



LHS News

A PUBLICATION OF THE
LENEXA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WWW.LEGLERBARN.ORG

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Marc's Pen...



Marc Lassalle
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Fall is upon us ...

As summer comes to an end, we look forward to Lenexa's assortment of Fall festivals and events. These events have a great deal to do with Lenexa's ranking of 26th in Money Magazine's Top 100 Places To Live.

September kicks off with the Spinach Festival. In the late 20's, Lenexa was the "Spinach Capital of the World", primarily due to its proximity to our train depot which was capable of handling local farm-

ers' harvests. Today the city continues to honor that historical endeavor by hosting this annual event. Our fundraising efforts at this event are responsible for a great deal of our annual operating capital-so be sure to stop by and support the cause. If you are interested in volunteering, please feel free to contact Becky at the Barn.

In October, the city hosts the Chili Challenge in Old Town. There is nothing better than to spend the evening with close friends in Old Town and maybe even pickup a ribbon or two the next day! The LHS has had terrific success with their entries and hope that you stop by

(Continued on page 10)

Lenexa Historical Society General Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 24
Arrival: 7:00PM
Program: 7:15PM

Lakeview Village
Treetop room,
Southridge Bldg.
14001 W. 92nd St.,
Lenexa, KS

Light refreshments to be served.

Amelia Earhart (aka

Lesly Lewandowski) will appear September 24 at our membership meeting, as she is about to leave on her "round the world flight". She will pause to look at the adventures that brought her to this point. She will talk about her childhood, learning to fly, the Atlantic flight that

made her famous, public appearances, her marriage, other memorable flights, and stories such as her time with Eleanor Roosevelt.

The 45 minute program was written by Ms Lewandowski, who is a professional ac-

(Continued on page 10)

The Lenexa Historical Society is dedicated to the appreciation, preservation and promotion of Lenexa's historical heritage.



September 2009

Upcoming Events
Lenexa Historical Society

September 3, 7PM:
LHS Board Meeting,
Legler Barn

September 12, 9AM-5PM:
Spinach Festival
Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park

September 12, 9AM:
Social Breakfast
Hy-Vee, 87th & Pflumm,
9AM

September 24, 7PM:
General Meeting
Lakeview Village
(Treetop Room in
Southridge Building)
14001 W. 92nd St.

Speaker: Amelia Earhart
(by Lesly Lewandowski)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 7pm LHS Board Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 9am Breakfast at Hy-Vee 9am-5pm Spinach Festival
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 7pm General Meeting, Amelia Earhart at Lakeview Village	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Two Quality Quilts Available

Lenexa Historical Society has been given a great opportunity to raise money at the Spinach Festival. Frank Weimer and family have given us 2 twin bed quilts made by Evelyn Weimer.



Twin Bed Quilt

These quilts have been pieced and quilted on the sewing machine.

They are shades of rose and green on a cream colored background. They would

make a perfect addition to any bedroom. The quilts may be seen in the upper

level of Legler Barn Museum on the day of the Spinach Festival.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 4 for \$15.00. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time from Legler Barn Museum or at the Spinach Festival. Drawing will be held at the end of the Spinach Festival.

Proceeds to benefit the Lenexa Historical Society.

Where Can You Find the World's Largest Spinach Salad?

At the Lenexa Spinach Festival—Of Course!

Come out and have a spinach salad and a famous Wimpy Burger

Where: Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park
When: Saturday,
September 12, 2009
9AM—5PM

Lenexa's Spinach Heritage:

(Taken from the Kansas City Star/Times, May 17, 1939)

"The shipping season is getting under way for the truck gardeners of this section, and



farmers are busy with the spinach harvest. Mary Louise Verstraete, 16-year-old daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Verstraete, is busily engaged in cutting the plant on her parents' farm, a mile northeast of Lenexa, Kas. Five

freight cars full and three truck loads were shipped yesterday at a loading dock near by." *(This site is today the corner of 87th Street Parkway and Quivira Road.)*

During the 1930's, truck farms, operated by Belgian immigrants, surrounded Lenexa. Areas that now encompass the city of Lenexa, and many of the surrounding subdivisions, once raised spinach along with other vegetables. The Spinach Festival commemorates this heritage. The day of fun includes games, entertainment, antiques, arts and craft sales, contests, raffles, and history lessons in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.



