



**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**
109 West Ridge Street • East Wing Conference Room
• Yorkville, IL • 60560
(630) 553-4141 Fax (630) 553-4179

AGENDA

January 19, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Eric Bernacki (Secretary), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice-Chair), Kristine Heiman, Jeff Wehrli (Chair), and One Vacancy

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2020 Meeting (Pages 3-6)

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review of Certified Local Government Agreement (Pages 7-8)
2. Discussion of February 10, 2021, Meeting with Historic Preservation Organizations
 - a. Approval of Agenda for the Meeting (Page 9)
 - b. Discussion of Other Meeting Logistics
3. Discussion of Recognizing Joseph Platt Brown and Ashby Farm
4. Discussion of Cemeteries (Pages 10-11)

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. December 2020 Edition of The Bell Tower (Pages 12-15)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

Microsoft Teams meeting
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Or call in (audio only)
+1 309-248-0701, United States, Rock Island
Phone Conference ID: 976 812 289#
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If special accommodations or arrangements are needed to attend this County meeting, please contact the Administration Office at 630-553-4171, a minimum of 24-hours prior to the meeting time.

Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission

01-19-2021 Remote Meeting Attendance



In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 2020-07, Kendall County Board Chairman Scott Gryder is encouraging social distancing by allowing remote attendance to the Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Instructions for joining the meeting are listed below.

For your safety and others, please attend the meeting by phone or computer, if possible. The East Wing Conference Room located at the Kendall County Historic Courthouse, 109 W. Ridge St, in Yorkville, will have limited seating available. Masks are required when social distancing is not possible. If you plan to attend in person, please follow all social distancing requirements.

If anyone from the public would like to make a comment during the meeting, there will be an allotted time on the agenda for public comment, and all of the county board rules of order still apply. We will also accept public comment by emailing: masselmeier@co.kendall.il.us. Members of the public may contact Kendall County PBZ Department prior to the meeting for assistance making public comment at 630-553-4139; email correspondence is preferred.

Microsoft Teams meeting

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 309-248-0701, United States, Rock Island

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Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Information:

<https://www.co.kendall.il.us/transparency/agendas-packets-and-meetings-schedules/planning-building-and-zoning/historic-preservation-commission>

For information about how to join a Microsoft Teams meeting, please see the following link.

<https://support.office.com/en-us/article/join-a-meeting-in-teams-1613bb53-f3fa-431e-85a9-d6a91e3468c9>

KENDALL COUNTY
Historic Preservation Commission
Kendall County Historic Courthouse
East Wing Conference Room (Hybrid Meeting)
109 W. Ridge Street, Yorkville, Illinois
6:30 p.m.
November 16, 2020-Unofficial Until Approved

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jeff Wehrli called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Eric Bernacki (Secretary) (Attended Remotely), Elizabeth Flowers (Vice-Chairwoman) (Attended Remotely), Kristine Heiman (Started Attending Remotely at 6:34 p.m.), and Jeff Wehrli (Chairman)

Absent: None

Also Present: Matt Asselmeier (Senior Planner)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the agenda as presented.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (3): Bernacki, Flowers, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Absent (1): Heiman

Abstain (0): None

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Bernacki, to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2020, meeting.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (3): Bernacki, Flowers, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Absent (1): Heiman

Abstain (0): None

The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Member Heiman started attending remotely at this time (6:34 p.m.).

OLD BUSINESS

Certified Local Government Application Items

Recommendation of an Amendment to Article II.1.F Setting a Minimum Number of Times that the Commission Meets Per Year at Four

Recommendation of an Amendment to Article III Regarding the Application Fee and Application Procedures for Landmark and District Designation

Recommendation of an Updated Application for Certified Local Government Status with the Amendments Listed Above

Mr. Asselmeier presented the email from Jon Pressley. Mr. Asselmeier also presented the proposed change regarding the number of times the Commission is required to meet per year and the application fee information.

Chairman Wehrli asked about the timeline for adoption. Mr. Asselmeier responded that, since the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee is not scheduled to meet in December, the proposal could be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole. The earliest the County Board could take action is December 15th.

Member Heiman made a motion, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend approval of the amendment to Article II.1.F of the Historic Preservation Ordinance regarding the number of times of the Commission meets per year.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (4): Bernacki, Flowers, Heiman, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Absent (0): None

Abstain (0): None

The motion carried.

Member Bernacki made a motion, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend approval of the amendment to Article III of the Historic Preservation Ordinance regarding the application fee.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (4): Bernacki, Flowers, Heiman, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Absent (0): None

Abstain (0): None

The motion carried.

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to recommend approval of the updated application for Certified Local Government Status with the amendments to Article II.1.F and Article III.18 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (4): Bernacki, Flowers, Heiman, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Absent (0): None

Abstain (0): None

The motion carried.

The proposal goes to the Committee of the Whole on December 10, 2020.

Discussion of Recognizing Joseph Platt Brown and Ashby Farms

Member Bernacki reported that the total amount was Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$827). The Commission paid Three Hundred One Dollars (\$301). Na-Au-Say Township is willing to pay up to Three Hundred Dollars (\$300). The plaque is twenty by ten (20X10) on a three foot (3') tall stand. The plaque is bronze. The plan is to have the plaque dedicated in the spring of 2021.

Mr. Asselmeier noted that the invoice for the plaque had been sent for payment.

Member Bernacki noted the pictures he received of the Bronk Cemetery.

The plaque will be shipped to Member Bernacki.

Member Bernacki will coordinate everything for the dedication.

Discussion of Meeting with Historic Preservation Organizations

Mr. Asselmeier presented the draft agenda.

The consensus of the Commission was to have the meeting in the same location as the location of the County Board meeting with a remote attendance option.

The consensus of the Commission was to add an item on the February agenda after Challenges called How has COVID Impacted Your Organization.

