

Williamsville Central High School

Class of '64 - 55th Reunion!

Weekend Details



Hello again '64 Billies,

On behalf of Committee Chairman, Lee Broad, and members Susan Carney Van Hooser, Dennis Edmiston, Jim Groh, Greg Karpick, John Norris, Jim Ransom, Tex Zimdahl, we again enthusiastically and whole-heartedly invite you to attend our Class Reunion the weekend of June 14-16. Hopefully, you have received a previous letter informing you of two blocks of rooms we have secured for you at the Hyatt Place Hotel and The Reikart House, both located at the site of the old Lord Amherst at Main and Kensington. This letter provides details of the planned activities for the weekend.

We have four venues at which we will get together and create new, wonderful memories. The venues were selected to highlight the history of Buffalo and its continuing resurgence. If you have not been back to Buffalo in the last few years, the changes will amaze you.

When you arrive at the venue, look for the sign/ banner saying "Williamsville Central High School Class of '64—55th Reunion". We'll be nearby. Bring photos to post on other poster boards that we will have at the venues. You can also leave messages on these boards.

There are no cover charges or minimums for these venues. Order what you want and only what you want. You are accountable only for your own tab the entire weekend.

Friday night from 5:00pm until 10:00pm (just getting dark by then), we have a reserved space within RiverWorks (https://buffaloriverworks.com/riverworks_brew/), 359 Ganson Street, Buffalo's newest premier waterfront, boating, sports, music and entertainment destination located along the banks of the Buffalo River.

This massive waterfront complex is a true destination for skating, hockey, curling and concerts with dining, bars and concessions. RiverWorks is Western New York's backyard and it's open year-round.



The interior space at RiverWorks holds: a 5,000-person art, entertainment and concert venue; the first permanent, purpose built, flat track roller derby track in the world; a martial arts dojo; four bars; a restaurant and a concession food area; locker rooms for sports leagues; restrooms and a kitchen. This 60,000 sq. ft. space in the main building can also be converted to use for any event, including but not limited to: concerts, banquets, weddings, corporate events of all kinds, sports tournaments, festivals, trade shows, conventions, art demonstrations and non-for-profit fundraiser events.

RiverWorks' two outdoor ice rinks are covered by a metal pavilion with open sides to provide shelter while maintaining an outdoor feel. These ice rinks play host for hockey leagues and events, curling leagues and events and figure skating practice and events in the winter. In the summer the concrete slabs of the rinks are used for a variety of sporting and event program space including: roller hockey; roller derby; tennis; volleyball as well as concerts and events.



Lots to do at RiverWorks in addition to the activities described above—rock climbing , a zip line through the silos, river cruises from their dock, kayak rentals, pinball and other games, and music. Come ready for anything!

Finally, RiverWorks built the first ever fully functioning brewery to be retrofit into an existing grain silo. (Note: the easiest way to find the main entrance after you park is to walk towards the gigantic Labatt's Blue six-pack shown in the picture on the following page). The former GLF Grain Silo (see the attachment "More Information" about the Silo) houses the RiverWorks' brewery that uses direct tank-to-tap lines for the three interior bars as well as a fourth bar located in the Silo itself.



Situated directly next to the Silo, the Beer Garden was constructed amongst the foundational remnants of another former grain silo. If the weather is good, we might abandon the reserved space inside and make the Beer Garden—with its own service bar!--our center of activity (Becky Jones, the Events Manager suggested this—thanks, Becky!).

Saturday afternoon from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. The Terrace at Delaware Park (<http://terracebuffalo.com>), across Park Lake from the Buffalo History Museum. The Terrace, occupying the top floor of the old Boat House, renamed the Marcy Casino, will welcome us as we enjoy an afternoon in the park, literally. Here is some history.



Plans for Delaware Park were designed by renowned landscape architect, Fredrick Law Olmsted in 1868. By 1874, his partner, Calver Vaux designed the original Boat House. Eventually the boathouse was enlarged due to popularity, but sadly was destroyed by fire in 1900.

The structure was rebuilt in time for the 1901 Pan-American Exposition that took place throughout Delaware Park. The new 3-story building was designed by prominent Buffalo architect E.B. Green (also designed the famous Dun Building downtown). It officially became known as The Delaware Park Casino and served as a gathering place for residents of the city. Today it is known as the Marcy Casino in honor of William L. Marcy Jr., Delaware District Councilman 1978-1983 for his devotion to the casino and the city of Buffalo.



While at The Terrace, you will have an expansive and impressive set of opportunities from which to choose: Delaware Park, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the Buffalo History Museum, and the Burchfield Penney Art Center are within easy walking distance. The Delaware Park Terrace will serve as a hub for us. You can choose to remain there or venture out to visit these and other interesting places, such as Buffalo State.

We will not have reserved space, but you can still find us. Look for our “Welcome WCHS Class of ‘64” signs just outside the door. Once there, enjoy a beverage and the views from the terrace as you reminisce with classmates and view the important historical treasures of Buffalo.

