

HISTORICAL UPDATE

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2017

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Each spring the Historical Society thanks its volunteers at a breakfast where we also honor a young Warrenville resident with a scholarship. It is a nice spring morning where we can gather with those who help us work towards our mission of protecting and presenting Warrenville history. We are honored that despite their busy lives, they spend some of their "free" time working on our behalf. Thank you to all of our volunteers. Whether they are able to give an hour or many hours, their time is appreciated. We'd also like to thank the VFW and Auxiliary who provided a nice space for the gathering and a delicious breakfast.

During our breakfast, we were also able to honor our 2017 scholarship winner Kang-In Han. He is a bright and talented young man. His talents were enjoyed by all when he

played violin before the meal. It was a treat for all in attendance. We wish him well as he graduates from Wheaton Warrenville South this month and heads off to college. If you would like to join our volunteer ranks please contact Sara at the Museum.

This spring we will also be continuing the City-wide celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Warrenville's incorporation. For more information about the Sunday, May 21st celebration, see the article below. Make sure to stop in the Museum during this event and see our new updated displays. Thank you for your membership that helps make these exhibits possible. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so today!

--Lynn Burgess, President
Board of Directors

CELEBRATING 50!

Join the City of Warrenville and the Historical Society for a celebration in honor of the City's 50th Anniversary on Sunday, May 21st from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. at Leone Schmidt Heritage Park, at Warrenville Road and Second Street. The Historical Museum & Art Gallery will be open for tours of our newly redesigned exhibits.

The afternoon's activities include face painting, historic games, tours and music provided by "The Shoestring Taters" Old-Time Stringband featuring Sam Byerly on Guitar, Dave Kolars on Steel Resonator Guitar and Mike Warfel on Bass. The Historical Society's 2016-2017 Albright-inspired Artist-in-Residence Maggie Capettini will also be holding an artist reception and painting a live scene in her impressionistic plein air style in the park. Her eight original paintings of Warrenville scenes will also be on display in the Museum. Visitors can also tour the Warren Tavern. Light refreshments will be served.

This event is free and open to all. Local residents are encouraged to walk or bike to the park due to limited parking.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 21 Celebrating the City's 50th Anniversary

June 4 Playing the Past Events Begin

July 29 Summer Tea

Warrenville Historical Museum & Art Gallery
February - May,
September-December
Sun. 1-4 p.m.
June, July & August
Wed. & Sun. 1-4 p.m.

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DEBATING INCORPORATION

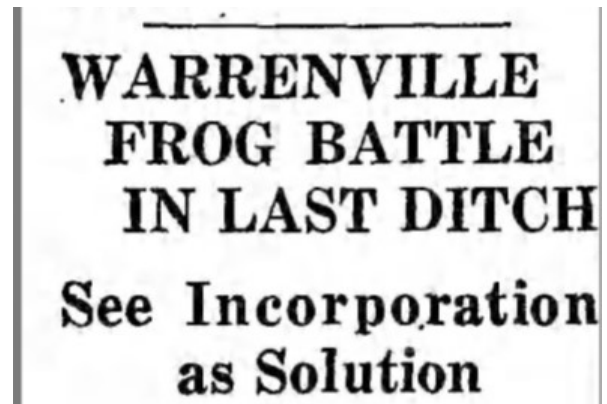
2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of the City of Warrenville's incorporation. After 134 years as a community, in 1967 Warrenville voted YES to incorporate. The long and heated debate about incorporation officially began in 1927 when the first petition for incorporation was filed. Despite enthusiasm in the community and 63 citizens signing the petition, when the vote was held at Sleep Store on October 29, only 56 people out of 270 voted in favor of incorporation. Warrenville was a small community and the majority of its residents liked the town the way it was; they saw no need to have an official government taxing them and limiting what they could do with their property.

No municipal structure over residents also meant no governing body over businesses. By the 1950s, businesses were making a move to occupy more of the town, especially on the newly expanded Butterfield Road. When residents petitioned the County against the rezoning, they found the County Board had little sympathy for their concerns and soon the corner at Batavia Road and Butterfield was occupied by the Town and Country Lounge, which eventually became the Carousel Lounge and Restaurant.

The second petition to incorporate came in 1954 right at the start of another battle in town, this time one to keep the Elmhurst Chicago Stone Company out of the community. Despite residents concern about the Stone Company coming into town, they were not ready to vote for incorporation. A vote on May 1, 1954, and December

28, 1957, lost by big margins. Warrenville was not ready to become a city.

