

Lake County History Center News

WINTER 2019

Volume 60 Issue 1



History Begins With You!

415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township, OH 44077

440-639-2945

www.lakehistorycenter.org

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Lake County Historical Society Restructures Administration

Managing Director and Facilities Manager positions will be added to better serve the society's location and operations.

To keep up with the growing needs of the History Center, the board has restructured the administration. Here is the release we sent on January 14, 2019 to announce the changes.

For Immediate Release

Contact: *Lea Filson, 440-639-2945, ext. 11, LFilson@LakeHistory.org*

Painesville Township, OH (January 14, 2019)

– After observing the operations at the Lake County History Center, Executive Director Lea Filson has recommended to the board a few changes that call for restructuring the administration. To better meet and achieve its education and research goals, a Managing Director and a Facilities Manager will be hired. Pay increases to the Director of Programming & Events and the Director of Library & Museum Collections are also recommended and new hours from Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4:00 pm will better serve the public.

"The majority of the LCHS budget and operations are used to maintain the old Lake County Home, an event barn, the Pioneer Village, and eight acres of grounds," said Judith Hempel, LCHS Board President. "To make sure the mission of the historical society is not lost, and money raised funds the mission, a new administrative structure is necessary."

The goal of restructuring is to acquire specialized expertise and to create management efficiencies. While the Managing Director will run the day to day administration, the Facilities Manager will handle growing and needed maintenance on a campus that includes eight acres, several structures, and rental requests.

"The board has evaluated the plan and agrees that to accomplish its goal of growing and creating needed operational revenue, the new position and the raises are important," continued Judith Hempel. "In the past year, we have seen an increase in first-time visitors, several sold-out events, and more interest in what the History Center has to offer Lake County residents."

"Preserve, Educate, and Learn about Lake County, Ohio History" is the Lake County Historical Society's (LCHS) mission. In 2007, the society amassed an impressive number of

onsite and offsite programs and events, and increased the size of its museum and library space by moving to the old Lake County Home in Painesville Township. The move also saved a beautiful historic Italianate structure, an iconic building atop a hill in Lake County, that would surely have been razed had it not been purchased by LCHS.

Currently, a state-appropriated grant is funding construction of a new structure that will help encourage greater usage of the barn, Heritage Meeting Hall, and Pioneer Village. The multi-use structure will result in increased educational opportunities for children and adults. Future plans include turning the 'Infirmary', the first hospital in Lake County that shadows the museum building, into an education center that opens to the Pioneer Village out back.

Executive Director Lea Filson will lead the restructuring efforts and continue as a consultant to the board after the hires are made.

"Lake County is fortunate to have an historical society that preserves the stories of its government, businesses, and residents," said Lea Filson, Executive Director. "History is an important part of a community that creates the importance of place and builds bonds through generations."

BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members, Volunteers, and Friends of LCHS,

We just completed a very successful 2018 at Lake County History Center. We've added new friends to our membership numbers, new and interesting programs, and witnessed a steady stream of new visitors to the Center.

This year the Lake County Historical Society has become known in the community for its innovative and exciting programs and events. That's because of hard work by our unbelievable staff and volunteers. On behalf of the Board of Directors I thank you all for your hard work and dedication! Thanks also for your steadfast commitment to the History Center's success.

I know that 2019 will be another exciting year for the History Center with new programs and events, additions to our collections, and construction of restroom facilities next to the Event Barn. The Barn will also be climatized and will provide more opportunities for children and adult programs year-round.

Our mission is to preserve, educate and learn about Lake County history. We are on track for fulfilling that mission as more families in the community learn about Lake County history. *Together we achieve more.*

