

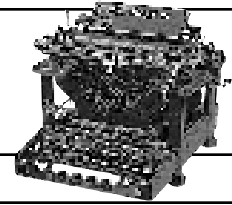
BECAUSE OUR HISTORY MATTERS



# Prairie Gazette

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2010



## October - December to feature variety of programs

What a variety of activities are planned for the next three months by your Lakewood Historical Society. October will feature one of our regular programs, this time at the Lakewood Library while November will see our annual meeting and election highlighted with a presentation by a WWII Japanese American member of the US Army. Finally, the annual Society and Museum open house will take place in December.

A panel of four spokesmen for Lakewood cemeteries will present information about their facilities on Tuesday, October 19. The program will get underway at 7 pm.

According to Sue Scott, program coordinator, the speakers will represent the Old Settlers Cemetery on Washington Boulevard, the Western State Hospital Patient Cemetery located in Fort Steilacoom Park, the Home of Peace Jewish Cemetery at the corner of Lakewood Dr and Steilacoom Boulevard and the Masonic Cemetery, near the intersection of Farwest Drive and Masonic Road in Lakewood.

Speaking about the Old Settlers' Cemetery will be Mrs.



Bobbie Castro. Deb Freedman, historian and archivist for the Jewish Cemetery, will speak about it while Laurel Lemke will be representing the Western State Hospital Grave Concerns Committee. A representative from Steilacoom Masonic Lodge #2 completes the group of panelists

Scott said the speakers will discuss such varied topics as the history of their burial grounds, unique or interesting aspects of them and, in the case of the Western State Hospital and Old Settlers' Cemetery, recent upgrades or improvements.

(Mountain View Cemetery is not included in the current program because it was the subject of a special program of its own a couple years ago.)

In November, Sam Matsui

will speak about his experiences as a veteran of the 442nd Combat Team during WW2. His talk will be a feature of the Society's annual meeting and election of directors and officers for the coming year. This meeting is scheduled for Prairie Hall in the Little Church on the Prairie, 6310 Motor Ave SW. The meeting will start at 7 pm and light refreshments will be served.

Finally, an Open House at the Museum at 6211 Mt. Tacoma Drive SW is planned for Saturday, Dec. 11. The affair will be held from 2-4 pm, according to Becky Huber, Society president. The Museum will be decorated with vintage holiday decorations and refreshments will be served, Huber reported.

The events are all free and each is open to the public.



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### Prairie Gazette

Prairie Gazette is the official publication of the Lakewood Historical Society. The newsletter is published four times a year. Distribution is directly to members and available at the Lakewood Historical Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Dr. SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

The staff of Prairie Gazette actively encourages input from the Society's members as well as the general public regarding story ideas or any other aspects of this newsletter and the Lakewood Historical Society.

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### MEETINGS

The Lakewood Historical Society formed in 1998 to preserve and share Lakewood's rich history through programs, displays and publications. The Society offers frequent programs on topics of historical interest. Most programs are free and open to the public. Visit the website for information on events and activities.

[www.lakewoodhistorical.org](http://www.lakewoodhistorical.org).

### EDITOR

Dave Sclair  
e-mail: dsclair@comcast.net

## President's Message

What happened to summer? I did reap some of the benefits of summer from the Tri-Cities area. I managed to can Yakima tomatoes over the Labor Day weekend. This "labor" intensive process gives me a great deal of satisfaction and the results are enjoyed all winter.

The beginning of a new school year is also the time to make plans for the coming year. The Society board has been discussing some new ideas. The biggest change is a revision of the layout of the museum exhibits scheduled for the first of the year. We also have another great idea for a signature event next summer. We are reinstating the placement of more historic markers. So stay tuned for more details in the newsletter as they develop.

Funding for the museum operation and Society activities has again been supported by our generous donors and sponsors and the City of Lakewood with the Lodging Tax Grant. Because our financial footing is more solid this year we are looking for new ways to promote the museum and our events. We are excited to be an advertiser in the newly expanded *South Sound Magazine* coming out next month. We are also continuing our partnerships with the on-line Suburban Times and the Tacoma Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau. Plans also include updating our website.

We have some exciting programs scheduled for the rest of the year as highlighted on the front page of this newsletter. I am especially pleased to have scheduled Sam Mitsui, a World War II veteran, for our Annual Meeting on November 9. Be sure to make an effort to attend and bring a friend or neighbor. We welcome ideas for next year's programs.

Our organization cannot continue to grow and meet our goals if we don't have enough volunteers to help us on committees and special events. See page 3 for more details. Don't wait for us to ask you but rather step forward and offer your services using your already developed skills and interests. We appreciate your participation even if you can only carve out 1-2 hours per month.

Your leader,  
Becky Huber

## ***New member orientation scheduled Oct. 9***

We are overwhelmed by the response to the Annual Museum Fund Campaign by the number of new members who have joined this year: over fifty in just the last 3 months! We have exceeded 300 members for the first time ever and are well on the way to our goal of 500 members.

