



LA GRANGE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
444 S. La Grange Road La Grange IL 60525

2024 WINTER NEWSLETTER
NOW AND THEN

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we head into the “most wonderful time of the year”, we are busy with decorating and getting ready for the holidays at the Vial House. There will be many festive events and activities for all age groups. Follow us on social media, check our website and newsletter calendar for the latest on what we have planned!

We have been able to complete critical infrastructure projects with your help and contributions. We have made extensive outside repairs on the Vial House prior to the much needed painting. A new side porch fits the house just perfectly and a new side door replaces one that was broken and rotted. Inside, UV protective film has been installed on the interior of the first floor windows to preserve flooring and furnishings. Like all old homes and museums, maintenance and improvements will be ongoing. This year we will soon reach out with our End of Year Campaign. Items on the near horizon are electrical upgrades, a new water heater, outdoor lighting & decorative fencing for safety on our busy corner.

Recent explorations took us to the Blue Island Historical Society, the Hegeler-Carus Mansion, and homes in the Pullman neighborhood on the National Register and part of the National Parks system. I am committed to us learning from other organizations to expand our wealth of information and ideas from their experiences as well as sharing ours with them.

Our vision for the future includes expanding the museum with an addition that will serve our mission, community and region for many years to come. History is being made every day and the Samuel Vial House and Museum needs the space to document and preserve our past as well as our future. The next several years will be exciting indeed!

Remember - you don't have to go far to have fun.
Thank you for your support!

Katherine Padgett

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LAGAHS Board of Directors

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Katherine Padgett | President |
| Dan Malloy | Vice President |
| Mara Devitt | Secretary |
| Tina Vinicky | Treasurer |

Board Members

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Christine Andino | Abbey Helmetag |
| Beth Augustine | Mike Henderson |
| Cathy Bier | Dave Knecht |
| Stephanie Boggess | Jim Peterson |
| Judy Burns | Lynne Schaefer |
| Amy Current | Tom Veaser |

Emeritus Board Members

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Ellie Carroll | Jeannine McLaughlin |
| Mary Ann Sward | Ed Thoele |
| Cynthia Urbain | |

General Counsel

Julie Workman

Staff

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Sarah Parkes | Executive Director |
| Laurie Gibbons | Museum Concierge |



*From Our House to Yours,
We wish you joy, peace &
happiness in this
Holiday Season
and
All the best in the
New Year!*



MUSEUM NEWS

LGaHS Board of Directors Update

We are pleased to announce Amy Current has accepted the Board position formerly held by Megan Knecht who with her husband Garrett, welcomed their first baby girl this Spring! Amy is a ten year resident of La Grange and brings her love of our community and a background in new business development to the Board. Congratulations to Megan and her family and Welcome Amy!

Winner Winner, Chili Dinner!

LGaHS sponsored and participated in the La Grange Park Chamber of Commerce Annual Chili Cook Off in October and we are proud to announce Katherine & Marcus Padgett's took 2nd place in the contest with their Roswell Alien Green Chili!



Holiday Sips & Sweets Home Tour Sunday Dec 15th, 5:30 - 8:00 pm

The Sips and Sweets Home Tour returns this year with visits to 4 beautifully decorated homes! Each group of 25 will start off with hors d'oeuvres at the first home followed by special desserts paired with a holiday drink at each of the next homes we visit. These lovely homes are within walking distance of one another adding to the fun! Tickets are \$75 dollars per person and are available on our website at lagrangehistory.org. **Space is limited so buy your tickets early!** Join us for unique and festive evening!



A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS!

The La Grange Area Historical Home & History Tour returned on Sunday September 15th. It was a beautiful day to visit 6 beautiful and unique homes! Our attendance has steadily increased and this year over 100 additional visitors joined us! The event raised over \$30,000 and we received nothing but glowing comments! None of it would be possible without homeowners who are willing to open their homes on behalf of the LGaHS. Our sincere thanks to them and to the team that made it all happen: **Katherine Padgett, Sarah Parkes** who coordinated the event, & to **Christina Andino, Stephanie Boggess, Bev Forney, Laurie Gibbons, Adrianna Peterson, & Pam Peterson**. A special thanks to **Sara Heinlein** and the volunteer House Captains and Docents who staffed the homes and to **Judy Burns** who designed the HHT Booklet. We are already working on next year's HHT & it's sure to be another memorable tour. **Stay Tuned!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE & BAKE SALE

Sunday December 8th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

The Samuel Vial House will be all decked out for the holidays! Join us to see the amazing decorations & enjoy music, refreshments & activities for the kids. Be sure to pick up some holiday baked goods from Mrs Claus's Kitchen. Great for gift giving or for the family!

Speaking of baking...if you love holiday baking & would like to donate baked goods to Mrs. Claus's Kitchen, please contact us at sarah.parkes@lagrangehistory.org!

NEW THIS YEAR...We are partnering with our "brother" museum, **the Robert Vial House** to hold our Holiday Open Houses on the same day! Visit the Samuel Vial House from 1:00 - 3:00 pm & then travel to the Robert Vial House from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. It's a wonderful opportunity to visit historic homes & experience 2 eras of Christmas in one day!

