

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

May, June, July, 2015

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

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

313-386-3137

lpmuseum@gmail.com

HERITAGE PLAZA DEDICATION

The new “Lincoln Park Heritage Plaza” engraved brick project will be dedicated on Saturday, May 16 at 5:00 P.M. with the first phase of brick pavers and landscaping installed on the museum grounds, near the U.S. flag pole and the historical marker.

We have been impressed with the response from the community. The project was planned to observe the city’s 90th anniversary this year - as well as the Historical Society’s 60th year - and to raise needed funds for the historical museum.

The dedication ceremony will be followed by a reception inside the museum and the opening of the special exhibit “1925, Our City’s First Year”.

The Heritage Plaza is an ongoing legacy project for our community. Plans call for future growth and the addition of benches to the plaza area and more extensive landscaping of the museum grounds.

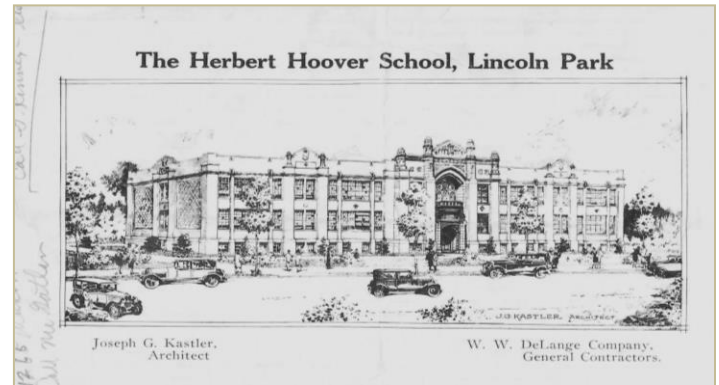
THE LEGENDS OF LINCOLN PARK

In 2015, we continue our “Legends of Lincoln Park” series. We begin on the evening of Wednesday, May 13 with a program dedicated to the Lincoln Park Exchange Club. Mayor Tom Karnes, currently serving as President of the National Exchange Club, will speak on the history of the LP organization which was formed in 1925 and also celebrating its 90th year. Later in the year we will be honoring the Mixter Family law practice, which began in Lincoln Park in 1925. The hometown rock legends MC5, formed in LP in 1965, will also be so recognized on the occasion of the band’s 50th anniversary (see article).



The Security Bank building, at Fort and O’Connor, formerly the Lincoln Park National Bank erected in 1926.

ANNUAL DINNER at 85 YEAR OLD HOOVER SCHOOL



Architect’s rendering of the new Herbert Hoover School, 1929

The Historical Society Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 27 at historic Herbert Hoover Elementary School, the city’s oldest school building which opened in January of 1930. At that time, it became the fast-growing city’s sixth elementary school, following Goodell and Strowig, both grown from original one-room schools; Raupp School (1921); Horger (1922); and Lafayette (1926). Lafayette also house the city’s first high school class.

The evening schedule is: doors will open at 5:30pm with tours of the school building offered, a reception time with appetizers and beverages; buffet dinner at 6:30pm, followed by the installation of 2015-16 Board officers (elected at the April 1 meeting). The evening will conclude with a program featuring presentations on two downtown historic renovation projects. Speakers will include Leslie Lynch-Wilson, president of Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance; Lou Piszker, head of Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, which developed the Park Theater (built in 1925) Lofts project; and Danny Doss, manager of Information Services for Community Care Services which is rehabbing what was originally the Lincoln Park National Bank on Fort Street (built in 1926) – see adjacent photo.

The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person. Dinner reservations are currently being accepted, and RSVPs with payment must be received by May 23. (Historical Society members will be receiving a mailed invitation and response card.) Please contact the museum for more information. 313-386-3137.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED !

UPCOMING

Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 P.M. "EXCHANGE CLUB TURNS 90" program with Mayor Tom Karnes, and the 'Legends of Lincoln Park' presentation.

Saturday, May 16, 5:00 P.M. Dedication of Lincoln Park Heritage Plaza and reception (see article); opening of the exhibit "1925: the City's first year", on view through the end of June.