An active and involved membership is one of the Society's greatest strengths. Informed members that use every opportunity to promote the Society are the best way to grow. Actively participating members that are involved in Society projects, committees and activities is the best way to accomplish our goals.

It has come to our attention that we need to offer an orientation session for new members to better acquaint them with the Society, the museum and the goals. Therefore, a formal orientation has been scheduled for Saturday, October 9

from 11 am-1 pm. Since this is during lunch time feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks will be provided. The location will be determined once we know how many will attend. Personal invitations will be sent to those who have joined this year. We're aware that not everyone will be able to attend this session so we will be offering an alternate date before the end of the year.

The Membership Committee will also be developing a Membership Booklet with the basic information that will be handed out at the class. It will be sent to new members who are unable to attend the orientation.

The committee will appreciate booklet content input from long time members. Feel free to contact president Becky Huber 253-582-8682 or [craftyhubers@comcast.net](mailto:craftyhubers@comcast.net)

## ***Society needs volunteers for Board of Directors, committees***

If you're interested in the history of the Lakewood area and are a member of the Lakewood Historical Society, please consider stepping up and participating as a member of the board of directors.

Board members, chosen from among the membership of the organization, are responsible for the proper management of the Society and Museum.

Becky Huber, president of the Society, said the Board of Directors meets once each month to discuss a variety of items including future programs, displays within the museum, financial matters and other issues vital to the success of the organization.

"The Society needs additional members with a little time to devote to their organization and an interest in helping make it bigger, better and more successful," she explained. In recent months the number of individuals visiting the museum has been increasing and attendance at monthly programs has grown dramatically, necessitating additional member participation. Board terms are for three years at a time and the greater the variety of member background the better the Society and Museum is able to grow and prosper.

In addition to serving on the Board of Directors, the Society also is in need of members willing to serve as docents,

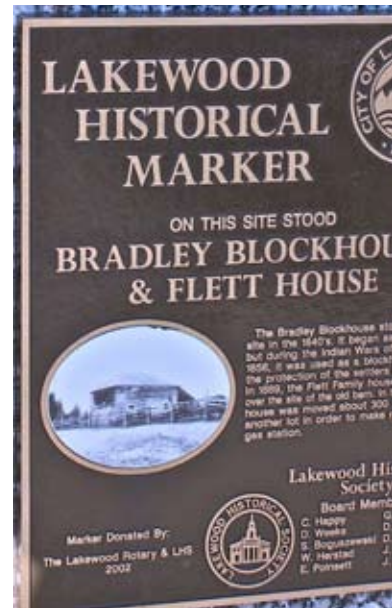
work on committees such as our monthly programs and help with outreach to others in the community. "We have a training program for docents so an individual doesn't have to fear not having answers to questions that might be asked by visitors," Huber explained.

"All we ask of volunteers is an interest in the Society and Museum," she added.

**Have you asked  
a relative, friend  
or neighbor to join you  
in a visit to the  
Lakewood  
History  
Museum?  
Why Not!**



# A self-guided tour: You can easily find and learn of Lakewood's



## Start your self-guided tour at the Lakewood History Mus

- # 1 - Drive east on Gravelly Dr to its intersection with Steilacoom Blvd. to the Clover Park Technical College main entry to the Mueller Harkins Hangar (building 5); next the Tacoma Race original Byrd School marker (on the Steilacoom Blvd side of road)
- # 2 - Cross Steilacoom Blvd. and enter Echelon Apartments to the Flett House, located near the Lakewood Dr. exit.
- # 3 - Drive north on Lakewood Drive to Custer Road (74th St) intersection with Bridgeport Way. On the northwest corner is the Flett House and Flett House (in front of gas station).
- # 4 - Continue west on Custer to intersection with Steilacoom Blvd. to Thunderbird Shopping Center to the Chief Leschi marker in front of the State Hospital main entry noting the construction of a highway
- # 5 - Further west on Steilacoom Boulevard is a rock pyramid marker for the State Hospital main entry noting the construction of a highway
- # 6 - Enter Fort Steilacoom Park off 87th St. Across from the State Hospital cemetery and marker.
- # 7 - At the end of the parking lot near the red barns is the Fort Steilacoom Trail sign and starting point.
- # 8 - Exit the park and continue west on Steilacoom Blvd. to the intersection at 98th St SW and turn right onto Military Rd. which becomes Gravelly Lake Dr and turn east to reach Ingleside Dr. SW - Pacific Highway. Turn north. On the right just beyond the overpass is another stone marker for the construction of the highway to Walla Walla.
- # 9 - Continue north on Pacific Highway to Bridgeport Way. Turn right onto Lakewood Towne Center Blvd.. Turn into Towne Center and follow it to the end where a marker commemorates the Visitation Villa, the final stop on the tour.



# history by taking this journey around the city and into the past



um, 6211 Mt. Tacoma Dr. SW.

oom Blvd. Continue on Steila-  
to view a trio of markers. First,  
aceway (building 3) and then the  
building 37)

o see the new Byrd School mark-

t.). Turn west on Custer to the  
a marker for the Bradley Block-

n Blvd. Turn west on Steilacoom  
n a rock behind Key Bank.

