

Seymour History Bulletin



A publication of the Seymour Community Historical Society – Spring & Summer 2020

Dedicated to Preserving Seymour Area

History Bill Collar, Editor - 833-6064

Web site: www.seymourhistory.org

Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835

If museum closed: (920) 833-6064

Summer hours: 1:00 – 4:00 Th-F-S-S

Fall and winter: 1:00 – 4:00 Sunday Closed: January, February and March

Board of Directors

Bob Bock

Kurt Boettcher

Bill Collar

Gail Dean

Janice Eick

Mike Keyzers

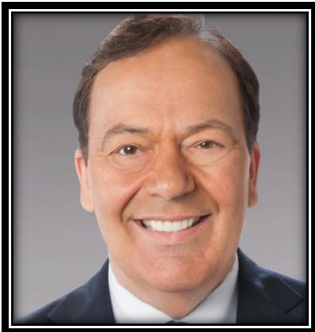
Sue Keyzers

John Koenigs

Karen Kuske

Ellen Piehl

Annual Meeting May 2nd with Joe Schmit



The Seymour Community Historical Society Board of Directors is thrilled to announce the speaker for the annual meeting will be Seymour native Joe Schmit. Thanks to the efforts of Joe's high school classmate (1975), and college roommate Kurt Boettcher, Joe will return to Seymour on Saturday, May 2 to share his message with area residents. A three sport athlete and excellent student in high school, Joe was the recipient of the Lions Club Academic-Athlete Award. He will speak about growing up in Seymour during the 1960s and 70s and relate stories about his award winning years as a sports broadcaster in Minneapolis-St. Paul. He is the author of two books and is recognized as an outstanding public speaker. He will have books available to purchase. Joe's program will be a special treat for anyone from the Seymour area. Joe, his wife Laura and their three children live in Bloomington, MN. His website is (joeschmit.com).

"Joe Schmit is an author, award-winning broadcaster, community leader and popular keynote speaker. His book **'Silent Impact,'** Influence Through Purpose, Persistence and Passion is now in its second edition. His new book is titled **'The Impact Blueprint,'** A Step by Step Journey to a Life of Significance. Joe was recently honored by the National Speakers Association (NSA) with the Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation. Less than 15 percent of NSA members worldwide have achieved the CSP designation.

As a sports broadcaster he has covered every major sporting event in the past 4 decades and has interviewed many of the biggest names in sports. He joined KSTP-TV in 1985 and has won 18 Emmys from the National Television Academy. He was also honored with a National Headliner Award in 2001.

Before joining KSTP-TV in 1985, he was Sports Director for WBAY-TV in Green Bay, Wisconsin. His career also includes positions as weekend sports anchor for KCRG-TV in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and WKBT-TV in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Joe earned his degree in Mass Communications from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse."

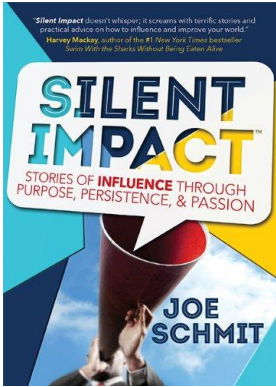
The meeting will start promptly at 1:00 with a brief business meeting. Joe's presentation will follow. The program is open to the public at no charge. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by members of the Seymour Community Historical Society.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 threat this program has been postponed.

Read Joe's bio and a summary of his books. He has had a remarkable career.



Books by Joe Schmit



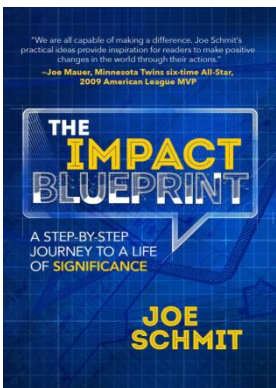
Silent Impact: Stories of Influence Through Purpose, Persistence and Passion

An award-winning book that captures the essence of people who live a life of impact. Joe uses his reporting skills to research and tell stories of impact that are powerful, contagious and last a lifetime. Over 20,000 copies of Silent Impact have been sold.

"Everything starts with passion, which is one of the reasons I loved Joe's new book, Silent Impact. Joe brings a wealth of inspiring and encouraging stories that make this book hard to put down. I guarantee you will be driven to live life with a deeper passion when you realize the incredible and significant impact you have in making this world a better place!"

"Famous" Dave Anderson,

Founder of the World's Best BBQ Joint



Impact Blueprint: A Step by Step to Living a Life of Significance

Joe Schmit's follow up to the best-selling "***Silent Impact***" cites 52 traits of people who make an impact in this world and live a life of significance.

Do you wish you could inspire others but feel some people were just born to do that kind of important work? Here's the truth, no matter your age, skill set, or status--the things you say and do, for good or for bad, all work together to make a lasting impression. If you're going to make an impact either way, why not be more purposeful about it?

"We are all capable of making a difference. Joe Schmit's practical ideas provide inspiration for readers to make positive changes in the world through their

actions"

Joe Mauer Minnesota Twins six-time All-Star, 2009 American League MVP

Summer Exhibits and Programs

Neighbors Past and Present: The Wisconsin German Experience

With the cooperation of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Seymour Community Museum will be displaying the traveling exhibit, ***"Neighbors Past and Present: the Wisconsin German Experience."***

The display is on fourteen panels that draw largely on images and resources from the MKI Library and Archives. The exhibit covers German migration and settlement in Wisconsin, questions of ethnicity and identity in newly forged communities, and the cohesiveness of these communities over the decades, especially in times of economic crisis or war. Specific topics include language; print culture; religion; Amish and Mennonites; traditions and social clubs; education; rural and urban life; business; political and civic engagement; times of war; and immigrants and their descendants in the global world past and present.

As of mid April the status of this program is uncertain.

The SCHS Board of Directors has decided to wait and see what the state and national guidelines are for late May and June.

The exhibit consists of 14 panels with each describing some aspect of German heritage. The presentation is enhanced and made more personal with meaningful items on display from the collection of the Seymour Community Historical Society and Museum. This traveling exhibit has been made possible by a major grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council.

It is free and open to the public from May 23 to June 28.