Sunday May 17, 1:00 P.M. City's Memorial Day Parade and Commemoration Ceremony at Memorial Park.

Wednesday, May 27 at 5:30 P.M. ANNUAL DINNER, at Hoover School - Board installation, building tours, dinner, program (see article)

Saturday May 30 2:00 P.M. Historical Society's Annual Memorial Day Bell Ringing ceremony, museum lawn

Wednesday, June 3 at 7:00 P.M.
Book-signing by Grosse Ile resident Jean Scheffler, author of "The Sugar House", historical novel of Detroit and downriver in the 1920s.

Saturday July 11, 7PM-9PM MC5 50 Year Anniversary Exhibit public reception &

Sunday July 12, 2PM-6PM: MC5 Tribute Concert at Memorial Park band shell, free admission (see article)

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**As noted above**, we will continue our tradition of ringing the Goodell School bell in commemoration of Memorial Day. This year's ceremony takes place on Saturday, May 30 at 2:00 p.m. on the museum lawn. All are invited to take part by ringing the bell in memory of service men and women who have given their lives, and to remember those society members we have lost over the past year.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We are pleased to announce our newest members: **Leonard Csiszar** of Pacifica Palisades, California; and **Doug Ledger** of Lake Orion.

Welcome to these new friends!

## IN MEMORIAM



**MARY CIBOR  
CHARLES HIGGINS  
ERNIE NAGY**

Words alone cannot provide an adequate measure of appreciation and thanks for the contribution these three members have made over the many years through their involvement in our community and the historical society. Mary Cibor served as our board's recording secretary, faithfully writing out the minutes in her beautiful long hand until she retired a year and a half ago at age 98. Charlie Higgins, long-time school board member, was one of our biggest boosters and acquired for the museum historic artifacts that might otherwise have been destroyed, including the 1918 Goodell School tower bell and the 1920's era Hahl pneumatic clock from Raupp School. Ernie Nagy, born in the family home on Champaign in 1930, began his career with the Mellus Newspapers as a delivery boy in 1942. Making newspapers his life, Ernie would eventually become publisher for the Mellus and later the Heritage Newspapers. We will sorely miss these good friends.

## **LP Woman's Club – An Amazing 83 Years**

One of our community's longest running organizations, the Lincoln Park Woman's Club has disbanded. It was founded in 1932, during the throes of the Great Depression, with the objective to "promote the spirit of cooperation for the purpose of liberal culture and for the improvement and mutual helpfulness to each other and to society." While the reason for the closing of the club was dwindling membership, the club's members should be pleased with what it has accomplished over its active life, when membership rose above 100 members.

The Woman's Club grew out of an earlier group founded in the 1920s named the Literary Club, and would itself give rise to another organization, the Lincoln Park Garden Club, helping to beautify our city with numerous planting projects and maintaining them. It also developed into a service club when times called for it; during the Second World War, the club raised money to assist with the war effort, and special fund drives were often used to help others. The Club for many years hosted a festive tea for graduating high school girls and provided scholarships for students in the nursing field. From this long running club have developed friendships that have lasted many decades.

## WHO IS LINCOLN PARK?

Over 90% of the people living here in 1925 had come from somewhere else. The flourishing auto industries were drawing people to the Detroit area from all points. Henry Ford controlled the most important company in the most important industry in the booming American economy. Soon enough, Lincoln Park became a city of migrants and immigrants many working at the nearby Ford Rouge plant. Some didn't come very far - as close as our neighbor Detroit, with a rising population and already running out of space for new families to settle. Others migrated from all directions for the well-paying jobs offering steady income. Still more came from European homelands: Russia, Italy, Prussia, Germany, Austria-Hungary; many of these regions had been torn apart by world war. Henry Ford's policy of non-discrimination in hiring workers for his factories was another attractive lure. Here, all sorts of new settlers were looking to a brighter secure future in the U.S. and away from the war weary years of the past. In other words, tiny Lincoln Park was becoming a melting pot.

