



Lake Villa Historical Society's Vintage Views

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

LVHS has had a busy summer so far. LVHS Board Members have hosted 3rd Saturday Market in June and July and Robert Frank has enlightened many with tours of Lehmann Mansion at the Wednesday evening Concerts in the Park series.

Our June meeting was a field trip to the Tir Na Nog Estate (formerly the Haerther Estate) on Deep Lake in Lake Villa where we hosted an ice cream social for almost 60 visitors. Thanks to Peggy Murphy for giving our group a tour of her beautiful home and sharing the history and some of her childhood memories of the property. One of the interesting things we learned was that there was once an ice harvesting business located on the property. The weather was perfect, and everyone enjoyed the afternoon.



Lori Heitman and Kim McCollum scoop ice cream on a beautiful day at Tir Na Nog. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Lori Heitman
President

Be sure to check out the upcoming programs listed in the Calendar of Coming Events.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary Bruckner, Lindenhurst
Karen and Dan Lincoln, Lake Villa
Bob and Sue Schenk, Antioch

OUR SYMPATHY TO

The family of LVHS member Barbara Ann (nee Jecevicus-Buchta) Goetzelman who passed away May 6, 2019.

RECENT DONATIONS

THANKS TO the Lake Villa District Library for generously donating many historically relevant items to LVHS in preparation for the move to their new facility. It includes items from high school yearbooks to microfilmed newspapers to historical documents and books, which will be added to the museum's collection . . . plus much, much more. In addition they are also donating shelving and items to help with additional storage needs. In the meantime, volunteers are busy organizing and inventorying "new" items, cleaning closets, adding shelves, etc. and making space for our newly expanded archives!



Palombi Middle School Junior Honor Society President, Rachel Garich and her mom Linda showing some of the newspapers they helped to sort and inventory while volunteering at LVHS this summer.

BIG THANK YOU'S

Dorothy Furman donated two six foot display cases (delivered by her granddaughters Briana and Corrina) which will have to remain empty in the meeting room until all of our reorganization is complete.

Mike and Debbie Effinger for a laminator and film.

Ray Syverson of the Ela Township Historical Society and Museum for donating a microfiche reader.

Suzanne's Picture Framing for donation of a small and beautiful curio box.

Dave and Peggy Bogenschutz for generously purchasing a badly needed new back door.

Elaine Teltz for paying for the speedy installation of the door by Danny Vos.

Volunteers are the driving force behind LVHS. A special thank you to these new volunteers who have helped out in the last 3 months: Tony Demma for research assistance as well as physical labor; Ardeen Harris; Rachel & Linda Garich and friend Mariah Lieberman for help with inventory of new items. You are appreciated!

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Membership Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month except January and July. Business meetings convene at 6:30 pm followed by a program at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. LVHS Board meetings are held on the Monday preceding membership meetings.

Saturday, August 17 & Saturday, Sept. 21: 3rd Saturday Market

Come on out to the Lake Villa train station parking lot from 10 am – 3 pm for the final two 3rd Saturday Markets of the 2019 season. A variety of vendors will be available including a produce stand to support the Lake Villa Township food pantry.



Tuesday, August 20: Nielsen Enterprises

Nielsen Enterprises is generously hosting our August meeting at the Nielsen Enterprises Marine Center located at 829 N. Milwaukee Ave, Lake Villa. Join us to hear the story of how the Nielsen family's love of snowmobiles and motorcycles evolved into a thriving Lake Villa business 50 years ago!



Tuesday, September 17: Lake Villa VFW

It's a field trip to the Lake Villa VFW Post 4308 located at 130 E. Grand Avenue to learn about the history of the VFW and their current projects. Commander George Simons and VFW Auxiliary President Anne Simons will be our hosts and presenters.

Tuesday, October 15: Those Were The Days

What an exciting event this will be! Not only will *Those Were The Days Radio Players* present an oldtime radio program, it will be held at the NEW Lake Villa District Library at 140 N. Munn Road! Come ready for a spine tingling Halloween themed program!

Tuesday, November 19: The Lehmann Family of Lake Villa

Brooke Meadowcroft, a student at Grayslake North High School used the resources available at LVHS to research the Lehmann family for a History Fair competition. For our November meeting she will share her media presentation titled *The Lehmann Family: The Uphill Battle to Success and Triumph*. Join us at LVHS, 223 Lake Avenue, Lake Villa, to learn about this fascinating family that shaped our town.

Sunday, December 8: Breakfast With Santa

Circle it on your calendar and Save the Date for our annual Breakfast with Santa at Lehmann Mansion. Details and ticket sales information will be available in the next issue of Vintage Views and on the LVHS Facebook Page.

Calendar of Coming Events, continued.

