboard due to the efforts of the alumni. The Fort-Goddard bridge has been replaced, as part of the widening of Fort from Goddard to Sibley Road - four lanes each side with extra turn lanes - beautiful!

MEMORIAL

We are saddened to report the recent passing of long-time historical society member and friend
MARGARET SCHULTZ
on June 6, 2013

MEMBERSHIPS The Historical Society's Annual membership renewals are payable in August; **members will find a renewal envelope in their newsletter.** Please remit your payment to keep your membership in good standing. If you are a current member and you don't find an envelope, this means your membership is less than one year old and dues are not be payable until next year.

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2013-14

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The Lincoln Park Historical Society continues its quarterly newsletter publications with this August 2013 issue. We are delivering newsletters by email as much as possible. If you'd like to receive newsletters and special announcements via email, **please send your email address to lpmuseum@gmail.com.** The Museum's regular hours are 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Wednesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays. www.lphistorical.org

ANOTHER CHAPTER OF OUR EARLY HISTORY COMES TO AN END

The two Methodist churches in LP, First Methodist and Dix Avenue Methodist, have closed their doors after a combined 182 years of ministry to our community. First Methodist, located on Fort Park Blvd, was formed in 1921. Dix Avenue Methodist was formed in 1923. The two buildings are to be sold and the congregations are now merged with two other closed churches, Trinity Methodist of Allen Park and West Mound Methodist of Taylor. **On July 6, Dix Avenue Methodist Church donated their old steeple bell to the historical museum.** Prior to its 1929 installation at the old wooden church on Horger Street, the bell had served as the LP Fire Department's fire bell in the 1920s. We are grateful to the folks from Dix Avenue Methodist for their generosity. The historic bell is now on exhibit in our front lobby.



The Detroit Institute of Arts "INSIDE/OUT" community art event in Lincoln Park continues through the summer, coordinated by the Lincoln Park DDA. Reproductions of six of the museum's major art pieces have been placed at sites within our downtown area. Visit www.dia.org for more information about the project. In conjunction with the 'Inside/Out' event, the DDA has worked with the Downriver Council for the Arts on a street art project that exhibits works by a variety of area artists in window fronts along our downtown district.

THE WAR MEMORIAL: We reported last time about the theft of the **World War I bronze memorial plaque** from Memorial Park in April. In our archives we found the text of the monument as it was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1938, at the original location at Southfield and Fort Street. As far as we know, there has been no further development in the 75-year old plaque's disappearance. The museum is trying to locate any photographs taken of the plaque.



WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF THIS
COMMUNITY WHO SERVED IN THE
1917 WORLD WAR 1919
AND IN SPECIAL MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO GAVES THEIR LIVES
FOR THEIR COUNTRY

ERECTED AND DEDICATED
BY
THE LINCOLN PARK MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
MAY 30, 1938