A New Home

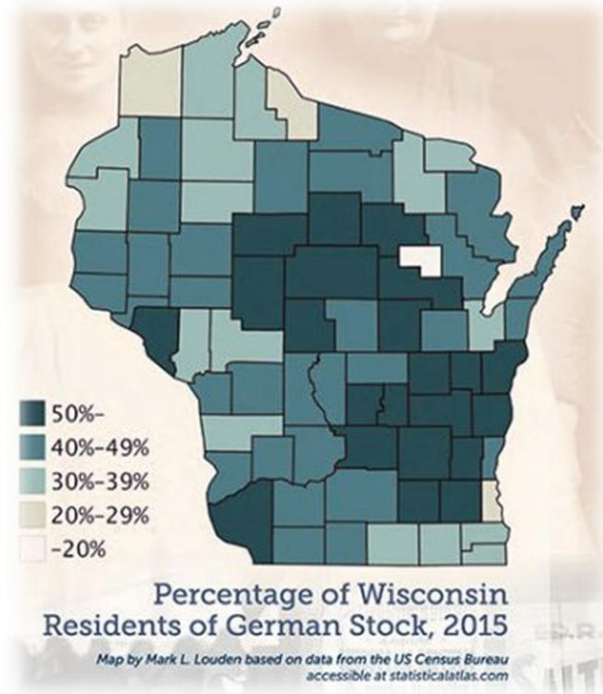
If you live in the Seymour area, there's a good chance that you or a neighbor has a surname like Ebert, Hackel, Krueger, Krause, Kroner or Schmit. In fact, 40% of state residents identify themselves on government surveys as having ancestral ties to German-speaking Europe. The greatest influx of Germans in the Seymour area came in the early 1880s with the largest concentration in the Isaar area.

Many of the immigrants would have traveled by railroad northwesterly through the German states to the seaport of Bremen on the North Sea. For most of them, seeing the sea for the first time was an awesome sight. Passage was booked on a steamship that would sail into the North Sea and through the English Channel to Southampton, England to pick up more passengers headed for the New World. The journey across the Atlantic took about

three weeks. Food on board was poor. They brought some food along with a trunk containing some possessions. We hear today about immigrants landing at Ellis Island and being processed for the new country. In our ancestor's day Ellis Island was not yet established; that was not to come until 1891. We can imagine the confusion, the problems with language and the uncertainty of the new land. Most often other German speaking people assisted the new arrivals to find their way to Wisconsin.



Typical immigrant trunk located in the museum



came from the northern and eastern regions of the German Empire, especially Brandenburg and Pomerania, and also from Silesia and Russia. They were mainly agricultural laborers and small craftsmen displaced by advancing technology and industrialization.

Language

German-speaking settlers in Wisconsin brought with them multiple Low and High German dialects, some of which continued to be spoken for

100 Years of Immigration

The years **1880 to 1890** marked the final and largest wave of 19th-century German immigration to the Badger State. Immigrants



Zion German Evangelical Church SE corner of Ivory and High Street in Seymour.

as many as five generations after immigration. German appears to have survived longer in Protestant, especially Lutheran, communities, since many of their congregations placed special importance on the continued use of German as a liturgical language. Many German Protestants in Wisconsin came from northern Germany, and therefore the maintenance of Low German was especially promoted in the state.

Published in German

By the time America entered the First World War, there were almost 100 German-language newspapers published in Wisconsin, four of them daily; some had circulations between 10,000 and 100,000 well into the 1900s. They were published in every corner of the state, from the *Deutsche Zeitung* in Beloit to the *Superior Zeitung*, and from the *Herold und Volksfreund* in La Crosse to the *Wöchentlicher Volksfreund* (*Weekly People's Friend*) in Appleton.

Beliefs

The diversity of German-speaking Christian denominations in Wisconsin was not limited to Catholics and Lutherans. The first German-speaking Reformed congregation in the state was founded by Swiss immigrants in Green County in 1845. The Moravian Church also established a presence in Wisconsin in the 1840s, as did German-speaking Methodists, most of whom found their way to this originally English-speaking denomination in America.

Amish and Mennonites

In the 1960s, Amish migration to the Badger State began to pick up and today, numbering just over 21,000, Wisconsin has the fourth-largest population among 31 states and four Canadian provinces. Wisconsin is also home to approximately 5,000 Old Order Mennonites, as well as smaller numbers of Kauffman Amish Mennonites, other Mennonite groups, and Old German Baptist Brethren.

Education

In 1889, at a time of economic recession legislature passed the **Bennett Law**, which stipulated that reading, writing, arithmetic, and United States history be taught in English. German Americans and other immigrant groups interpreted the law as an affront against their patriotism, culture, language, academic standards, and – since by 1889 most German instruction occurred in parochial schools – their religion. Wisconsin's ethnic populations banded together in protest, and in 1891 a new legislature repealed the Bennett Law.

Traditions

Today "Typical German" restaurants serve dishes like sauerbraten, spätzle, and strudel, almost all originating in southern Germany, the home of the first wave of German immigrants. At the same time, German foods have morphed into "typical American"



1912 Seymour area auction poster in English and German.



Seymour Cornet Band - 1896
Back L. to R. Otto Schweger, Allen Griffith, James Hittner, Sam Knox and August Brauer. Middle: Fred Zachow, Al Brehmer, William Muehl, George Falck Herman Schweger and August Wiotas. Bottom: Miller, Robert Schweger and John Schneider.

dishes such as hamburgers, "brats" with sauerkraut, and pretzels, while German-themed festivals such as Oktoberfests have become cultural fixtures across the region.

Music, Theater, and Visual Arts

There was hardly a Wisconsin town that didn't have a **music** group, a *Liederkrantz* (singing circle), folk ensemble, brass or polka band. Germans loved to sing, play instruments, perform, or simply join in at sing-alongs and dances. Organizations such as the Milwaukee *Liederkrantz*, the Madison *Männerchor*, and the Freistadt *Alte Kameraden* band, continue the tradition to this day. Many German immigrants also arrived with classical music training, turning Milwaukee into a center for professional music performances, while works by Milwaukee composers such as Hugo Kaun (1863–1932) and Otto Luening (1900–1996) gained popularity around the nation.



