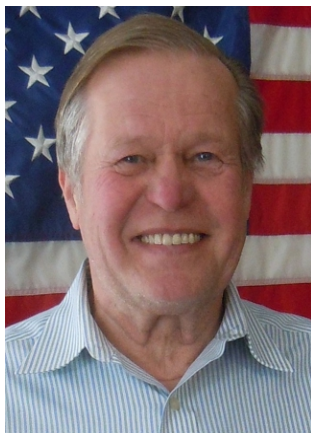
**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Fred Liimatta



The Great Depression produced arguably one of the greatest books for children... *The Little Engine That Could!* It was one of my favorites. The beautiful graphics glued your eyes to the pages like a tongue to a cold flag pole in winter (please don't try this). This story of unstoppable optimism should be on every child's bookshelf. At every

OCPHS committee and Board meeting the echo of positive attitudes is clearly heard. That one fact has determined the success of our organization. It is a pioneer "Bear Necessity!" This new year, like every other, has many challenges and opportunities. After 67 years of life, I've learned the only thing that stays the same is change. A teacher once told me his job is to prepare his students for the future. He knows two things about the future...it is unknown, and it involves things that we have never seen before. OCPHS has a great track record of surviving change and with the Lord's help we will pass that skill on to future generations. Like the engine that thought he could, we must think positive and work together to climb the next hill. - Freddie

Volunteers!



OCPHS is seeking enthusiastic individuals to serve on our Board of Directors. Directors serve three-year terms and will be voted into service at the 2016 Annual Meeting on May 18th at 4:30 pm. If you are interested in joining our Board, please contact the office for an application packet.

FAST...FURIOUS...FUN!**SPRING AUCTION RETURNS APRIL 7TH****FAST, FURIOUS, FUN!**

Thursday evening, April 7th, 2016

Auction Preview 6:30 p.m. ~ Bidding starts 7:00 p.m.
TENT SALE ~ 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society

Auction held in the Carriage House at Pine Grove
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Pontiac 48342

for further information please contact:
www.ocphs.org ~ email: office@ocphs.org ~ phone: 248 338-6732

All donations are tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law
All proceeds benefit OCPHS
A Michigan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



~ FREE Secure Parking on site ~

Join us on Thursday, April 7th as we once again seek to find loving new homes for your vintage treasures! What kinds of treasures do we rescue? We love items that portray all eras of history, such as books, photos and movie posters. We adore baseball cards, comics, and rusty tools. We have a soft spot for costume jewelry, hats, postcards, furs, elegant glassware, silverware, dishes and pottery. Even furniture in good shape can find a home with our help. We will rescue most anything with a reasonable resale value! If you are ready to give some of your vintage items up for adoption, please call our office to arrange for drop off or pick up!

If you don't have stuff, then it's time to acquire stuff! Perhaps a treasure rescued from our sale will spark a collecting hobby, causing you to spend more time with us researching your new interest.

This is a great opportunity to have fun and support OCPHS...we sure hope you can be a part of it!

PROPERTY DONATIONS RESTORE LAND TO PINE GROVE ESTATE

(Mike West, Project Chair)

I am very pleased to inform the membership that the transfer and acceptance of the properties at 48 and 52 Short Street is complete. These parcels of land are now back home within the Pine Grove estate thanks to a donation made possible by Mr. Ed Lee (President, Lee Contracting) and Mr. Steve Cartier (Site Manager, Wisner LLC). The 16-month project has culminated in the expansion and improvement of our property thanks to their generosity.



Before: The properties behind Pine Grove were an eyesore and major safety concern.

OCPHS' Board of Directors warmly received Ed's forward-thinking plan to improve the safety of the neighborhood and his offer to purchase the Short Street properties and donate them. We had long been experiencing problems with the tenants occupying the houses. The historic Wisner School had become a drug haven and its deterioration was a negative distraction to our visitors. Wisner LLC took on the refurbishment of the school and stadium and numerous discussions took place with OCPHS about ways to share resources that would ultimately aid their goals and our desire for property improvements.



