

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

January-February 2026

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Museum Updates

Happy New Year. Our 2026 season is ready to rock and roll with our first event of the season being our 24th annual Chili Luncheon. Please mark your calendars and spread the word to friends. Family and neighbors. This event serves as our annual meeting and will include the voting in of board member positions. Up for reelection are Galen Bertram and Sally Kryder Anderson

Upcoming Cedarville Area Historical Society Events-Mark Your Calendars (more in the next newsletter)

- February 8th–24th Annual Chili Luncheon-11:00-1:00 at the museum
- May 16th-International Museum Day Celebration-1:00-4:00
- May 25th-Memorial Day Parade and Picnic– 10:00-1:00

We were thrilled to be able to resurrect our annual potluck dinner on Tuesday December 2nd. Our thanks to those that braved the weather and joined us for great food, singing and a visit from Santa.

A note from our treasurer Galen Bertram:

I bet you are all familiar with the Christmas poem **'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.**

Well here's our CAHS version. 'Twas December 1, the afternoon prior to our planned Christmas potluck with our CAHS members, when all through the museum, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse, **BECAUSE IT WAS 40 DEGREES IN THE MUSEUM!**

Wendy went to the museum Monday afternoon, to decorate for the upcoming Tuesday night potluck and discovered it was cold, as in 40 degrees cold. She called Becker Superior HVAC in Lena (they do our spring/fall HVAC checks). Within a couple of hours, Zach, one of their HVAC technicians analyzed the problem. Our 20 plus year old furnace had a bad motor and a bad control board (approximately \$1700 fix and a week to get the parts). Or, Zach said because the furnace, with its heat exchanger, was so old, they could install a new Heil, higher efficiency furnace, and because of our upcoming Christmas potluck, they would adjust their schedules and install it the next day.

Galen discussed with some of the board members, and that afternoon, called Shawn Becker (owner of Becker Superior HVAC) to commit to the new furnace. The next morning Galen, met Shawn, Zach and Logan at the museum as they arrived with the new furnace. They started working (in Galen's words, "like a well oiled machine") at 9:50 am removing the old furnace, and at 11:00 am, Galen took a picture of them standing in front of our new Heil working furnace. Simply amazing! The new furnace installed was a total of \$5000. However, Shawn at the same time gave our historical society a nicer donation to help us with this unexpected expense.

The museum wasn't totally up to temperature as people started to arrive at 5:30 pm, but it was close. On behalf of our CAHS, we share this article about the excellent workmanship and response from Becker Superior HVAC. We are in the midst of our annual membership renewal drive for 2026, and we sincerely thank those who have already contributed. Any extra contributions that you may make to help us cover this unexpected year end expense would be greatly appreciated.



Out with the Old



In with the New



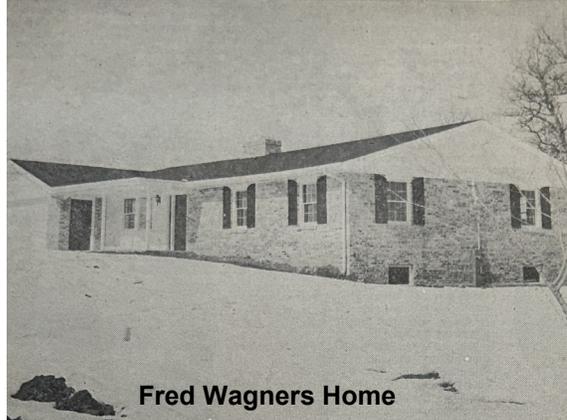
Hooking it up



Logan, Shawn, Zach

Memory from Kurt Dikkers

Sometime in the 1960's, the land that is outlined in red was offered for sale by a Mrs. Fink. The green line to the right is Stephenson St and the road off Stephenson St is Homestead Dr). My father purchased it for a very good price. Later there was discussion as to the price and a slightly higher price was negotiated. Dad sold off the best lots nearest Cedar Creek, with the best one going to Freddy (Fred) Wagner, who had come back after a tour in Vietnam as a paraplegic. Fred contracted with Tom Garman's, a contractor in Freeport to have the house designed and built to specifications required for comfortable paraplegic living. The development lingered after that with us boys taking turns mowing the remaining lots with the Farmall H tractor Dad had purchased. We loved mowing with that tractor. Eventually our neighbor, Tom Derinski, an actual land developer partnered with Dad to develop the land in a professional manner, They put in roads, surveyed the lots, sold lots and Tom built the houses.



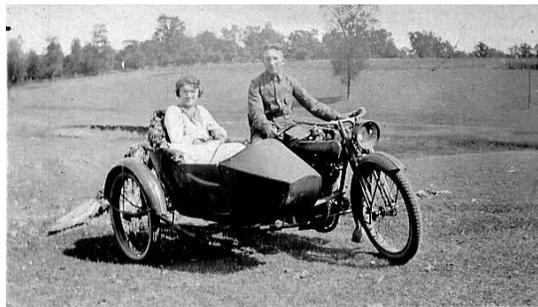
Fred Wagners Home



Fred Wagner

Can You Help? Do you know any of these people? These photos were given to the museum by Bethel Pentifcoff, if this is of any help. If so, call Wendy at 224-639-3436

Bring your friends and make it a party



**Cedarville Area
Historical Society
Museum**

24th Annual Chili Luncheon
Sunday, February 8, 2026
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Come enjoy great food & support
your local history.

| Menu | Admission |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◇ Chili | ◇ Adults - \$6.00 |
| ◇ Three Homemade soups | ◇ Children under 12 - \$2.00 |
| ◇ Cheese Sandwich | ◇ Cash or Check accepted |
| ◇ Chips | |
| ◇ Dessert | |

Call Wendy for additional information
1-224-639-3436
450 2nd Street, Cedarville, IL 61013



The Lake Carroll Women's Club held their meeting at the museum in November and toured the museum with docent, Toni Galster. We have entertained many groups during the year. If you have any groups who would be interested in touring the museum or holding a meeting in the meeting room, just let us know



Moira and Kathlene



Elves
Toni & Wendy



Santa Dale



Elf Toni & Jan



Jim and Sharon



President Steve and Hal



Bill and Shirley



Yummy Food



Carole leads us in song



Elf Toni and Bill



Suzie

Cedarville Area Historical Society
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport IL 61032

Postage

Return Service Requested

Museum Hours Saturdays 1:00PM-4:00PM (June, July and August)

Museum is also available by appointment

During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best to respond and meet you at the museum

Museum facilities are available for private functions (weddings, reunions, meetings)

Call or text 224-639-3436 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or email: info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org to make arrangements



REMEMBER: If during your household cleaning you come across items (photos, postcards, apparel, school items, military, historic retail items, etc.) that have significance to the history of our surrounding community and you are thinking of throwing them out STOP. Those items may be of historic importance to our community and we would love to have them for current/future displays. We thank those who have recently donated items to be used in current or future displays. Give us a call (224-639-3436) or email us at info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org.

Cedarville Area Historical Society
450 2nd St., Cedarville Il. 61013
Phone 815-990-0417

Mailing Address
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032

Web site
www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

E-mail
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society
YouTube-Cedarville Area Historical Society

Steve Myers, President
Lisa Goodwin, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Sally Kryder Anderson, Director
Andy Dvorak, Director
Toni Galster, Director
Wendy Gilpin, Director
Moira Knowlton, Director

The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and has been designated as eligible for tax deductible gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c)(3).