Such social transitions, during a decade known as 'The Roaring Twenties', with Prohibition and the Jazz Age in full swing, did not necessarily go down easily. Most noticeably, the Ku Klux Klan made major inroads in the north during the 1920s – including Lincoln Park – due chiefly to the increasingly diverse population in the industrial north and a fear of foreign influence, and the rise of Catholicism, the religion of many of the immigrants. The Klan's motto of "One Hundred Percent Americanism" (in reality, white-Protestant-ism) struck a chord with many who had trouble accepting the myriad social changes of the 1920s. Through a series of scandals and embarrassments, the Klan lost most of its popularity and influence in the region by the end of 1925. Diversity - never an easy sell - was here to stay.

As we look to celebrate our 90 years as a city, we also must celebrate what and who made this city, a richly ethnically-diverse community that included many new Americans who embraced their adopted country.

As a way to celebrate this history, **the historical museum is initiating a "WHO Is Lincoln Park?" photo gallery.** We are asking city residents to bring in copies of photographs of themselves, their families, family businesses, to place on an exhibit board in the main room of the museum. The photos do not need to be identified, but must be of current or past residents of our city. The accumulated photos will remain a part of our permanent exhibit. We think this is a good way to show ourselves and the world that we are proud to turn 90.

## MC5 50 Year Celebration



The 'MC5' performing at Olympia Stadium April 7, 1969 (photo courtesy of Robert Matheu)

**Plans for the MC5 50 year anniversary** tribute weekend in July continue to move forward. Much work has been completed and much yet to do. Posters and flyers, with art work by noted Detroit artist Carl Lundgren, will be out in May to help publicize the event. Surviving band members Dennis "Machine Gun" Thompson and Wayne Kramer have been invited to attend as have the families of Rob Tyner, Fred "Sonic" Smith, and Michael Davis. The band will receive long due recognition for their Lincoln Park roots and their contributions to America's rock 'n roll legacy. Testimonials and special guests are part of the weekend celebration.

Saturday, July 11 at 7:00p.m. is the public opening for the MC5 exhibit at the historical museum. (The exhibit runs through Labor Day). On Sunday afternoon, July 12 from 2pm to 6pm is the Tribute Concert at the Band Shell in Memorial Park. The events are free to the public. Picnic baskets are encouraged on Sunday. Keep up with the event postings via Facebook, [www.facebook.com/MC5.Lincoln.Park](http://www.facebook.com/MC5.Lincoln.Park).

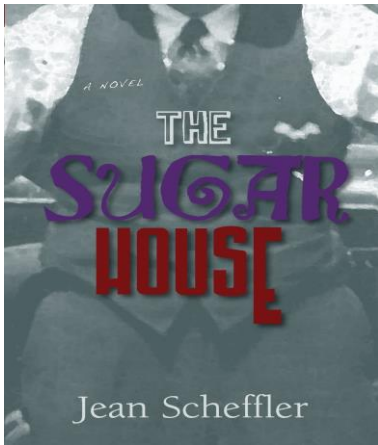
Major sponsors have already signed up to help with the celebration, including John A. Papalas, the Fort Street Brewery, Busen Appliance and Best Impressions Printing. Contributions from sponsors are still being accepted to defray the costs associated with putting on the celebration and for installing a permanent MC5 exhibit. Sponsors who sign up now will receive recognition in the event program, on our FB page, and will be noted on the on-site placard. Volunteers are also needed to help on the weekend.

Following the close of the special exhibit on Labor Day, September 7, a permanent MC5 exhibit will be installed. Please contact us at [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com) or 313-386-3137 for more information.

[Youtube has many clips of MC5 performances; this link will get you to the entire *High Times* studio-recorded album, The 5's third album, released in 1971: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esIC54ezrHM>, --- true home-grown rock 'n roll!]

## Special Book-Signing Event

On Wednesday, June 3 at 7:00 P.M. , Grosse Ile author Jean Scheffler will appear at the museum to discuss and sign copies of her critically-acclaimed book, "The Sugar House." The book resulted from Jean following her dream to "tell a story that needs to be told for the next generation". Loosely based on events from her



grandfather's life, she hopes to excite young readers in a love for the city their ancestors helped build and help others reflect through their own passed down stories and memories. A gripping historical fiction that will transport you back in time to the Detroit of the 1920's - a world of speakeasies,

gangsters, auto barons, flappers, lawlessness and innovation. Joe, a young boy growing up in Detroit, navigates between his family's strong Polish traditions and the electric atmosphere of America's fastest growing city. Books will be available for purchase that evening at the cost of \$15.