After the 1957 vote, the debate, which had divided many in town, was quiet for three years and no one was looking to reignite the fight. There was only one thing that could get Warrenville residents to revisit the angry battle-FROGS! A "last-ditch fight with a belching army of frogs" headlined led a report in the Chicago Tribune calling for the incorporation of Warrenville as the only solution to a strange new problem. Flooding in 1961 in the Ray subdivision had left residents in the area with an army of belching frogs. After seeking the help of the County and the State, residents filed a petition to incorporate in the hopes that a local government would have to provide more help to Warrenville residents. However when a court struck down the petition, the impending vote disappeared with the frog! It would take four more petitions until there was a successful vote for incorporation. Please see our next newsletter for the rest of the story of Warrenville's incorporation.



HONORING VOLUNTEERS AND OUR 2017 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Each April the Warrenville Historical Society celebrates those who have donated time to Warrenville history and a young member of our community.

Volunteers are vital to the Historical Society fulfilling its mission of preserving and presenting Warrenville history. The work of docents, program volunteers, cemetery walk volunteers and the Museum Guild is invaluable and we want to say

THANK YOU during National Volunteer Appreciation Week.

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast was held on Sunday, April 2nd and also allowed us to present our scholarship winner. Kang-In Han, a senior at Wheaton Warrenville South, was presented with the Historical Society's 2017 Scholarships. His talents were on display as he graced our volunteers with a beautiful violin performance.

It was a wonderful way to honor his hard work and also thank those who give their time for our mission. Thank you to all of our volunteers, including those who could not be with us that morning. A big THANK YOU also goes out to the VFW and Auxiliary who provided a nice space for the gathering and a delicious breakfast. It was a wonderful morning to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our great community.



PLAYING THE PAST

The Historical Society is excited to launch a new program this summer, Playing the Past! These events in Leone Schmidt Heritage Park, located next to the Museum, invites scout groups and families to come out, enjoy the beautiful redesigned park and play historic games!

Two June events on Sunday, June 4th and Sunday, June 25th invite Girl Scout groups to take part in a rope runner derby event, play historic games and earn their playing the past badge. These events are scheduled from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and cost \$5 per scout (additional family members are invited to participate as well). Registration is required by contacting the Museum at info@warrenvillehistorical.org or (630)231-3376.

Three July events and three August events invite any member of the public to stop by and check out our historic games during Museum open hours. Free to all!

These drop-in events are scheduled for 1:00 - 4:00p.m.:



Sunday, July 16
 Wednesday, July 19
 Sunday, July 30
 Wednesday, August 2
 Sunday, August 6
 Sunday, August 20

Groups are encourage to bring a lunch and make an afternoon of it! Playing the Past makes a great screen-free afternoon for the whole family! Although these drop-in play days are free, participants can purchase a Museum patch for \$2. Please contact the Museum with any questions.

PASSPORT TO ADVENTURE

The Warrenville Museum & Art Gallery is happy to once again be a participating institution in the Kane-DuPage Regional Museum Association's Passport to Adventure Program. The Passport Program brings together over 50 local museums into one booklet and invites children to explore the area attractions as they search out fun facts and learn about the history of the surrounding communities. Although the program was originally designed for children between the ages of 4 and 12, all are welcome to use the booklet to seek out cultural activities. The

program began on May 1st and runs through Labor Day. Passports can be picked up at the Warrenville Public Library, as well as at the Historical Museum. Explorers who visit the Museum & Art Gallery will receive a special prize when they complete a scavenger hunt to receive a stamp in the passports for touring our site. At the end of the summer, children with six stamps will be entered to win a \$25 gift card. This year's theme is "Discover Your Local Treasures;" stop in and explore all the treasures Warrenville history has to offer!

"LIFE IS EITHER A
 DARING
 ADVENTURE OR
 NOTHING." -
 HELEN KELLER

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL SUMMER TEA

If you are making your summer plans already be sure to save the date for our upcoming 13th Annual Summer Tea! This year's event will be held on Saturday, July 29th at noon at the VFW Post 8081 in Warrenville. This year's event will feature Paddy Lynn portraying Harriet Beecher Stowe, one of America's most influential novelists and author of Uncle Tom's Cabin. Space is limited and seats are filled based on availability. Contact Sara at info@warrenvillehistorical.org or (630) 393-4215 to purchase a ticket at \$20.00 a piece or if you would like to host a table. The Summer Tea is supported by a Warrenville Hotel Motel Tax Fund Grant.

The Summer Tea is a success each year thanks in part to our wonderful Museum Guild. If you want to get involved with the Guild and help plan these programs, contact Connie Weimer (630) 462-9444 or Nancy Olufs (630) 393-1314.





WARRENVILLE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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Board Meetings:

Second Monday of the Month

Newsletter Editor:

Sara Phalen, Director/Curator

Explore History! Spring has sprung and the weather is beautiful! Get outside and enjoy it while exploring our community history with our mobile walking tour. This free tour can be accessed on any mobile device on the OnCell App, by visiting www.warrenville.toursphere.com, or by calling (630)791-7013 of the audio version.

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