Discussion occurred regarding having a group meeting later in 2021 that could be outdoors, if necessary. The Farnsworth House and the barn at the Henneberry Woods Subdivision. Mr. Asselmeier will research the ownership of the barn at the Henneberry Woods Subdivision.

The Commission will review food and drink for the event in January 2021.

Member Flowers noted the struggles of the Naper Settlement.

Discussion of Cemeteries

The Commission reviewed the cemetery information.

Chairman Wehrli wanted to scout some of the cemeteries and get some pictures. He would like to honor some of the original settlers of the County.

Member Bernacki presented pictures of graves from the Bronk Cemetery.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Heiman asked about taking pictures of properties. Mr. Asselmeier responded that the Commission will have to decide after CLG Status is finalized if they want to pursue a preservation plan and/or survey of historic structures. Ideally, the Commission would obtain a grant for some of the costs associated with either project.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Flowers made a motion, seconded by Member Heiman, to adjourn.

The votes were as follows:

Yeas (4): Bernacki, Flowers, Heiman, and Wehrli

Nays (0): None

Absent (0): None

Abstain (0): None

The motion carried.

The Historic Preservation Commission adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew H. Asselmeier, AICP, CFM
Senior Planner



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

1/6/2021

Scott R. Gryder, Chairman
Kendall County Board
111 West Fox Street
Yorkville, Il. 60560

Dear Chairman Gryder:

Our office has received the Kendall County's request for Certified Local Government status, as provided for by the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980. After reviewing the information that you provided, we have determined that Kendall County meets the requirements for Certified Local Government status.

Section 101 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 61, Section 10, Requirements for Certification of Local Governments, specifies that there shall be a local ordinance with provisions including the following:

- Criteria for Designation of landmark structures and district,
- A process for designation of landmark structures or districts,
- Substantial achievement of the purpose of preserving and rehabilitating buildings of historic significance.

Enclosed is the official CLG contract for your signature setting forth Kendall County's responsibilities as a Certified Local Government. These are the same responsibilities in the state regulations for Certified Local Governments that you attested to in your letter requesting certification. When we have received the signed agreement, the State Historic Preservation Officer will forward it, along with Kendall County's application, to the National Park Service for final review. You will be notified of the National Park Service's decision.

We are pleased to have Kendall County participate in the Certified Local Government program, and look forward to working with you and the historic preservation commission. If you have questions concerning the above, please feel free to contact me at 217 785- 5730 jon.l.pressley@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Jon L. Pressley, MA, Certified Local Governments Coordinator



Certified Local Government Agreement
between
Kendall County
and the
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office

Kendall County, in consideration of having been granted Certified Local Government status, agrees to carry out the following responsibilities as a Certified Local Government, in cooperation with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office in the Department of Natural Resources:

1. Enforce the local historic preservation ordinance for the designation and protection of local historic properties;
2. Maintain an adequate and qualified historic preservation commission established by local ordinance;
3. Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties;
4. Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation process;
5. Submit an annual report to the State Historic Preservation Officer of historic preservation commission activities during the past calendar year, no later than March 1 of the following calendar year;
6. Be represented at one continuing education meeting per year pertaining to the work and functions of the Historic Preservation Commission.
7. Monitor and notify the State Historic Preservation Office of any actual or proposed demolition or major alteration affecting property that is a designated local landmark or listed on the National Register of Historic Places, within Kendall County.
8. Review and comment on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for properties within Kendall County, as requested by the State Historic Preservation Office, and be responsible, in the case of nominations for National Register historic districts, for verifying the names of the owner(s) of properties, and provide for a public information meeting concerning National Register designation.
9. Carry out the general program procedures as outlined in 36 CFR 61.6 “Federal Procedures for Certified Local Government Programs” and 36 CFR 61.7 “Sub-grants to Certified Local Governments.”
10. Be responsible, in the case of nominations for National Register historic districts of 50 or fewer property owners, for verifying the names of the owner(s) of the properties within the historic district, and providing for a public information meeting at mutually agreeable times and locations.

Chief Elected Official

Bob Appleman
Deputy Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature

Date

Signature

Date



**KENDALL COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORGANIZATION MEETING**
109 West Ridge Street • East Wing Conference Room
• Yorkville, IL • 60560
AGENDA

