

LAKE BLUFF HISTORY MUSEUM



127 EAST SCRANTON AVENUE
P.O. Box 250
LAKE BLUFF, ILLINOIS 60044

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 53
Lake Bluff, IL



MANY THINGS IN LAKE BLUFF ARE
CLOSED NOW AT THIS HISTORIC TIME.
THE LAKE BLUFF HISTORY MUSEUM
CONTINUES TO CONNECT WITH THE
COMMUNITY VIA ITS WEBSITE, SOCIAL
MEDIA POSTS AND NEWSLETTERS.

INTRODUCING:

Lake Bluff Events 2020

The COVID-19 threat has brought much of life to a halt, but the Lake Bluff History Museum is optimistic we will return to some version of normal soon. A list of 2020 events follows.

Visit lakebluffhistory.org and/or follow Lake Bluff History on Facebook for updates!



HOPS & HISTORY:
**BOOTLEGGERS, BANDITS &
BATHTUB GIN** Join Kathy O'Hara at
the Lake Bluff Brewery as she dishes on
prohibition in the village • Date TBD

**LAKE BLUFF HISTORY MUSEUM
AUTO SHOW** Scranton and Center
Avenues • Date TBD

**DOGS ON THE BLUFF OPENING
DAY** Dogs "unleashed" throughout
town • Date TBD

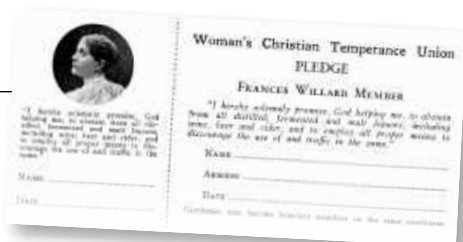
INTRODUCING:

Mobile Walking Tours!

This 4th of July, the Lake Bluff 125 Committee and Lake Bluff History Museum will launch a brand new Lake Bluff Walking Tour smart phone app, built with material from the museum's archives and narrated by local voice-over talent. This app will enable people to go on self-guided walking tours of the Camp Meeting and Uptown areas, and to locate Dogs on the Bluff statues. More tours will be added throughout the year. Visit Lakebluff125.org and lakebluffhistory.org or follow us on Facebook for more information!

THE NEW LAKE BLUFF WALKING TOUR APP
WILL HELP PEOPLE LOCATE DOGS ON THE
BLUFF STATUES, INCLUDING THIS ONE
REPRESENTING THE MUSEUM ITSELF.
DOG PAINTED BY PAULETTE COLO; PHOTO BY
LB-125 VOLUNTEER JENNIFER LEVENTHAL





U.S. Prohibition Ended IN 1933. Lake Bluff Stayed Dry FOR DECADES.

How did a village founded on the promise “to remain forever free from saloons and beer wagons” evolve into the most festive town on the North Shore?

From the beginning, Lake Bluff pledged to be dry. State law in the 1870s and ‘80s prohibited liquor sales within two miles of camp grounds and summer assemblies. That was fine by the Camp Meeting Association’s (CMA) temperance-minded Methodist founders and their influential visitors, including Frances Willard, who rallied Americans to “just say no” to alcohol.

A founder of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, Willard spent summers in a cottage on Scranton Avenue where she headed up Temperance and Prohibition rallies for the CMA and helped form the National Prohibition Party. She was in good company here. In 1895, when the Village of Lake Bluff incorporated, trustees passed laws to ensure Lake Bluff would remain “forever free from saloons and beer wagons,” as reported by the Chicago Tribune.

WHAT WAS THE BEEF WITH LIQUOR?

Many people believed outlawing alcohol would dramatically reduce divorce, poverty and other social ills of modern society. In 1920, villagers likely yawned when Congress approved the 18th Amendment forbidding the production, transportation and sale of intoxicating liquors. “Who needs Prohibition?” they might have said. “We got this!”

Despite rumors of bootlegging during Prohibition, on the surface Lake Bluff was dry and proud of it. Fourteen years later, when the U.S. lifted Prohibition, Lake Bluff feared the repeal would jeopardize its historic anti-liquor charter, and in 1934 it held a referendum on whether liquor could be sold in the village. “It is a foregone certainty the town will uphold its tradition and vote bone dry,” a newspaper reported before the vote.

BONE DRY IT WAS!

They did it again in 1961, when William Hansen of Bill’s Food Mart (now Be Market) petitioned the Village for a referendum asking if voters wanted to continue prohibiting retail sales of packaged liquor containing over 4% alcohol (for some time, the sale of beer with no more than 3.2% alcohol had been allowed). On April 18, 1961, Prohibition won when Lake Bluff voted 599 to 178 to ban liquor.