Saturday night beginning at 5:30pm until 10:00pm, we will gather at the Hydraulic Hearth (<https://hydraulichearth.com>), 716 Swan Street, across from the Larkin Building. The Hydraulic Hearth Restaurant and Brewery, located in the historic Larkin District, is a happy hour and dinner destination. The menu is focused on brick oven pizzas and shareable starters, complimented by beers brewed in house by Community Beer Works. For those with other tastes, the restaurant provides a full bar. In the summer, Hydraulic Hearth has one of the best patios in Buffalo and WNY. If the weather is good, we will have a reserved area on the patio (see photo on the following page), or as it is more commonly called, the beer garden.



If the weather does not cooperate, we will have a private area set aside indoors for us at the front of the restaurant closest to Swan Street. In either case, look for our “Welcome WCHS Class of ‘64” signs.

See the attachment “More Information” for a short history of this impressive area of economic and social revival.

Sunday morning at 10:00am, breakfast at Reikart House, a new boutique hotel that stands on the site of the old Lord Amherst. We will have seating in the Executive Boardroom and the Parlor, the hotel’s stylish restaurant. Visit the website (www.reikarthouse.com) and get a fuller sense of the wonderful elegance awaiting you.



While you are in the hotel, enjoy the gallery with original paintings by renowned local artist, Peter Fowler and local historic images, exclusive to Reikart House, Buffalo, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel. As you will discover upon entering, the entire hotel is an exquisite tribute to old fashioned craftsmanship

Named after Amherst's first family of hospitality, Frank and Dolly Reikart, the hotel carries on their rich legacy and heritage with interior design inspired by the classic vaudeville style of the era. Frank, a man of many talents and inventor of the Jazzboline (sort of a cross between a guitar and violin), his wife Dolly, and their pet monkey Jocko set the foundation for Reikart's dedication to hospitality and love of creating truly unexpected and memorable experiences.

We will order from a limited menu. Don't worry, though, because the food at Reikart House is fabulous and there is an assortment of breakfast victuals sure to please you. The available entrees, from which you are to select one, are listed at the end of this Weekend Details document.

Kindly note that space is limited to 38, so be sure to email Jim Groh and "reserve" your place(s) and indicate your desired entrée(s). Jim will confirm the reservation back to you. Make a note that our seating is at 10:00am and the Parlor will be opened up to other guests at 10:15am. If you are late, you may not have a place.

Other Activities to Consider for the Weekend. There are a number of interesting tours, places and trips in historic Buffalo. So, in addition to being part of the fun at the four planned venues, you might want to consider enjoying a tour or trip with one of the following:

- Buffalo Tours (716) 852-3300. <https://preservationbuffaloniagara.org>
- Buffalo River History Tours (716) 796-4556. <https://buffaloriverhistorytours.com>
- Buffalo History Tours (716) 997-2245. <https://www.facebook.com/buffalohistorytours/>
- Buffalo Double Decker Bus Tours (716) 246-9080. <https://www.buffalodoubledeckerbus.com>
- Explore Buffalo tours (716) 245-3032. <https://explorebuffalo.org>
- The Naval Park Ships tour (716) 847-1773. <https://buffalonaivalpark.org>
- Tour the Darwin Martin House (Frank Lloyd Wright) (716) 856-3858. <http://www.martinhouse.org>
- Tour Greycliff (Frank Lloyd Wright) (716) 947-9217. <https://experiencegraycliff.org>

Please note that contacting, signing up, paying, and driving to any of these tours will be entirely your individual responsibility. Contact your dearest old friends—see the latest list of attendees in Table-1 on the following page. So, touch base with an old friend and talk about doing something together at the Reunion. Have a great time!

Table-1
Reunion Attendees (as of May 9, 2019)
(Not in Alphabetical Order)

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lee Broad | JoAnn Sahlen Samson |
| Dana Wolchek Gillette | Larry Thomas and Jim Thomas |
| John Norris | Bob Stephen |
| Jim Ransom | Dennis Edmiston |
| Susan Carney Van Hooser and Dave Van Hooser | Linda Kent |
| Greg Karpick | Karen Butler Lutgen |
| Peggy Miller Karpick | Susan Griffenhagen Learner |
| John Landon | Paul Ferrari |
| Peter Sarver | Elizabeth Rosenquist Questad |
| Ray Hohl | Don Nickson |
| Mike Calandra | Jim Corp |
| Gelene Vogel Heinlen | Karen Fahlstrom Pomeroy |
| Tex Zimdahl | Eric Parkinson |
| Susan Bigwood Greenley and Alan Greenley | Ken Raczka |
| Maureen Mannes Shattuck | Tom Green |
| Jim Groh and Gail Blandford | Pat McCarthy |
| Debby Wells Goergen | Paul Beakman |
| Beverly Senn Smith | Audrey Pawlow Schwartz |
| Sandy Lippert | Barbara Holls Sabal |
| Brion Charters | Connie Krueger |
| Lora Hart Van de Mark | Bob Coe |

NOTE: The list includes spouses *where known* that they will accompany classmates.