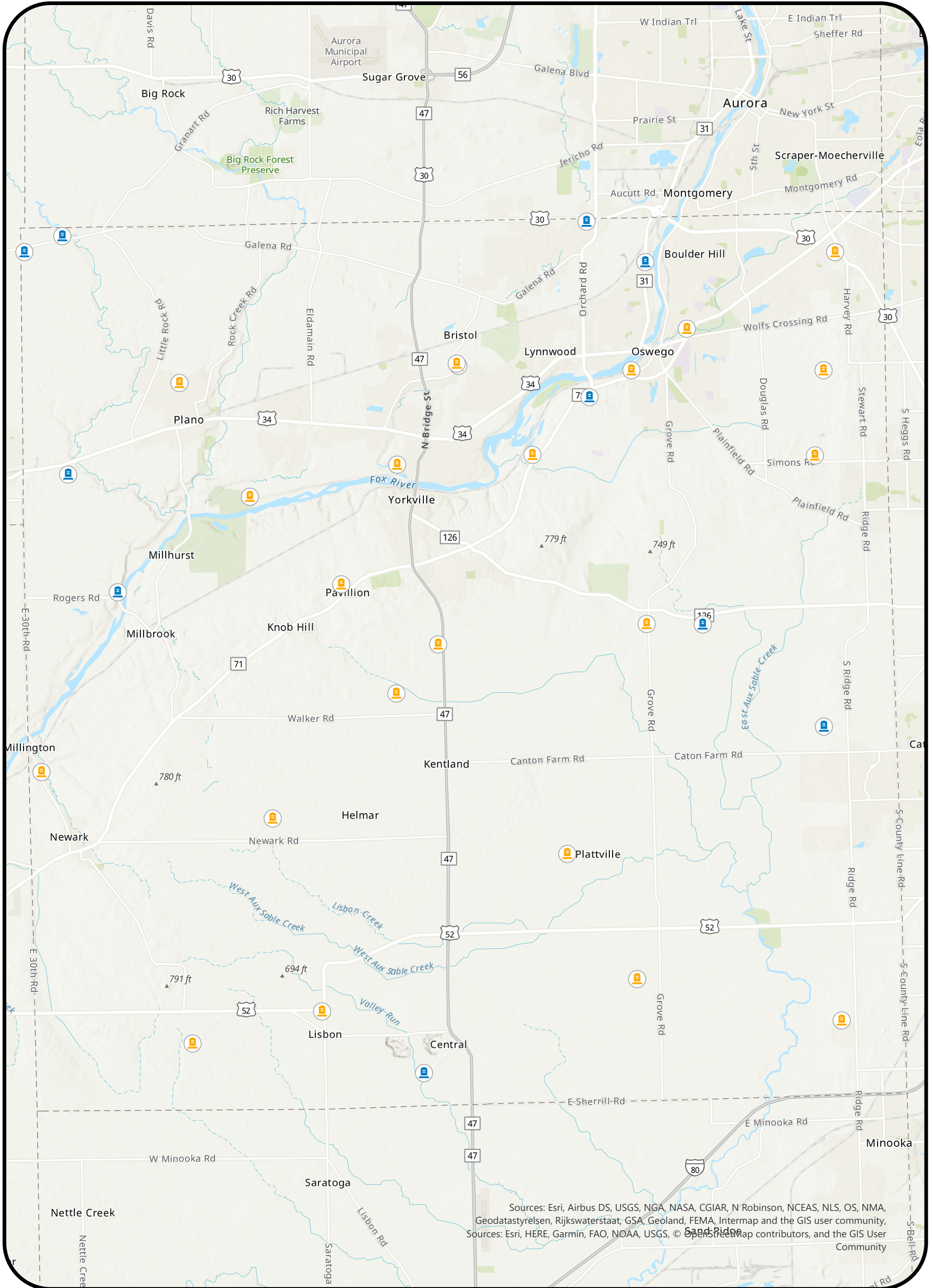
February 10, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. KCHPC Roll Call and Introductions**
Eric Bernacki (Secretary), Elizabeth Flowers (County Board Liaison and Vice-Chair), Kristine Heiman, Jeff Wehli (Chairman), and Non-KCHPC Attendees
- III. Welcoming Remarks**
Jeff Wehli, Kendall County Historic Preservation Commission Chairman
- IV. Presentation by Illinois Historic Preservation Agency**
Jon Pressley
- V. Round Table Discussion**
*What Activities Have Your Organizations Been Doing?
Successes?
Challenges?
How Has COVID Impacted Your Organization?
Opportunities for Collaboration?
Discussion of Cemeteries*
- VI. Discussion of Future Meeting(s)**
- VII. Other Business**
- VIII. Public Comment**
- IX. Adjournment**

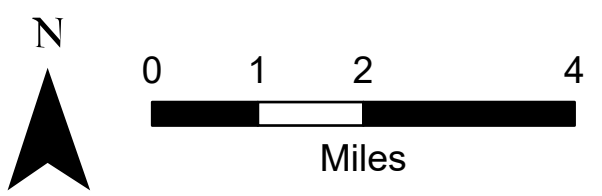
If special accommodations or arrangements are needed to attend this County meeting, please contact the Administration Office at 630-553-4171, a minimum of 24-hours prior to the meeting time.

Microsoft Teams Meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
Or call in (audio only)
[+1 309-248-0701](#) United States, Rock Island
Phone Conference ID: 658 371 409#

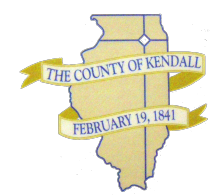
Kendall County Cemeteries



Sources: Esri, Airbus DS, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, N Robinson, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodastystrelsen, Rijkswaterstaat, GSA, Geoland, FEMA, Intermap and the GIS user community, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



ACTIVE STATUS
 [Blue B icon] NO
 [Orange B icon] YES 10



Kendall County GIS
 111 West Fox Street - Room 308
 Yorkville, Illinois 60560
 630.553.4212
 Created: 8/28/2020

