



January 2026

## Join Us February 25th for Our First Program of 2026

### HALES CORNERS, 1900-1910: A CROSSROADS BECOMES A COMMUNITY

February 25, 7:00 p.m.

Hales Corners Library / Hunt Room  
— *Presented by ALAN J. STREKOW*  
*Past President, HCHS*

This presentation will take you back in time, introduce you to a few of the early citizens of Hales Corners, and give you a glimpse of the Village as it was more than 100 years ago. Of the more than two dozen buildings on this tour, seven still remain in Hales Corners: the Stahl-Conrad Homestead, Jacob Wagner House, Dewey-Crounse House, Annie's Place, Bosch Tavern, William Hale House, and the Seneca Hale Summer Kitchen. What were the others? This presentation provides the answers.

The painting at right features one of the buildings that formerly stood on the old Janesville Plank Road. The Hotel Dreyfuss (at left) was painted by **Richard Lorenz** (1858-1915). Entitled *Horse*



*Market Midwinter*, the oil on canvas was painted in 1911 and is now in the permanent collection of the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend, Wisconsin. Lorenz was a founder and the first vice president of the Society of Milwaukee Artists, which was founded in 1900. During the early twentieth century, he taught at the Wisconsin School of Design, later the Wisconsin Art Institute. He was also a member of the Society of Western Artists.

## More HCHS Programs to Come in 2026!

Be sure to save these dates for more informative and entertaining presentations:

• **MAY 6 — WOMEN ENTERTAINERS WITH LINKS TO WISCONSIN**

*GREG JENKS, Retired Educator and Speaker for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*

• **JULY 15 — ABRAHAM LINCOLN: A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM**

*Co-sponsored by the Hales Corners Library in celebration of America's 250th Anniversary*

*KEVIN WOOD, Professional Lincoln Presenter*

• **NOVEMBER 18 — GENE MUELLER: MILWAUKEE RADIO LEGEND**

*GENE MUELLER, Retired Morning Show Host at WTMJ Radio*

For more information on each program, click on EVENTS at [www.halescornershistory.com](http://www.halescornershistory.com).



## Vintage Hand Tools Donated to HCHS Collection

Several months ago, HCHS received a donation of vintage tools from **Stuart and Char Lesar**. All are pre-1940s, so they required muscle power rather than electricity.

Because they are the types of tools that **Ben Hunt** would have used in and around his Cabin, our intent is to display

*(Continued on next page)*



*Two-Man Logging Saw - essential tool for cutting down large trees*

## Hales Corners Incorporated 74 Years Ago on January 19th, 1952

Hales Corners became officially incorporated on January 19, 1952 after a vote of 299 in favor vs. 213 opposed. The first Village administrators were:

- **Walter Fehr**, President
- **W. Ben Hunt**, Trustee
- **Arthur Kilps**, Trustee
- **Walter Koehler**, Trustee
- **Albert Meares**, Trustee
- **William Meyer**, Trustee
- **Sylvester Sweeney, Jr.**, Trustee
- **A. J. Cridelich**, Assessor
- **William Holz**, Clerk
- **Ralph Chatfield**, Constable
- **William Carlson**, Justice of the Peace
- **Robert Strandt**, Treasurer

The first official meeting was held at Hales Corners Elementary School. **Mabel Hansche**, Election Inspector, presented Walter Fehr, Village president, with a gavel made by her husband, **Herbert**. The following meetings were quite modest. They were held in the breezeway of Clerk William Holz's house. William was the brother of **Jerry Holz** (Holz Motors), and his house was actually the mailing address for the newly incorporated Village.



(TOOLS, *Continued from page 2*)

them at a later date. For the present, HCHS member **Robert Burnham** has volunteered to research the history behind these tools and provide the descriptive information necessary for museum labeling. Robert's interest in and knowledge of old tools is a perfect fit for this project. Thanks a lot, Robert, from HCHS, and thank you, Stuart and Char, for your donation!



**Drawknife - for shaping a log**



**Bead Plane - for decorative moldings**



**Auger - for boring holes into posts**

## TALES OF THE CORNERS - JANUARY From the files of the *Tri-Town News* and *Hub*

### 90 YEARS AGO (1936)

- A blizzard closes roads, halts rural mail carriers, and is followed closely by 15 degree below zero temperatures. The cold spell and strong winds block roads so solidly that not even tractors can get through. The severe weather hangs on for a week.
- Rudy W. Holz is re-elected president of the Hales Corners Advancement Association.

### 80 YEARS AGO (1946)

- All 26 Hales Corners Boy Scouts go to Chicago to visit the Rosenwald Museum (currently the Museum of Science and Industry).
- The large showroom at the Bosch Motor and Appliance store is filled with many modern home appliances.
- The Hales Corners PTA holds a public "old-time" dance.
- Albert Schwartz opens the Hales Corners Dry Cleaners at 10512 W. Forest Home Avenue.

### 70 YEARS AGO (1956)

- The Hales Corners Police Department offers free coffee throughout New Year's Eve.
- Jefferson School District voters approved an increase in the school board from three to five members by a 66-3 majority.
- The State Bank Hales Corners announces 2 percent interest on savings accounts and certificates.
- Albert Meares is re-elected president of the Hales Corners Fire Department and August Giese as chief.
- Voter registration cards for citizens in the area annexed to Hales Corners last July will be turned over to the Village by Greenfield. The town board votes to turn over the cards after Mabel Hansche, Village elections clerk, appears at the Greenfield board meeting.