Judith Hempel, Board President

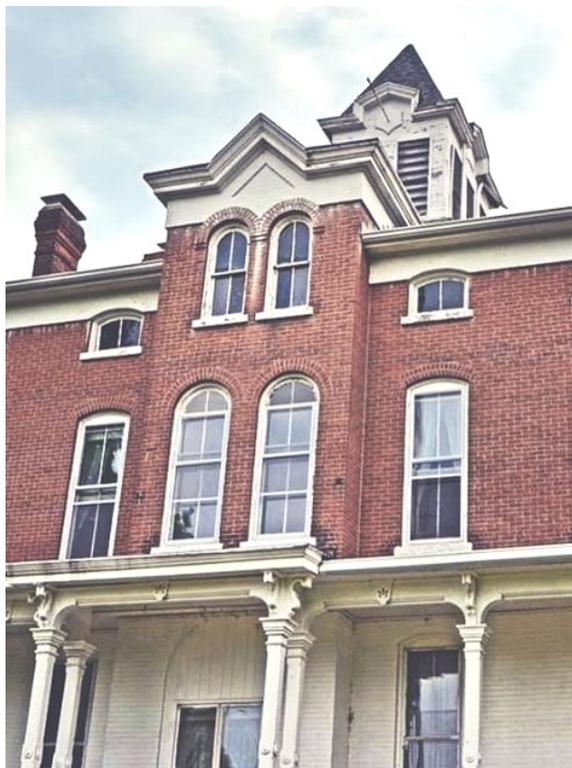
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Included in this edition of our Lake County Historical County newsletter, you will find your own copy of the Lake County History Center Guide. Please take the time to read it. You will be amazed at how much happens during the year with efforts by a skeleton staff of part-timers and a group of dedicated volunteers. Consider volunteering for many of these events and learn about Lake County while enjoying time with friends.

Please plan to attend the Lake County Snow Ball. It promises to be fun, but more important, will support our operations through 2019. Our annual fundraiser provides support for the awesome programs and events we do as well as our interesting and informative exhibits. Bring your friends!

You will read about some changes to our administration in this newsletter. They are necessary to accommodate a growing organization that has taken on an eight-acre campus with growing needs. My role will still continue with the history center as a consultant to the board on strategic goals. We have accomplished much, and planning will be an important part of our journey forward. As we make those plans, our staff will be more efficient with expertise in the areas needed. I look forward to my continuing association with the History Center. Happy 2018!

Lea Filson, Executive Director



ABOUT LAKE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Lake County History Center is owned and operated by the Lake County Historical Society, a 501c3 nonprofit founded in 1968. Situated in Lake County, Ohio on eight acres at 415 Riverside Drive In Painesville Township, OH, LCHS maintains the historic 1876 Italianate structure, formerly the Lake County Home. Today it houses a museum with permanent and changing exhibits, a library, rental venues, and a gift shop. The History Center also operates an onsite performance and event barn as well as an 1823 Pioneer Village. Onsite and offsite education programs & events for adults and children are offered throughout the year. The LCHS mission is to preserve, educate, and learn about Lake County, Ohio history.

Hours: Tuesday — Saturday from NOON to 4PM

www.lakehistory.org | facebook.com/lakecountyhistory | twitter.com/lakehistory | Instagram.com/lakecohistorycenter

ADMINISTRATION

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

At the annual meeting in November, changes were proposed by the board for the Lake County Historical Society constitution. A vote is needed to ratify these changes so please send in a YEA or NAY in writing either through mail, email, or text message. For the vote to be valid, we will need your FULL NAME.

MAIL TO: 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township, OH 44077

EMAIL: LFilson@LakeHistory.org

TEXT: (504)491-5330 (Lea Filson's text number)

Table with 2 columns: ORIGINAL and PROPOSAL. Rows include Directors and Officers (Article 4, Subsection A, #1), Directors and Officers (Article 4, Subsection A, #2), and Committees (Article 8).

VOTING MAIL-IN FORM. Please cut out and mail to 415 Riverside Drive, Painesville Township, OH 44077. Include your FULL NAME.
Vote for Directors and Officers (Article 4, Subsection A, #1).....YEA ___ NAY
Vote for Directors and Officers (Article 4, Subsection A, #2).....YEA ___ NAY
Vote for Committees (Article 8).....YEA ___ NAY
Cast By: _____ on date: _____



NEW LAKE COUNTY IN THE 1940'S EXHIBIT IS NOW OPEN

The 1940's was a tumultuous decade for America. World War II created the need to ration food and supplies. It was a time when Mothers came together to form 'Blue Star Mothers' to let everyone know they had sons at war. Families would gather round the radio each night for the latest

news and listen to music that took them beyond their busy lives to imagine a more glamorous reality.