Tuesday, December 17: Holiday Traditions and Cookie Walk

Come to the December meeting and share a favorite holiday tradition, ornament or story from holidays past. There will also be a Cookie Walk, so you are encouraged to bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share, along with the recipe. Each person in attendance will get a small bag to fill with cookies to take home whether or not you were able to bake some to bring. The recipes will be compiled and distributed to those who would like them.

MEETING MOMENTS



Objects used to tell the stories of wonderful women in our lives.

The May meeting featured the amazing women who helped shape the lives of our members and guests. Those present shared stories of mothers, grandmothers and aunts. We heard about life as a military family moving around the country, life on the farm, and life in the city. There were two generations of one family who wrote poetry for their daughter and granddaughter. Many brought beautiful pictures to go with their stories. A rooster lamp on a clapper made by one mom turned on and off throughout the evening as Mom said “hello” from her home in heaven. Thanks to Sue Cribb, daughter of the “cookie lady” for a variety of delicious homemade cookies made from her mother’s recipes.

A highlight of the summer for LVHS was our June field trip and ice cream social at Tir Na Nog Country Estate. Over 50 members and guests enjoyed meeting owner Peggy Murphy and touring the house and grounds of this historic estate built in the 1920s.



Originally built by Mildred Peacock Haerther and her husband William, the estate is on 80 acres overlooking Deep Lake.



Guests relaxing on the grounds of Tir Na Nog following a tour of the house and grounds.

AROUND THE ALLIANCE

Joyce Dever and Sue Cribb represented LVHS at the quarterly meeting of the Lake County Historical Alliance on July 24. Hosted by the Historic Millburn Community Association, members toured Martin’s General Store Museum then enjoyed a visit to Lisa and Rick Moser’s Tumbledown Farm. This is the historic “Jake” Strang House, circa 1880, and one of 17 buildings in Millburn that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Lunch and updates from many of the historical societies in Lake County rounded out the event.

Items on display at Martin’s General Store in Historic Millburn



PAGE FROM THE PAST

In 1969 the Lake Villa area welcomed two new educational facilities: Lake Villa Intermediate School and the College of Lake County located in Grayslake.

It was Monday September 8, 1969, when the doors opened for the new school year in Lake Villa District 41. The late starting date for the new school year was caused by a delay in sewer hook up for the brand new Lake Villa Intermediate School located on McKinley Ave. They were minus some of the furniture and a gym floor, plus shelving for the library. Sixteen teachers and 530 students occupied what would have been 6th, 7th and 8th grades if the non-graded system of classification were not used. Lake Villa Intermediate School was the first school in the nation to open with revolving classrooms. "Boy that new school is really something" was the most often quoted statement of the children attending the new school, according to the Lake Villa Record.

Students below sixth grade attended school at either B.J. Hooper School in Lindenhurst or the Central School in Lake Villa.

In 1973 Central School was dedicated as Joseph J. Pleviak School and 1995 Intermediate School was dedicated as Peter J. Palombi School. District 41 currently operates four schools: Peter J. Palombi for 7-8 grades and Pre-K through 6th at B. J. Hooper, Olive C. Martin and William L. Thompson.



Volunteer workers try and catalogue books for new Lake Villa school, as administrators are setting up schedules. Pictured are from left, Mrs. Sherwood and Tanya Millsop.

College of Lake County, the only community college within Lake County, IL is located at 19531 W. Washington St. Grayslake, IL



A referendum passed in October of 1967 to establish the CLC community college district. A seven member board of trustees was elected in December from 41 possible candidates. 181 acres of land was donated for the Grayslake Campus by A. Harold Anderson and Paul W. Brandel. Dr. Richard G. Erzen was named the first president and served until 1978. It was designed to meet the needs of students from 12 area high schools, including Lake Villa graduates of Antioch, Grant, Grayslake and Warren.

On September 25, 1969, the first classes were held on the Grayslake Campus with an enrollment of 2360 students, taking 224 courses taught by 80 full time instructors. Tuition was \$7 per semester hour (Fall of 2019 the cost per credit hour is \$122). The six building pre-fabricated complex was constructed for approximately \$1 million.

In 1974, CLC received its first five-year accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Fall semester enrollment was 6,438 students with a \$5.74 million budget.

The College of Lake County currently serves 15,410 students (28% of students are full-time). The college's student-teacher ratio of 35:1 is same as the state community college average of 35:1.

HISTORY ON THE TABLE

Thinking greens from the garden and summer salads, such as:

**CABBAGE SALAD****Mrs. G. M. Pierce***Vegetable Mixture:*

1 head cabbage 1 c. grated carrot
 1 medium onion 1 c. grated green pepper
 or 1/3c fresh green onions, chopped

Dressing:

1 T. sugar 1 tsp. dry mustard
 1 tsp. celery seed ½ c. vinegar
 1 tsp. salt ½ c. salad oil

Sprinkle a scant cup of sugar over vegetable mixture. Mix dressing ingredients and heat to boiling. Pour over cabbage mixture and mix. Place in refrigerator until ready to serve.