pin	name	Owner	twp	status
02-26-300-006	Cowdrey Cemetery	Cowdrey Cemetery	Oswego	Re-Activated
02-24-401-003	Doud Cemetery	Oswego Township	Oswego	Intact, Inactive
03-23-201-001	Evergreen Cemetery	Oswego Township	Oswego	Active
03-01-351-001,03-02-400-005	Lincoln Memorial Cemetery	Lincoln Memorial Park, Inc.	Oswego	Active since 1929
03-19-226-001	Oswego Cemetery	James Detzler	Oswego	Active
03-17-229-022	Pearce Cemetery	Oswego Township (Inside Oswego)	Oswego	Active
03-05-353-005	Wormley Cemetery	Oswego Township	Oswego	Intact, Inactive
02-29-451-008	Elmwood Cemetery	Elmwood Cem-Bristol Kendall Twp (Inside Yorkville)	Bristol	Active since 1866
02-01-200-001	Keck Memorial Cemetery: 1841-1936	Jack Keck	Bristol	Burials from 1841-1936
02-16-476-003	Oak grove Cemetery	Bristol Township	Bristol	Active
02-16-476-005	St Patricks Cemetery	Diocese of Joliet	Bristol	Active, Roman Catholic
01-30-476-008	Hart Cemetery	Probably Mary Louise Mackenzie-Taylor	Little Rock	Intact, Inactive
01-06-100-004	Hubbell Cemetery	Unknown Owner	Little rock	Despoiled
01-06-200-002	Ovitt Cemetery	Francis Dewey and Cynthia Westbrook (No Visible Cemetery)	Little Rock	Despoiled
01-15-300-003,01-15-300-004,01-	Plano Township Cemetery	Little Rock Township	Little Rock	Active
06-18-200-003	Aux Sable Grove Cemetery	Au Sable Grove Cemetery Association	Na-Au-Say	Active
06-26-200-001	Bronk Cemetery	Unknown Owner	Na-Au-Say	Abandoned
06-16-100-003	Sullivan Cemetery	Oswego School District (No Visible Cemetery)	Na-Au-Say	Despoiled
05-16-300-009	Cross Lutheran Cemetery	Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church	Kendall	Active
05-20-400-001	Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery	Immanuel Lutheran Church	Kendall	Active
05-07-176-010	Pavillion Cemetery	Pavillion Cemetery (Mailing Address as Elmwood)	Kendall	Active
04-30-355-013,04-31-126-001,04-	Millington-Newark Cemetery	Millington-Newark Cemetery (Inside Millington)	Fox	Active
04-08-200-008	Sacred Bluff Cemetery AKA Darnell Cemetery	Kendall County	Fox	Abandoned
09-19-400-001	Plattville Lutheran Cemetery	Plattville Lutheran Church	Seward	Active
09-26-200-002	Seward Mound	Connie Kloiber	Seward	Active
08-32-200-002	Munger Cemetery	Unknown	Lisbon	Abandoned
08-02-476-001	Plattville Cemetery	Plattville Cemetery Association (Inside Plattville)	Lisbon	Active
07-01-100-003,07-02-200-004	Helmar Lutheran Cemetery	Brad Mathre	Big Grove	Active
07-27-300-002,07-27-300-004	West Lisbon Cemetery	Trustee of West Lisbon Church	Big Grove	Active
07-24-400-005,07-24-400-018,07-	Lisbon Cemetery	Lisbon Beth. Lutheran Church	Big Grove	Active
03-26-300-003	Risen Lord Cemetery	Diocese of Joliet	Oswego	Active
01-35-252-001	Griswold Cemetery	Little Rock Township	Little Rock	Active

Red=Public

Blue=Religious

Black Bold=Unknown

KENDALL* 601 DE 1 N COL11/25/20
 UNABLE TO FORWARD/FOR REVIEW
 ** * * * * *

Kendall Hist. Preservation Comm.
 111 West Fox St.
 Yorkville, IL, 60560



CAROL STREAM IL 601
 19 NOV 2020 PM 6 L

Oswegoland Heritage Association
 Box 23
 Oswego, Illinois 60543

Clip and mail today

2021

Oswegoland Heritage Association Membership Form

Now is the time to renew your membership in the Oswegoland Heritage Association. Memberships extend from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each year. Just select from the membership categories below, and send your check to us today to assure Oswegoland's rich heritage and history will be preserved. Please add your email address to receive news about upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities. Please remember to include one membership for each family member.

Select your membership category:

- Friend, \$20
 Sponsor, \$75
 Business/Organization, \$150
 Lifetime Gold, \$1,000

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address: _____

Make checks out to Oswegoland Heritage Association and mail to:

Memberships
 Oswegoland Heritage Association
 Box 23
 Oswego, IL 60543



www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org

I prefer to receive my newsletters electronically



The Bell Tower

The newsletter of the Oswegoland Heritage Association...

December 2020



Roger Matile, editor

The Oswegoland Heritage Association's Board of Directors

- Judy Wheeler, President
- Mary Church, Secretary
- Jean Kent, Treasurer
- Tina Beaird
- Ted Clauser
- Ken Holmstrom
- Brian LeClercq
- Roger Matile
- Fred Mitchell

Mundsinger receives OHA's 2020 Mary Cutter Bickford Award...



Oswegoland Heritage Association President Judy Wheeler (left) presented the group's Mary Cutter Bickford Award to Cathi Mundsinger on Aug. 27.

Oswego historian Mary Cutter Bickford. Mundsinger retired from the board last year after more than 30 years' service. The award, named for lifelong Oswego resident and local historian, the late Mary Cutter Bickford, is presented to recognize truly outstanding efforts to preserve Oswego area history. Mary Bickford's collection of hundreds of historic Oswego photographs, documents, and books and ledgers formed the basis for the Little White School Museum's archival collection that currently stands at more than 14,000 items.

Previous winners were John Hafenrichter, Ted Clauser, Helen Zamata, Stephenie "Stevie" Todd, and Glenn Young.

Even before joining the board, Mundsinger worked with the group of volunteers in 1982 and early 1983 to create the museum's

Continued on page 2...

At their Aug. 27 meeting, the Oswegoland Heritage Association Board of Directors honored Cathi Mundsinger with the association's highest honor, the Mary Cutter Bickford Award for her extraordinary commitment to preserving local history in the tradition of Os-

In this issue...

Museum exhibits go virtual...Page 3

Bob Stekl retires after 20 years as a museum volunteer...Page 3

Donations continue to arrive...Page 4

Boulder Hill celebrates 65 years...Page 5

Memorials help keep history alive...Page 7

We are tax-exempt!

Remember, the Oswegoland Heritage Association is a federal tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization. All cash donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Send in your OHA membership today!

It's time to renew your Oswegoland Heritage Association membership. OHA memberships run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of each calendar year, so send your in now.

Annual dues are \$20 for Friends, \$75 for Sponsors, and \$150 for Business/Organization members.

Member benefits now include three issues of *The Bell Tower*, the heritage association's newsletter, each year, one free copy of the *Oswego Discovery Walk*, a self-guided walking tour of some of old Oswego's most historic neighborhoods, and other perks.

