

# Local Organizations

## Lion's Club

The Lion's Club of Livingston was presented its charter in December, 1939 at a banquet held at Vanzo's Hall. There were seventy-eight people present – the members of the club, visiting Lions and their wives. Mr. Fred H. Chapman principal of the Livingston High School was toastmaster. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was followed by an invocation by the Reverend Van Speybrock of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The entertainment for the evening was a piano solo by Elaine Philippe, a song and dance by Jessie Greenmore, a piano duet by Frances Britt and Eugene Slaby and songs by the high school glee club.

District Governor of Lions, Roy Gulley of Sesser, made an address and gave the charter to Mr. Camp, president. The charter members were:

Walter Benardin  
Dr. R.C. Berry  
John E. Camp  
Fred H. Chapman  
Howard P. Crawford  
Arthur Coalson, Sr.  
Bert Dunlap  
Robert Edmiston  
Charles Ford  
William Falkenberg  
Silvio Graiff  
Hugo Latowsky  
Harris May  
Henry Malench  
Louis Mitchelar, Sr.  
Earl Mitchelar  
Louis Mitchelar, Jr.  
Louis Schuette  
Oliver Vallow



Livingston Lion's Club Members pictured from left to right:  
Kneeling: Walter Dzurus, Henry Malench and Clifford France  
Standing: Dr. R.C. Berry, unidentified, unidentified, John Augustine, Joseph Healey, Sr., Elmer France, Simon Pomatto, unidentified, and Armond Pacchetti,

The Lion's Club met once a month for a dinner meeting in various places. Sometimes the men would do the cooking.

Projects sponsored by the Lions were the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the park, annual Christmas Home Decorating Contest with prizes given, and New Year's Eve Dances held at the park pavilion. They presented several plays to raise money.

In 1960 the Lions had Edward Kieffer Day to help a fellow member defray the cost of medical bills.

To help defray optical medical expenses for Bret Collman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Collman the Lions sponsored a benefit raffle, fish fry, bake sale and street dance.



Livingston Lion's Club pictured at Sacred Heart School Hall. Pictured from left to right:  
 Standing: James Wray, John Gorenz, Rev. Fr. Robert McCarthy, Elmer France, Louis Schuette, Maurice Burgett, Hugo Latowsky, and Bert Dunlap  
 Seated: Joseph Healey, Sr., Edward Kieffer, Robert Wray, Armond Pacchetti, Wayne Hutchins, Anton Karnosky, Ray Hutchins, Frank Nicco, and Henry Malench

## Knights of Pythias

The Knights of Pythias is a fraternal order that performs charitable work, emphasizes high moral standard and patriotism. Men of any religion may belong.

The Flag Year Lodge No. 719 of Knight of Pythias was organized on February 6, 1915 in Livingston with forty-four charter members. J.W. Donaldson was chancellor commander the first year.

In 1916 the following officers were installed:

John Alfeld.....	Chancellor Commander
J. Sanders .....	Vice Chancellor
J.F. Bonney .....	Prelate
J.W. Donaldson.....	Master of Work
A.E. Atwell .....	Master of Arms
J.M. Arkabauer .....	Keeper of the Records and Seal
I.J. Finer .....	Master of Finance
J.W. Busker.....	Master of Exchequer
T.W. Davis .....	Inner Guard.
F.R. Stevens .....	Outer Guard

# Temple of Pythian Sisters

On March 6, 1915 just one month after organizing the Knights of Pythian, the Pythian Sisters was organized with seventy-five charter members. The temple was instituted in the afternoon with the name Flag Year Temple No. 255 and an election of officers was held. A banquet was held with the Knights acting as waiters. After the banquet a procession led by the Livingston Band marched to the depot to greet the visiting delegates and accompany them back to the hall.

In the evening institution, installation and initiatory ceremonies were held led by Temples from nearby towns. At 5:30 a.m. the Knights announced breakfast was ready.

Officer of the Flag Year Temple No. 255 were:

Mrs. Ella Bell.....	Post Chief
Mrs. Marie Dunlap .....	Most Excellent Chief
Mrs. Christina McCullister ....	Excellent Senior
Mrs. Nora Busker .....	Excellent Junior
Mrs. Margaret Atwell .....	Manager
Mrs. Elizabeth Pollett .....	Master of Finance.
Mrs. Edith Jones .....	Protector
Mrs. Jeanette Finer .....	Master of Records and Seal
Ida Ramsey .....	Guard
Mrs. Della Nixon .....	Trustees
Mrs. Maggie Watson	
Mrs. Edith Donaldson	

# Livingston Park Association

The Livingston Park Association is a small group of local residents who endeavor to do great things within the Livingston community.

