

# THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

February, March, April 2015

New Hours: 1:00pm-6:00pm – Wed. and Sat.

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

313-386-3137

lpmuseum@gmail.com

### CITY TURNS 90 YEARS!

It's official: the City of Lincoln Park has turned 90 years old. By early 1925, Lincoln Park village had risen in population from several hundred to some 9,000, a phenomenal growth chiefly due to the pull of jobs in the nearby auto industries. The electorate voted to re-incorporate as a City in a special election held January 12, 1925. The village's three voting precincts took ballots at: 1. The Village Council Chambers on Lincoln between Chandler and Ferris; 2. Strowig School at the corner of Pepper Road (Outer Drive) and Fort Street; and 3. Frank Grace's store on Porter Street at Arlington. (All three buildings have been long gone.) The vote for cityhood that January passed 467 to 380 and created a nine-member charter commission with a mandate to produce a new City Charter from the Village Charter of 1921.

Along with the city, 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary observances will be celebrated this year by the municipal Fire Department and the Lincoln Park Exchange Club, the city's oldest and longest-continuing service club.



Fort Street building boom in 1925 (smoke from the Ford Rouge factory seen in distance); photo taken from the roof of State Savings Bank, corner of Fort and State (Southfield Rd)

### EXHIBIT "1925"

The museum's temporary exhibit "1925: Celebrating our first year as a city", will open with a public reception on Saturday evening May 16, following the dedication of the new Lincoln Park Heritage Plaza on the museum grounds. Many of the items on display will afterward be placed in a permanent museum exhibit covering the 1920s era and documenting the swift growth of our young town from more than a century of life as a sleepy, rural farm community.

### THE HERITAGE PAVER PROJECT/FUNDRAISER

The new "Lincoln Park Heritage Plaza" paver project, to be located on the museum lawn, will be dedicated on Saturday, May 16 with the first phase of brick pavers. The Heritage Project is seen as a concrete way to recognize those in our community, past and present, whom we individually choose to remember and honor, whether they be family, business, military, or civic and community leaders. Heritage Plaza is being inaugurated this year to coincide with the city's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Historical Society's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The brick dedication form is enclosed here for your use and further information. **Monday April 6 is the deadline for submissions for the first phase of installation.** Brick dedication forms will continue to be accepted, with pavers placed throughout the year. The ongoing Heritage project will also help to raise needed funds for the upkeep and continued operation of the Historical Museum.



Rendering of the new Park Theatre, *Lincoln Park News*, August, 1925 (also see photo on back of newsletter)

### PARK THEATER PROJECT

The Park Theater, built by early Lincoln Park realtor M. R. Levy, and designed by famed Detroit architect C. Howard Crane, opened at 1585 Fort Street on August 15, 1925. According to that week's *Lincoln Park News*, the very first showing was the silent movie, "I'll Show You the Town", starring Reginald Denny. The management announced that shipment of the new theater organ was delayed by ten days and a local orchestra would be hired to play for the opening week.

(continued)

The Park Theater, closed for many years, was recently reborn as a residential community – “The Lincoln Park Lofts” - through the cooperative efforts of the City of Lincoln Park, Lincoln Park DDA, Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance and Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency.

The “LP Lofts Project” was set in place six years ago and on January 15 held its grand opening for the public, showcasing 12 new units inside along with a restored façade and marquee. A second structure behind the theater is also part of the project and houses 26 units with covered parking. After so many years of neglect and misfortune nearly crippling the theater, isn't it wonderful to see the marquee lights finally turned back on? Thank you to all who played a part in this amazing downtown renewal effort.

### THE LEGENDS CONTINUE

In 2015, we will continue our “Legends of Lincoln Park” series, begun last year with honorees the Clemente Family Restaurant (1930-2010) and the Knoch-Lobb Flower Shop (opened 1929 and still going strong). Three “Legends” are in the planning for the coming year, and we also continue to take suggestions from our members. These will be announced in our May newsletter.

### FUNDING UPDATES

AS YOU read through the newsletter you will notice some emphasis on the raising of funds for the museum. In recent years, both the Society and the Historical Commission have been looking to develop alternative sources of funding for the museum after losing the city's financial support of many years. The DDA/Downtown Development Authority has been extremely helpful in their support these past two years; yet, as we move ahead and plan for the future we cannot rely entirely on their continued funding. The Heritage Paver Project and the MC5 50-year event will both serve to raise funds for the museum this year.

Our Annual Giving Campaign for 2014 has brought in approximately 1,800 dollars. **Thank You** to those who were able to make contributions to support the work we are doing. Thank you, also, to those who supported us in the Quilt raffle at the holiday -- \$320 was raised for the Society. The winner of the beautiful hand-made quilt was selected at our December open house – congratulations to member Jane Busen Neimeyer!

