PRESIDENT’S CORNER, Katherine Padgett

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I assume the role of President of the La Grange Area Historical Society. To say I have a tough act to follow is a BIG understatement as Mark Truax moves to the roles of both Vice President and (fortunately) mentor.

A little bit about me: I have lived in La Grange for 6 years in the old Grace Lutheran Church. I worked in La Grange for 18 years and it was truly home away from home for me and my family. My experience spans 25 years on several Village commissions in the Village of Lemont as well as various roles in professional and civic organizations. I am fortunate to enter into the Presidency knowing this is a finely tuned organization with dedicated volunteers from whom I have so much to learn.

Some goals and initiatives I am committed to over the next year are:

• Increasing membership
• Strengthening our visibility with Village of La Grange and La Grange Park leadership
• Continuing the prioritized maintenance work on the Vial House Museum
• Adding social events with a history focus
• Hosting the Treasure Market Fundraiser – June 11th
• Expanding our museum hours
• Expanding our base of volunteers
• Visiting with other historical societies, sharing ideas and creating reciprocity
• And of course producing the 2022 Virtual Home and History Tour

Please take time during the glorious spring and summer weather to enjoy our many walking tours as well as our latest driving tour of local Sears catalogue kit homes and other mail order housing. Check our website lagrangehistory.org for details.

Our “Treasure Market Fundraiser” is on Saturday, June 11th. This will generate income as well as free up space for future items for our collections. I thank you in advance for supporting this event.

While I am already getting my feet wet I have seen the size of Mark’s Santa Claus boots. My size 7 feet may struggle with this! But hey! I’m giving this my best shot. Thank you for entrusting this great responsibility to me and for your continued support and participation. A Huge Thank you for your commitment to LGAHS.
HOMES DELIVERED TO LA GRANGE AND LA GRANGE PARK

One of our volunteers noted that we had a number of Sears Homes in our archived house files. This sparked an interest and lead to the development two new tours featuring preconstructed “Kit Homes” throughout the La Grange Area. Most of these homes are the famous Sears Homes, but we also feature homes produced by Alladdin, Wards (Wardway), Harris Brothers and Gordon Van Tine. These homes were an affordable option for new home buyers in the early 1900’s through 1940’s. One home is the Sears Deluxe Model “The Ivanhoe”. Only a dozen were made and this one is one of the few left in the La Grange area. Another is the 1933 Sears "Concord stepped-up-level" home, the predecessor to the 1950’s Split Level Homes. Due to the distance between homes, we set this up as a driving tour, but it can also be walked or biked. One tour covers La Grange, the other covers La Grange Park. Tours can be found and printed from our web site www.lagrangehistory.org or on PocketSights. (PocketSights is a free tour App you can put on your phone).

A HISTORICAL BREW JUST FOR YOU.....COMING SOON!

We are excited to announce that we are collaborating with the team at Milk Money Brewing to introduce a signature brew inspired by local history! Stay tuned for details - we will announce the release of this special brew soon. We hope you will stop in to Milk Money to enjoy a pint! A fun way to support the LA GRANGE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

PET PARADE, JOIN US SATURDAY JUNE 4th - 9:30a.m.

Pet Parade Charities is dedicated to promoting and supporting the health and care of animals in metro Chicago. In addition, it promotes awareness of the value of animals in the lives of individuals and the special bonds that exist between kids and their pets. Pet Parade Charities accomplishes its mission through sponsorship of the acclaimed La Grange Pet Parade and by promoting responsible pet ownership through grants given to like not-for-profits. LOOK FOR US THERE!

GOOD VOLUNTEERS and INTERNS ARE HARD TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGET!

