



# Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

Lori Heitman, **President**  
Kim McCollum, **Vice President**  
Julie Stanley, **Secretary**  
Barb Venturi, **Treasurer**

**Board of Directors:**  
Peggy Bogenschutz Dan Botts  
Susan Cribb Robert Frank  
Joyce Dever

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## President's Letter

We are excited to announce that the Lake Villa Historical Society and Museum is now open to the public! We are open on Thursdays from 1:30-4:30p.m. and by appointment. If you are interested in helping in the museum, please stop by for more details.

Have you marked your calendar for August 17th? We will be gathering in Lehmann Park for elections at 1pm before boarding the shuttle bus that will take us to Angola Cemetery. Join us to learn more about the cemetery and perhaps, meet some of the residents there. Following the program we will return to the park for watermelon and social time.



Lori is pictured here working on a display honoring Lake Villa's first responders. She is holding a trophy she and her team earned in the 1993 water fights at Lake Villa Days.

Teammates were Robin Gesinski, Debbie Andrews, Lisa Rapp and Cindy Grinde.

The museum is also working on Breakfast with Santa! We are so excited it is returning this

year! The event will be held the first weekend in December at Lehmann Mansion. Keep an eye out on Facebook and our website ([www.lakevillahistory.org](http://www.lakevillahistory.org)) for ticketing and more information about the event.

Looking forward to SEEING everyone at our upcoming events!

Lori Heitman  
President

## Board of Directors Elections

Elections for the Lake Villa Historical Society and Museum's Board of Directors will take place on Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Lehmann Park prior to the Angola Cemetery Walk. Directors serve for a three-year term. Because there were no meetings last year, two groups will be on the ballot.

For terms expiring in 2023:

- Dan Botts
- Lori Heitman
- Kim McCollum

For terms expiring in 2024:

- Joyce Dever
- Greg Kos
- Julie Stanley

Board meetings are held at 223 Lake, Lake Villa at 5:00pm on the Monday before general membership meetings on the third Tuesday of most months. The Board is responsible for all aspects of operating the museum, program planning, fund raising, maintenance, communication and accessioning donations.

### Calendar of Coming Events

Lake Villa Historical Society is pleased to once again be offering programs highlighting our community's rich history. Programs, held the third Tuesday of most months, are free and open to everyone! Please join us!

#### Tuesday, August 17th at 1:00pm Angola Cemetery Walk



Plan to gather at Lehmann Park at 1:00pm to *resurrect* our in-person meetings. Members will fill out ballots for Board of Directors. Due to limited parking at the cemetery, everyone will ride a shuttle bus to Angola Cemetery. Once there, learn the history of this burying ground that dates back over 180 years to 1840. Learn about the caretakers and benefactors and *perhaps be visited by* certain Lake Villa notable citizens at rest in Angola Cemetery! Some walking will be in grassy, uneven areas. There will be cold water available. After arriving back at Lehmann Park, cold watermelon will be waiting for us to share as we enjoy some social time together. Don't miss this fascinating glimpse into the history of Lake Villa as told from *beyond the grave!*

#### Tuesday, September 21st at 7:00pm West Miltmore History

Rob Frank will give a history of our neighbors, West Miltmore. Meet at the Lake Villa Historical Society and Museum at 223 Lake in

Lake Villa for the program followed by refreshments, social time and a chance to check out the exhibits in the museum.

#### Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00pm Shadow Hunters of Lake Villa

Getting into the Halloween spirit will be easy after attending the October program. Shadow Hunters is a group devoted to paranormal investigations and events. Based out of Lake Villa but with members throughout the Midwest, they will present information about the basics of ghost hunting, equipment used and local places of interest. Join us at the Historical Society and Museum for an out-of-this-world experience.

#### Breakfast with Santa



Mark your calendar for December 4 & 5 because Breakfast with Santa is back! Tickets will go on sale this fall. The link will be available on our website and Facebook page (see above). Bring your family for pancakes, entertainment, a craft and, of course, a visit with Santa. Held at the beautifully decorated Lehmann Mansion, there will be plenty of opportunities for festive family photos.

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Lions Club members working for the community's people with visual impairments in 1971.



THE GOOD GUYS—Two of the "good guys" of Lake Villa Township Lions Club, Larry Oswald, a Gold Key graduate, and John J. Gandy, vice president, are shown with boxes of "good guys" candy. They, along with other members, are shown in the background, giving away Candy Day candy to the visually handicapped. For a Lions candy roll, see Lions Candy Day, Dec. 4-5, at the "good guys" of our town, will be having street corners and public buildings giving away Candy Day, for (center) the visually handicapped.