In the kitchen, new gadgets to make life easier were starting to appear. The clothes were more stylish than what we wear today. Lake County mobsters were in business. The Mounds Club was in its glory.

Have you ever wondered what your ancestors were doing during the 40's as they spent their lives in Lake County? Use your imagination as you wander past the front windows and into a kitchen and living room. See the Mounds Club and more in additional galleries.

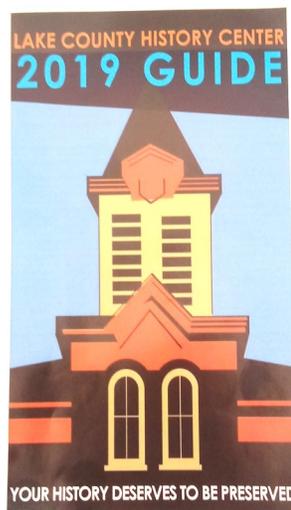


NEW PUBLICATION ON LAKE COUNTY CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS IS COMING!

Each week, Ruth Sprowl, Jared Cole, Waylan Tenku, & Lori Watson work on researching, scanning

and digitizing the histories of the soldiers featured in our Civil War exhibit. The project was started to honor all the Lake County soldiers who fought bravely in the American Civil War. Once all the biographies are finished, they will be published in a series of volumes with photos and information on each soldier. This team's time is invaluable.

Your help is needed. If you enjoy researching and writing, contact us to help on this important project by contacting Lori Watson at watsonsix@aol.com.



2019 LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GUIDEBOOK PREMIERES

Please take some time to leaf through this year's History Center Guide. You will be amazed at all the opportunities for your family to enjoy Lake County history. There is something for everyone and this year's book includes dates, times, and places so you can plan ahead and reserve a spot.

Many of our programs and events are selling out quickly so don't wait until the last minute to reserve. Our exhibits are quite popular so make time to come and spend a few hours learning about Lake County. After all, it is your home and you should learn about the incredible people, places, and things that are here.

Stop by during our new hours—noon to 4pm Monday through Saturday.

For information, contact Dorothy at 440-639-2945.

**LAKE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CONSTITUTIONAL VOTING MAIL-IN FORM**

DEVELOPMENT



NEW HISTORY CENTER EXPANSION WILL HAPPEN IN 2019

Look for construction to begin this spring out by the History Center barn. The board's Master Plan Committee has been hard at work preparing for the addition of new restrooms, barn improvements including heat and air, and an updated kitchen for our candle-making.

The changes will further the educational mission of Lake County Historical Society by creating better work areas for the Pioneer Village school, a shorter time for bathroom breaks for our participating students, needed reconstruction for our barn kitchen, and better temperature control.

Once complete, new technology is planned for the barn so that those who rent the facility will have every convenience needed in today's world. Just think, this will allow the center to do adult, youth, and rental activities in the barn area without hiring staff to man the museum just for restroom breaks. Look for the project to be finished by October 2019!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS BROUGHT IN RECORD NUMBERS

Our famous Christmas displays brought fewer numbers during our featured weekend, but record numbers for the entire run of the season. This year additional advertising was done and volunteers worked hard to get the word out about the largest Christmas tree display in Lake County. By the time it was all said and done, over XXXX people, many for the first time, witnessed with awe our spectacular display of lights.

This would not happen without the efforts of Marian Redmond and her team who spend over a month getting the exhibit ready. A huge thanks to Marian, Sandy Nelson, Bob & Rose Mary Bradt, Chuck & Linda Nagy, Jeanne Benson, Julie Benson, Lois Harrington, Sharon Chamberlain, Evelyn Gibbs, Vince Wilson, and Dottie Dunlap. What a fine crew they are!

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Collections Volunteers

We thank our many donors who have given through our most recent annual fund. Those dollars allow us to mount our changing exhibits, create programs, and events and more. Our volunteers' time is just as important and this quarter, we salute those who work in museum & library collections.