1904 - August and Ida Peotter farm two miles west of Seymour on Hwy. 54. First settled in the 1860s.

Urban Life and Economy

For a generation or more, families lived in neighborhoods where German was spoken at home, and English and/or German were used in the larger community as needed. In the bigger cities, especially in Milwaukee, ethnic neighborhoods emerged, and German speakers clustered around those from their own European home region. For many Germans, their social circles were also determined by whether they belonged to Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish, other congregations, or no congregation at all.

Civic and Political Engagement

In the earliest days of statehood, Germans leaned toward the Democratic Party, which was more welcoming to immigrants than the Whigs. By the 1850s, many Germans, especially those who came after the failed European revolutions of 1848/49, supported the young Republican Party and its anti-slavery agenda. Most

Rural Life and Economy

Wisconsin Germans brought with them from Europe centuries of experience with operating small-scale diversified farms that included the practice of crop rotation, as well as the inclusion of women working in the barns and fields. German farm families also adapted to their new environment by, for example, planting (and consuming) corn, something to which they had not been accustomed in Europe. In the decades leading up to the turn of the 20th century, they also followed their rural neighbors in Wisconsin by changing from the cultivation of wheat to dairy farming. Germans – and especially Swiss – had an important impact on Wisconsin's cheese industry that endures to the present day.

Christmas Candy and Nuts We Sell Only Pure Whole- some candy and best grade California nuts. We advise EARLY BUYING	BOYDEN BROS. CO. TIMELY SUGGESTIONS	Now is the time to buy CHRISTMAS Candles and Tree Trimings.
For the Xmas Shopper		
BUY GIFTS AT BOYDEN'S WITH LIBERTY BONDS Your Bond With 1 Year Interest as Good as Gold Here. Don't Skimp this Christmas just because you put your money into U. S. Liberty Bonds. We'll take them and pay you the interest for a year. A \$50.00 bond will buy you \$52.00 worth of merchandise. A \$100.00 bond will buy \$104.00 in merchandise at this store. Arrangements can also be made to trade a smaller amount than the face of the bond. See Us About It. Its patriotic duty to begin shopping NOW		

In December of 1918 Boyden's of Seymour encouraged their customers to cash in their "Liberty Bonds."

prominent among them was Carl Schurz. An early supporter of Lincoln, Schurz led the Wisconsin delegation to the Republican National Convention in 1860.

In Times of War

On the eve of World War I, 8.7 % of all Americans and 38% of all Wisconsinites were German born or had at least one German-born parent. The vast majority were patriotic Americans who were proud of their German heritage and advocated for American neutrality. Although the majority of German Americans stood with the US after its entry into the war in 1917, there were widespread anti-German sentiments. Schools stopped teaching German, place names were changed, German-language newspapers ceased publication, and German Americans felt pressured to buy Liberty bonds. In rural communities, however, life often continued with little change.

Visit the Seymour Community Museum between May 23 and June 28 to view the outstanding "Neighbors Past and Present: the Wisconsin German Experience" exhibit courtesy of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at UW-Madison. Follow the local newspaper and Facebook to determine the ongoing status of this exhibit. All members who are in our e-mail data base will receive periodic updates.

The Model A's are Coming Back to Seymour on June 14



Depot Street will be lined with 20-25 Model A's on June 14.

Those of you who viewed the Model A's parked adjacent to the museum last year will attest to the fact that it was a real treat to see these authentic, fully restored vehicles in Seymour. The Nickle A Region Model A Club will return to Seymour at 1:00 on Sunday, June 14 and park their vintage autos along Depot Street. Dressed in 1930s clothing, the owners take a step back in time and love to discuss the details of their Model A

Ford and the restoration process.

This is a great opportunity to visit the museum and view some vintage automobiles. For more information about the club visit (<http://www.nicklea.com>)

As of mid April the status of this fun program is uncertain. The SCHS Board of Directors has decided to wait and see what the state and national guidelines are for June.

To enhance the 1930s experience the historical society is sponsoring a 1930s New Orleans Style Jazz Band. The Home of the Hamburger will cook burgers and the



Dress up in your 1930s garb and join the Model A club and the Jazz band "Talk of the Town" for a rip roaring time at the museum on June 14.

historical society will serve ice cream. All in all it will be a fun afternoon with music being played from 1:00 to 3:00 in the gazebo.

Jazz Band

The six-piece ***Talk of the Town***, led by jazz clarinetist Kevin Van Ess, is best known for its dedication to honoring traditional New Orleans jazz and swing standards, and the legacy of such great musicians as Pete Fountain, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.



The "Talk of the Town" Jazz Band will play in the gazebo from 1:00 to 3:00 on June 14.

Van Ess, who considers ***Talk of the Town*** to be almost an "all-star band" of some of Wisconsin's top musicians, has been dabbling in jazz since childhood. "As a kid, I would listen to thousands of hours of records from Pete Fountain. He was a legend down in New Orleans. He was the top jazz clarinet player in the world for 13 years, he was on the old Johnny Carson sixty times, and played for presidents and the pope and was well recognized," Van Ess said. "It's kind of like if you're a basketball player as a kid and you look up to Michael Jordan, this was my idol and where I really learned how to play just playing off of his records." About 20 years ago, he met Fountain in New

Orleans and over the following years, performed with him several times, including on the lead float of Mardi Gras parades.

Music in the Park - 2020

John Koenigs is working on putting together another outstanding lineup for the summer concerts in the gazebo adjacent to the museum. Bring your lawn chair. Refreshments are available at the museum concession stand. Music starts at 6:15 p.m. every Wednesday evening. In case of rain, the program will be held at Wally's.



Thunder Country a popular country band will be back.



Kevan Krahn is always entertaining and loved by all.

Dates for Music in the Park

June 10
 June 17
 June 24
 July 1
 July 8
 July 15
 July 22
 July 29
 Aug. 5
 Aug. 12
 Aug. 19
 Aug. 26

Because of the unpredictable nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, at this time the music schedule has not been established. A number of bands are reluctant to make a commitment until more is determined regarding the state and national guidelines for the summer.