The group began its life as the Livingston Jaycees in March/April 1993. Twenty members are required to begin a Jaycee chapter, and the Alton- Godfrey Jaycees signed up enough new members to get a group started in Livingston. The original charter fee was funded by Lesicko Monument and Funeral Homes.

The organization barely had enough time to get organized and elect officers before it conducted its first project in the community, which was an Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday (April 11.) A bake sale was held the preceding Saturday to help fund the event. The first Egg Hunt was attended by about 40 children.

The first year of the Livingston Jaycees saw it conduct several successful projects and add new members. The group held a successful barbecue in conjunction with the community yard sales, sold funnel cakes at the Livingston Homecoming, and initiated a Halloween Coloring Contest for local children.

The group branched out and sold funnel cakes at several area homecomings and events. It also began sponsoring the Halloween Road Rallye in 1994, which was the second year it was held. The Jaycees also raised money for children in need of medical assistance, and began helping the local Boy Scouts with holiday food baskets.

In 1996, the Livingston Homecoming Committee asked the Livingston Jaycees to take over the food stand at the annual homecoming. The Jaycees agreed to do so. The following year, the Livingston Homecoming Committee dissolved and the Jaycees took over full operation of the homecoming. Also around this time, the Staunton Jaycees disbanded. The members who still wanted to be Jaycees joined Livingston's chapter, and the Halloween Coloring Contest was extended to include Staunton.

Despite the inclusion of the new Staunton members, some key people who were Jaycees moved from Livingston. The Livingston chapter was struggling to maintain a minimum of 20 people on its roster, which is required by the National Jaycees. The group decided to no longer be affiliated with the Jaycees, but continue to be an organization that conducts local projects. In 1998, the group became known as the Livingston Park Association, since many of its activities are centered at Veterans Memorial Park in Livingston.

The LPA still conducts many of the projects initiated by the group as Jaycees. The annual Easter Bake Sale and Egg Hunt has been conducted every year since 1993, rain or shine, and averages an attendance of around 75 children at the Egg Hunt, all of whom receive attendance prizes. The Halloween Coloring Contest encompasses only Livingston children now, but has around 100 contestants each year. And the Halloween Road Rallye has grown exponentially, becoming an elaborate staged production that draws between 350-400 participants annually.

More than 80 Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets are organized and distributed by the LPA to local needy residents in the Livingston/Williamson area. The group is very thankful for the contributions of many individuals in the community who assist with this project, and for Sacred Heart Church, the church's Altar and Rosary Society, A.R. Graiff Grade School, and the Skyriders Motor Club.

With the help of residents of Livingston, the LPA has organized and sponsored the Annual Homecoming for several years. Also, for the past few years, an annual summer car show has had an average of 90-100 cars attending. However, this Centennial Homecoming may well be the last one

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## Livingston Commercial Club

On March 23, 1917 a group of businessmen met at the city hall to form what was known as the Livingston Commercial Club. The following officers were elected:

J.W. Busker.....President  
J.A. Hebenstreit ..... Vice President  
I.J. Finer .....Secretary  
D.E. Aylward.....Treasurer

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## Livingston Slovak Lodge

April 1, 1916



# Olive Township Sportsmen's Club

The Olive Township Sportsman Club was formed by local sportsmen from the Livingston area who were interested in fishing and hunting.

The Club registered as a non-profit organization in 1957. In the early years club members were very active. In December 1958, the club purchased the Livingston reservoir from New York Central Railroad for \$5,000. The lake was built by the Big Four Railroad (Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis) in 1904. In order to obtain money to build the club treasury, members held trap shoots in Williamson each weekend and managed the Williamson homecoming for several years. They sold membership cards to people who wanted to fish.

Also in July 1959 the village of Livingston gave all its homecoming proceeds which amounted to \$2,800 to the Sportsmen's Club to enable the members to buy the lake property.

Early club officers in 1957 included club president-Chuck Miller, Vice President-Frank Fech, Secretary-Marion Tsupros, Treasurer-Louis Mitchelar, Trustees-Clarence "Peggy" Meyer, Silvio Graiff, Gene Sandrin and Steve Chalovich. These officers remained until 1972.