If you find that your name *is listed* in Table-1, but *should not* be, please let Jim Groh know. If your name *should be* listed, but *is not*, please also let Jim know. Lastly, if you *were not going to attend*, but have *now changed your mind*, wonderful!—be sure to let Jim know that you will be joining the rest of us.

We can't wait to see you again! "Be there or be square."

Your reunion committee: Lee (Kirby) Broad, Susan Carney Van Hooser, Dennis Edmiston, Jim Groh, Greg Karpick, John Norris, Jim Ransom, Tex Zimdahl

More Information!

History of the Labatt's Blue Six-Pack at RiverWorks

For decades before the six grain silos at the Ganson Street RiverWorks complex bore the name Labatt Blue, they bore the initials GLF. The site was home to the then- state-of-the-art Wheeler elevator starting around 1908, replacing the earlier wooden elevator shown below.



Buffalo Stories archives

The Grange League Federation bought the elevators in 1929 and renovated and added to the structures over the next handful of years. At top production, a grain mill built on the site in 1930 was filling 100 rail cars with hog and cattle feed every day.

The GLF C-Annex was built in 1936. Its six main 100-foot tall, 21-feet across bins could hold up to 154,700 bushels of grain.

In 1964, GLF merged to combine Agway, and the milling and storage work done on the Buffalo River eventually moved to Tonawanda. The site was abandoned in the mid-1970s.

In 2014, the six silos of the GLF-C annex were painted blue and wrapped with giant vinyl beer can labels. RiverWorks co-owner Doug Swift called it “the largest six-pack in the world.”

The History of Larkinville (The Hydraulics, The Larkin Soap Company, and Larkinville: 1827 through Today)

The neighborhood surrounding Larkin Square has seen many transformations as Buffalo's first business district. In 1827, the Buffalo Hydraulic Association was established, along with the construction of the Hydraulic Canal, Buffalo's first source of industrial waterpower. By 1832, the neighborhood was a thriving mill district with a sawmill, gristmill, pail factory, shoe last mill, hat factory and brewery all powered by "The Hydraulics."

In 1876, John D. Larkin, manufacturer of Plain and Fancy Soaps, began making soap in a small factory building at 663 Seneca Street. The J.D. Larkin & Co. continues to be a pioneering company in direct sale from manufacture to consumer. In 1885, Elbert Hubbard devised this "Larkin Idea" as a marketing principle for the company.

By 1901 there were 87 retail businesses on Seneca St. between Larkin and Smith Streets. Today, many of these warehouses and building still stand and are undergoing restoration by Larkin Development Group and other local developers.

In 1902, the Larkin Soap Company began construction on the Larkin Powerhouse, which included the tallest smokestack in the City of Buffalo standing at 275 feet. In 1906, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Larkin Administration Building opened. Sadly, the Western Trading Corp later tore this building down in 1950. In 1912, the construction of the Larkin Terminal Warehouse was completed.

In 2002, Larkin Development Group acquired the Larkin Terminal Warehouse building at 726 Exchange Street. This was the start of significant redevelopment underway in the Larkin District neighborhood. From 2002 to today, Larkin Development Group has continued to acquire buildings and property with a goal of creating a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood.

In 2012, Larkin Square opened along with The Filling Station restaurant, which is housed in a former 1930s-era Larkin Company filling station. Larkin Square was designed to be an inviting and uplifting community gathering space where the public is welcomed to a series of popular events, including Food Truck Tuesdays, KeyBank, Live at Larkin, the Larkin Square Author Series, and other special events.

In 2014, the Hydraulic Hearth Restaurant and Brewery opened at 716 Swan Street, an 1890's era building. In 2016, Buffalo Distilling Co. opened in the LDG renovated 1890's Duchmann building. In 2017, the Swan Street Diner opened at 700 Swan Street, a 1937 Sterling Co. manufactured diner. Formerly the Newark Diner, fully restored and moved to Larkinville.

Sunday Breakfast Entrees (at Reikart House)

Kindly choose one of the entrees below (by number, please) for your breakfast on Sunday morning. **Make sure to email Jim Groh to make your “reservation” and include your entrée number** (and that of any spouse or guest you will be inviting). All entrées come with a choice of juice OR coffee. In addition, there will be an ala carte menu from which you can order a few other items such as coffee, juice, breakfast meats, toast, breakfast breads, and fruit at an extra charge. All items are also subject to sales tax (currently 8.75%) and a service charge of 22%.

The entrées are:

1. Build your own three-egg omelet. Choose up to four ingredients: cheddar, mozzarella, gruyere, bacon, sausage, ham, turkey sausage, spinach, tomato. (\$15 per person)
2. French toast. Classic French Pain Perdu—house battered bread pudding served with whipped butter and maple syrup. (\$15 per person)
3. Sunday daily complete breakfast (think of it as a sampler platter): a fresh baked biscuit with house preserves and butter; a smoothie (a blended yogurt) shooter; a side of fresh fruit; one fried egg, rice, fried ham with red eye gravy, layered and served in a mini skillet. Here is a picture to help with this one. (\$17 per person)



4. Two eggs any style, choice of breakfast meat (sausage, bacon, ham, or turkey sausage), choice of toast. (\$17 per person)