After: New fencing, improved visibility and a better relationship with our neighbors!

The houses were demolished, the property graded and seeded, and a two-phase environmental study conducted by ASTI ruled out contamination and afforded protection to OCPHS. The Board held a thank-you reception in January for Ed and Steve, where they were presented with commemorative plaques for their service to the city of Pontiac and good stewardship of its history. We look forward to partnering with them on many occasions in the future! A special thanks to Bruce & Amy Annett, Charlotte Cooper, Barbara Frye, Bill Clink, Kathy Davis, Greg Kowalski, Linda Porter, Kari Vaughan and Rodger Zeller for their support in bringing this project to completion.



Mike West presents Steve Cartier and Ed Lee with plaques for their service and generosity. Mr. Lee was also pleasantly surprised with gifts for his infant son. Photos courtesy Mike West.

THANK YOU!

OCPHS wishes to thank member Mary Ann Schaefer of Boulder, CO for her donation to our library of several articles pertaining to the Summers families of early Oakland and Macomb counties. Included among these articles was one pertaining to the ancestors of Sarah Mann Dodder. Mary Ann visited us last August and gives her regards to those who assisted her with research. Thank you so much Mary Ann for your donation, which is now available to other researchers!

Looking for that next good read? OCPHS offers the following publications for sale in our Carriage House, gift shop and on our website. Pick up one



of these page-turners by local authors and dive into history!

"Asylum: Pontiac's Grand Monument From the Gilded Age"
(Bruce J. Annett, Jr.)
\$24.95

"Ezra Jette: Buffalo Soldier"
(Henry Swift)
\$15.95

"Images of America: Pontiac, Michigan"
(Ron Gay with the Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society)
\$21.99

"Rendezvous With History"
(Esmo Woods)
\$17.00 small format/\$20.00 large format

"Thunder and Lightning" (book of poetry)
(Esmo Woods)
\$18.00

"Pontiac, Michigan: A Postcard Album"
(Gottfried Brieger)
\$21.99

"Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield"
(Charles Martinez)
\$15.00

"Until Antietam: The Life and Letters of Major General Israel B. Richardson"
(Jack C. Mason)
\$29.95

"The 22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War"
(Charles L. Stewart)
\$5.00

"Images of America: Rochester and Rochester Hills"
(Meredith Long & Marilyn Rzadkowolski)
\$21.99

"A 'Guest' of the Confederacy"
(Robert & Cheryl Allen)
\$20.00

Quantities are limited and titles do change, so stop by soon to browse our latest selections!

OCPHS MEMBER HONORED

Pat Hardy calls John Marshall "the keeper of the house." Marshall is one of the founders of Preservation Bloomfield, which is dedicated to preserving the "house." And that is the historical Barton farmhouse, which is being restored on the grounds of the Charles Bowers School Farm. Marshall has spent many hours chronicling the history of the Barton farmhouse and actually working on the building along with the nearby Craig log cabin. For his years of effort there and for promoting the Bloomfield area's history, Marshall was presented with the National Community Service Award by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Piety Hill Chapter. The presentation took place on February 20th at the Townsend Hotel in Birmingham. Marshall is also a charter member of the Bloomfield Historical Society. Society President Pam Carmichael said of Marshall, "He has developed many of the BHS programs and writes a column for *The Legacy* newsletter. Mr. Marshall speaks on numerous local buildings of significance. He knows the history of many area homes." Marshall came to the attention of DAR Piety Hill Community Service Chair Virginia Bennett when she volunteered at a farm event. "John is frequently seen...organizing the workroom in the basement, mowing the yard, pulling a persistent weed or arranging a tour," she said.

OCPHS extends our congrats to John!

(This article first appeared in the February 25, 2016 edition of the Bloomfield Township E-News).

