



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

May 2018

Upcoming Events

Lansing Police Department: Celebrating 125 Years of Service

Saturday, May 5, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave.

The Lansing Police Department invites Lansing residents to stop by Exhibit Halls B & C at the Lansing Center for their 125th Anniversary of Service event, which will highlight the department's history through interactive experiences, displays, guest speakers, and other exciting programming.

The department aims to build upon their legacy of community engagement by educating the region about its storied past and the ways they have evolved to meet the needs of residents. "We'll be celebrating 125 years of service, but we've actually been around a little bit longer, since as far back as 1859. We became officially established in 1893 when we created a rules book to solidify our existence," explained Sergeant Justin Moore of the Lansing Police Department. "Before then, serving the police was more of a political job, but this really brought us into the modern day as an organized public service organization with a purpose to serve the people. The concept of community policing saw a strong start here in Lansing, one that's been all about making our community a safer place to live over the past 125 years."

The event will give residents a glimpse into the LPD's past and its evolution as a public service entity by showcasing artifacts from throughout the department's storied history, including objects that date back to the 1800s, retired Oldsmobile police cruisers from the 1950s, archival footage from the 1940s and 1950s, past uniforms and weaponry, oil-lit flashlights, and more. Residents

can experience kid-centric activities and demonstrations of police technology, and even find opportunities to take a souvenir photograph.

This family-friendly event is open to the public, including free parking and admission, and will be kicked off with an opening ceremony that includes remarks from Mayor Andy Schor, LPD Chief of Police Michael Yankowski, and members of the LPD Board of Commissioners. In addition, a special Memorial Service will be held to recognize and commemorate all LPD members who have fallen in the line of duty over the past 125 years.

Volunteers are still needed to help oversee various historical displays for morning and afternoon shifts. Please contact Justin Moore at 517-483-4658 or justin.moore@lansingmi.gov or Angela Matthews at Angela.matthews@lansingmi.gov to sign up. For more information visit: <https://www.lansingmi.gov/398/Police-Department>

The German Backlash

Tuesday, May 15, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St.

Sara Kosiba, English Professor at Troy University in Alabama and biographer of Lansing's John Herrmann, will be featured at a book release party and signing for a rediscovered Herrmann manuscript. Lansing's forgotten author, John Herrmann, pal of Hemingway and grandson of the founder of John Herrmann's Sons, a bespoke Lansing tailor, often turned to his hometown for inspiration in his writing. His recently discovered

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The German Backlash...

manuscript *Foreign Born* is a fictionalized account of the anti-German backlash in Lansing during WWI.

In *Foreign Born* Herrmann describes tar-and-featherings and other actions against German citizens who espoused pro-German feelings. Included in the manuscript is a nasty libel trial against the *Lansing State Journal* regarding their description of what led to the tar-and-feathering of a Lansing butcher.

The manuscript was rediscovered by Kosiba, who uncovered it while researching the author's life at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. Kosiba then shepherded the manuscript through to publication. The book release party is free and books will be available for sale.

Old Germantown Walking Tour

Thursday, May 17, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

LCC Administration Building, Board Room,
610 Capitol Ave.

A companion walking tour of Lansing's old Germantown neighborhood, adjacent to Lansing Community College, will be led by LCC history Professor David Siwik.

When German families immigrated to the United States, they often settled in close proximity, forming "Germantowns" in many communities. Germans who settled in Lansing gravitated to an area along Capitol and Seymour Streets. Many of the new immigrants also started businesses in downtown and Old Town, including such notables as Herrmann's, Kositchek's, and

Bissinger's Flowers. Bissinger's was located where the Lansing Community College Administration Building now stands.

1968: A Year in American History and Its Impact on the East Lansing Area

Wednesday, June 13, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

East Lansing High School Student Union -
509 Burcham Dr.

The year 1968 brought more fighting in Vietnam, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy, and the Democratic Convention in Chicago. Locally in East Lansing there were issues like open housing and ending the ban on alcohol sales in East Lansing.