We continue to work on developing alternative – perhaps unconventional – avenues of funding so that our museum can provide future generations of Lincoln Parkers with the history of their community. Help us if you can.

## HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!



### OUR CURRENT EXHIBIT

“Historic Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Valentines” from the collection of Leslie Lynch-Wilson

On Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, we will participate in

the Lincoln Park DDA's downtown “Chocolate Walk” held 2pm to 5pm. **At 2:30pm, guest speaker Leslie Lynch-Wilson, president of the Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance**, will talk on the history of valentines and share her story of the historic valentines collection which originally belonged to Norma Waters, her grandmother's cousin, who died young at age 26 in 1920. We are grateful to Leslie, pictured above with a photo of her cousin and one of the elaborate valentines, for the loan of this beautiful century-old collection, all still in amazingly fine condition. The temporary exhibit will remain on view through the end of March.



## SOCIETY PROGRAMS & MEETINGS

Saturday, February 14, 2:30 P.M. **Historic Valentines program at Museum and the DDA-sponsored Chocolate Walk (2-5pm)**, see above

Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 P.M. **Program - DETROIT'S HISTORIC FT. WAYNE** with Tom Berlucchi, a volunteer for 15 years with the Ft. Wayne Museum; also nominations will be open for the 2015-2016 Society Board officers.

Wednesday, April 1, at 7:00 P.M. **Program – TBA** -- also, the election of the Society Board officers for 2015-2016.

**VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED!**



## NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to share the news of a number of new members of the Historical Society who joined us since last fall. Some of these new friends came from the Schiebold family during our tribute to Max Schiebold in November. We are happy to have these new members, and appreciate the ongoing support of all of our dedicated members - including those who joined us years ago before there was a historical museum building and who helped work towards that end. THANK YOU to one and all! The Lincoln Park Historical Society was formed in 1955 -- this year marks our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

**Joyce Barry** of Silverdale, Washington  
**Cherie Bristow** of New Boston  
**Ray & Kathryn Chris** of Lincoln Park  
**Terri Hooks** of Rockwood  
**Richard & Loretta Kohs**, of Winter Park, Florida  
**Sheri Nemchek** of Lincoln Park  
**Audrey Saunders** of Lincoln Park  
**Geno & Stefanie Scalcucci** of Grosse Ile  
**Anthony Schiebold** of Taylor

**Welcome!**

## SOME RECENT ACCESSIONS

### THE NEW OLD MAP

In December we were finally able to arrange to move the large wall-mounted map, measuring six feet by ten feet, from the library to the museum. In addition to expressing our deep thanks to the Lincoln Park Public Library for their enormous gift, we also extend a sincere "THANK YOU" to the following for their work in removing the huge map from the library wall and transporting it across the street to the museum's lower level (not an easy task): Tom Parkinson, Henry Lowe, Vincent Frittelli, Councilman Tom Murphy, Geno Muzzin, Robert French, Joe Turinsky, Jim Nelson and Jeff Day. Tom Parkinson's pick-up truck was particularly handy! The map was created in 1962 by Vincent Bondy, a Dearborn city firefighter at the time, for the Guarantee Federal Savings Bank here on Fort Street (location of Chase Bank today). It has been moved once before, from the bank when it closed to the library during the tenure of librarian James Schafer. The fifty-three year old map will

be repaired over the next few months, but it is currently on view for any museum visitors in the lower level. It will eventually be on exhibit in the lower level conference room mounted on the wall where the chalk board is currently.



### A TREASURED GIFT

**Marlene Bitzer** is shown above with the Shirley Temple collection of dolls that she has donated to the museum's permanent collection following their exhibit over the holidays. The dolls were from her mother **Kathleen Bitzer Seitz's** vast Shirley Temple collection gathered over many decades while residing in Lincoln Park. Kathleen's husband **Arlo Seitz** has also donated two life-size Shirley Temple dolls from her collection. We are grateful to both of these good friends for their generous gifts in memory of mother and wife.

**The Lincoln Park Fire Department** has donated a rotating-style slate chalk board with its original wooden stand, long used by the Department but no longer needed with the new technologies. This will go in the conference room, replacing the chalk board that is being taken down to make room for the wall map. The LPFD also donated a mid-century oxygen resuscitation tank complete with its original kit, as used by the department for many years. It also has been replaced by newer technology.