THE STORY OF SYLVAN LAKE
John Scholl (Growth & Development)

“People will doubt what you say but they will believe what you do.” - Lewis Cass

The present city of Sylvan Lake encompasses about 1.5 square miles and has approximately 864 households. Its interesting history goes back to 1818. That year, an expedition was formed to explore the land between Detroit and the newly-formed post of Pontiac. The expedition was led by the Rev. John Monteith and included Lewis

Cass, the Territorial Governor. Cass was accompanied by Austin Wing, who would later become Congressman from Michigan. They rode through swamps full of muck and mire, following a trail used by the local Ottawa Indians. It is speculated this trail and others were used by the Indian Chief Pontiac as he moved from Apple Island in Orchard Lake and settlements further north. The expedition found a chain of heavily wooded lakes. They named the largest lake after the Governor (Cass Lake). A smaller adjoining lake was name after the Governor's wife (Elizabeth Lake). The next lake they came upon was the most beautiful of all; this they named Timber Lake, as it was surrounded by tamarack trees. It would later be renamed Sylvan Lake.

The party spent three days in the area and camped at a small lake to the south which they named Wing Lake after Austin Wing.



Lewis Cass was the 2nd Territorial Governor of Michigan (1813-1831). He also served as Secretary of War (1831-1836), ambassador to France (1836-1842), U.S. Senator from Michigan (1849-1857) and Secretary of State (1857-1860). In 1867 he ran for president and lost to Zachary Taylor. He also signed several Indian treaties when Governor of the Michigan Territory.



The tamarack is a coniferous tree that has needles like an evergreen and grows in swampy areas. It loses its needles in the winter when it turns from green to yellow. Its very hard wood is used commercially for dock pilings, mine timbers and fire wood. The Native Americans used the roots to bind their birch bark canoes together.

Following the exploratory expedition, the land was surveyed and put up for sale. The price was \$2 per acre, but if you paid cash, the price dropped to \$1.25 per acre. As Colonel Stephen Mack's settlement of Pontiac grew and prospered, settlers spread out and the Sylvan Lake area was slowly developed. The next major boom came in the early 1900's. The Detroit United Railway ran a trolley line from Detroit to Pontiac, which passed by Sylvan Lake. The Tower Park amusement park and the Happy Home Picnic Park were founded; both became popular destinations for Detroit residents. They could pack a picnic lunch and spend the day swimming, fishing and boating on beautiful Sylvan Lake.



Sylvan Lake today

REFERENCES:

*Oakland County Book of History 1820-1970
(Arthur Hagman, Editor)*

City of Sylvan Lake website

Wikipedia

1901 STANDARD VEHICLE CARRIAGE
PROJECT – UPDATE
(Mike West, Project Chair)

Many of you have requested an update on our carriage built at the Standard Vehicle Company in Pontiac in 1901 and generously donated to OCPHS by the Randy Hammons family of Wisconsin. After the carriage's return to Pontiac, a committee of interested members made two key decisions that set us on our current path:

- 1) *The carriage should be used as a teaching tool pertaining to the Pontiac carriage industry;*
- 2) *To preserve the carriage, not restore it. Restoration would greatly and permanently modify its current condition.*

Preservation means finding ways to protect the wood and metal. It means researching the types of material used to construct the carriage, studying preservation techniques and finding replacement fabric and leathers similar to the originals. Finding people with expertise in these areas is not an easy task.

Members Nancy and Don Calendine have been performing valuable research on the carriage and Pontiac's carriage industry. They discovered a Standard Vehicle Company product catalog at the Library of Michigan which provided us with information on the original construction of the carriage.

We still needed direction on what techniques to employ to preserve the carriage, so in November the committee met with Mary Fahey, Chief Conservator of the Henry Ford Museum. Mary has submitted her recommendations and the committee must now formulate a plan for preservation.

Meanwhile, member Bob Sowles offered to store the carriage in a warehouse that his company had recently purchased. In fact, Bob had a special climate-controlled room specifically for the carriage, which is essential to its long-term preservation, and he also installed a glass wall for viewing. This enables ready access to the carriage for contractors who will need to look at it. Many thanks to all who have contributed their time, knowledge and resources to this important piece of Pontiac history thus far...