Will keep a long time.

p. 6 in "TREASURED RECEIPES (sic) Lake Villa Memorial Auxiliary To Post 4308"

Cookbook, Lake Villa, Illinois (Date Unknown)

SUMMER SALAD**Jessie Wagstrom**

1 head lettuce
 1 ½ c. Hellman's Mayonnaise
 ½ lb. bacon, fried crisp
 3 T. sugar
 1 small head cauliflower
 Parmesan cheese
 1 red onion

Break lettuce in small pieces and place in 9 x 13" glass dish. Crumble bacon over lettuce. Thinly slice cauliflower over bacon. Thinly slice red onion and separate into rings. Put on top of cauliflower. Mix mayo and sugar and spread over onion. Sprinkle top with Parmesan cheese. Seal with saran wrap and refrigerate overnight.

p.8 "What's Cooking at Good Shepherd"

Cookbook; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lake Villa, Illinois (1984)

"DRESS CODES LIMIT STUDENTS' FOLLIES"

As new schools were opening for Lake Villa students, area high schools were in the news for dress codes and grooming guidelines as indicated from the above Lake Villa Record headline from 1969.

"A.L. Dittman, superintendent of Antioch Community High School, explains their situation: Parents are called if students do not meet the rules of the code. If there is no cooperation the student is suspended until he conforms with the set code.... If a dress length is too short or unacceptable the wearer is given a wrap-around dress, to be worn to get her through the day."

Other area schools had requirements such as:

- Boys' hair should not cover the eyebrows, ears or collar of a dress shirt while the boy is standing.
- Sideburns may be as long as the bottom of the ear lobe and no longer than one-eighth of an inch from the side of the head, cut straight across and no wider than one inch.
- High heels, dangling earrings and excessive make-up are unsuitable for a young lady.
- Jeans, shorts and slacks on girls are apparel for a picnic, not school.
- "Since boys are not on a western ranch or building bridges in South America, cowboy boots, engineer boots, levis and jeans are not acceptable attire for school."



Charles Laine of Lindenhurst was suspended from opening day at Antioch Community High School due to hair too long and sideburns that failed to conform with school code. He returned to school following a temporary court order barring the school board from meeting to consider his expulsion.

LAKELAND AUTOBODY

By Kim MCCollum

What happened in 1969? Woodstock! Neil Armstrong walks on the Moon! Charles Manson makes headlines...and Jim Ratajczyk opens Lakeland Auto Body in Lake Villa! 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of this family owned and operated business. A young Ratajczyk discovered he had a knack for auto repair after crashing a Corvette and waiting over 2 weeks for it to be fixed. He offered to help the repairman and found his calling. He began with Stardust Customs in Round Lake in the late 60's, but having landlord troubles he began searching for a new location. The property at 75 W. Grand became available, but Jim couldn't afford the rent. However, after promising to clean the place up (and paint his wife's car), a deal and Lake Villa history was made!

Grand Avenue back in the 60's was a crazy place! During the summer, traffic in and out of Sherwood and Cedar Lake Parks was heavy and constant. Jim remembers carloads of kids pulling into his lot on their way into Sherwood Park. He'd watch as kids hid themselves in the trunk to get in for free. But most of all, he remembers the flooding. Located on a naturally low area, Jim recalls too many times when his parking lot became yet another lake in Lake Villa. In fact, a WGN News crew once filmed him floating in a canoe in his parking lot!

Times were tough in the beginning for Jim and his family. He recalls many tense moments, wondering if they'd make ends meet. There often wasn't enough money to pay himself, but Jim believed in keeping his nose to the grindstone and working as hard as he could. He also believed in giving back to the community that supported him. Lakeland Auto Body has sponsored countless youth sports teams in the last 50 years. "Anyone who asked got a sponsorship", says Jim. This is evident by the walls of his office that are covered in framed sports team pictures, and a bulletin board overflowing with Thank You notes and cards. "Lake Villa has been very good to me, and I feel

I owe something back", explains Jim. No business succeeds for 50 years without some remarkable employees and Lakeland is no exception. Jim commends Tim Craig, his 30 year veteran body man, and Brad Rogge, who has run the shop for 20 years since the age of 18. Jim takes great pride in Lakeland being a family run business, and credits his wife of 41 years, Barbara, son Michael, and daughter Renee, for the long-term success Lakeland has experienced.