The SCHS Board of Directors has decided to take a similar approach and will announce the summer music schedule as soon as possible. It is only fair to our sponsors to wait until more is determined before they are asked to support the program

Sponsors Last Summer

Music Sponsors

Al's Farm Toys - Jean and Al Timm
 Bank First - Seymour
 Community First Credit Union
 Countryside Photography - Seymour
 Dairy Queen Chill and Grill - Seymour
 Diedrick's Heating and Air Cond. - Seymour
 Don's Quality Market - Seymour
 Edward Jones - Seymour
 Family Insurance Center - Seymour
 Good Shepherd Services - Seymour
 Home of the Hamburger - Seymour
 Isaar Trailriders Snowmobile Club
 JJ's Auto Clinic - Seymour
 June Raether - Seymour
 Melissa Hansen - Massage Therapist - Seymour
 Menn Law Firm - Seymour
 Muehl-Boettcher, Inc. - Seymour
 New York Life Ins. - Ken Bakula - Appleton
 Nicolet National Bank - Seymour
 Northeastern Roofing - Seymour
 North County Homes, Inc. - Bonduel
 Orion Labels, LLC - Seymour
 Performance Corporation - Seymour
 Prevea Health - Seymour
 Ralph's Hardwood Floors - Black Creek
 Scott Marcks Trucking and Excavating - Seymour
 Seymour Chiropractic, SC - Seymour
 Seymour Dental - Dr. Kraft and Dr. Reed
 Sha-Bock Farm Bed & Breakfast - Seymour
 T and T Storage - Seymour
 Truymen, Haase, Zahn Insurance - Seymour
 Witt Family Ford - Pulaski
 BMO Harris Bank - Seymour

A Tribute to Lynn Koenigs



Over the years Lynn has been an integral part of the historical society. She has contributed in so many ways and always volunteered with a great attitude and a smile. As a docent at the museum she welcomed visitors with a friendly greeting and made sure every person had a positive experience.

She was eager to help when the fourth graders toured and drew upon her teaching experience to

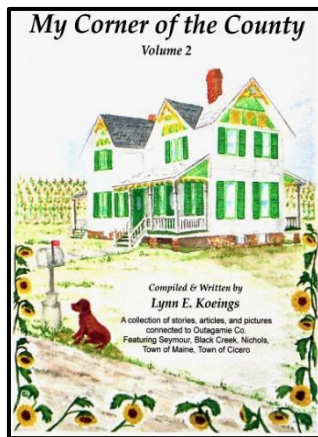
make their visit a memorable one. Her books provide the opportunity for readers to learn more about local history, often in a fun and enjoyable manner. Lynn and John could be relied on to put their many contacts in the musical field to good use when lining up the bands for music in the park. Perhaps her greatest enjoyment came when at the keyboard singing and providing entertainment for the audience. Certainly, Lynn's commitment as a volunteer made the SCHS a better organization. She made a positive difference and will be missed.



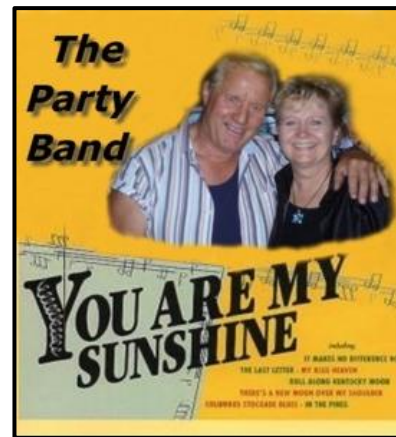
50/50 raffle with sister Diana



Singing the Nat. Anthem



Author of Several Books



The Party Band

An Interview with Roy Puls and Don Feurig and Their Recollections of Life in Seymour During the 1930s,40s and 50s.



Roy Puls and Don Feurig in 2008

In July of 2008 Roy Puls and Don Feurig agreed to share their recollections of life in Seymour during the 1930s, 40s and 50s. Portions of their interview have been published in previous newsletters and are available on the society website (seymourhistory.org) under "Newsletter" March and June 2009 and "News" 2009. Segments can be heard in the museum at the kiosk sponsored by Don's Quality Market. Roy was born in 1915 and Don in 1921. Don graduated from Seymour High School in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army assigned to the OSS. Following his military service, Don became a Master Plumber and owned

Don's Plumbing Company. Roy was owner and operator of North Osborn Cheese Factory until his retirement in 1961. They had remarkable memories and reminded each other of local events. It was a real delight to listen to them reminisce. Following is a random collection of their comments that have not been printed before.

Farmers hauled their own milk with pickups trucks. There was a cheese factory located every few miles. The factories were family owned and most of them sold the cheese locally. They were driven out of business by stricter government regulations and large corporations. Roy says there is a big difference in cheese. Mold gives blue cheese its flavor. Regular cheese was made in slabs and the cheese maker kept turning and testing, but with Colby when they gets off you leave it and then press it. Aged cheese is put in room and you keep turning it. Once cheese is packaged it doesn't age. The smell of "brick" comes from the starter that they use. The Puls factory was located in North Osborn.

During the Great Depression years of the 1930s the price farmers received for their milk dropped so low that a milk strike was organized. It reached its peak in 1933 when Walter Singler of Shiocton, the leader called for farmers to dump their milk instead of sending it to the dairy.

There wasn't much violence in the Seymour area, but some farmers were stopped on their way to the cheese factory and forced to dump their milk. A large gathering took place at the fairgrounds that year encouraging the farmers to stick together. A cheese factory was bombed near Five corners and fighting broke out in Shawano County. Members of the National Guard were

called out to help settle the disturbance. Roy stated that milk was never dumped at the Puls factory.



Farmers rally at the fairgrounds in 1933.

Seymour was considered a prosperous town in the 1930s. On Friday night it was so crowded you couldn't get through town. Many farmers on the highway had electricity by the 1930s. Most who lived on the back roads had to wait until after the War (1945). Years ago they never plowed the roads until the spring of the year. Roy's first car was a 1938 Hudson-Terraplane. (The price for a Terraplane in 1938 was about \$900.00 or \$15,000 in 2020 dollars.) After the war Don purchased a 1946 Pontiac. There were six automobile dealers in Seymour. In the 1930s four passenger trains passed through Seymour every day. Also four freight trains

traveled from Green Bay to Winona, Minnesota. It was common to take the train to Green Bay.