Our Supporters:
Bob & Leigh Sowles
Don & Nancy Calendine
Paul Hudacek & Alyce Voit

Greg Kowalski
Bill Grandstaff
Elizabeth Scussel
Geoff Brieger
Steve Cartier

Our Benefactors:
Randy & Barbara Hammons
The Kovaleski Foundation
The West Family
Laurie Bishop & The Pontiac Lions
Helen Jane Peters



*Bob Sowles with the carriage behind glass at his warehouse.
Courtesy Mike West.*

CALLING ALL COOKS!



What's on our Dream Team's wish list this quarter? Your recipes! OCPHS is collecting members' favorite recipes, "food hacks" (i.e. a creative way to cook a turkey) and decorating techniques for a book to be published in time for our 2016 Victorian Open House. Pictures to accompany your submission are welcome!

You may email your recipe to Dream Team member Barbara Frye at frye_photo@att.net We look forward to sampling your famous dish!

OCPHS is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since our last publication:

Ball, Terry (Waterford)
Becker, Joanna (Royal Oak)
Blessing, Kathleen (Troy)
Calendine, Donald & Nancy (Pontiac)
Downer, Cary (Rochester Hills)
Francis, Elizabeth (Goodrich)
Getzmeyer, Duane (Oxford)
Harbison, Joyce (Pontiac)
Morales, Sarah (Pontiac)
Paulk, James (Novi)
Phillips, David
Pielack, Leslie (Birmingham Historical Museum)
Prevas, Tina (Bloomfield Hills)
Schutt, Kathleen (Saginaw)
Tenuta, Shirley (Pontiac)

AROUND THE COUNTY

Can't get enough Oakland County history? Check out these upcoming events hosted by our partners in preservation...

Genealogy Lock-In

Saturday, April 16 / 6:00 pm-midnight

Waterford Genealogical Society

More info: Please contact Waterford Public Library

History LIVES in Grandma's Button Basket

Wednesday, April 27th / 7:00 pm

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

More info: www.gwbhs.org

Apple Island Tours

Saturday, May 21 & Sunday, May 22 / 11am-5 pm

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

More info: gwbhs.org

We want to hear about YOUR upcoming event and help promote it! We use the activities happening at local historical organizations to fill our "Around The County" section and enjoy hearing about what our friends throughout Oakland County are planning.

Please email details to kari.robert.vaughan@gmail.com for inclusion in our next *Gazette* (timing appropriate) or to post on our bulletin board at Pine Grove!

Membership and Donation Form

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Send my *Gazette* via: ☐ U.S. Mail ☐ Email
(Please add \$5 to cover cost of printing and postage if sending via U.S. Mail)

Please Make Me a Member! (indicate level):

- ☐ \$15 Student
- ☐ \$20 Individual
- ☐ \$20 Non-Profit Organization
- ☐ \$35 Family (two adults & minor children)
- ☐ \$100 Patron
- ☐ \$200 Benefactor
- ☐ \$500 Friends
- ☐ \$500 Corporate Sponsor
- ☐ \$Gift Membership (provide recipient's name & contact info):

Please Accept My Donation! (indicate preference):

- ☐ \$ Annual Giving (general operating costs)
- ☐ \$ Fill In the Gap (expanding hours & services)
- ☐ \$ Preservation (historic buildings & contents)
- ☐ \$ Where Needed or Other (specify):
- ☐ \$ In Memory of / Honor of (provide name):

What Prompted Your Support? (check all that apply):

- ☐ Interest in Oakland County History
- ☐ Invited/Introduced by Member/Friend
- ☐ Received Copy of *Gazette*
- ☐ Attended Event or Tour
- ☐ Research Library / Archives
- ☐ Newspaper / Magazine Article
- ☐ Volunteer Opportunities
- ☐ Website / Facebook
- ☐ Other (specify):

Mail this form with check payable to OCPHS to:

**Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342**

For your convenience you may also join or donate online at www.ocphs.org. Thank you for your support!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization
Donations are tax deductible in accordance with applicable law

FROM THE GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Bill Clink (Co-Chair)

Spring is coming early to Pine Grove this year; we've already spotted the first flowers on the estate! Thanks to your generous support with your time and finances, we completed 2015 with a nice surplus. We can use these funds to restore our savings to a level that provides for greater stability in the future.