**Our Sympathy to:**

The family of John Delisi, age 85, who passed away on June 22, 2021. He and his wife Joan have been LVHS members for many years. John and Joan could always be counted on to provide refreshments for programs.

**Thank you to:**

Painter Gene Chumbley, pictured here with a summer helper, Emily, for donating his time and expertise to paint the front trim of the Lake Villa Historical Society and Museum. This big job was completed just in time to reopen. It looks great!

Dave Bogenschutz for power washing the building.

Dan Botts and Glenn McCollum for weed control, especially in the parking lot and around the building.

**Recent Donations:**

--Ed Lehmann for photographs of the Lake Villa Hotel.

--Bob Schenk for a framed Charles Harbaugh Lumber advertising silhouette picture, Lake Villa School memorabilia and an abstract of title.

--Janet Eppers for a 1955 Plat Book and Rural Directory.

**Lehmann Mansion Tours**

Summer in Lake Villa got back to a pre-pandemic tradition of gathering in area parks each week for Music in the Park. LVHS was pleased to once again offer tours of Lehmann Mansion. Thanks to Rob & Shawn Frank, Dan Botts and Greg Kos for making this possible.

**The Museum is OPEN!**

June 17<sup>th</sup> was the day the volunteers who keep LVHS running had been waiting to see. The museum reopened to the public!



Dan Botts had the honor of flipping the sign to "OPEN" to officially welcome Lake Villa history lovers back! Among the first visitors were Ashley, Tom and Logan O'Brien of Oak Knoll Drive in Lake Villa. They enjoyed learning more about their hometown through the displays. Come visit us Thursday afternoons from 1:30 – 4:30.

Alyce Brownlee: Then & Now

Alyce Shea Brownlee wears many hats! This summer, Alyce is beaming since Miss Lake County Fair Queen 2017, Grace Lynn Keller, (originally from Island Lake) now reigns as Miss Iowa 2021, and will be participating in the Miss America Pageant in Connecticut in December. This along with the accomplishments of other former Fair Queens Alyce has worked with is “something you think would only happen in your dreams, but to actually happen in real life is, as they say, over the moon and back”.



Lake Villa Pageant Director since 1986, Alyce Brownlee is also known as “Queen Mom” because of her guidance, support and affection for all her contestants and queens.

Alyce also serves as the volunteer director of the Lake County Fair Pageant Committee where her duties include preparing the reigning queen for her year of service and the possible title of State Fair Queen.

Alyce’s great, great grandfather owned a prize-winning farm in Newport Township in the mid-1840s, so why wouldn’t she carry on the agricultural roots from her family by being involved in Lake County regarding the education and information of agriculture and the importance of county fairs?

In the mid 1950’s, Alyce came to Lake Villa to instruct the Kadettes Drill Team sponsored by the Lake Villa Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Alyce was employed by the Village of Lake Villa in 1992 and was elected Village Clerk in 1993. She happily served in that capacity for four terms.

History on the Table

It’s canning season and here are pickled delights not likely to be found at your local grocer! Recipes are from the SOUVENIR Cook Book, **1903**, COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY THE LADIES OF LAKE VILLA, ILL.

SPICED GOOSEBERRIES

Six pounds fruit, five pounds sugar, one quarter teaspoon mixed spices; boil until thick; will keep in glasses like jelly; sour apples prepared in the same way are fine--Mrs. R.L. Strang, Millburn, Ill

PEACH PICKLES

For six pounds of fruit, use three of sugar, about five dozen cloves and a pint of vinegar; into each peach stick two cloves; have the syrup hot and boil the fruit till tender—Mrs. C.B. Hamlin

PICALILLIE

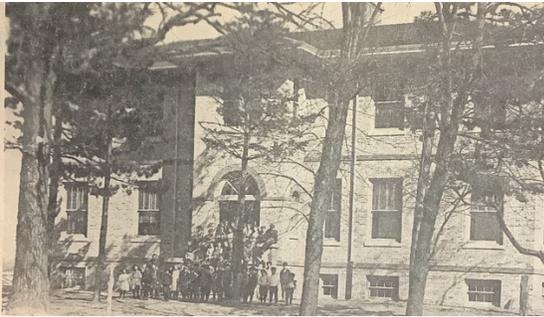
One peck green tomatoes, two cabbages, four green peppers; grind together and put one cup of salt over them; let stand overnight; then drain and cover with vinegar and boil; when boiled drain again and cover once more with vinegar; add two pounds of brown sugar, two tablespoons of mustard, two of allspice and two of cloves; when it boils it is ready to use; onions may be used if desired—Jessie Harris Thom  
*Just curious . . . has anyone ever tasted this??*