Current membership categories and benefits include:

- Friend:** \$20 one-year membership includes three newsletters each year; one free admission to an OHA-sponsored program, a 10% discount at the museum store, a Little White School Museum stylus pen, and one

free copy per family of the *Oswego Discovery Walk* self-guided historical tour of the village per family.

Sponsor: \$75 (or more) one-year membership includes all the benefits of Friend membership.

Business/Organization: \$150 one-year membership includes all the benefits of a Sponsor membership, plus recognition in three consecutive newsletters.

Lifetime Gold: \$1,000 lifetime membership includes all the benefits of the Sponsor membership, a free copy of *150 Years Along the Fox: The History of Oswego Township, Illinois*, a 192-page hardcover book; plus a special permanent membership card and framed Lifetime Gold membership certificate.

Memberships are designed to keep sup-

Continued on Page 2

Bickford Award...from page 1.



In 1983, Cathi Mundsinger (left) joined Sue Matile and Wanda Horton (right) to get partitions ready to open the Little White School Museum's gallery.

original exhibit gallery, where she and Carol Hoffer curated the museum's original home life exhibit.

Subsequently, she served two stints on the Oswegoland Heritage Association Board of Directors, from 1983 to 1998 and from 2002 to 2019. She continued to be an active member between board stints as well, totaling more than 36 years of volunteer service to the organization.

Her efforts in the area of fundraising for the OHA were among her most valuable contributions to the organization, according to heritage association presi-

Memberships...from page 1

denters informed about OHA activities, promote participation, and provide operating revenue for Little White School Museum activities and projects.

"Oswegoland Heritage Association memberships also make great Christmas and birthday gifts," OHA President Judy Wheeler noted, "Especially for friends, family, former neighbors, and others who would appreciate keeping up with efforts to preserve Oswegoland history."

To join or renew your membership, just fill out the membership form on the back of this newsletter. For a gift membership, send your name, address, and phone number, along with the name and address of the person you wish to gift with the membership, and a check for the appropriate amount to Oswegoland Heritage Association, Membership, Box 23, Oswego, IL 60543. ♡

dent Judy Wheeler. During her board tenures, she raised thousands of dollars for the heritage association. She created the association's commemorative crock fundraising project and oversaw it for many years. She also spearheaded the Little White School Museum snow globe project, and created the current, very successful, Cat's Meow annual miniature historic building fundraising project to replace the commemorative crock project.

Mundsinger was a prime organizer and volunteer during the heritage association's 1993 Stone House Walk. In addition to that, she took responsibility for the third grade field trip program and acted as its leader almost from its inception. Using her connections with the Oswego School District--she is a retired school district administrator--to promote the program, she not only turned it into a learning experience for the students, their teachers, and their parents, but also taught hundreds of Oswego School District third graders that local history can be both interesting and fun.

She served for many years as the heritage association's membership chair and as the association's memorial chair.

Then in 2013, she took leadership in the Oswegoland Heritage Association's strategic planning initiative, leading the series of planning sessions, organizing

Looking for an Oswego history fix?

Can't get to the museum but need an Oswego history fix? Just drop by electronically! Visit the Little White School Museum's web site at www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. Our newly updated web page contains a host of links to all kinds of Oswego history subjects, including virtual tours of the museum gallery, videos, copies of all the museum's brochures, newspaper transcriptions and much more.

Have a comment, question, or suggestion? Contact us at info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. You can also find us on Facebook. ♡

the materials, and publishing the eventual strategic plan document. She was also an integral part of the 2013 museum assessment process led by Pat Miller from the Illinois Heritage Association. She was also a leader in creating the heritage association's new vision and mission statements and tag line. Subsequently, she led the effort to plan for a complete reimagining and renovation of the Little White School Museum's exhibit gallery, which was completed and opened to the public in March 2018.

"Cathi's legacy in assuring the preservation of Oswegoland's rich history will be visible to everyone who visits the Little White School Museum for decades to come," concluded museum director Roger Matile.

The Little White School Museum is a joint project of the Oswegoland Heritage Association and the Oswegoland Park District.

The museum is currently open by reservation Thursday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Call 630-554-4494, email info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org, or visit the museum web site at www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org for more information. ♡

Send in your OHA membership NOW!

Things start getting pretty busy this time of year, what with friends and family, school, church, and other obligations as the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach.

So why not take a couple minutes right now and fill out and send in the Oswegoland Heritage Association membership renewal form on the last page of this newsletter?

All yearly Friend, Sponsor and Business/Organization memberships expire on December 31, since our membership year is now the same as the regular calendar year.

So if you want to help the Oswegoland Heritage Association protect and preserve the Oswegoland community's rich history and you haven't sent your membership in yet, why not do it right now? We're counting on you! ♡

Boulder Hill...continued from page 5

recreation was provided through the Oswegoland Park District.

As the years passed, Dise's vision of a complete community with schools, churches, and businesses was realized as the Boulder Hill Neighborhood Church of the Brethren and St. Luke's Lutheran Church opened, along with the Boulder Hill Market shopping center, and even a McDonald's restaurant a few years after the U.S. Route 30 Bypass was completed

Stekl retires as assistant museum director, from page 3...

we currently have."

During his years with the museum, Stekl also worked hard to update exhibits in the museum gallery, particularly the transportation and military exhibits. That also led to him establishing the annual salute to veterans the museum began hold each November. The last "Remembering Our Veterans" exhibit in November 2019 was held for an entire month and filled the museum's main Roger Matile Room.

He also gave a number of programs on model railroading and set up a model railroad exhibit at Christmas for a couple years.

During his tenure volunteering at

and opened in July 1959.

For many years, the Little White School Museum has been trying to acquire as much Boulder Hill-related historical material for its collections as it can.