Picture (left to right): Aristotle Salmeron, Tim Craig, Renee Wagner, Barb Ratajczyk, Mike Ratajczyk, Jim Ratajczyk, Brad Rogge, Angel Venegas & Nala the dog. Not pictured: Cody Wachholder

Jim doesn't perform the physical work anymore, but is far from retired. He commands the operation from behind a desk piled high with paperwork, pictures and mementos from his life's work. Amid the flurry of activity within the office, Jim admits, "I'm having a hard time just handing over the keys to someone". He'll get some practice at retirement soon however, when he and Barbara take a well-deserved vacation, a two-week Alaskan cruise. This will be the longest time Jim has been away from the shop in 50 years!

When asked about the best time period of the last half-century, Jim quickly answered, "Right now!" The shop has grown from 4 stalls to 14, and the crew handles between 10 to 20 cars at a time. 50 years of referrals and repeat customers provide a steady workload. The office bulletin board stays full with grateful customers' notes and cards. Above all, Jim Ratajczyk wants to say Thank You to the people of Lake Villa and thank you to all the customers and friends he's made along the way. Here's to another 50 years Lakeland Auto Body!

LAKE VILLA DISTRICT LIBRARY

The original Lake Villa District Library opened in 1949 and operated out of the Village Hall. It was run by volunteers and the keys were kept down the street at the drugstore. In 1957, the library moved to 117 Cedar Ave, currently Studio Em. This was a tiny building with no public bathroom, no parking spaces, and seating for only 6 people. Materials were stored in the staff bathroom., including in the bathtub. In 1980, a new library building opened at 1001 Grand Ave. that was 10,750 square feet in size. In addition to books, patrons could check out paintings, 8-track tapes, puzzles, puppets, cassette players and film projectors. In 1996, a 20,000 sq. ft. addition was approved. During construction the library moved to the empty TJ Maxx store in Round Lake Beach. The now 30,000 sq. ft. facility opened in September 1998.



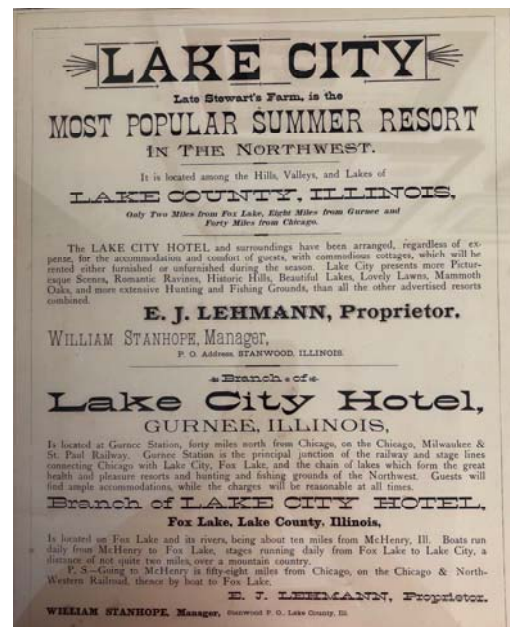
In 2015 the library board voted to build a new and larger library at a new location, 140 N. Munn Rd. Groundbreaking was 11-30-17 and this state-of-the-art 66,933 sq. ft. beauty opened August 5, 2019.



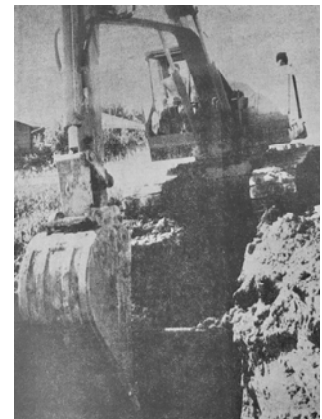
Fun times in 1969

DID YOU KNOW?

Our area was first settled by white men in 1835 but didn't have a name until 1882 when a post office was added. The residents wanted their settlement called "Lake City", but the government vetoed that because there was already a Lake City, IL. So, the name "Stanwood" was chosen. The residents again petitioned in 1884 for a name change. This resulted in the "Lake Villa" that today we know and love!

**THE MORE THINGS CHANGE....**

What do 2019 and 1969 have in common? Grand Ave. in Lindenhurst was difficult to navigate due to construction! Pictured here is sewer work in front of the United Methodist Church. Here's to progress!



WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC?

Can you identify this object from our museum collection? The answer will appear in the Fall 2019 *Vintage Views*. If you can't wait to find out, drop by the museum.

The last issue featured a cobbler's stand and lasts in small, medium and large. Now you know where to come the next time you need to make a new pair of shoes.

SWIMMING FOR ENDURANCE

From the 1969 Lake Villa Record: "Swimmers participating in Red Cross 50 mile swim...front row, Glenn Lynn, Bill Effinger; second row Rick Kubetz, Kim Kengott, Tammy Kengott, Jane Kengott; third row, Jim Dalgaard, Mike Effinger, and Dennis Pleviak."

*Lake Villa Historical Society
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