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<b>GRAND 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION</b>		
<b>Lake Villa, Illinois</b>		
Lehman's Grove		
<b>MONDAY JULY 5 '09</b>		
<small>Under the Auspices of the Lake Villa Business Men</small>		
<b>AMUSEMENTS OF ALL KINDS</b> <small>Sack Races, Running Races, Etc. Etc.</small>		
<b>TWO BALL GAMES</b>		
<small>Two Games of Ball Between Some of the Strongest Teams of this Part of the Country, One in the Forenoon and One in the Afternoon, will be a feature of the Day's Entertainment.</small>		
<b>THE FORT DEARBORN BAND WILL FURNISH MUSIC</b>		
<small>During the Entire Day</small>		
Hon. J. J. Corbin <small>of Chicago</small>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>	Hon. A. K. Stearns <small>of Waukegan</small>
<small>And Other Prominent Speakers will Address the Gathering</small>		
<b>DANCING AFTERNOON AND EVENING</b>		
<b>LOOK FOR PROGRAMS LATER</b>		
<b>FIREWORKS IN THE EVENING</b>		

### Page from the Past: Pleviak School

While not the first school in Lake Villa, Joseph J. Pleviak School has been a fixture in Lake Villa since it first opened in January 1910 as Central School. The land, at the northwest corner of Route 132 and Route 83, was purchased on September 10, 1909, from the Lehmann family. Constructed as a 2-story brick building, it contained a library and four classrooms. It was often commonly called Lake Villa School.



The entire student body of Central School  
Circa 1911

Over the years, the school experienced many additions:

- 1939—gymnasium addition
- 1951—eight classrooms, washrooms for boys and girls, and a multi-purpose room
- 1953—seven classrooms and an office
- 1979—ten classrooms
- 1993—six classrooms, offices, washrooms for boys and girls, multi-purpose room



Ben Cribb and classmates in front of Central School circa 1915

Other notable dates and events in the school's history include:

On January 17, 1954, a ceremony held at Lake Villa School celebrated the creation of Lake Villa Community Consolidated School District #41.

In 1973, Central School was officially re-named Joseph J. Pleviak School. Mr. Pleviak was a math and history teacher in District #41 from 1954 to 1970.

Over three days in July 1978, the original Central School was demolished. Many community members picked up a brick as a souvenir leading Peter J. Palombi, superintendent, to reflect, "There was more sentiment and nostalgia connected with the old school than I expected."

District #41 discontinued use of Pleviak Elementary School in 2015. At that time, it served 484 students in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup>.

The building is currently housing kindergarten students from Round Lake Area Schools.



The bell from Central School was salvaged and is currently displayed at Peacock Camp.

LVHS has many artifacts from Lake Villa schools. Stop by and check them out!

*Credits: Many of the facts and figures in this article were from the book Lake Villa Then and Now: Centennial History Of Lake Villa, Illinois. The remainder of information is from LVHS files.*

**Fifty Years Ago: 1971**

Summer in 1971 was a busy time in Lake Villa. Here is a bit of what happened, as reported in the Lake Villa Record.

## Lake Villa Days Fun Scheduled

*This article read in part:*

The Lake Villa Volunteer Fire Dept. will present its annual Lake Villa Days celebration August 19 through August 22.

The festivities will begin with fire department water fights a 7 p.m. Thursday at Lake Villa Fire Department's water fight court in Lehmann Park.

There will be water fights Friday and Saturday nights pitting the fire departments from the different communities around the county.

The water fight tournament will feature a women's water fight on Sunday afternoon and a businessmen's water fight. Following these will be the final event of the firemen's water fights, in which a championship water fight team will be awarded a trophy.

Aside from the water fights, the volunteer firemen will present a full scale carnival with rides and carnival games and a food booth. Prizes of all types will be awarded.

ALL THE PROCEEDS of Lake Villa Days celebrations will go to the Lake Villa Volunteer Fire Dept. to help buy new fire fighting equipment.

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ONE POINT LANDING – What may on first glance look like a Ron Santo patented slide over water actually is Danny Larsen, jumping, and Randy Larsen, both of Lindenhurst, trying to stay cool on a hot summer day.

