

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
2021 First Quarter



Spring is a time for new beginnings, and we are starting 2021 off with a brand new CVHS board. Painting and new carpet, are underway at the museum! Hoping to welcome visitors soon.



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Dale Olson	83	Oct 26, 2020
Leslie (Davis) Oswald	83	Feb 28, 2021



We had a productive meeting creating a new CVHS board. Our new team is already working on advancement ideas for the Historical Society. Pres. Nancy Belt shared a bit of her story with us...

In 1977, I moved to Clayton St. in Cherry Valley with my sons, Jason and Todd Barry. There I fell in love with and married George Belt in 1982. We built our first home on Cutty Sark Rd.

In 1981 I was appointed as your Village Clerk by Mayor Dale Moyer and Board of Trustees. During my years as village clerk, I had the opportunity to be a member of the Illinois Municipal Clerks Association and Northern Illinois Municipal Clerks Association. After being a member for over 20 years, I received my Master Municipal Clerks degree. The Village Clerk's position requires you to be the "Keeper of the Records". I won software to preserve the village's historical documents and began working with The Illinois Department of Archives. The Village's original documents from 1852-1980 are kept at the Illinois Archives in DeKalb, Illinois. The 1852-1980 documents are microfilmed and kept at the village hall. I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve as your Village Clerk for 31 years, retiring in 2012.

On November 1995, I hosted a get acquainted meeting to see if there was interest in forming a Historical Society. Twenty-seven people attended. By 1996 we had By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, and a Sales Tax Exemption number. George and I purchased a video camera and began interviewing residents to listen to their stories of growing up in Cherry Valley. Lyle Wilt was the first person to be interviewed which followed with many others.

Now, its 2021 and I have been re-elected as your President. I'm looking forward to working with everyone to help keep Cherry Valley's Historical Society an amazing asset to the community. If you have any questions, please contact me and please consider joining.

Sincerely, Nancy Belt

Donna Rhia vice-president, Melynda Mungor treasurer, Pat Stegeman secretary ...intro's next quarter.



Correspondence with Brad Olson

Back in January, we received an email that grew into an interesting conversation. It reinforced how interconnected we all are. During this time of less social interaction, it literally made my week.

B. Olson: *"I asked this question of the Winnebago County Highway Department, but haven't received a response, so I thought that the CVHS might be able to help. This is a link to a photo of what is now a walking bridge at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve on Perryville Rd. <https://tinyurl.com/sdrt3fka> Do you know what it was originally used for? Was it part of Perryville Rd or a long-gone rail line? If so, do you know when Perryville was rerouted? I grew up in Cherry Valley but moved away over 35 years ago, and when someone asked me about the bridge I wasn't able to answer."*

P.Jeske: It is indeed the old car bridge across the Kish. It's been a part of the walking path for a long time. If you stand at the intersection of Blackhawk Road and Perryville and look hard, you can still see a difference in tree height that follows where the road used to be. I found a Google satellite map image where the old road line is clearly visible. If you were to look closely along the riverbank not too far from there, you can actually see the remnants of the even earlier bridge #2 footings made from limestone taken from the area. I can confirm when I started driving about 50 years ago it was still a one lane bridge unless you were a very daring driver. You had to pull to the side and wait if someone was coming from the other direction. My dearest friend grew up in the house on the other side of the bridge on the corner of Blackhawk and Perryville. They reduced the "S" curve of the road a bit, and her house became closer to the road. Her family was part owner of Knox Motor Service. If you grew up here, possibly that name is familiar? By chatting with her, we were able to place the building of the newer bridge during her college years between 1966-70. There was no other easy to find info to date the current bridge. I did learn the first bridge was a wooden one (probably a covered bridge), and that this "historic" bridge was washed away in the flood of 1860. Before that a ferry was in place.

B. Olson: *"I see your maiden name is Wilt; are you related to the Wilts that lived at the north end of Cherry St? I spent my first 4-1/2 years at 302 Grove. I was born in late 1963 and we moved in April, 1968. Prior to that they rented the little house on the northwest corner of State and Hogan, across the street from the Mitchells. My dad's grandparents (Fred and Winifred Eifer)lived on the east side of Hogan. Joan Garrett was my dad's sister and they lived in Cherry Valley for a few years in the early '60s also. According to my mom they bought the house on Grove St. in 1963 (it was built in 1847) from a man named Cotta, who was a partner in a transmission shop in Rockford. The detached 2-car garage was built by my dad, his brother, Royce Garrett and probably a couple of other people in 1966.*

My dad (Dale Olson) served on the Village Board in the early 1960s and my mom and a few other people handled the mowing of the Triangle (the joke at the time was that CV was too small to have a Square). I remember walking with her from the house to the Triangle as she pushed along the Lawn-Boy mower, and on rare occasions we would stop afterward and I'd get a chocolate soda - apparently some of my first words were "Lola, chocolate soda!"

P.Jeske: Mr. Garrett built our house at 310 Cherry St. He lived in the garage during construction. We may have had the only garage with its own well, bathroom, and oil burning furnace! You could look at the ceiling and see where it had been divided into a couple small rooms while it was a "house". The furnace was removed, the bathroom intact but unused except for storage after purchase.