(Continued on Page 3)

Lake Bluff’s Long Dry Spell



RIGHT, LBHM CO-FOUNDER KATHY O’BSCURA CONDUCTS RESEARCH. PHOTO BY MARCUS NORMAN. ABOVE, FRANCES WILLARD’S MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR THE WOMEN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION. PHOTO FROM THE LAKE BLUFF HISTORY MUSEUM ARCHIVES



ADDED TO THE ARCHIVES:

Happy Birthday to 611 E. Prospect Avenue



611 E. PROSPECT FROM A 1958
TAX ASSESSMENT PHOTO.

Jill & Bruce Danly's home at 611 E. Prospect is 119 years old this year, an amazing milestone. The Danlys raised their two children in the home after purchasing it from Jill's parents, who had owned it since 1968. Over the years the cottage has endured two fires and renters. When the Danlys took it on, they seriously considered tearing the house down, but they decided to renovate instead. Their first project: installing Hardie siding and a metal roof. Next up: bathrooms and outdoor hardscape. Visit the museum's website for more on the Danly home.

The museum is collecting stories of Lake Bluff's homes. If your house has a story to tell, please call (847) 482-1571 or email adrienne@lakebluffhistorymuseum.org.

WELCOME!

The Lake Bluff History Museum, through its programs, collection and the museum itself, provides a key resource linking the community to Lake Bluff's past.

We've created this newsletter to broaden our reach and share what we have been doing, what we have discovered, what we are planning, and how you can take advantage of our programs, events and resources.

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OUR MISSION

The Lake Bluff History Museum connects people with Lake Bluff's history by:

- researching, organizing, and preserving artifacts relevant to Lake Bluff and its past and present inhabitants
- sharing knowledge by telling stories of the people and the social history of Lake Bluff
- creating activities that bring history to life

The Museum Garden Keeps Growing!

You can add your personalized brick by making a \$100 tax deductible donation. Order forms are available at the museum and online: lakebluffhistory.org



Please select **The Lake Bluff History Museum** as your charitable organization on smile.amazon.com. At no cost to you, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible purchase(s) to the museum. **Thank you!**

Lake Bluff Just Says No! *(From page 1)*

From then through the 1980s, Lake Bluff issued several beer licenses, but it remained leery of anything more spirited than beer. In 1975, Convenient Mart requested a permit to sell wine, but trustees determined the request would require a referendum, which they didn't think would pass.

Lake Bluff was not alone in its relative dryness—generations of residents of Lake Forest, Highland Park and most of the North Shore lived and died by laws prohibiting liquor sales.

1991 - THE GENIE'S OUT OF THE BOTTLE

The issue remained quiet until 1991 when the Village Market (now Be Market) requested to sell wine. Bingo! In 1992, voters passed a referendum discontinuing the prohibition of retail wine and liquor sales. The board revised the liquor code, and things began to loosen up.

In 1995 the Village granted Gocky's Restaurant (now Panera Bread) a license to serve beer and wine to diners on site, and a year later it allowed a bar in the restaurant. A year after that, the Village granted Treasure Island grocery (now Heinen's) a license to sell off-premise liquor.

The village board took another leap forward in 2005, granting a liquor license to Holly's American Bistro (now home to In-

ovasi) — a first for the Village's downtown district. The vote passed unanimously and with little discussion; the only concerns involved outdoor dining and the sale of alcohol on the sidewalk patio. Holly's special use permit allowed for outdoor drinking but diners had to go into the restaurant before being seated outside.

In December of 2007, the village board popped the cork again, issuing a liquor license to the Village Market, for the sale of off-premise liquor. In 2011 the board allowed Lake Bluff Brewing Company to open a brewery with a 25-seat tasting room, and is now one of numerous restaurants and bars in the Village's downtown district and Carriage Way shopping center. There also are downtown block parties throughout the summer, beer tents at village events and a bottle of wine at just about every picnic on the Village Green during summer Bluffinia concerts.

And this spring, the Village is allowing carry-out alcohol along with food while everyone is sheltering in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Turns out that for the most part, selling liquor in Lake Bluff did not become the demon rum the founders and generations of Village leaders thought it would be.



TODAY LAKE BLUFF IS KNOWN FOR ITS FESTIVE DOWNTOWN BLOCK PARTIES AND CONCERTS, SUCH AS FOODSTOCK ON THE VILLAGE GREEN. PHOTO BY PHILLIP ROSS. ABOVE, BILL'S FOOD MART AT 24 E. SCRANTON AVENUE PETITIONED THE VILLAGE IN 1961 TO HOLD A REFERENDUM ON LIQUOR SALES. PROHIBITION WON AGAIN: 599 TO 178.



How Deep Do Your Lake Bluff Roots Go?

Calling longtime Lake Bluff families! The Lake Bluff History Museum is looking to interview families that have deep roots in the village. We're particularly interested in those that go back 125 years, which coincides with the Village's 125th anniversary celebration. But we're also game to talk to families that have been here almost as long. Please email adrienne@lakebluffhistory.org.

SECOND GENERATION LAKE BLUFFERS BEN AND IDA CLOES WITH THEIR COW IN THE LATE 1880S. PHOTO FROM THE LBHM ARCHIVES.