Roy's first car a 1938 Hudson-Terraplane.

There were many dance halls in the area. Nichols was a popular spot as were Isaar, Twelve Corners, Five Corners, Austin Koepfel's and others. Street dances in Seymour were common. Columbia Hall (upstairs of the hardware store) hosted dances and basketball games. Don said "guys got crooked noses from running into the poles holding up the ceiling."

The Odd Fellows Hall was popular for large gatherings. It was a big building on the corner of West Wisconsin and Main Streets where the bank is now located. F.W. Huth had a store downstairs and a large hall was upstairs.



A banquet in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hall on South Main Street.

Roy went to his first Packer game in 1929 with Joe Adamski who owned the Woodenware plant. The plant made cheese boxes and did a great business. Roy and Joe became great friends and they would travel by train to Chicago to the Packer - Bear games. The Packer team usually was on the same train and if they won it was a wild time on the way back. Don saw his

first Packer game in 1940. They played the Bears and got beat 41-10. The Bears beat Washington 73-0 in the Championship game that year. Curley Lambeau was the Packer coach. Don Hutson was the star for the Packers. Roy went to many Cub games. They often packed lunch and he stated that women would dress up high heels and a dress for the game. Roy went to the World Series in Chicago in 1945. The Cubs played Detroit during the war.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked Don and Roy were listening to the football game between the Bears and Packers that was played in Chicago. Don had an Atwater-Kent radio. Roy went to every home game. In 1929, 29,000 people attended a game at State Fair Park in Milwaukee against the New York Giants. Verne Lewellen, Johnny Blood, Clark Hinkle and Cecil Isbell were some of their favorites.



Don Hutson and Curley Lambeau.

In later years many of the Packers would come to Crystal Springs. Ray Nitschke was everybody's friend. Roy, Joe Adamski and many others went to the games. Both men and women used to dress up for the games. Emil Gosse and Don would go to the QB Club meetings with Joe Adamski. An intrasquad game was a fund raiser for Packers when they were down. Don sold season tickets for the Packers to help keep them in Green Bay. Many people in the area purchased season tickets when the new stadium was built.

Seymour High School dropped football in 1931 because there were so many injuries. There were a couple broken arms, Art Koepp hurt his leg and numerous other injuries. After the war it started again. Bob Wolk was teaching in Rhinelander and was drafted. Seymour hired him out of the service and he got football going again.



Standing: J. Hittner, R. Huth, N. Leisgang, R. Sears, M. Blohm, E. Woldt, D. Farrell, L. Beyer, L. Leisgang, R. Vandenhoy, L. Van Vuren, L. Maas, W. Wagner, S. Adamski, F. Weishoff, S. Monroe, Coach Wolk
 Seated: B. Wiese, R. Piehl, B. Jensen, K. Wiese, J. Klarner, D. Sears, P. King, H. Hill, R. Kailhofer
 Seated on floor: F. Burmeister, W. Helein, P. Rollo, R. Gavronski, T. Duffey, D. Beyer, R. Baehler, R. Sigl, J. Zimmer, R. Tubbs
 Front: N. Blohm

Coach Bob Wolk brought FB back to Seymour in 1945.

Coach Paul Loftus was a great coach and had some exceptional basketball and track teams but then he left for World War II. Don said he taught and coached in Seymour from about 1930 to 1941. Don's brother, Gustav, ran track and went to state in about 1933.

Before the new gym was built in the 1930s the high school played basketball at the



The new gym with a balcony. When built it was considered one of the best in the area.

auditorium. They would take the seats out to play and replace them after the game. Many schools did not have very good facilities and often a community hall or dance hall was used. Seating

was often minimal. Roy played one time at Bear Creek when it was very cold. There was a pot bellied stove in the corner and a player ran into it and knocked the stove pipe down.

Dr. Vernon Hittner came to Seymour in 1923. He became famous with a "Buttonhole appendix procedure". Vernon was James Hittner's son. Don, who was a plumber, did a lot of work for Vernon. He said he still has bumps on his head from the crawl space under the house.

At one time tennis was a popular sport in Seymour. Don's dad played tennis. Vic and Joe Lotter had tennis courts at the end of High Street. The Lotter's had a tennis club. After awhile they built courts at the fairgrounds as a WPA project, then Selmer and Farley built courts at the canning factory. They got an old box car from the railroad for storage and supplies.

Miller-Piehl had four lumber yards in Seymour, Oneida, Black Creek and Navarino. They sold coal, all building materials and specialized in laminated beams.

Dr. Groendahl was the doctor for both Roy and Don. They said he had a photographic memory. Groendahl served in the South Pacific in Australia with Maynard Puls during World war II. His dad, Chris, was mayor of Seymour for several terms.

Roy recalled a pool hall on the west side of Main Street during the 1920s. Frank Chase often worked there. He made hamburgers in the



During the 1920s Seymour had a Main St. Pool Hall.

window with a gas stove. If he got too much gas going the flame would jump up in the window

Keuhne's had a thriving business selling cattle. Farmers from all over the area brought

their cattle to Seymour to be shipped out on the railroad. They also shipped cabbage by rail from the north siding by Elizabeth Street. Wagons full of cabbage would weigh in at Miller-Piehl. Huettl's would come with derrick and load the rail cars with ice. They also shipped sweet corn.

At one time Seymour had three clothing

stores and a tailor, Paul Kuehne. You could shop at three or four different grocery stores.

Wednesday night band concerts were popular downtown. Tiny Forest then E.T. Hawkins were the band directors. Dr. Finkle also had a band. Fritz Frank played with him. When Fritz ran for sheriff, Don campaigned for him.

In 1935 the Seymour High School basketball team played in the state tournament. Much of the credit for their success was given to Coach Paul Lofthus. The 1935 "Ripper" was dedicated to Coach Lofthus and included the following article. Lofthus continued to coach very competitive teams at Seymour until 1942 when he served in World War Two.