Among other items, the museum's Boulder Hill collection includes photos, Boulder Hill Directories, newsletters, home plans and sale documents, and more.

Do you have any documents, photos, slides, or other items related to Boulder

the museum, the usage of the building changed considerably, a lot of upgrades were done, and he helped considerably with the total museum gallery makeover in 2018-2019.

"And besides all that, Bob was also usually the go-to guy if something needed fixing or a light bulb needed changing," Matile noted. "We're going to miss him, his presence, his ability to help folks with family history research, and his general knowledge of the museum and its collections."

Have you sent in your Oswegoland Heritage Association membership yet? Why not do it right now?

Memorials create lasting tributes to family members and other loved ones

A memorial gift to the Oswegoland Heritage Association is an especially meaningful way to recognize friends, family, business associates, and special occasions, while at the same time supporting the collections, educational programs, and mission of the only organization dedicated to Oswegoland's rich history. All families have to do is make sure their funeral director is informed that memorials should be addressed to the Oswegoland Heritage Association, Box 23, Oswego, IL 60543.

During the past calendar year, financial gifts to the Oswegoland Heritage Association have been received in memory of: Kenneth "Mickey" Gengler from Jack and Renee Weis and Laurie Sehie Krueger; in remembrance of Minnie Wheeler Cubit from the Oswego High School Class of 1957; in memory of Gladys Ode from Leonard Burkhart; and in remembrance of Elaine Matile Lieser from Kari Sehie and Bill and Beth Vickery.

Memorial gifts to the Oswegoland Heritage Association are deposited in the association's Endowment Fund. While the principal of the Endowment Fund is to be conserved, the fund's earnings can be used for heritage association operations and activities upon vote of the OHA Board of Directors.

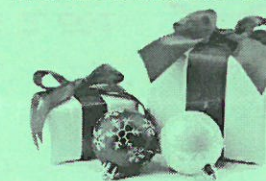
All contributions are acknowledged with a personalized thank-you note sent to the honored individual or family without reference to the amount of the gift. In addition, the names of the individuals being honored will be listed in future issues of *The Bell Tower*. ♡

Hill's rich and interesting history including house plans, sale documents, or other items? If so, the museum is eager to acquire them for their collections.

"Our goal is to tell the story of Boulder Hill," explained museum director Roger Matile. "Boulder Hill had a huge effect on the Oswegoland area. For instance, many people don't know the first park owned by the Oswegoland Park District was Susan John Park on Hampton Road in Boulder Hill. We need to preserve as much of Boulder Hill's history as we can now while memories are relatively fresh."

To donate materials to the museum, call 630-554-4494 for an appointment. For more information, email info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. ♡

Benefit the OHA and local history with Amazon Smile



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Do you occasionally buy items on Amazon.com's web site? If so, you can use your purchases to benefit the Oswegoland Heritage Association and the Little White School Museum. Here's how:

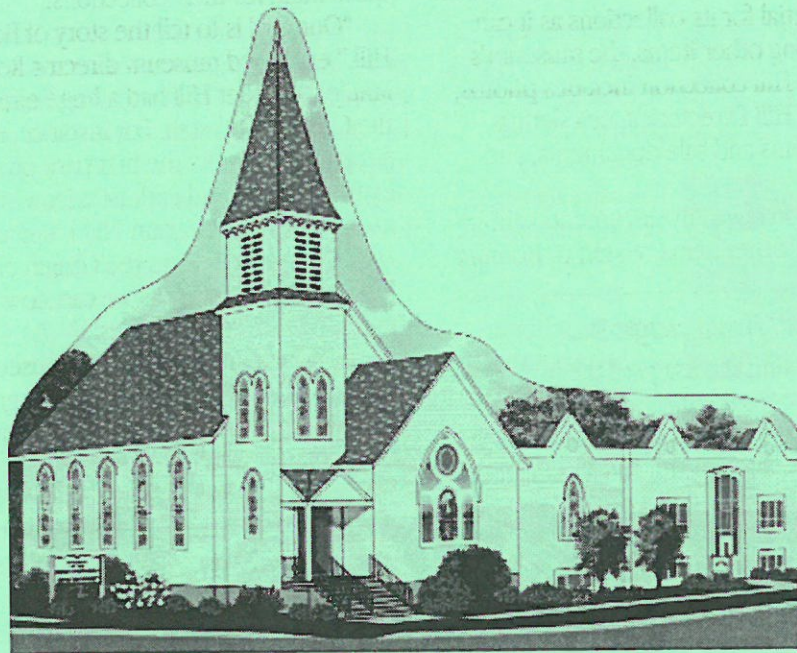
Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and use your Amazon user name and password to sign in. For the organization you wish to support, type in Oswegoland Heritage Association. After you sign up and use the AmazonSmile site to shop, a percentage of your purchase will benefit the OHA and the museum.

It would also be a good idea to bookmark the AmazonSmile site so you can easily go to it the next time you buy something. Also, after you've used AmazonSmile a bit, the regular Amazon.com site will ask if you want to go to the same page on the AmazonSmile site.

Joining AmazonSmile is a quick, easy way to help support the mission and goals of the OHA. ♡

Oswego-themed holiday gifts available at the museum store...

Latest "Cat's Meow" historic miniature on sale



The latest architectural miniature building in the OHA's series, manufactured by Cat's Meow, is expected to go on sale Dec. 1. This year's selection is the landmark Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist, built in 1896 at the busy corner of Washington and Madison streets.

If you're looking for a unique Oswego-themed gift this holiday season, the Little White School Museum's gift shop has a fine selection.

The sixth entry in the OHA's series of architectural miniatures of village landmark buildings created exclusively for the association by Cat's Meow of Wooster, Ohio is on sale. The latest selection is the landmark Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist at the busy corner of Washington and Madison streets.