Belgian Spinach Growing Families

Each September the Lenexa Historical Society, with the City of Lenexa and others, sponsor the Lenexa Spinach Festival, and this year the Spinach Festival will be held on the first Saturday after Labor Day, September 12, 2009 to continue the celebration of Lenexa's claim as Spinach Capital of the World.

Come on out and be sure to stop by the Lenexa Historical Society's booth for famous Wimpy Burger or spinach salad.

LHS Photo Preservation Grant Renewed

Board member Terry Clark recently submitted a renewal grant application with the Heritage Trust Fund, supported by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, to continue preserving our historical photographs.



"Safeway in the Orchard Corners strip mall that used to be at 95th and Quivira." Photo LHS2582, www.jocohistory.org

Just this past August 17, we received notification that the Lenexa Historical Society's grant renewal was approved, which will allow for up to as many as 2,000 additional photographs to be cataloged, scanned, and added to the online archive at:

www.jocohistory.org

Accompanying Terry to the Heritage Trust Fund review meeting were Board Member Todd Crow and LHS President Marc Lassalle, providing a summary of the success we have experienced from the previous grant award and answering questions about the renewal application.

Through this project, the public can access the photographs, suggest updates to the information recorded about the photograph, and help The Lenexa Historical Society with it's mission for the preservation and promotion of Lenexa's historical heritage.

Better Hurry... Kansas Aviation ends soon... next Exhibit October 22: *Lenexa and the Railroad*

The new exhibit, set to open October 22, 2009 and run through April 17, 2010, will tell a story about the very beginning of Lenexa (info on James Butler Hickok, Shawnee Indians, Na-Nex-Se, Chief Blackhoof, Santa Fe Trail, C.A. Bradshaw, Octave Chanute) and of course, The Railroad. Visitors will see how these things worked together and changed the life in this area dramatically, along with the growth of Lenexa and how we maintain Old Town Lenexa's image because that is where it all began – Keeping history alive for future generations in Lenexa.

At July's General Meeting, guest speaker, William Dale (Real Bill) Smith presented on the topic of The History of Railroading. Bill, who

has spent his career in the railroad industry, was able to provide us with interesting facts on the industry as it developed across the U.S.

Did you know that a young lawyer by the name of Abraham Lincoln was responsible for the first track to be laid east to west? Before that all track went North to South due to river traffic which refused to yield to train traffic.

Our thanks to Bill, for stopping by and sharing



Pork Chops & Applesauce

Date: Wednesday, October 28
 Time: 6:00PM to 7:30PM
 Where: VFW Building
 9550 Pflumm (Pflumm and 95th Street)

Purchase Tickets (\$8 per person) at the Legler Barn Museum

Make plans to attend our Pork Chop Dinner on Wednesday, October 28 from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the VFW building at Pflumm & 95th Street (9550 Pflumm).

Buy a ticket for yourself and a friend and meet at the large hall, east entrance of the VFW building.

Proceeds to benefit the Lenexa Historical Society. For more information or tickets, contact the Legler Barn Museum at 913-492-0038.

Menu:

Smoked Pork Chops
 Baked Potato
 Applesauce
 Green Beans
 Various Fruit Salads
 Dessert



Enjoy Breakfast with Your LHS Friends

Join us for FOOD and FUN conversation on the second Saturday of each month at Hy-Vee.

We have a lot of fun talking and eating!
 Buy your meal and drag more tables together as people arrive.

If you would like to receive an email reminder prior to our monthly breakfasts, contact Katie Evans at:

katiasevans@sbcglobal.net or 913-390-5131

Hy-Vee, 87th and Pflumm at 9:00AM
 Second Saturday each month:

2009

Sept. 12
Oct. 10
Nov. 14
Dec. 12

2010

Jan. 9	May 8	Sept. 11
Feb. 13	June 12	Oct. 9
Mar. 13	July 10	Nov. 13
Apr. 10	Aug. 14	Dec. 11

What's been happen



LHS
Parade
Entry



ning around town...



