Summer 2019 Newsletter

LaGrange Area Historical Society

VIAL HOUSE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE
444 S. LAGRANGE ROAD
708-482-4248
www.lagrangehistory.org
info@lagrangehistory.org

PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Mark Truax

The community is an important part of the LaGrange Area Historical Society. Our collections, income, volunteers and sponsors come directly from our neighborhood residents. Our Research Center and museum exhibit space are here for all to use.

Sometimes though we tend to get lost and not seen by our own community. So, to get more visibility and let more of our area residents see what we can do for them, you will see more of the LaGrange Area Historical Society out and about town.

We are pleased to have sponsored a game table along with 1416 Restaurant that follows the theme of our new Exhibit “A Military Salute” (located in front of 1416). We will also be at the Farmers Market June 6th. To help celebrate the towns 140th anniversary. On June 11th, we are very excited to host a “Pop-up” Trivia night at 1416 restaurant located on Calendar Court.

Stop by and say “Hi” next time you see us around town. We love the

HISTORICAL SOCIETY "GEMS"

During the month of May (Older Americans Month), Aging Care Connections recognized older adults who generously give their time to make their community a great place to age well. The honorees are recognized as Community GEMS – older adults that Go the Extra Mile through volunteering to better their community. Three of our own, Mary Ann Sward, Ellie Carroll and Marilyn Faber were recognized and honored at a luncheon at the LaGrange Country Club.

Thank you ladies for all you do for the Historical Society. We cannot do it without you!

2019-2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Mark Truax, President
Sarah Parkes, Executive Director
Tina Stelmack, Vice President
Sandra Strauss, Treasurer
Pat Kozlowski, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS
Ellie Carroll
Marilyn Faber
Mary Ann Sward
Ed Thoele
Cynthia Urbain
Mary Novak Piette
Becca Rymsa
Kate Rymsa
Judy Burns
Sarah Carpenter
John Linesch

Summer Hours! Once again, we will be open on Saturdays for the summer months (June, July and August). This is a great opportunity to see HISTORY COME ALIVE, or check out your house file in our extensive archives or see our Military Salute exhibit. Saturday hours will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
HELP US GROW!

MEMBERSHIP AT THE PATRON LEVEL.

We're all moving so fast these days that it behooves us to stop a moment and treasure the place we call home. In LaGrange and LaGrange Park, we see the daily affirmation of true community. It is indeed this strong backdrop of family, friends, faith, education, culture and Midwestern values that mark our life here. It was and still is the bedrock upon which Franklin Cossitt founded the area. It's also a feeling of continuity and grounding that not everyone elsewhere can claim. And it deserves to be preserved and celebrated.

We have added a new membership designation which is at the Patron level and is $125 per year. We hope you will consider an upgrade to your current membership or perhaps you would like to purchase a membership for a good friend or family member. The income we receive from our membership provides for annual exterior maintenance and security at the Vial House as well as, acid free storage, website maintenance, centennial books, presentation speakers, and we are hoping to stretch our budget for a new exterior museum sign for the front of the Vial house. It takes just a moment to Help Us Grow and ensure all the benefits of membership! Go to our Facebook page to access the link to the membership tab. Or visit our website at www.lagrangehistory.org to join online. Out and about? You can drop us a note and your payment in our lock box at the 47th Street entry to our parking lot.

SALT CREEK CHAMBER WIND QUINTET

The Salt Creek Chamber Wind Quintet will give a recital at the La Grange Area Historical Society Sunday, July 21st at 3:00 p.m. This ensemble is part of the Salt Creek Chamber Orchestra based here in La Grange!

The program will last about an hour and will feature a variety of music composed by Charles Gounod, Percy Grainger, Eric Ewazen, Scott Joplin, John Philip Sousa and others. This event is free to the public. Come out and enjoy the music in a unique setting at the LaGrange Area Historical Society.

TOM'S GENEALOGY AT THE LIBRARY

“So, You Want to Climb Your Family Tree?”

Are you interested in researching your family history but don’t know where to begin?

Join us Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00 pm when local genealogist Tom Veeser will share suggestions on how to research your family tree. Topics will include how to gather family information, choosing genealogy software, researching on the internet, and using local resources such as libraries, historical societies, and public archives. To register go to: www.lagrangehistory.org

WE ARE IN THE GAME WITH LAGRANGE!

It’s all fun and games in La Grange this summer when 30 vibrant, hand-painted game tables are placed in front of local businesses.

Neighborhood businesses are sponsoring 32 x 32 wooden game tables and have secured local artists to paint them. LaGrange Area Historical Society has partnered with 1416 Restaurant in sponsoring the game table which can be viewed in front of 1416 restaurant. The volunteer artist, Lydia Hosek took inspiration from our Military Salute Exhibit with stars and stripes forever when painting our Game Table. Game Tables will be sold at a live auction on Saturday, Sept. 7 from the West End Arts Festival near the Stone Avenue METRA Station. Auction proceeds will benefit local non profits including the La Grange Pet Parade.