Oswego's German Evangelical Methodists built this frame church building in 1896. English-speaking Methodists attended the Methodist-Episcopal Church (the Little White School Museum) until 1912 when they merged with their German-speaking co-religionists. After the Oswego Congregational Church burned in 1920, the Methodists and Congregationalists, with Baptists and Lutherans formed the Federated Church in this building. In 1957, the church officially named the Church of the Good Shepherd, Evangelical United Brethren, named because of the main panel in the landmark building's front-facing stained glass window. In

1968, the Oswego congregation officially joined the United Methodist denomination.

This is the sixth year Cat's Meow historic building miniatures have been sold as the OHA's main annual fundraiser.

Past buildings featured (and still available for sale) are the Korte-Zentmyer Building, the Hoze-Cherry House, the Chapman House, the Crothers-Jolly-Denney House, the Dairy Hut, the Schwartz House (Tripp Insurance), the A.O. Parke Building (American Male & Company), the Durrand House (The Village Grind), the Oswego Fire Barn (Oswego Cyclery), the Knapp Building (Masonic Hall-Oswego Family Restaurant building), the Rank Building (former Oswego Library and Ledger-Sentinel offices), the Schickler Building (The Marmalade Tree and barber shop), the Little White School Museum, and the Oswego Woman's Civic Club's iconic "Welcome to Oswegoland" sign.

Each building facade is accurately rendered, and measures approximately 6 x 4 inches. A brief building history is included on the reverse of each miniature. Buildings are available at \$20 each. Proceeds

benefit the heritage association and the Little White School Museum's operations.

Complete building sets offer a quaint, and accurate, depiction of Oswego's historic architecture in and around the downtown area.

All buildings in the series are on sale at the Little White School Museum, 72 Polk Street (Jackson at Polk), Oswego.

Also available at the museum store is a selection of fine custom Great Bay Pottery Oswego marked stoneware, along with books and pamphlets on Oswegoland history, and books and videos featuring the Oswego area's home-grown environmental crusader, "The Fox."

Copies of *Oswego Township*, a 128 page pictorial history with dozens of historic images from the museum's collections are \$20 each. *150 Years Along the Fox: The History of Oswego Township, Illinois*, a 192 page hardbound volume is available at \$35 per copy.

By Trace and Trail, a stagecoach and mail route monograph, is available at \$10. Also available are monographs on aspects of Oswego history at \$1 each, along with a number of other local history-related books and pamphlets, including books and other items concerning Jim Phillips, the ecological hero who called himself The Fox, including "The Legend of the Fox," a video on both DVD and VHS about Phillips' exploits.

The museum is open Thursday through Saturday by reservation. For more information or to make a reservation, call 630-554-4494, or visit the museum web site at www.littlewhiteschool-museum.org.

Send in your OHA membership today!

Remember, all yearly Friend, Sponsor and Business memberships expire on December 31; our membership year is now the same as the regular calendar year. So if you haven't sent yours in yet, why not do it right now? We're counting on you!

Museum programs, exhibits go virtual thanks to Covid-19

The challenges the Oswegoland community has faced due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic have been severe.

Thanks to the pandemic, the museum is now only open by reservation, and most programming and special events have gone virtual, accessed on either the museum's Facebook page or on the museum web site, www.littlewhiteschool-museum.org.

The last major exhibit at the museum, "At Home in Oswego's Past," filled the museum's main Roger Matile Room until it was taken down by volunteers Bob and Darlene Stekl on Oct. 8. Due to the pandemic, no further major exhibits have been scheduled.

Thanks to the organizational efforts of Little White School Museum Manager Tina Heidrich, the annual Oswego Cemetery Walk was turned into a virtual, video experience this year, titled "Cemetery Stories." Over five weeknights, a new video starring and Oswego "ghost" was

presented on the museum's Facebook page. Museum staff provided the scripts while members of the Oswegoland Park District's Limelight Theatre Company portrayed the "ghosts."

"One of the positives with 'Cemetery Stories' was that we were able to include some historic Oswego personages from other cemeteries than the Oswego Township Cemetery," noted museum director Roger Matile.

The museum's first-ever on-line Zoom program, "Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage in Illinois" marked the centennial of ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. The virtual program, organized by OHA Program Chair Tina Beaird, was given Oct. 28 by Illinois Road Scholar Jeanne Schultz Angel.

Also due to the pandemic, the huge annual "Remembering Our Veterans" exhibit was cancelled.

Instead, Museum Manager Heidrich worked with the park district's graph-

Your business name could be right here!

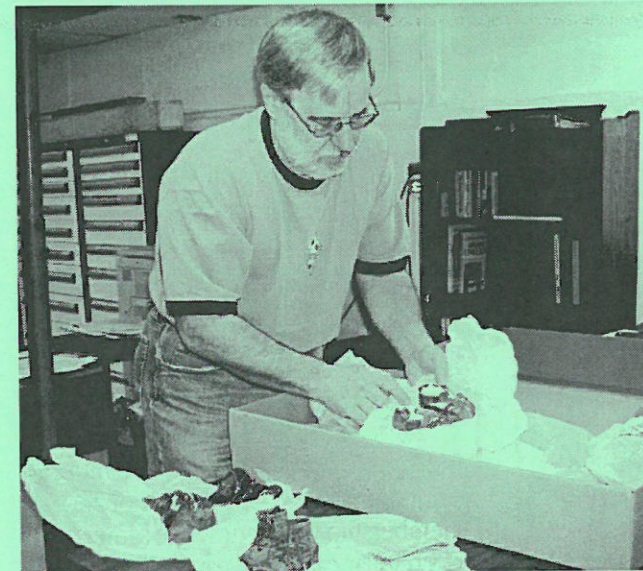
To become a Bell Tower sponsor, purchase a Business/Institutional membership, and your name will appear in this space in three consecutive issues. See pages 1-2 for membership information.

ics experts to bring one of the annual exhibit's most popular features, the "Wall of Honor," to the public. A video Wall of Honor featuring dozens of Oswego military veterans is now available on both the museum's Facebook and web pages.