## Lake Villa Days Games Closed

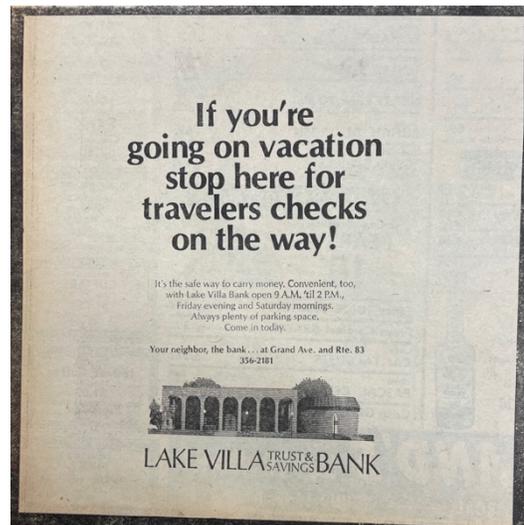
*This article reads in part:*

In his continuing drive to eliminate gambling games at fairs and festivals in Lake Country, Lake County State's Atty. Jack Hoogasian ordered the closing down of "gambling-type" games at the Lake Villa Days on August 20.

Lake county Sheriff's deputies were sent to Lehmann Park on the request of Hoogasian. Sheriff Orville (Pat) Clavey said "basically anything that was gambling was closed down."

Among the games reportedly closed down were bingo, roli-poli in which players pay 25 cents for numbered dice and collect quarters if a thrown ball lands on a held number and another game in which players placed dime bets on a pinwheel featuring playing cards.

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*Do you remember needing traveler's checks before going on vacation?*

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## Lake Villa Board Again Complains To Soo Railroad

*This article reads in part:*

Lake Villa village officials again plan to complain to the Soo Line Railroad following a half an hour delay last Friday at the Grand Ave. crossing that prevented a rescue squad member from responding to a call.

Fun Facts and Trivia

*(reprinted from the Antioch News, Thursday morning, October 3, 1889)*

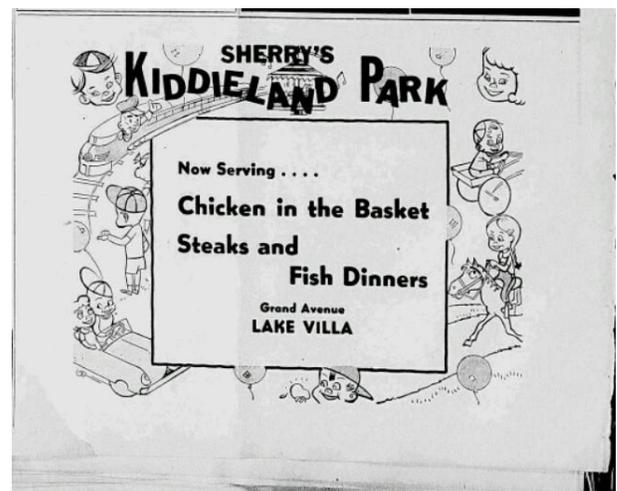
Strayed or Stolen: From the Beatty Farm, near Lake Villa, Saturday Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, two horses, one a white horse, about 12 hands high, sort of hollow back and badly knee sprung. The other a sorrel, about 16 hands high, lame in the right forward foot. Any person knowing of their whereabouts will confer a favor by addressing E.J. Lehmann, Lake Villa, Illinois.

There will be a meeting of Lake Villa property owners and all interested persons at Chinn's Hall Monday evening October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm for the purpose of more thoroughly discussing the means of protection in case of fire. All persons should attend the meeting! Let there be full attendance in order that something may be done, before a disastrous fire awakens the people to their utter helplessness.

(Lake Villa locals):

- Mrs. Cribb entertained friends from the city last week.
- Mr. Webb moved his family from Antioch to their new abode in Lake Villa.
- The many friends of Mr. Kerr's family will be pleased to learn that the old gentleman is some better.
- Mr. Geo Wright's hotel is still open and they are entertaining hunters and a few stray fishermen.
- Mr. Martin of Chicago, with his family is spending the beautiful autumn days at his summer resort, the White Farm, in Lake Villa. *(this is currently the 1700 block of Grand Ave. in Lindenhurst)*
- Strang & Webb are settled in their new store and present as fine as appearance as any store this side of Chicago. They have a fine line of dry goods and groceries which they are selling as cheap (sic) as possible.

Does anyone remember Kiddieland?



From Our Collection

This time capsule was made by students and staff of Pleviak Elementary School.



It was completed the last day of District #41 student attendance in the school, June 9, 2014.

*Lake Villa Historical Society  
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