Officers in 1972 were: President-Ray Jackson, Vice President-Charles Bagaglio, Secretary-Marion Tsupros, Treasurer-Charles Meyer, Directors: Gene Sandrin, Steve Spudich and Lee Spudich. Officers from 1973 to 1979 were: President-Ray Jackson, Vice President-Pete Matesa, Secretary-Marion Tsupros, Treasurer-Chuck Meyer, Directors: Gene Sandrin, LaVerne Bartony and Robert Ruzevich. Officers in 1979 and 1980 were: President-Pete Matesa, Vice President-Howard Salter, Secretary/Treasurer-Marion Tsupros, Directors-Jules Bartony, Vernon Neuhaus, Richard Wotchko. Officers from 1981 until 1988 were: President-Pete Matesa, Vice President-Howard Salter, Secretary/Treasurer-Marion Tsupros, Directors- LaVerne Bartony (1981-87), Charles Oliphant (1981-1988), Don Mihelcic (1981-1988) and Bill Augustine (1988).

In March 1989 with very few members left and not enough money in the treasury to pay the taxes, the club disbanded. They turned the lake over to the Village of Livingston. It has since been sold to private owners.



Sportsman's Lake



Yellow bank swimming hole named after the yellow clay that lined the shore.

# 4-H Clubs

A 4-H Club was organized in March, 1952, in Olive Township, mainly in Livingston. It was named Lads and Lassies though boys were not included. There were 31 members. The leaders were Mrs. George (Eleanor) Best and Mrs. Roscoe Early. Any girl aged 9 to 19 could become a member of the club. The four-leaf clover was chosen as the 4-H club symbol and each leaf represented a different “H” – Head, Heart, Hands and Health. 4-H was primarily a Home Economics Club. Any girl living in Madison County could join.

Meetings were held monthly and were governed by rules set down by the University of Illinois Extension Service of Champaign, Illinois. The club had elected officers. Meetings were opened by reciting the “Pledge of Allegiance” followed by the 4-H pledge:

I Pledge – my head to clearer thinking;  
My heart to greater loyalty;  
My hands to larger service; and  
My health to better living,  
For my club, my community, and my country.

Each girl selected a project to complete. Projects included food and clothing, preparation and service, canning and freezing, table covers and flower arrangements, crafts, etc. Agricultural projects were available and were usually selected by girls living on farms.

In 1960, the club was renamed the Olivettes. After some years, the University of Illinois Extension Service allowed boys to become members of 4-H. The Club participated in contests throughout Madison County and earned numerous blue ribbons. The Olivettes also won blue ribbons when they represented Madison County at the Illinois State Fair with their 4-H Rodeo. They also won first place in the 1964 “Share the Run” contest held in Highland. Members under the direction of Ruth Bolin, grandmother of a member, presented “Mexican Hat Dance”. Members wore bright costumes, which were made by their mothers. The club sang Christmas carols at the Staunton Hospital, and they were guests on the Charlotte Peter Show on the stage at Forest Park Highlands in St. Louis. They appeared on television on Channel 5.

Members were responsible for keeping records of the progress on their project throughout the year. The forms were checked by club leaders and if judged satisfactory members received a seal to put permanently in their record book.

Each July, the 4-H Club took samples of their projects to Edwardsville to be judged by Extension Advisors. This group was made up of Extension members from other counties. Blue, red, and white ribbons were awarded for each project. Sewing projects were exhibited at the Madison County Fair in Highland. The agricultural clubs displayed their projects at the fair also. Projects judged as exceptional were then exhibited at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield.



1964 4-H Club Members from left: Mary Wentler, Cherie Graham, Betty Meyers, Marie Rezabek, Kathy Kuttin, Peggy Kuttin and Vida Best

# The Providers Association

The Providers Association is a relatively new organization in the Livingston area. The non-profit group was founded in 2000 when a small core of individuals saw a need for a group to help those requiring assistance in the immediate community. The aim of The Providers is to help the disadvantaged, the displaced, or those in need of temporary assistance. In the short time the organization has existed, it has fulfilled these goals, in addition to creating new ones. In this time, The Providers has spent hundreds of dollars helping those in need in the Livingston Community.

During the past five years, The Providers has sponsored or co-sponsored blood drives in Livingston; purchased groceries for needy families; helped elderly residents obtain energy and pharmaceutical assistance; given funds to families who were displaced by fires, had members going through medical crises or were stranded in Livingston temporarily; helped the local needy with other monetary assistance.

The Providers received initial funding from the Livingston Community Nativity Play Fund. Since then, it has received monetary assistance from the Altar and Rosary Society of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Women's Ministry Program at First Baptist Church in Livingston and from private donations and memorials and fund raisers.

The Providers is always seeking others who would be interested in helping the group. There is no cost to join. Individuals only need to be interested in making a difference in their community.

## Livingston Streetfest

The Livingston Streetfest was started in 1994. It was originated to help promote the local businesses with hope of attracting more people to visit and enjoy the activities that were a part of our community.