### ~~~~~ Experience the 1920s

As we look back 90 years, one way to experience life in the 1920s in Detroit is to take advantage of the Detroit News Newsreels, produced at that time for regional theaters, including our own Lincoln Park Theater. You can view these original newsreels online at the following website (a part of the American Humanities Council's online offerings, and a real treasure trove of learning opportunities); click on "The Age", then on # 6, Detroit News newsreels

<http://americainclass.org/sources/becomingmodern/>

### A Funding Update

In March, the Historical Commission was notified by the Lincoln Park Downtown Development Authority that they have approved funding for the historical museum's operating budget, at \$17,000, for the fiscal year 2015-2016. This is terrific news, and we are extremely grateful to the DDA for their continued support in the coming year. Two of the museum's current projects for 2015 - the Heritage Plaza and the MC5 50 year anniversary tribute - are also expected to bring in funds to help with the future operations of the museum.

### *Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2015-16*

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| President        | Patricia Diaz Krause |
| Vice President   | Dolores Walker       |
| Secretary        | Grace Wangbickler    |
| Treasurer        | Jim Nelson           |
| Membership Chair | Alyce Riggs          |
| Trustee          | Muriel Lobb          |
| Trustee          | Mary Meyer           |
| Trustee          | Bea Partridge        |

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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 email us at [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com).

Museum Curator: Jeff Day

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

## Band Shell Improvements

Beginning in February the city sought to raise funds for repair and renovations to the Memorial Park Band Shell, built sixty years ago in 1955. The band shell, home of many successful, crowd-pleasing summer music series in past years, has been badly in need of work for several years now. The work is being accomplished thorough a crowdfunding campaign known as 'Patronicity'; the Michigan Economic Development Corporation provides matching funds for community projects that fit its guidelines, which the band shell project did. City Management Intern Giles Tucker is credited with developing the campaign and managed to successfully raise the funds needed for the Patronicity campaign to reach its goal and for the project to become reality. Money was needed to repair the aging electrical system, fix masonry and alleviate water damage. Funds will also provide installation of downspouts, and gutters, as well as a fresh paint job. We look forward to seeing a "new improved" band shell this summer when most of the work is expected to be completed; we should see much improvement by the time of the MC5 celebration in July.

### ~~~~~ **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

Many of you have noticed that the street clock in front of the museum is not currently operating. We are waiting on parts to fix the clock and are hoping to have it up and running again soon.

## “The Motor City 5 - MC5”

**The United States of America** is a country whose very existence is founded upon and steeped in a rich tradition of rebellion and in your face, non-conformist ideals. Each generation and each culture proudly claims and reveres its own historic and pivotal icons. America in the 1960's gave birth to a new sort of street-wise yet idealistic long-haired youth sub-culture whose principles and high-energy means of spreading their creed of togetherness, equality, and rock 'n' roll continue to resonate with many generations of people around the world. The Motor City 5, the MC5 for short, launched their total assault on the world in 1965 from the otherwise humble, blue collar town of Lincoln Park, Michigan. Selecting the cool moniker because they thought it sounded like a Detroit make and model, The MC5 caught the green light at the corner of Fort and Southfield, then mashed the pedal to floor and rode their rock and roll express to major label record deals, critical acclaim, world-wide tours and an ever-growing legacy and cultural relevancy that has outlived even the band itself.