Waterfest



Save the Wagon & Recycle to Preserve Our Past Campaign

Remember the "Save Our Wagon" and "Recycle to Preserve Our Past" Campaigns? These programs were in conjunction with the City's initiative targeted towards 3rd graders participating in the "Learning



Drawn Freight Wagon, has worked diligently on this restoration project. He found an Amish craftsman in rural Mont Ida, Kansas to do the restoration work. Rod will install the wheels soon, and *we will have*

about Lenexa" program, with our goal to raise funds (through cell phone recycling efforts) to



help with the restoration of the wagon wheels of the Society's Prairie Schooner Wagon currently stored on the grounds of Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.

Well the time has come as LHS Board Member, Rod Booth has just completed the initial staining of our newly refurbished Prairie Schooner Wagon Wheels. They were in serious need of repair, and Booth, who also personally owns an 1872 Studebaker Horse

our Schooner wagon on display at the 2009 Lenexa Spinach Festival!

It is our hope that our wagon will tour local 3rd grade classrooms, helping youth understand the importance of Preserving our Past.

Anyone wishing to contribute monetarily:

*LHS
14907 W. 87th St.
Lenexa, KS 66215*

*Please note on
check "wagon"
fund.*



Join the Lenexa Historical Society or Renew Your Membership

Lenexa Historical Society Membership Application for Renewals or New Members

Single \$20 Family \$30 Corporate \$250
 Single Life \$200 Family Life \$300 Corporate Life \$2500

Name _____

Authorized person, if corporation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please mail to: LHS, 14907 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66215

Make checks payable to: Lenexa Historical Society. Thank you!

Legler Barn Herb Garden Eagle Scout Leadership Project

Dylan Crow, a Life Scout from Troop 186 (Lenexa United Methodist Church in Lenexa, KS) will be performing some renovation work to the Legler Barn Herb Garden as part of his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

In his project write-up (presented and approved by the LHS Board of Directors, LHS President, Dylan's Troop, and the Boy Scouts of America, Trails West District Eagle Committee) Dylan outlines several goals of the project:

Item 1—Existing Benches:

There are currently two concrete benches that have sunk into the ground and are in need of repair. Dylan's goal is to place a slab under the benches to stabilize them and replace them if they are found to be damaged.



Item 2—Trellis/Pergola: The existing trellis is missing some parts and the wood is splintering and not pleasant to sit on, nor is the structure stable. Dylan's goal is to

build a new pergola and



replace the wooden benches with concrete benches, thus improving the structure, its usability, and the overall appearance.

Item 3—Garden Appearance:

The final item within Dylan's project involves working with the current volunteers who maintain the garden to acceptably remove the weeds around the brick pathways within the garden.



The trellis and possibly the benches in Herb Garden were constructed in 1994

and through Dylan's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, he hopes to restore these items to their original glory and usefulness.

Dylan hopes to carry out his project over the next several months and into the spring, hopefully completing the work in time for next year's BBQ and Spinach Festivals. Also, as part of Dylan's project, he will be conducting a car wash and collecting donations to cover the costs of the project, expected to run around \$800.

If you would like to make a donation, please send checks to:

Dylan Crow—Herb Garden Eagle Project
15624 W. 80th Terrace
Lenexa, KS 66219
913-599-1999

Dylan could also use your help if you know of discounted sources for obtaining the materials to complete the project, or if you are able to donate the items as well. The primary items needed are:

- 4 Concrete Benches,
- Quality Lumber for construction of Pergola (6"x6" Posts and other various lumber), and
- 80# Bags of Concrete.

M a r c ' s P e n

(Continued from page 1)
and have a taste.

Later in the month, there's Pumpkin Carving at the Community Center followed by the Enchanted Forest at Sar-Ko-Par Park, great fun for the kids!

November, the Christmas Lightning in Old Town is a great tradition. Not as big as the Country Club Plaza, but sometimes smaller "is" better. Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park near the Legler Barn has a lighting display as well.

In December, LHS will celebrate its 35th Anniversary of Incorporation. We'll keep you informed of upcoming events as we plan to celebrate this milestone throughout 2010.

Good times are a comin' and we hope to see you around the Barn!

A m e l i a E a r h a r t t o a p p e a r a t G e n e r a l M e e t i n g



(Continued from page 1)

tress and singer, and also has taught acting for over a twenty year period. Lesly has performed over 300 "Amelia" shows throughout the United States.