In its inception, the first coordinator was the owner of the Honey Pot, Ms. Lynn Puryear. During that time the Streetfest provided entertainment, games and good food. After Lynn relinquished her responsibilities in 1995, Mossie Schneck, owner of Bud and Mossie's Tavern, and Kay Gasper, owner of Gasperoni's, became the co-coordinators from 1995 to 1999. At that time the proceeds from the Streetfest as well as community yard and garage sales sponsored by the committee were donated to Livingston High School to support their computer lab.

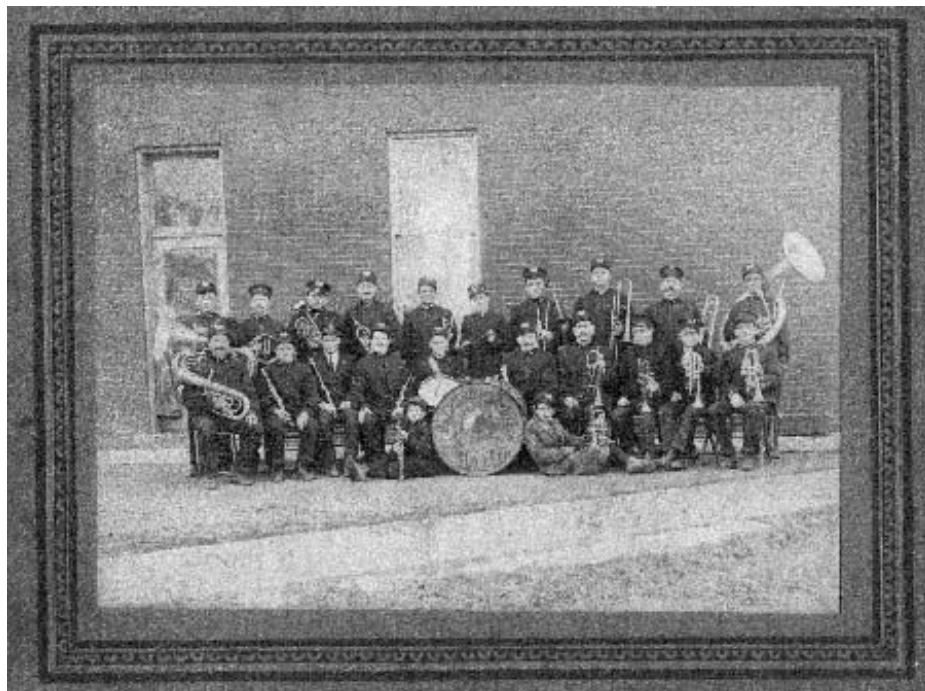
In 2000, Robert Townsend, owner of Townsend's Bar and Grill, took over the responsibility of Streetfest chairman. Along with Townsend, Diane Schwandner and others sponsored the Kiddie Parade as well as continued activities from previous years.

In 2001 the Streetfest Committee became an incorporated entity. At that time, the organization elected officers and trustees. Elected were Robert Townsend as president, Diane Schwandner as treasurer and LaVaughn Pavlotich as secretary. Events currently sponsored by the organization include a scarecrow contest, Firemen's Memorial, a karaoke and D.J. talent show, magic shows, puppet shows, Santa's cottage and a coloring contest. Sponsored by the organization were Easter characters that entertained the children at the Livingston Park Association Easter Egg Hunt and a motorcycle show that enable the group to give a donation to the Provider's Club and sponsor the A.R. Graiff D.A.R.E. Program graduation.

Officers for the 2002 and 2003 years were LaVaughn Pavlotich, president; Diane Schwandner, treasurer; Evelyn Deppe, secretary and Dennis Pavlotich, Bill Deppe, Linda and Gilbert Prost served as trustees. During those years a hot dog eating contest was added with contestants attempting to beat the Guinness World Record. Also new was a special Veteran's service. The organization also sponsored a benefit for the family of Hannah Lutes. Steve Davis (local Elvis impersonator) and the TCB Band were the evening's entertainment.

The Streetfest is a community involved event that will be remembered by all.





## The Livingston Band 1914

Pictured from left in back: Albert Schweiger, unknown, John Lira, Anton Martinjak, Henry Blair, Ernest Burglechner, unknown, Ellis Vallow, Edward Saily, Oliver Vallow.

Second row seated: Gustav Saily, Roy Pollett, unknown, Andrew Mossier, Ivan Bunn, unknown, Capitula Sautetlet, unknown, Louis Blair, George Dzurus

Sitting at drum: Arthur Blair and Glenn Vallow

## Zither Club Almhausen 1914



Sitting behind the table is Ignatz Thiel, Sr.  
In front with violin is Ignatz Thiel, Jr.