These untiring volunteers spend thousands of hours each year, archiving and cataloging our many items. They also assist those who visit to research in the library. Others construct and mount the exhibits Lynn Vandevort expertly designs. Grand compliments to: Vickie Robb, Janet Kozsey, Bob Hange, Judy Muny, Nancy Milanich, Vince Wilson, Margaret Noga, Dave Phares, Ginnie Jeschelnic, Tom Driscoll, and Terry & Sharon Boerner.





WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Let's welcome our two new staff members! Carol Lentz (*left*) will act as our Outreach Coordinator while Debbie Warren (*right*), will be in administration. Carol will be working with the Volunteer Committee to coordinate matching our needs with willing volunteers. Both will be involved in planning and organizing the various education programs & events at the Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PIONEER SCHOOL

Spring will be here before you know it and that's when Pioneer Village comes to life. When students cross the magic boundary between the barn door and the Pioneer Village, they walk through a time machine into the year 1823. For the best classroom experience ever, if you like children and history, don a costume (provided by the History Center) and either teach about life in frontier Lake County or assist with the many crafts the children do. Contact Tonya Busic At 440-639-2945, ext. 13.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON: DR. AMY KAUKONEN

Help us celebrate a true gem of Lake County, the daring Doctor Amy Kaoukonen. A flapper, doctor, and female politician, she later became the first female mayor in Lake County following the ratification of the 19th amendment. Hear the story of this trailblazer's life, straight from her own lips as interpreted by Mandy Spencer, one of our dedicated volunteers.

While there, bid on our famous auction items, valued treasures that benefit a great cause.

Join us at Pine Ridge County Club on March 19th, 2019 at 10am. Tickets are \$35 for LCHS members and \$38 for non-members.

Call us at (440) 639-2945 or visit www.lakehistory.org for more info. Check out our Eventbrite via Facebook to purchase tickets for events.



[Facebook.com/LakeCountyHistory](https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyHistory)



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Instagram

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twitter.com/lakehistory

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Volunteers are the cornerstone of the History Center and we need more! As our programs and offerings expand, so do our volunteer needs.

Unsure of how you might help? No worries. Our volunteer needs are many and varied. Whether you are a behind the scenes type of person or one who likes to be involved with the public, our staff will be glad to find the perfect niche for you by utilizing YOUR unique interests, skills and schedule and, in turn, afford you a fun and comfortable volunteer experience.

Some of our many volunteer opportunities include assisting with our numerous and varied events, acting as a docent (tour guide) at the History Center, working with children in our school programs, assisting in the museum or library, working in the office, doing light clerical work and helping with site maintenance.

So! Please consider a gift of your time and talents. We'd love for you to join our family and fun. Check out our current volunteer needs at signupgenius.com (search for: tbusic@lakehistory.org) or call 440-639-2945.



LAKE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

At the History Center, volunteers work and play, and at a recent luncheon, their service was honored. They gathered in Heritage Hall, awards were given, thanks were abundant and the Volunteer of the month was awarded to Jeanne Benson.

Volunteer of the year was co-awarded to Judy Hempel and Bob Lundgren. Congrats to all! The expertise, wisdom, labor, and sheer will of this group has been a hallmark of Lake County Historical Society throughout its existence. You could be in that number...make friends, make fun, make a difference!

MUSIC BOX CERTIFICATION & DOCENT TRAINING

Saturday, 3/2 @ 11am

For anyone who wishes to be a docent or play the music boxes in our collection, you must attend this meeting. You will receive up to date training on our current museum exhibits and learn or refresh yourself on how to operate the music boxes. Experienced and new docents are asked to attend. If you are interested but cannot attend, please contact Carol Lentz at 440-639-2934, Ext. 14.

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS
IN 2018:

9,700!

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Painesville, Oh.
44077

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Brilliance
Lake Effect Snow Ball

Featuring WEWS Channel 5 Weatherman
MARK JOHNSON

SATURDAY FEB. 9TH, 2019, 6PM
Held at La Malfa Party Center
Call Dorothy at 440-639-2945