Coach P. B. Lofthus



Four years ago Mr. Lofthus came to Seymour from Ripon College to succeed Mr. Rholoff as Director of Athletics. During his first years of coaching here, he has stimulated many sport programs and inter class events. Mr. Lofthus 's slogan is "A sport for every man and every man in a sport." In spite of a lack of facilities, he has produced an enviable record.

In 1930-31, which was his first year of coaching, the basketball team had a fair season, and the track team won the Little Nine Conference Championship and placed second in the state meet at Madison.

After having gained experience as a coach, Mr. Lofthus brought the basketball team to second place in the Little Nine Conference. An extensive intramural program including boxing, wrestling, softball, baseball, and tennis was introduced last year.

In 1933-34 the basketball team won the Western Division championship, and progressing with experience, annexed the title the next year and went on to win the District tournament at East De Pere. His efforts were rewarded by having a team entered in the state tournament something no other coach had accomplished for Seymour High.

His leadership has inspired all the boys to take part in some athletic activity. The boys feel that they can trust his knowledge and coaching ability. His record here at Seymour High is a noteworthy one. He has produced several conference championship basketball and track teams and has made Seymour High School prominent for its athletic teams. he has put Seymour on the map and we hope that with a new gym his success will continue.



1935 Conf. Champs - Track L. to R. Lofthus, Helms, Schroeder, Shepherd, Runge, Ohlrogge, Marnocha, D. Engel, Sylvester, Koepp, Kuehne, Zuiches, Huettl, V. Engel, Druckery, R. Engel, Blanshan and Hallada. The track team won the Little Nine Conference Championship in 1933, 34 and 35.

Meet Your Board Members



Mike at the welcome desk in the museum.

Mike Keyzers, vice-president - I have been married to Sue for 47 years.

Family: We have three daughters, one son and five grandchildren.

Education: Following graduation from Kimberly High School I earned a B.S. degree from Lakeland University

Work experience: During my college years in the summer I worked at the Neenah Foundry. After graduation I was the Band director at Seymour High School for 35 years. As a retirement job I worked at the Seymour Dairy Queen for eight years.

Hobbies: I follow high school activities and help out when asked. Woodworking is fun and we have a large garden. Our vineyard is productive and keeps us busy. In the the spring I enjoy tapping the maple trees on our property and making maple syrup that I sell at the farm market.

Years on the Museum Board? I've been on the board since the new museum opened in 2012.

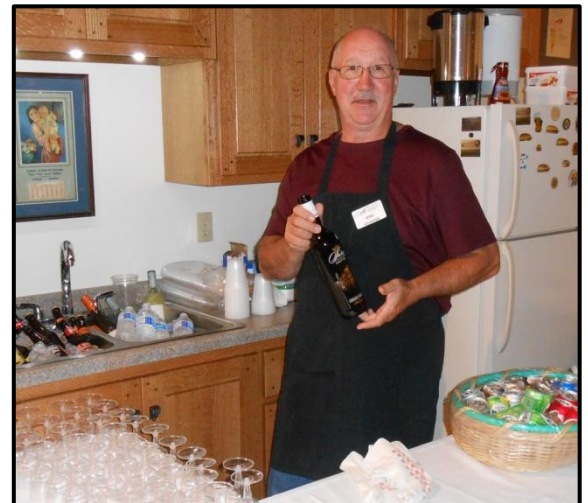
Why do you serve on the board? I've always been a history buff and feel it is important to help make others aware of the past.

My favorite part of the museum? I like the rooms upstairs depicting what life was like during the 1930s. Of course, the historical musical exhibit is also one of my favorites. I've been instrumental in planning a number of the displays and feel the historical portrayal of the Hotel Seymour really came out well. The museum has something for everyone.

Fun places I have visited: Sue and I have traveled extensively since our retirement. The Canadian Rockies are absolutely beautiful. We also enjoy visiting historical sites from the American Revolution and the Civil War in the eastern part of the country. Overall my favorite place to visit in the United States is Disneyworld. In Europe we have taken riverboat cruises on Danube and Rhine Rivers, both were excellent.

Favorite museum outside of Seymour: We have visited many museums and historical places. The President Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Illinois is fantastic. It is amazing the way the exhibits are designed to explain the life of Lincoln in a compelling manner. The La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles captured my imagination. What a trip back in time.

Other facts you wish to include: The historical society and museum provide many educational and recreational opportunities for Seymour area residents. For example, I enjoy seeing such a variety of people at music in the park during the summer months.



Mike is a licensed bartender and volunteers to serve for museum events.

Meet Your Board Members



Kurt Boettcher

Kurt Boettcher - I have been married to Debbie for 41 years.

Family: We have two sons.

Education: Seymour High School class of 1975. University of Minnesota class of 1979.

Work experience: Owner of Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home in Seymour. Prior to coming back to Seymour I was a funeral director in Madison, WI and Rochester, MN.

Hobbies: I'm a hobby farmer. We have a large garden and acres of flowers. It is fun to travel and visit historical sites and museums. We also have horses and I enjoy Nordic skiing. I have season tickets to the Packer games and am an avid fan.

Years on the Museum Board? I've been the board for two years.

Why do you serve on the board? I believe it is important to preserve our heritage and the history of our community. It is a delight to serve on the board with dedicated individuals who feel the same way. It is a way of giving back some of my time to the community that has supported me throughout the years.

My favorite part of the museum? Everything! The displays are done so well. They give the visitor an excellent idea of what life was like in Seymour years ago. Growing up in Seymour was a great experience, from starting my education in the red brick school, going to the businesses with my family and friends. having fun at the fair and seeing many movies at the See-more theatre and much more! a person can relive all those experiences by touring the museum.

Fun places I have visited: Debbie and I have traveled to many beautiful and fun places. Stowe, Vermont is great for skiing. We loved the Smoky Mountains and the Florida Coast. St. Martin in the Caribbean was gorgeous and we swam with the whale sharks in the Sea of Cortez in the Gulf of California.

