

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

June 2022

Museum Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 1 pm to 6 p.m.

Website: www.lphistorical.org

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also visit our Facebook page

LINCOLN PARK LITTLE LEAGUE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

The Lincoln Park Little League Program was officially formed and chartered in the spring of 1952, one of the first in Michigan. Frank Kuzminski had initiated the drive for Lincoln Park's first Little League after visiting the Williamsport, Pennsylvania Little League program the year before and seeing first hand the work begun there by founder Carl Stotz in 1939. Kuzminski's enthusiasm for bringing the program to Lincoln Park spread to other community leaders and received support from the City of Lincoln Park and Mayor Jack Johns.

In the fall of 1952, the Lincoln Park Board of Education donated the use of land near old Lincoln Park High School (later Huff Junior High) to be the site for the city's Little League program. Local contractor, George Harrison, donated heavy field equipment and loads of fill-dirt to grade the field. Zoltan Nagy, Bert Howie, and Harry Raithal gave many hours of hard work in the preparation of the field. After these men got the field constructed for drainage and smoothed over, other members of the association joined together on a November day and sowed grass seed. When springtime arrived, the dream had become a reality, a grass-covered diamond, the first of its kind in the area. (See back page for a listing of the league's first officers.)

Initially, all games of both Divisions were played here at the newly-constructed Jack Shannon Field named for a beloved teacher who had died of polio in 1951. Eventually, the North Division would move to Quandt Field located near Dix and Southfield and the South Division played at the new Frank Kuzminski Park, near LeBlanc and River Drive. Both fields remain in use today. Jack Shannon Field was removed with the building of the new high school in 1960.

Visit our exhibit commemorating the LP Little League's 70 years, on view from June 25 through September 17.

[See additional photos on the next page]



1953 Sims team, South Division

When the first season of play began in the spring of 1953, two divisions had been set up, North and South, with Champaign Road used as the dividing line. The program would continue to grow adding Central and West Divisions in following years.

Each division held four squads for a total of eight teams. Interdivision matchups led to the top team from each division playing the other for the league championship. Close to 300 boys had registered for tryouts in April of 1953; from these, 120 players were selected to play on one of the eight squads. The first games were held Monday, May 25, 1953 at Shannon Field. League Secretary Anthony Jesue wrote in his report,

"Last week the L.P. Little Leaguers came up with some very well played ball games. Bill Check of Heiney and Perdue, came up with the first no-hit game of the young season, setting down Stanford Bros, 2-1. Tom Walker, of Genuine Parts, turned in a one-hit performance while defeating V.F.W. Post 552, 5-0. J. Scott of the Moose Lodge, smashed out the first homerun of the year in the third inning while his teammates were defeating Cy Seymour, 6-4."

The eight teams with sponsors that first year:

South Division

Sim's Men's Wear
Cy Seymour
Moose Lodge
Vreeland Nash

North Division

Stanford Brothers
Genuine Parts
Heiney and Purdue
V.F.W. Post 552

--story continues on back page

WE CLEAN UP GOOD!

Our Thanks to the team of workers who came out for the May 7th grounds clean-up day. Annette DeMaggio of the Community Improvement Commission coordinated the helping hands once again. Volunteers included: Sherice Krzywonos, Jason Nichols, Jason Behr, Jackie Clark, Jim and Linda Mixer, Sandi Horst, Cathy Csercse with kids Chloe and Aurelius, city councilwoman Lylian Ross, Robert French, and Jeff Day. Thanks to all who gave their time on this beautiful sunny day. (See photo below) Thanks also to Linda for grilling up hot dogs generously donated by our friends at American Coney Island!



Thanks to our Clean Up Team!



Photo above taken in the fall of 1952 shows ground work commencing on the Jack Shannon Little League Ball Field near the old high school – seen left to right are: Perry Heath, Zoltan Nagy (on tractor), Anthony Jesue, Harry Ratheal, Harold Heim.

Photo below shows Mayor Jack Johns throwing out the ball at the first game on May 25, 1953, at Shannon Field, with pitcher Steve Lizak in the background.



MEMORIAL CEREMONY HELD IN MAY

On May 21, the annual Memorial Ceremony was held at the museum at which time eight newly engraved pavers were dedicated in the Heritage Plaza. At the same time, the park bench project was inaugurated with a dedication of two new benches, a beautiful addition to the museum grounds where they will be installed this month. Thanks to Ed Clemente and to Jim and Linda Mixer for supporting the new bench project.

The Clemente Restaurant bench is shown, above left, with family matriarch Rose Clemente Jackson.

Seen at left is the Ken and Charollet Mixer bench with their son Jim Mixer and wife Linda.

COLLECTIONS NEWS

Donations of Lincoln Park-related artifacts to our collections have been received from David Doss, Paul Zatyko, Tim Caldwell, Earl Porter Jr, Susan Rhoton, Leslie Allan Emond, and Kurt Koch. Our thanks to these generous donors.

Many of the items that were featured in the recent Wolverine Parkettes exhibit will remain with our collections and placed in a permanent display.