Samuel Vial House Holiday Open House & Bake Sale

444 S LaGrange Rd, LaGrange, **Sunday, Dec 8th, 1-3:00pm**

Robert Vial House Holiday Open House

7425 S. Wolf Rd. in Burr Ridge, **Sunday Dec 8, 2-5:00pm**

PHOTOS WITH SANTA! Santa will be at the Vial House to hear Christmas wishes and take photos on several weekends in December. Go to lagrangehistory.org for dates and sign up for an appointment!

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Wine glasses, tea towels & prints make great gifts! Remember to special order your La Grange handmade pottery early!



A SPOOKTACULAR SUCCESS

The 2nd Annual Witches Ride on Saturday October 5th was even bigger & better this year with new witches joining in! The Museum Park saw 12 witches created by local artists who found permanent homes with lucky bidders and Tate's served a magical signature concoction in honor of the witches. At the Afterparty, the witches enjoyed music by El Rando, hors d'oeuvres, a signature cocktail and a fabulous silent auction. A HUGE thank you to our wonderful witches, **Cathy Bier, Lynne Schaeffer, Stephanie Boggess**, their teams, all of the street and party volunteers & the artists who created the one-of-a-kind witches auctioned at the Afterparty! It is a major undertaking and takes countless hours of dedicated work to put on this event. This year's event raised a spectacular \$41,000,000 for the continued restoration, upkeep and maintenance of the historic Samuel Vial House and Museum. **Witches Rule!**



AS WE APPROACH THE END OF 2024...

It's a perfect time to thank all of those who have contributed to the incredible progress we have made in preserving the 150 year old historic Samuel Vial House including our LGAHS Board, the committees who plan and execute our fundraising events, our Vial House volunteers, the businesses and companies that support us, the residents who so graciously open their homes for our house tours and of course, our generous donors, members, and patrons!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Craig Butkovic	Eileen Kelly	Lynne Schaefer
Martha Carr	Karen McGoldrick	Dorothy Spero
Victoria Cultra	Elizabeth Mundt	Jackson Square
Rebecca Dauparue	Mathew Noffke	Nicole Stock
Lee Ferron	Jo Ellyn Posta	Margaret Vizgirda
Jennifer Freeman	Pat & Chris Prindle	Tom Wojcik
Patrick Gallen	Rev. Cerna Castro	Rand

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE UPGRADED THEIR MEMBERSHIP!

Tim Hansen
 Ken Kolosh
 John & Ellen Kunkle
 LG Business Assoc.
 Kathie Martin
 Katherine Padgett
 Beth Searing
 Chris & Mary Jo Studwell
 Ronald Wisthuff
 Jeffrey Baker & Beth Zeiter

MEET A VIAL HOUSE HERO~ MARK LAMBIN



Mark has been a longtime volunteer, supporter & “doer” with LGAHS. Mark has an enviable “green thumb” and in addition to tending to the gardens at his home, he has volunteered his time to work on the landscaping at the Vial House. One of many contributions

Mark has made is the creation of our Butterfly Garden. Mark planted the recommended types of plants and flowers and the garden was submitted to Monarch Watch, a nonprofit organization that works to protect monarch habitat. The Vial House Butterfly Garden has been certified by Monarch Watch and registered as an official Butterfly Waystation. It adds to the beauty of the Vial House in the summer & in the winter, the installation of “icicle” lights that brilliantly illuminate the Vial House through the holidays is a gift from Mark to LGAHS every year. It truly makes the Season bright! Thank you for all you do Mark!

NUTS & BOLTS



Over the past year we have shared updates on the projects going on at the Vial House through this column. We want our patrons, donors and members to know how the funds so generously donated to the LGAHS are being allocated. In a past newsletter, we informed you that the Vial House was in danger of approaching a “tipping point”, that is, a point where the work that needed to be done would be cost prohibitive leaving the House in a precarious position. We are relieved to tell you we are well beyond the tipping point and moving toward the future with plans that will continue to enhance what we bring to the community!

The Building & Grounds Committee has achieved remarkable things this year. The Committee went over the entire House in meticulous detail to determine the work that needed to be done. **Dave Knecht, Mike Henderson & Jim Peterson** have spent countless hours orchestrating the work that has taken place. Dave’s expertise in historic homes & his generosity in offsetting the cost of his expert contractors has allowed LGAHS to get much farther along on projects both large and small. As an architect, Mike’s expertise in drawing plans and prioritizing the work has been invaluable and Jim has acted as the project manager coordinating the bidding processes, reviewing contracts and scheduling contractors.

Katherine Padgett, President of LGAHS, has been the driving force in achieving these preservation efforts. She brings her considerable knowledge, tireless efforts and a belief in what’s possible to her work for the LGAHS and will continue to move the agenda forward!

Niego Construction & main carpenter, Ricardo Roman, took on the urgent project of replacing the side porch of the Vial House. The porch was torn off and completely rebuilt. The craftsmanship of the work resulted in a beautiful addition providing convenient access to the House during outdoor events. What was an eyesore is now an attractive structure that enhances the appearance and the functionality of the Vial House.

The crew from Ed Mattingly Painting began the painting project by doing extensive restoration repairs on the exterior. As the painting nears completion, the Vial House has been transformed by a vibrant, period appropriate color scheme based on recommendations from a professional historic colors consultant from the University of Michigan.

With these major exterior projects completed, the Vial House is now a fitting gateway to the La Grange Historic District. As the saying goes, “it takes a village” and sincere thanks to our village!