Favorite museum outside of Seymour: The President Lincoln Museum in Springfield, Illinois is outstanding as is the Buffalo Bill Museum in Golden, Colorado. We also enjoyed the Titanic exhibit at the Milwaukee Museum and the Ulysses Grant Home in Galena, Illinois.

Other facts you wish to include: I've enjoyed my time of the board and have found it to be a rewarding experience. Our family is pleased to sponsor the Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home exhibit in the museum. The funeral home also provide obituary cards that are filed in the museum and accessible to the public.



The Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home Exhibit.

Christmas at the Museum

The Seymour Community Museum was a busy place on Saturday morning, December 7th. The Kids' Christmas program attracted 176 people with about 100 being children. The second floor was turned into the North Pole with numerous decorated trees and winter scenes. Santa Claus heard Christmas requests and Mrs. Claus had a special gift for each child.

Consistent with the North Pole theme, children had the opportunity to play with the Santa train, explore vintage toys and take home holiday crafts. Hot chocolate and Christmas cookies added to the holiday cheer. Thank you to all museum donors who help make the Christmas program possible.



Generous members donated 100 gifts for Mr. and Mrs. Santa to give to the children.



The museum was decorated inside and outside. Bob Bock had the Christmas Train running for the children.



Seymour Community Historical Society Annual Report for 2019

Membership as of January 1, 2020

Lifetime family members ----- 233 Lifetime business members ---- 58 **Total - 291**

Board of Directors

Bob Bock, Kurt Boettcher, Bill Collar, Gail Dean, Janice Eick, Sue Keyzers, Mike Keyzers, John Koenigs, Karen Kuske and Ellen Piehl.

Museum Use

- The museum was open four days a week 1:00 to 4:00 through September. The building is also open for groups by appointment.
- From October through December, the building was open on Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 and by appointment.
- The museum is closed from January through March. Open by appointment.
- A wide variety of organizations toured the museum. These include the Rock Ledge fourth grade students, home school students, senior living residents, local clubs and organizations, class reunions, family gatherings and visiting historical societies.
- Burger Fest was a great opportunity to introduce visitors to the facility. We had 1,457 guests the day of the festival.
- **The total number of visitors to the museum in 2019 was 2,712.**

Web Site Use and Telephone Contact

The historical society receives many phone calls and numerous referrals from the city clerk's office relating to people searching for family or historical information.

During the past year the web site: (seymourhistory.org) has been active.

Our Facebook site (Seymour Community Historical Society) reached a wide variety of people.

Currently we have over 3,100 pictures in our Image Gallery. All past newsletters and historical articles are in the archive section of the site. The site also includes a virtual tour of the museum and thirty pictures of the various exhibits.

Museum Activities from January 2019 to December 2019

January - We were busy taking down Christmas decorations, etc. A slow time at the museum.

February – Museum closed. Open by request

March – Busy with new exhibits

April – Preparing for annual meeting and summer opening.

May – Annual Meeting Featuring Bill Jartz (58). Memorial Day program (37)

June – Music in the Park started. Model A visit (62)

July – New funeral exhibit

August – During Burger Fest 1,457 people toured the museum. Music in the Park concluded.

The program was very popular averaging around 280 per concert.

September – One hundred and fifty fourth graders toured the museum.

Art exhibit featuring the woodwork of Vernon Kemp and cross stitch of Kim Klarner (162)

November - The memory forest remains popular with 41 decorated trees.

December – Our Kid's Christmas event was a huge success (179)

General Comments

- Music in the Park continues to be a very popular attraction for city residents. The total attendance for the summer was **over 2,500** Raffle and concession income was \$3,400.00.
- The gazebo was used regularly throughout the summer. Often when the gazebo is used for community events such as church service and assorted gatherings, the museum is open to provide clean restrooms for the participants.
- The Christmas display around the museum and in Nagel Park included 41 decorated trees. The trees generated a profit of \$1,200.00 for the historical society.
- The SCHS has been getting great assistance from the alternative school students with cleaning and upkeep.

2019 City Budget

Approximately \$16,000 is budgeted to cover museum utilities and repairs. The financial support of the city council allows the society to improve exhibits and offer additional programs.

This is what the Seymour Community Historical Society accomplished in 2019

- The SCHS has a reliable team of 15 volunteers who maintain and supervise the museum and general store four days a week during the summer months.
- The SCHS continued to add to its collection of local pictures and artifacts.
- The SCHS and museum serve as a resource for people doing research.
- The SCHS opened the museum and general store additional hours to accommodate school groups, organizations, the elderly, and visitors to the community.
- The SCHS made its resources available to others through the Internet.
- The SCHS art exhibit provided area residents with the opportunity to interact with the artists.
- The SCHS organized fun activities for area residents of all ages such as the Kids' Christmas.
- The SCHS provided community service opportunities for alternative school students.
- The SCHS continued to provide an impressive holiday display on Depot St.
- The SCHS added several new displays to the museum including the funeral exhibit.
- The SCHS cooperated with the local newspaper and other media to provide historical references when requested.
- The SCHS obtained on loan an exhibit from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.
- Installed all LED lighting in both buildings and added more exhibit cases.
- The SCHS appreciates the installation of security cameras to cover the museum grounds.

Goals for 2020

1. Continue to improve on the accomplishments of the previous year.
2. Bring a popular speaker to Seymour for the May annual meeting
3. Feature special changing exhibits from May through November.
4. Host a "Back to the 1930s" event on June 14.
5. Work with UW-Madison to bring the German Heritage Exhibit to Seymour May 15 to June 30.
6. Coordinate an art show featuring local artists and make it available to the public.
7. Advertise the attributes of the museum to encourage visitors from outside the community.
8. Recondition and paint all the benches at the gazebo.
9. Provide the opportunity for area residents to attend social and cultural enriching activities.