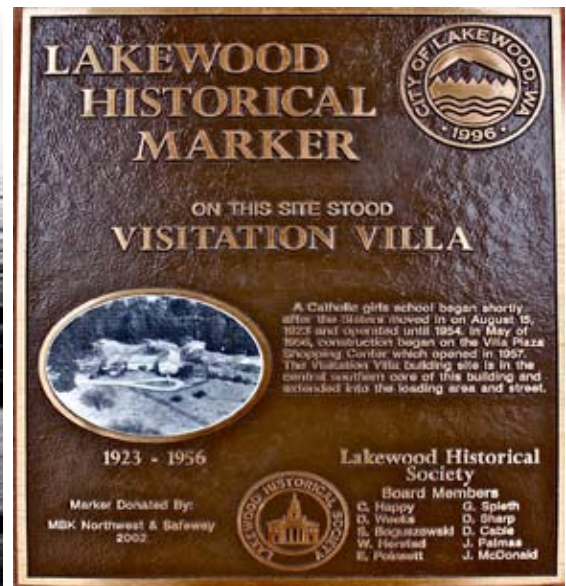
d marker across from Western  
y to Bellingham.

red barns is the Western State

rt Steilacoom Park Discovery

Farwest Dr. Turn south to its end  
s Washington Blvd. Continue to  
acific Highway (just prior to I-5).  
tone pyramid marker noting the

Turn north to intersection with  
continue west to Safeway Store  
stop on the grand tour.



# LAKESWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

August 31, 2010

<b><i>Cash on Hand</i></b>	<b><i>07/31/2010</i></b>	<b><i>12/31/2009</i></b>
Checking	\$ 2,654.41	\$ 1,907.36
Money Market	\$ 9,833.45	\$10,807.58
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$12,487.86</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 12,714.94</i></b>

<b><i>Income</i></b>	<b><i>August 2010</i></b>	<b><i>8 Months 2010 YTD</i></b>
Grants	\$14,610.15	\$30,077.67
Memberships	\$ 180.00	\$ 5,025.00
Donations – Museum Fund	\$ 305.00	\$10,594.75
Sponsorships	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Memorials	\$ 0.00	\$ 150.00
Special Fund Raisers	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,185.00
Bank Interest	\$ 10.39	\$ 72.34
Other	\$ 0.00	\$ 234.55
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>	<b><i>\$15,605.54</i></b>	<b><i>\$52,839.31</i></b>

<b><i>Expenses</i></b>		
Operations & Administration	\$ 1216.43	\$ 3933.51
Web Site	\$ 125.00	\$ 420.00
Contract Services	\$ 0.00	\$ 4174.74
Permanent Museum Study	\$ 0.00	\$ 1060.15
Insurance	\$ 0.00	\$ 1780.00
Museum Lease	\$ 1500.00	\$12,000.00
Museum Exhibits	\$ 75.00	\$ 263.31
Postage, Copies & Printing	\$ 115.36	\$ 1093.48
Museum Annual Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 4063.17
Special Events	\$ 0.00	\$ 4275.73
Marketing/Publicity	\$ 2425.73	\$ 9854.28
<b><i>Total Expenses</i></b>	<b><i>\$ 5457.52</i></b>	<b><i>\$42,918.37</i></b>

### ***Closing Cash on Hand 08/31/2010***

Checking	\$ 2,862.13	\$ 2,862.13
Money Market	\$19,773.75	\$19,773.75
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>\$22,635.88</i></b>	<b><i>\$22,635.88</i></b>

Prepared 09/03/2010

# LAKEWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

## 2010 MUSEUM FUND CONTRIBUTORS

September YTD, 2010

**Goal: \$25,000**

**Actual: \$17,574 - 145 donors**

City of Lakewood Lodging Tax helps support history museum promotions, displays & exhibits.

### **SPONSORS**

BCRA Design

Comcast

Dimmer Family Foundation

Gramor Development WA

Northwest Commercial Bank

Paktek Inc

The Suburban Times

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## *Programs for Fall 2010*

*All sessions start at 7 pm in Lakewood Library meeting room starting at 7 pm  
6300 Wildaire Road SW, Lakewood unless otherwise mentioned.*

Tuesday, October 19 ***Lakewood's Historic Cemeteries***: the history and recent developments at the Old Settlers Cemetery on Wshington Blvd.; Western State Hospital Patient Cemetery in Ft Steilacoom Park, Masonic Cemetery and Hope of Peace Jewish Cemetery at Steilacoom Blvd & Lakewood Dr. will be shared

Tuesday, November 9 at 7 pm: in Little Church on the Prairie, Prairie Hall, 6310 Motor Ave SW, Lakewood; ***Annual Meeting*** and Elections; ***Special Program - World War II: The Japanese American Experience***; ***Sam Mitsui***, a veteran of the 442nd Combat Team.

Saturday, December 11 2-4 pm: Lakewood History Museum, 6211 Mt Tacoma Drive SW, ***Holiday Open House***. Vintage holiday decorations and refreshments served.