Whether you have an hour or day to spare, you can make a difference and we would love to hear from you. Preserving documents is a top priority at the Historical Society as our archives are fragile, valuable and irreplaceable. If you would like to help us keep our legacy alive, please consider volunteering to help us digitize our archives. Volunteers really make things happen here at the La Grange Area Historical Society and there are plenty of tasks for every interest and schedule. Please contact Sarah at: sarah.parkes@lagrangehistory.org.
2022 SUMMER EXHIBIT: TECHNOLOGICAL TREASURES THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES

THE GRAND OPENING of our new exhibit will happen on May 7th! We will be open from 11:00a.m.-2:00p.m. for a grand opening event. We invite you to see how invention and innovation have created technology that has changed our lives throughout the decades. Impacting entertainment, communication, medical advances and household conveniences, just to name a few; they have all undergone great changes over the past 150 years. Come take a look at our La Grange area prized artifacts that have been donated over the years that tell the interesting and amazing story of Technological Treasures That Changed Our Lives.

JOHN BURNS WALKING TOURS

WHAT’S WRIGHT IN LA GRANGE?  Sunday MAY 22nd, 1:30-3:00 pm

The tour begins and ends at The Vial House Museum, 444 S. La Grange Road. Meet inside for a short introduction followed by the 75 minute walking tour where you’ll discover what Frank Lloyd Wright designed in La Grange in the 1890s and early 1900s. Discover what his designs had to do with bootlegging as well as the architectural characteristics of four Wright homes as you walk through a picturesque La Grange neighborhood in the Historic District.

HEART OF LA GRANGE: NOW AND THEN  Sunday JUNE 12th, 1:30-3:00 pm

Historic Fifth Avenue/ La Grange Road Walking Tour. The tour starts inside the La Grange Road train station and ends at the La Grange Public Library. 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. Hope to see you June 12th! Space will be limited to 8 ticketholders for each of these two tours. Please RSVP for ticket reservations at www.lagrangehistory.org.

TREASURE MARKET FUNDRAISER A/K/A FANCY YARD SALE

SATURDAY JUNE 11th - LAGRANGE’S BIRTHDAY!  9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
VIAL HOUSE MUSEUM 444 S LA GRANGE ROAD!

Wow! The Joy OF A YARD SALE Is Finding What You Didn’t Know You Needed! We’re Sure We’ll Have That Special “SOMETHING” You Were Searching For...

HOW YOU CAN HELP ..... 

Before You Take Your Unwanted Items To The Curb...

STOP and please think of LGAHS and our upcoming Treasure Market/A/K/A Fancy Yard Sale! We are asking members and friends to donate unwanted items that are collectibles, china, glassware, silver, artwork, small furniture, items in good condition with no cracks or chips, etc. (no clothing please). In addition, other typical yard sale items are appreciated. If you have an item with historical interest, the Museum may want to consider these items for their permanent collection. If you would like an item considered please leave your name and phone number with your treasure. Donations will be accepted until June 6th.

Donations can be brought to the Museum during the open hours of Wed 9:30a.m.12:00p.m. or left on the front porch on days when the Museum is closed. If you would like your items picked up please schedule by emailing or calling Sarah or Katherine.

Sarah.parkes@lagrangehistory.org 708 203-9158
OR Katherinepadgett1@gmail.com 639 926-0779

THANK YOU!

CORRECTION. We apologize for misspelling Electro-Motive Manufacturing in a previous article about EMD Engineering Corporation, a designer and marketer of the gasoline-electric self-propelled rail car founded in 1922.
SPRING DATES AND EVENTS

Saturday, MAY 7th, 11-2  2022 SUMMER EXHIBIT GRAND OPENING
TECHNOLOGICAL TREASURES THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES

Sunday MAY 22nd 1:30  WHATS WRIGHT IN LA GRANGE WALKING TOUR

June 4th  9:30  RED, WHITE AND BLUE IN ’22 PET PARADE

June 11th - 9 TO 4  TREASURE MARKET YARD SALE

Sunday JUNE 12th - 1:30  HEART OF LA GRANGE: NOW AND THEN WALKING TOUR

Spring is in the Air at the La Grange Area Historical Society