## IN MEMORIAM



GRACE AGNELLO  
FRANK BARTAL  
BARBARA BARKER McGARRY  
DORIS JEAN BAY  
JAMES GREEN

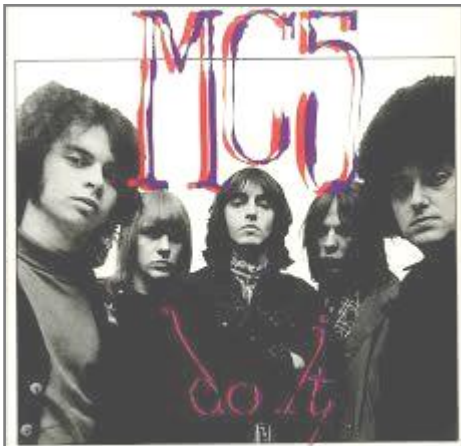
Our apologies for mistakenly omitting the memorial listing from the November newsletter.

## AAH, JANUARY & NEW HOURS

We had a pretty quiet January; being closed allowed us to catch up on some badly needed work, as well as handling the dreary annual task of taking down all the holiday decorations; we now look forward to reopening on Wednesday February 4. With the retirement of our director Muriel Lobb at the end of the year our days of operation have altered: we will now be open on

**Wednesdays and Saturdays with newly extended hours from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

## MC5 50 years ~ It's a Date



In the November newsletter we announced impending plans for a 50 Year celebration for rock legends MC5, most of whom hailed from Lincoln Park. The date has been set: events will take place

over the weekend of July 11 and 12. Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. will be a public opening reception for the 'MC5 Exhibit' at the museum, followed by Sunday's 50 Year tribute concert at the Memorial Park Band Shell from 2:00pm to 6:00p.m.

Purists will argue that the 5 began in 1964 when the name was adopted at vocalist Rob Tyner's suggestion. Some of the musicians, guitarists Wayne Kramer and Fred Smith, were jamming together in their garages as early as 1963. The band members as we know them were all in place in 1965, when the stars aligned with the addition of Dennis Thompson on drums and Michael Davis on bass -- "**MC5**".

As we move further along in the planning we will be gathering together a slate of performers and testimonials. You can keep up on the event postings via Facebook, [www.facebook.com/MC5.LincolnPark](http://www.facebook.com/MC5.LincolnPark), as well as our own website. We will also have a complete section devoted to the MC5 in the May newsletter.

Business sponsorships to help underwrite this anniversary exhibit and concert are being sought to defray the costs of the events. Proceeds after expenses, as well as a portion of sales of merchandise, will be used to support the ongoing operations and programs of the historical museum. Please contact curator Jeff Day at [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com) or 313-386-3137 for information and sponsorship packets.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - UPCOMING

**Saturday, May 16**, dedication of the Historical Museum's Heritage Plaza Project; and the public reception for Lincoln Park's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit: "**1925**".

**Sunday, May 17**, at 1:00 P.M. The Lincoln Park Memorial Day Parade, along Fort Street to Memorial Park; Memorial Day ceremonies

### July 11 & 12 weekend

MC5 50 Year Anniversary exhibit and tribute concert, see adjacent article.

(The date for our Annual Dinner is TBD)



### *Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2014-15*

President	Jim Nelson
Vice President	Dolores Walker
Secretary	Grace Wangbickler
& Finance Chair	
Treasurer	Mary Meyer
Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Pat Diaz Krause
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Trustee	Vacant

The Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to our emailing list and receive a color version of the newsletter and up to date notifications - and to help us save on postage costs - please send an email to [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com).

Museum Curator: Jeff Day  
Director Emeritus: Muriel Lobb

Website: [www.lphistorical.org](http://www.lphistorical.org)

# LINCOLN PARK HERITAGE PLAZA BRICK ORDER FORM

1. Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

2. Please print the desired engraving clearly in All CAPITAL LETTERS in the boxes shown below. No more than 14 characters per line including letters, dots, periods, spaces.

4" x 8" Brick      3 lines 14 characters


8" x 8" Brick      6 lines 14 characters


3. Please submit payment with your order. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4" x 8" bricks (maximum 3 lines of text) are \$ 100

8" x 8" bricks (maximum 6 lines of text) are \$ 150

Make checks payable to **Lincoln Park Historical Museum** and put in the memo note: **Brick Fund**. Attach your check with the order form and return to the Lincoln Park Historical Museum at 1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146. Deadline for the first phase of the project is Monday April 6; formal dedication will take place on Saturday May 16. Please call us with any questions: 313-386-3137

4. Signature to confirm order:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Funds raised for the Heritage project beyond the costs for brick and engraving will go toward support of the Lincoln Park Historical Museum.

Thank You.

Lincoln Park Historical Society  
1335 Southfield Road  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Lincoln Park Theater with its original facade before remodeling project in the late 1930s