2020 Budget for the Seymour Community Museum

Expenses				Income	
Cleaning Supplies	200.00	Bld. Maintenance	2,400.00	Admission Donations	1,000.00
Office Supplies	600.00	Utilities	13,000.00	Burger Fest	1,000.00
Tax Preparation	1,000.00	New Displays	4,000.00	Music Sponsors	4,000.00
Bands for Music	3,500.00	License and Fees	400.00	50/50 Raffle	2,100.00
Advertising	1,000.00	Web Host & Tech.	1,500.00	Memory Forest	1,200.00
Music Expenses	1,000.00	Flowers & Decorations	1,000.00	Gift Shop	800.00
Special Events	900.00	Memorials & Gifts	500.00	Memberships	200.00
Memory Forest	1,000.00	Postage	500.00	Donations	9,500.00
Newsletters	1,400.00	Miscellaneous	600.00	City of Seymour	15,000.00
Display Maintenance	2,000.00			Music Concessions	1,200.00
				Special Events	500.00
Total Expenses - \$36,500.00				Total Income - \$36,500.00	

Community Resource

The museum/learning center is a great resource for the community. It not only helps preserve the area heritage, but also is available for use by organizations. Historical society volunteers contribute many hours making the museum facilities available to the public. This requires cleaning, supervision, building exhibits, and keeping the site attractive. We appreciate the financial support from the city council and the cooperation of the city workers. The museum is truly a community project.

Volunteers Make it Happen

Even though you may have received previous newsletters via the Internet, this printed copy includes an envelope suitable for returning a donation to help the society meet our financial obligations. The philosophy of the Board of Directors is to have a vibrant organization with numerous activities and changing exhibits. All museum workers are volunteers and 100% of your gift is used at the local level. We appreciate your assistance. All donations should be sent to PO Box 237, Seymour, WI 54167.

Help Sustain the Historical Society and Museum with a Donation

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ (Circle Amt.) \$10.00 \$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 Other _____

In memory of (Optional) _____

Mail your donation to P.O. Box 237 Seymour, WI 54165. The Seymour Community Historical Society, Inc. is a tax-exempt entity. Your donation is fully deductible as provided by law. The federal identification number is: 39-1235870.

Thank you for your support!

Donations Since November 12, 2019

A sincere "Thank You" to all of our donors. Your generosity makes it possible to maintain the museum and offer a variety of programs.

Lowell Hoeft	DePere , WI	Sustainability	
Sara Murphy	San Francisco, CA	Membership	
Anonymous		Sustainability	In memory of Don Feurig
Dave and Mary Maass	Fountain Hills, AZ	Sustainability	In memory of Don Feurig
Susan Feurig Ludvigson	De Pere, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Don Feurig
Donald and Ann Peotter	Appleton, WI	Sustainability	
June Raether	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Janice Eick	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Warren and Gloria Maas	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Gail Dean	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Stephen and Betty Hunt	American Falls, ID	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Ellen Duffy	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Lynn Koenigs
Dan and Pam Zak	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Claude and Doris Peotter
Lisa Rickert	Seymour, WI	Membership	
Vernice Kraft	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Gary and Mary Lou Melchert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Clifford "Dewey" Klitzke
Francis Gerl	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Jill and John Mahlik	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Ronald and Mary Schuster	Fishers, IN	Sustainability	In memory of Ernest and Celia Schuster
Nancy Holz	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Ronald and Sharon Nachtwey	Black Creek, WI	Sustainability	
Pat and Mary Klass	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Giz and Linda Herbst	Egg Harbor, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Earl and Marcella Court
Karen R Coonen,	Seymour, WI,	Sustainability	Thrivent Choice Dollars
Barbara Ebeling	Plainfield, IL	Sustainability	
John Wurtzel	Payson, AZ	Sustainability	
Roland McBain	Antigo, WI	Sustainability	In Memory of Beatrice and Arthur (Bud) McBain
Nichols Paper Products Co.	Nichols, WI	Sustainability	
Jim and Jean Maass	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Roger Eick and Dick Conradt
Clayton and Audrey Ebert	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
John and Dee Nagel	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Richard and Ann Piehl	Shorewood, WI	Sustainability	
Sue and Harvey Shuler	Oneida, WI	Sustainability	
Nancy R. Smith	Gillett, WI	Sustainability	
Thomas Staeven	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Walter, Erma, Ray, Robert and Ruth Staeven
Steve and Darla Dorosz	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Glenn and Sharon Dunville	Seymour WI	Sustainability	
Jim and Nancy Campbell	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Judith Murphy	Neenah, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Gary Schaumberg
Dick and Donna Lubinski	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Daniel and Sally Natchek	Muskego, WI	Sustainability	
Richard and Bonnie Buntrock	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Kurt and Debbie Boettcher	Seymour WI	Sustainability	
Seymour Firefighters, Inc.	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory Bob Manzke
Evelyn Lubinski	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Caroline Storma
Bill and Holly Collar	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	In memory of Caroline Storma
Cassandra Fischer and Randy Skinkis	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Home of the Hamburger, Inc.	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	
Terry Witthuhn,	Shawano, WI,	Sustainability	Thrivent Choice Dollars
Karen R Coonen,	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	Thrivent Choice Dollars
Charles L Stellmacher	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	Thrivent Choice Dollars
Steve Kemp	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	Thrivent Choice Dollars
Ann-Marie Louise Karweick,	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	Thrivent Choice Dollars
Ken Melotte	Spartanberg, SC	Membership	
Cy and Lori Martz	Seymour, WI	Membership	
Ed and Jo Machacek	Seymour, WI	Sustainability	

Seymour Community Historical Society
P. O. Box 237
Seymour, WI 54165

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE

Return Service Requested

Annual Meeting Featuring Seymour native Joe Schmit, May 2th, 1:00 - Postponed
German Heritage Exhibit - May 18 to June 28 - If Possible
Details inside

Website: www.seymourhistory.org
E-mail: seymourhistory@centurylink.com
Museum Phone: (920) 833-9835
If the museum is closed: (920) 833-6064

Museum Hours

Summer:

1:00 to 4:00
Thursday through Sunday

Fall and Winter:

1:00 to 4:00 Sunday
Closed January through March
Open by request anytime

Admission:

Suggested donation - \$2.00 Individual
- \$5.00 Family

Life Membership - \$50.00

Year Individual - \$5.00 Year Family - \$10.00

Music in the Park - 2020

**Details to be announced. Tentative
starting date - June 10**