As the Growth & Development Team leans into a new year, we are focusing on supporting our core areas to continue progress made in 2015. The acquisition of two lots from Wisner LLC will provide us with increased parking capability and the potential for income by parking vehicles during select Wisner LLC events. We are looking to grow our grounds and garden teams to care for the additional property. We hope to continue growing in our fundraising capabilities while forming new relationships and strengthening existing areas of the organization. Board member Charlotte Cooper has stepped forward to support the library and collections team in achieving some of their long-awaited dreams. New volunteers have joined the research support team to better assist our members and visitors. We are experimenting with limited evening hours on select Thursdays to allow those working 9 to 5 a chance to spend some time with us. We hope you are able to stop by to study or just say hello!

I am pleased to report that we had another resoundingly successful Appreciation Reception on February 10th. Almost 40 of you were in attendance for a delightfully decorated, conversationally-pleasant night. We made new friends and got better acquainted with our regulars. We may try to have a similar gathering this summer to catch our "snow birds" who fly south for the winter. Another sign of spring is when these dear folks return to us; keep an eye out for these rare creatures, we miss them when they are away!

(continued page 8...)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events...

Sunday, April 17 -

Small Talk - "RMS Titanic"
2:00 pm / Admission \$5

Sunday, May 1 -

Small Talk - "Kit Homes of the 20th Century"
2:00 pm / Admission \$5

Wednesday, May 18 -

Annual Meeting & Election
4:30 pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, July 30 -
Annual Summer Ice Cream Social
11 am – 5 pm

OCPHS Officers and Board of Directors

President

Fred Liimatta

1st Vice President

Rodger Zeller

2nd Vice President

Mike West

Secretary

Kathy Davis

Treasurer

Amy Annett

Directors

Bruce Annett, Jr
Charlotte Cooper
Bill Grandstaff
Ann Johnson
Greg Kowalski
Anne Liimatta
Charlie Martinez
Linda Porter
Kari Vaughan

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society
405 Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48342

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 868
Royal Oak, MI

(From The Growth & Development Team con't...)

You've been waiting for it...that time of year when we can once again provide that great service we are becoming famous for...our spring auction is almost here! There is still time to drop off or have us pick up your vintage treasures that need a new home. It's not too early to save your pennies (or cash that tax refund check) and find a shopping friend to join you at our April 7th tent sale and auction. We are on track to make it bigger and better!!! See you at Pine Grove this beautiful spring!

Scenes from our volunteer reception...



(Photos courtesy Barbara Frye)

Find us on Facebook.com/Oakland
County Pioneer and Historical Society



Follow us on Twitter

Twitter.com/OCPHS

Oakland Gazette is a publication of the
Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society.
Submissions, content suggestions or comments are
welcome.

Volume 49 Number 1 March 2016

Editor: Kari Vaughan

Contributors: Bill Clink, Fred Liimatta, John Scholl, Kari Vaughan,
Mike West

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1: President's Corner; Spring Auction Returns April 7th

Page 2: Property Donations Restore Land to Pine Grove Estate;
Library Donation

Page 3: Publications for Sale; OCPHS Member Honored

Page 4: The Story of Sylvan Lake

Page 5: Carriage Project Update; Calling All Cooks

Page 6: New Members; Around the County; Membership &
Donation Form

Page 7: From the Growth & Development Team; Mark Your
Calendar

Page 8: From the Growth & Development Team con't.