A panel of area residents, including Clarence Underwood, Sarah Fryer, and Nelson Brown will revisit this dramatic year and what it meant for the East Lansing area. Lynn Jondahl will moderate. The event is sponsored by the East Lansing Educational Foundation and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

HSGL Annual Meeting, Cherry Hill Walking Tour

Thursday, June 14, 2018 - 6:30 p.m.

Cherry Hill Park - 515 River St.

On Thursday, June 14, HSGL members are asked to attend a very brief annual meeting, at which we'll vote on next year's board, and enjoy some ice cream! The proposed slate of officers for the 2018-2019 HSGL Year is:

- President - Bill Castanier
- Vice-President - Valerie Marvin
- Secretary - Ron Emery
- Treasurer - Tim Kaltenbach
- Trustee - Cathy Babcock
- Trustee - Helen Mickens
- Trustee - Zig Olds
- Trustee - Mary Kwas

The tour will commence at 7:00 p.m.

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901

www.LansingHistory.org

Officers & Board Members

Bill Castanier – President	Jacob McCormick – Trustee
Valerie Marvin – Vice President	Carol Munroe – Trustee
Ron Emery – Secretary	Zig Olds – Trustee
Tim Kaltenbach – Treasurer	Bob Rose – Trustee
Joan Bauer – Trustee	Anne Wilson – Trustee
Mary Kwas – Trustee	

HSGL Summer 2018 Walking Tours

Germantown Walking Tour

Thursday, May 17, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

*Begins at the LCC Administration Building,
610 N. Capitol Ave. Board Room*

Step back to the turn of the 20th century when Lansing's German families lived close together in some of the city's most fashionable homes. Then known as Germantown, this neighborhood, and the families living in it, were forever changed by WWI.



Lansing Police 125th Anniversary Exhibit Tour

Saturday, June 2, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.

Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave.

Stop by City Hall for a guided tour of HSGL's exhibit celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Lansing Police Department. The tour will feature unique stories about the men and women who worked for LPD, and the challenges and triumphs of the department, headquartered on this site for more than 100 years.



Cherry Hill Walking Tour II

Thursday, June 14, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Tour meets at Cherry Hill Park, 515 River Street

HSGL is returning to Cherry Hill, home to some of the city's most interesting architectural survivals, including some beautiful late-19th century brick houses. This will be our second, all new, tour in the area.



Michigan Ave East Side Walking Tour

Saturday, July 14, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Tour meets at Michigan Ave. and Clemens St.

Take a walk on the east side, where Lansing grew

towards campus. This tour will feature the sites of several important, historic businesses.



South Capitol Ave. Walking Tour

Saturday, July 28, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Capitol Square

Join HSGL for an exploration of the south Capitol Avenue area, from beautiful long-gone brownstones to a mid-century public library, Reutter Park, early apartments, and lovely 19th-century homes.



West Side Neighborhood Walking Tour II

Thursday, August 9, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

*Tour meets where North Genesee meets
South Genesee, West of Jenison*

Lansing's west side is home to an eclectic array of homes built from the 1910s-1930s for state, auto, and business managers and executives. Beautifully preserved and lovingly maintained, the houses are among the city's finest. This will be our second, all new, tour in the area.



Moore's Park Neighborhood Walking Tour

Saturday, August 25, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Tour meets at Moore's Park, 400 Moore's River Dr.

Generations of Lansing kids have spent their summers swimming in the Moore's Park Pool, a local landmark. Explore the park, pool, and the early 20th-century neighborhood along the bank of the Grand River.





Historical Society of Greater Lansing
P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Society of Greater Lansing - Membership Application

Please accept my application for:

- New Membership
- Renewal Membership
- Gift Membership

in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

I have enclosed:

- \$25 Individual Membership
- \$35 Family Membership
- \$100 Business Membership
- \$_____ Additional Gift to HSGL

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

Please Send The Newsletter Via Email

Make Checks Payable to
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

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Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.*