POP-UP TRIVIA NIGHT

Test Your Knowledge of LaGrange History!

On Tuesday, June 11th from 7:00 – 9:00 pm join us on the rooftop at 1416 Restaurant to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of La Grange. We will be hosting a Pop-Up Trivia night to test your knowledge of La Grange history!

What was the Flyin’ Lion? Is there a Nobel Prize winner from La Grange?

Guests will enjoy drink specials, plenty of trivia, and a silent auction. So let’s put on our thinking caps and celebrate the heritage of our wonderful community! Go to www.lagrangehistory.org to register.

Summer Hours! Once again, we will be open on Saturdays for the summer months (June, July and August). This is a great opportunity to check out your house file in our extensive archives or see our Military Salute exhibit. Saturday hours will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm.
AT THE VIAL HOUSE MUSEUM

WE'RE LOOKING FOR SUMMER VOLUNTEER INTERNS

Do you know a college student looking for a summer internship? The LaGrange Area Historical Society is looking for interns to assist with projects at the museum and help staff our extended Saturday hours for the weekends. This is a great opportunity to build experience for your resume. Projects may include: scanning historical documents, creating Home Portfolio books, interviewing local residents to capture local history. Contact Sarah at: sarah.parkes@lagrangehistory.org.

A MILITARY SALUTE

WWI & WWII AND MILITARY WOMEN Exhibit

Come out and see our summer exhibit as we recognize the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. Uniforms and artifacts from local residents that served in WWI and WWII are on display. The exhibit includes stories from each soldier that served and what life was like back home in LaGrange. We will be adding programming related to the world wars. Check our website for more information. If you know of someone that served in WWII, let us know, we would love to honor them.

WWI Vets Taking Care of LaGrange

In December of 1925, a dispute over the extra duties of building commissioner lead to his discharge. The Village police did not agree with this action and subsequently all resigned as well. This left the Village of LaGrange with no police or fire protection. The LaGrange Police and Fire Department were a bit unique in that they were both operated by the same crew of men back then.

Colonel Walter N Curtis, commander of American Legion Post 41 (a post dedicated to our local WWI vets), quickly volunteered the members of the post to serve as emergency police force. Legionnaires voluntarily patrolled the streets, directed traffic, pulled police boxes and performed other police duties.

On January 4th, 1926, the trustees passed a resolution expressing their gratitude to Post 41 for its “Loyal, generous and conscientious service”. A few weeks later, the Board hired a new police chief who’s duties continued to include those of a fire marshal, and recruited a new police force. However, they created a new post to cover the duties of building commissioner.

Come to the museum to see pictures and stories from Post 41 as part of our new exhibit “A Military Salute” honoring our local vets from WWI, WWII and Women in Service.

FEATURED DONATION

We would like to thank Ken Herlin for his generous donation of his grandfather’s outstanding Brunswick upright phonograph to the LaGrange Area Historical Society. Ken’s Grandfather was a mason that built many of the homes and business of the LaGrange Area.

By May 1916 Brunswick had already developed this part of their business to the point where their cabinet factory in Dubuque, Iowa was working on the production of 16,000 machines for delivery in August.

If you have an historical item from the LaGrange area that you would like to donate, let us know. All of our collections consist of items donated by people like you.

WALKING TOURS

HEART OF LAGRANGE: NOW AND THEN
Sunday, JUNE 9th, 1:30 - 3:00

Historic Fifth Avenue/LaGrange Road Walking Tour. The tour starts inside the LaGrange Road train station and ends at the LaGrange Public Library. LGAHS member John Burns will guide you through the heart of downtown La Grange on Fifth Avenue from the railroad station on Burlington to Elm Street. Find out who’s entombed in the façade of a prominent downtown building. Discover where the Sears Roebuck, Montgomery Ward, and S.S. Kresge stores were once located.

DISCOVER THE WEST END
A Sunday in Sept/Oct TBD. Check our website for the date.

Join our historian John Burns for an interesting tour that focuses on La Grange’s west end. John will provide tour goers with some surprising tales of the village near Stone Avenue Station.

Space is limited SO Please RSVP for ticket reservations at www.lagrangehistory.org.
Join the Summer Fun at the Historical Society

DATES AND EVENTS

June through August
Saturdays 10:00-2:00pm

Saturday Summer Hours

June 9th 1:30-3:00
Heart of LaGrange Now and Then Walking Tour

Summer Exhibit
A MILITARY SALUTE

June 11th 7:00-9:00pm
Pop-Up Trivia Night

June 21st 3:00 pm
Salt Creek Chamer Wind Quintet

June 25th 7:00 pm
Tom’s Genealogy at the Library

July 21st 3:00 pm
Salt Creek Chamer Wind Quintet

September 7th
Live Auction of LGAHS Game Table painted by Lydia Hosek and inspired by our Military Salute Exhibit

TBD Sunday 1:30-3:00
Discover the West End