Then I had the pleasure of hearing from Kris Olson

"A little history: back in 1963 my husband Dale and I moved into the two story on Grove St. across from your family home. You and your siblings were kids at the time. After our sons, Brad and Brian were born, we moved to Cherry Crest subdivision across from what is now CherryVale Mall (1968). As a young boy Dale spent summers with his grandparents (Fred and Winifred Eifer on Hogan St.) Dale and Johnny Larson often worked on projects at Dale's grandparents because there was a pit in the garage so they could work on the underside of a vehicle, most likely a truck. I know Johnny was a very knowledgeable member of the Historical Society. Dale loved all things Cherry Valley."

P. Jeske: Dale Olson was instrumental in setting the War Memorial boulder in place in front of the now demolished CV Grade School. I was happy to let Brad know that boulder now sits in the same triangle of land his mother helped mow so many years ago. Besides a love of tinkering, John had a fantastic memory, as did my dad and both were invaluable to the CVHS. Dad always said there wasn't anything John Larson couldn't fix. Dick Cordonnier once mentioned his dear friend John liked to go rummaging in the town dump for things he could repurpose. He said John was the handiest guy he ever met. And lastly...that two story house at 302 Grove is still such a charming home.

Granted a conversation is an unusual format. While we hope you enjoy getting the newsletter, I wanted you to know how much WE enjoy getting mail with stories or questions about Cherry Valley!



The Cherry Valley Men's Club has partnered with the Village of Cherry Valle to erect an Armed Forces Memorial.

Our vision is to display five Service Flags and an American Flag in honor of our Veterans as you enter the Village on South Mill Road.

Phase I includes installing flag poles along with the flags and LED lights to illuminate each flag at night, is scheduled to be complete by Memorial Day 2021.

Phase II will include additional landscaping of the area surrounding the flags.



If anyone is interested in helping fund this project, please contact a member of the CV Men's Club. Any donations gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support. There are more detailed brochures with donation forms available around town and also by request.

Sparky Prisby at 815.494.0856 or sparkyprisby@comcast.net



The Cherry Valley Village Garage Sales will be held May 14 & 15th.

Pat Stegman is generously offering her garage for a sale with proceeds to go to the CVHS.

Take your unneeded and priced items for donation to 113 East Street just prior to the sale. Or have your own sale and designate some of the proceeds for the CVHS. We are working towards purchasing new carpeting for the museum. For more information please contact:

Nancy 815.332.5677 Pat 815.332.4412 Donna 815.742.0186 Melynda 815.262.3667




Terry Murphy, a lifelong Cherry Valley resident had always envisioned organizing a non for profit organization with a group of Cherry Valley area men with the goal of helping Cherry Valley area children and the community in general. In 2011 he put his ideas into action and the Cherry Valley Area Men's Association was established. Sadly Terry passed away in 2017 but his vision and goals are the driving force of our organization. We are a small organization that raises money through various events, company sponsors and membership dues. We donate to various community needs and offer five \$500 scholarships per year towards continuing education.

Cherry Valley Area Men's Association is a Nonprofit 501 (C)(3) organization Fed ID # 90-0674903

Events Cherry Valley Area Men's Association has sponsored or contributed to:

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph on Harrison (Bypass 20) and Mill Road intersection.
2. Established an educational scholarship program donating five \$500 scholarships every year.
3. Donated uniforms and equipment for the 4th and 5th grade boys and girls basketball teams at C. V. School.
4. Donated cheerleading uniforms for the 4th and 5th grade Cherry Valley School Spirit squad.
5. CVAMA members assist with the yearly food and paper shredding drive at Village Hall.
6. Raised funds for uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes.
7. CVAMA worked with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at six county forest preserves.
8. Donated to the 2011 and 2012 downtown Cherry Valley Christmas lights.
9. Donated and passed out over 4,000 Frisbees at the Cherry Valley 4th of July parade 2012 thru 2018.
10. Sponsored the Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile at the 2012 4th of July parade.
11. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Family Night Ice skating at Carlson Ice Arena 2016-2018.
12. Sponsored Cherry Valley 4th and 5th grade basketball players to youth basketball clinics.
13. Mini Golf and silent auction sponsor 2017, 2018 Cherry Valley Public Library fundraiser.
14. Sponsored Wild Life Exhibit and Educational Show Cherry Valley Public Library 2017.
15. Donated a defibrillator to the Cherry Valley Police Department.
16. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Bounce Night at the Gymnastics Academy South for 2017 and 2018.
17. Contributed fishing poles and tackle boxes to the Cherry Valley Library that can be used with a library card.
18. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Library tour at the Burpee Museum 2018.
19. Sponsor Cherry Valley Library Furry and Friends Petting Zoo 2018.



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Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we sincerely appreciate their support!

Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their continued support and assistance.



Editor.... Pam Jeske (golfnsew@aol.com) 815-621-7262

Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail,

The Historical Society's e-mail (cvhs.1899@gmail.com)

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