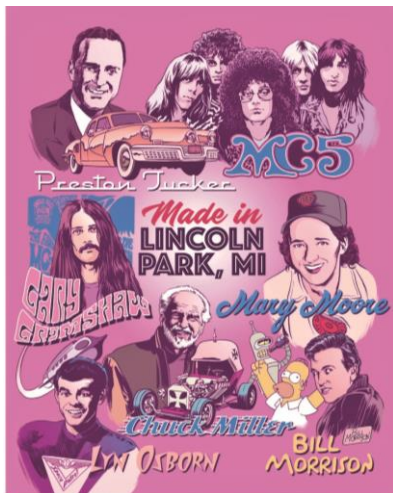
This J.A. Papalas & Co. badge, below, was used for identification when company employees were working at area industrial sites, such as Great Lakes Steel, Ford Motor Company, etc. J.A. Papalas & Co. was founded in 1942 and this year is observing its 80th birthday, still in the same location on Empire Street.



Item donated by Paul Zatyko

'Art in the Park' offerings

Some of our museum gift shop items, including posters and T shirts, will be featured at this year's "Art In The Park" market, held July 29th and 30th at Memorial Park (London and Fort Streets). A big thanks to the **Hands of the City** community volunteer group for sharing vendor space with us.



Included will be signed copies of the full color "Made In Lincoln Park" poster, featuring iconic Lincoln Park figures from our past 100 years. The prints are 11 by 14 inches and are autographed by illustrator Bill Morrison, as well as professional women's ballplayer Mary Moore and noted custom auto designer Chuck Miller.

Stop by and visit us!

CURRENT CALENDAR

This summer we will continue our look back at community sports legacies with a commemorative exhibit celebrating **70 Years of the Lincoln Park Little League program** (see article on first page). The exhibit is scheduled to open on **Saturday June 25th** with a special August 20th public program, see below. The exhibit will remain on display through September 17th.

The museum will be CLOSED SATURDAY JULY 2 for the holiday weekend and will reopen on Wed., July 6.

July 29 and 30 – "Art in the Park" at Memorial Park -- stop by and visit our vendor booth, shared with "Hands of the City", from 5pm on Friday and from 11am on Saturday, through the evening bandshell performances.

"Lincoln Park Garden Tour" on Saturday, August 6, from 10am to 1pm. Sponsored by the Community Improvement Commission, the tour - which includes private residences and public gardens - will kick off at the museum where maps can be picked up beginning at 10:00 a.m. The maps are available by donation, which will support the LP Historical Museum.

On the afternoon of Saturday August 20th, there will be an outdoor public reception on the museum grounds to welcome any and **all Lincoln Park Little League ALUMNI** from 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Lincoln Park Days at Youth Center Park on August 26, 27 and 28th - don't miss its return after three years!

Centennial Anniversary, Fall date TBA

In the fall of this year a celebration will be held to commemorate the Centennial of the incorporation of the Village of Lincoln Park, which was officially observed last year in 2021, but due to the coronavirus pandemic, plans had to be postponed.

Plans for this year are still be finalized and will be publicized in our September newsletter as well as in the fall issue of the Lincoln Park Happenings. Stay tuned.

For the most up-to-date information on museum events and programs, please check our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Lincoln-Park-Historical-Museum-307600335917383>

**Welcome! to new historical society member
Thomas Boal of Lincoln Park and
new Life Member Lenette Ruzzin of Wyandotte**

*Lincoln Park Historical Society Board
and Museum Staff 2021-2022*

President	Jim Nelson
Vice President	Dolores Walker
Secretary	Linda Mixer
Treasurer	Jim Mixer
Trustee	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Museum Curator & newsletter editor: Jeff Day	
Membership Chair: Sandi Horst	
Website Manager: Emily Solomon	
Custodian: Robert French	
Director Emeritus: Muriel Lobb	

Board meetings are held at 1:30 p.m. on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month. The Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to our email list and help us save on postage costs, please email us at: lpmuseum@gmail.com

Little League story continued from the first page:

The first Little League officials and charter members in 1952-53 included: Perry Heath, President; Frank Kuzminski, Vice-President; Anthony Jesue, Secretary; Harold Heim, Treasurer; Harry Raithal, Ground Superintendent; and Eddie Gilbert, Umpire-in-Chief.

The historical museum is indebted to Tony Jesue for materials of his father Anthony Jesue who served as the Lincoln Park Little League's first secretary; Holly Couch, daughter of former league president and longtime LL coach Charles Couch; Dan Addison, who played on the 1960 Central Division team which won the state of Michigan tournament that year and whose father James Addison was a LL coach; and Annette DeMaggio for the loan of a scrapbook of materials collected by her father, longtime South Division coach Joe DeMaggio (1953-1962).

The Detroit Institute of Arts is showcasing five masterworks from its collections in the downtown LP district of Fort Street and Southfield Road as a part of this year's edition of "Inside/Out", where reproductions of DIA's original art works are placed on public view. The "Inside/Out" program, sponsored in part by the LP DDA this year, has proved hugely popular in Detroit area communities since its inception in 2010.

Seen here on the museum's (our former post office) front lawn is Vincent van Gogh's Post-Impressionist "Portrait of Postman Roulin", painted in the southern French town of Arles, where Van Gogh had gone to live and find inspiration in 1888. This is one of at least six portraits Van Gogh completed of the town postman Joseph Roulin, who befriended Vincent on his frequent visits to the post station where he sent off paintings to his brother Theo. In a July 31, 1888 letter to his sister Wilhelmina, Vincent wrote,

"I am now engaged on a portrait of a postman in his dark-blue uniform with yellow. A head somewhat like Socrates, hardly any nose at all, a high forehead, bald crown, little grey eyes, bright red chubby cheeks, a big pepper-and-salt beard, large ears. The man is an ardent republican and socialist, reasons quite well, and knows a lot of things."



*Portrait of Postman Roulin, Van Gogh, 1888
Collections of the DIA*