Join us September 24th at 7PM for this historically significant presentation!!

Coffee, Tea, and cookies to be served.

L H S 2 0 0 9 D i r e c t o r y U p d a t e s

New Members

Crow, Todd & Katy
15624 W. 80th Ter.
Lenexa, KS 66219
913-599-1999
kansascrow@aol.com

Deceased

Gene Amos

I t ' s A l m o s t C h i l i T i m e !

(Portions from City of Lenexa Website:
<http://www.ci.lenexa.ks.us/parks/chilichallenge.html>)

This year the Lenexa Chili Challenge will take place on Friday, October 16th and Saturday, October 17th, and as usual, to be held in Old Town Lenexa (the corner of Santa Fe Trail Drive and Pflumm Road), where over 100 teams compete in two divisions: Competition (C.A.S.I.) Chili and Home Style Chili. In 1999 a Salsa Division was added that has been very popular along with a hot wing contest .

Chili contestants generally show up Friday afternoon and begin setting up their booth space with the festivities beginning at 5:00 pm Friday night with live music and activities for all. The official contest begins Saturday at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. with the announcement of the winners.

Admission charge of \$1 per adult. Children under 12 free. There will be chili to sample (on Saturday), games, music, and live entertainment.

Proceeds from the Lenexa Chili Challenge help benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

If you are interested in competing, being a judge, or want more information, call the city's CHILI HOTLINE at 913-541-8592.



October 2009



October 1, 7PM:
LHS Board Meeting
Legler Barn

October 10, 9AM:
Social Breakfast
Hy-Vee, 87th & Pflumm

October 15:
Conclusion of
Kansas Aviation Exhibit
Legler Barn Museum

October 22:
Lenexa and the Railroad
Exhibit (thru April 2010)
Legler Barn Museum

October 16 & 17:
Lenexa Chili Challenge

October 28, 6PM:
Porkchop Dinner
VFW Building
9550 Pflumm (95th &
Pflumm)
Tickets \$8

October 28 & 29:
Lenexa Enchanted Forest
Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park,
6:30-8:30pm, admission \$1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm LHS Board Meeting	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 9am Breakfast at Hy-Vee
11	12	13	14	15 End of Kansas Aviation exhibit	16 Lenexa Chili Challenge	17 Lenexa Chili Challenge
18	19	20	21	22 Start of Lenexa and the Railroad exhibit at Barn	23	24
25	26	27	28 6pm Pork Chop Dinner, VFW 6:30pm Enchanted Forest, Sar-Ko-Par	29 6:30pm Enchanted Forest, Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park, 87th & Greenway	30	31

LHS News is published six times a year by the Lenexa Historical Society.

Editor: Todd Crow, 599-1999

Contributors: Marc Lassalle, Doug Bartley, Alan Uhl, Rod Booth, Connie Andrews, Sharon Hammontree, and Becky Emmerich.

Legler Barn Gift Shoppe & Museum

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday – Friday 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Saturday – Sunday 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

Contact us: 913-492-0038

Comments: marcl@leglerbarn.org

www.lenexahistoricalociety.org
or www.leglerbarn.org

We Invite YOU to Join OUR Team

Volunteers play a crucial role in the daily operations of the Legler Barn Museum. We invite you to become a part of our volunteer staff, whether it's providing one hour a month or fifty. Every Volunteer can be a part of the Legler Barn Museum by assisting in various roles, whether working with the public or behind the scenes.

- Front Desk
- Administrative
- Computer Projects
- Tour Program
- Library
- Gardening
- Speakers Bureau
- Special Day and Evening Events

Volunteer Benefits:

- Complimentary admission to the Museum
- 10% discount in the Museum Store
- Volunteer and Tour Training
- Guest Passes
- Outstanding Volunteer Recognition
- Special invitations to Exhibits/Events
- Opportunities to meet new and interesting people with similar interests
- Inner satisfaction from volunteering

**Come by the Barn to pickup additional information
or inquire about being a volunteer.**

Lenexa Historical Society
14907 West 87th Street Parkway
Lenexa, Kansas 66215-4135



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The Lenexa Historical Society is dedicated to the appreciation, preservation and promotion of Lenexa's historical heritage through management of the Legler Barn Museum and Lenexa Train Depot.