Consisting of Rob Tyner[Derminer] on lead vocals, Fred "Sonic" Smith and Wayne Kramer[Kambes] on dueling lead guitars, Dennis "Machine Gun" Thompson[Tomich] on drums and Michael Davis on bass guitar, the MC5 eventually recorded three albums and released several collector item 45 rpm vinyl record singles. Their iconic, self-professed mantra of a hit single "Kick Out The Jams," their albums on both Atlantic and Elektra, and a devastating live show born at Russ Gibb's famed Grande Ballroom, where they regularly shared the bill with local legends Alice Cooper, Ted Nugent and the Amboy Dukes, Iggy and the Stooges, and other Detroit-bred bands, together helped land The 5 on tours and concert bills with international rock royalty including The Jimi Hendrix Experience, Big Brother and The Holding Company, Cream, The Yardbirds, and The Mothers of Invention. Moreover, high-profile gigs like their legendary performance in the face of, or perhaps in tandem with, a rioting mob at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago helped catapult the band's high intensity image and aggressive political stance into the international consciousness. Subsequent European tours by the MC5 helped plant the seeds of high energy rebellion that would manifest as the English punk scene of the mid 1970's.

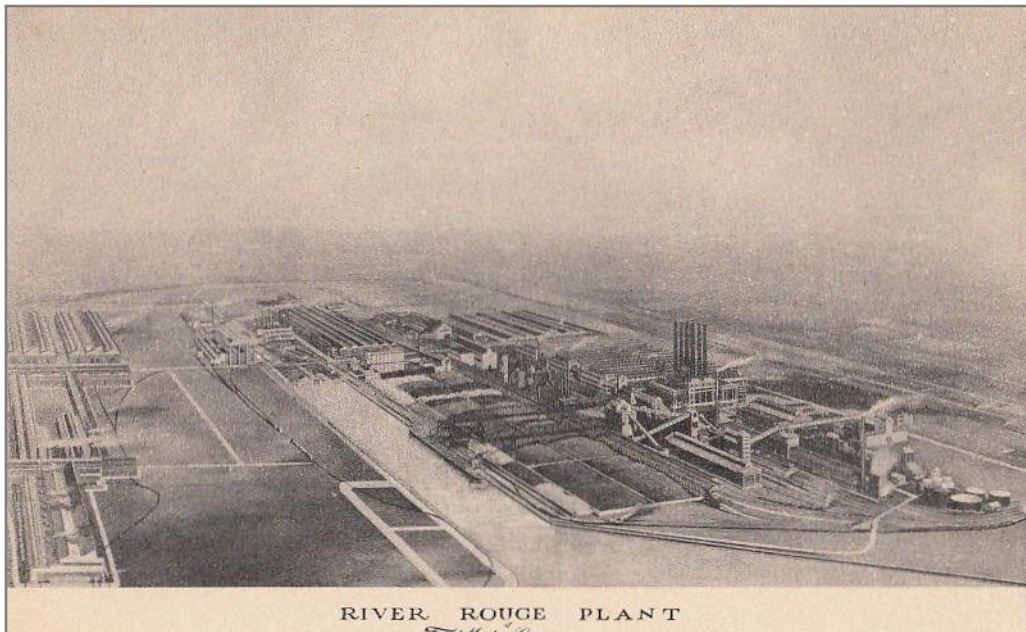
Despite the MC5's formal dissolution in 1973, their music and legacy never really left the face of popular music or popular culture. From the U.K.'s The Damned, to metal gods Motorhead, to mid-'70's N.Y.C.'s C.B.G.B. mainstays The Dictators, to '90's alt-rock stars Rage Against The Machine and Stone Temple Pilots, to The Gories and the garage bashers of the 2000's The White Stripes, the Lincoln Park local's songs, riffs and attitude can be heard and felt on the airwaves, in movies, Guitar Hero video games and inside the earbuds of angst-infused and idealistic youth who believe in the power of an idea and in the right **to kick out their jams** by any means necessary.



The MC5 pictured in Wayne's back yard, 1965 (photo courtesy of Emil Bacilla)  
L to R: Rob Tyner, Wayne Kramer, Dennis Thompson, Michael Davis, and Fred Smith

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

The City of Lincoln Park Celebrates 90 Years ≈ 1925-2015



RIVER ROUGE PLANT  
*Southfield, Michigan*

A period postcard showing the developing Ford Rouge plant as it appeared in 1925. Located just three miles up Fort Street from Lincoln Park, "The Rouge", as it came to be called, grew in size and work force throughout the 1920s; the industrial complex is credited with being the single most important cause of Lincoln Park's rapid development. The auto factory would soon become the largest industrial employer in the world.