- Donald B. Fischer, Hales Corners Village president, announces he will seek re-election.
- Leone Welch is elected president of the new Hales Corners Woman's Club.

### 60 YEARS AGO (1966)

- The Hales Corners Village Board sets the speed limit on county trunk OO (Forest Home Avenue) at 35 miles per hour.
- The Whitnall Falcons head for their first Parkland Conference basketball title with a 9 win, 1 loss standing.
- Burglars enter the Hales Corners Bowl, getting about \$32 from the juke box, pool table, pinball machine, cigarette machine, and wall phone.
- An \$80,000 building will be constructed in Hales Corners Park this year and three baseball diamonds, (two softball / one hardball), also will be constructed.
- The Hales Corners Woman's Club announces "Scholarship A Go-Go" as the theme for its annual scholarship ball.
- The Hales Corners Jaycettes are collecting clothing, bedding, furniture, and books for the Menomonie Indians.
- The Hales Corners Lions Club nets \$1,015 from its annual Christmas tree sales.
- Gov. Warren P. Knowles tours the Experimental Aircraft Association Museum.

### 50 YEARS AGO (1976)

- Lines at the Hales Corners Post Office back up into the lobby all day due to the increase of postage stamp to 13 cents. In addition to buying 13 cent stamps, people are buying 3 cent stamps to go with their leftover 10 cent stamps.
- William Hittman is the new vice principal at Whitnall Middle School.

# Hales Corners Lutheran Church Was Dedicated on February 1, 1953

Members of the Hales Corners English Evangelical Lutheran Church held their services in three very different locations before this building was dedicated at 5425 S. 111th Street. In 1928, services were held in a vacant store, formerly Ludwig's Implement Shop. In 1929, services were held in the greenhouses of **Louis Schultz**. In 1930, services were held in a country-style church that the members built.

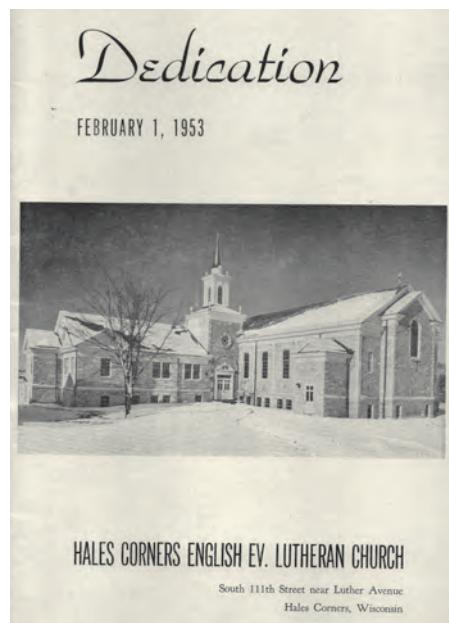


*Chancel of Hales Corners Lutheran Church, 1953*

In 1947, preliminary plans were launched for the erection of this Lannon stone church. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 22, 1951, and a cornerstone-laying service was held on November 4, with **Rev. Carl**

**H. Harman** as guest speaker. The \$250,000 church was dedicated on Sunday, February 1, 1953, with **Rev. Marvin F. Kammrath** officiating.

This church building continued to serve its congregation until 1997, when a much larger facility was built at 12300 W. Janesville Road. The Journeys Lutheran School now owns and operates the original property.



*Cover of Hales Corners Lutheran Church dedication booklet, 1953*



*Nave and balcony of Hales Corners Lutheran Church, 1953*

## WELCOME, NEW\* AND RETURNING 2026 HCHS MEMBERS!

Constance Anderson  
Vern & Lori Archiquette\*  
James Bain  
Nancy Barker  
Mary Bennett  
Joan Berg  
Dan & Diane Besson  
Robert Burnham  
& Patricia Laughlin  
Ronald & Kathleen Dondlinger  
David HB Drake  
George & Diane Edward  
Robert & Mary Forecki  
Katy Galewski  
Jim Gilboy  
Jean Hancock

Jeff Hanewell & Susan Spoerk  
Paul Hapka  
David & Margarete Harvey  
Michael Holmes  
Frank & Judith Humpal  
Mike Jedrzejewski  
& Sybil Grandek  
Gregory Jenks  
Celine Kashishian  
James & Jacqueline Keuck  
Paul & Angela Kharouf  
Dottie King  
Romaine Krystowiak  
Mary Long  
Gary Kohls & Karen Niessing  
Mike Praedel

Mel & Kathleen Sass\*  
Caroline Schachtlie  
Elaine Schmidt  
Don & Suzanne Schwartz  
Nancy Sievert  
Michael Simmons  
Marjorie Stahl  
Daniel & Kayellyn Strasburg  
Al & Ruth Strekow  
Robb & Kathleen Thoren  
Brian & Laura Touhey  
Patricia Warchol  
Robert & Jeanette Wardinski  
Kathleen Zellmer

*Membership roster current  
as of January 14, 2026.*



## HALES CORNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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