Another casualty of the pandemic has been the museum's archives and research area, which has been closed to the public. However, the museum's reduced staff is still able to help those with Oswego-related research queries.

"We've been able to help several people with research questions via email and by copying information that they can then pick up at the museum," said Little White School Museum Director Roger Matile.

Assistant Museum Director Bob Stekl retires



After 20 years of faithful volunteer service, Assistant Museum Director Bob Stekl decided to retire this past August. Stekl began volunteering at the museum in 2020.

After volunteering for a few months, Stekl joined the heritage association

board in May of 2001, and served until he decided not to seek another term in May 2019.

"Bob was a major help in getting the collections backlog catalogued back when he started," noted Museum Director Roger Matile. "Starting in 1976, people started dropping off artifacts, photos, and documents at the museum that just piled up."

There were a few short-lived cataloging attempts in the 1980s,

but not until Stephenie Todd and Keith Coryell organized sorting the items and helping develop a database system to record the collection did serious cataloging begin.

"I was sort of working on my own

cataloging by 2000," Matile recalled. "So I welcomed the help. Bob had just retired and was looking for something to occupy his time--and, boy, did he find it! We started out on Thursdays and then added Saturday mornings."

As of mid-November, the museum's collection of catalogued items stood at 31,771 items. Of that total, Stekl was responsible for cataloging well over half, 17,862 items.

In addition to cataloging, Stekl successfully applied for state grants to house the Little White School Museum's ever-growing textile collection. The Oswegoland Heritage Association received two matching grants to buy shelving and textile boxes to store the collection, which now totals more than 2,000 items.

"Bob became our storage guru," Matile noted. "With his skills at rearranging collections materials, we have been able to barely get by with what little storage space

Continued on Page 7...

History continues to arrive on our doorstep...

Donors assure preservation of Oswegoland history

Little White School Museum staffers have nearly finished clearing up and organizing the accumulated backlog of museum donations that were dropped off at the museum in the years prior to 2001, while they're attempting to keep up with cataloging new donations that arrive at the museum on a regular basis.

Since the last newsletter was published in August, the museum has received several historically significant, donations. As The Bell Tower went to press, the museum database contained 31,771 items. That's 498 more items than were in the database last year at this time.

Staffers engaged in cataloging during the past year included volunteers Bob Stekl, Stephanie Just, and Roger Matile, along with museum staffer Sarah Kimes.

New acquisitions and their donors included a postcard from Leonard Hafen-

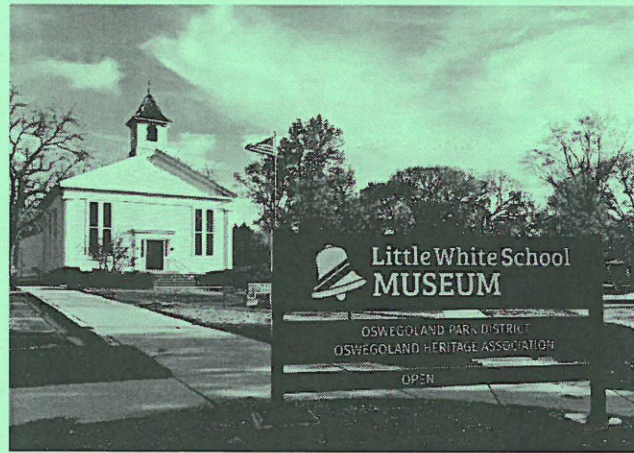
richter to his parents mailed during World War II, Fred Mitchell; two Kendall County Treasurer political campaign cards, Roger Matile; two 1919 photos of Gaylord School students and their teacher, David Scheuring; bottles, shells, and miscellaneous items found in Waubonsie Creek, Danny Bliss; a 1902 Oswego High School graduation announcement, Harley Schoger; a wooden travel trunk used by Ane Hornbeck when she immigrated to Oswego from Denmark in 1891, Don Hubbard; a photo of the Oswego High School student body in 1907 from an anonymous donor; a collection of Kay Wallace Hatcher's political and Boulder Hill memorabilia; a 1920s McCormick-Deering advertising brochure and a Zentmyer Ford emery board promotional advertising packet with the "Mr. Z" logo, Roger Matile; a photo of a group of Oswego women taken

about 1952, Ted Clauser; Oswego Senior Center photos, Judy Siedlecki.

Museum staffers regularly check eBay for Oswego-related items, and when warranted, purchases are made. Purchases since the last newsletter include a two-page article in the June 1954 issue of Successful Farming magazine featuring recipes and a full-page color photo of Mrs. John (Lillian) Williamson. The Williamson's farm was located on Minkler Road south of Oswego. Besides her cookery, Lillian Williamson was also an accomplished artist. The museum has two of her watercolors in its collections.

The museum is open Thursday through Saturday by reservation. Call 630-554-4494 for information. Direct Oswego area research queries to 630-554-4494 or email info@littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org. ♡

Park district funds Little White School maintenance and upgrades...



"Without the support of the Oswegoland Park District, for funding staff, maintenance and operations, the museum could not continue to operate," said museum director Roger Matile. "They make it possible for us to save the history and heritage of Oswegoland for future generations to enjoy and to learn from."

Two major projects were concluded at the Little White School Museum this past year. UV-filtering film was installed on the windows in the museum's

main Roger Matile Room to keep harmful ultraviolet rays out, safeguarding any artifacts and documents on exhibit. Also, the Aurora Sign Company installed a new monument sign at the Jackson and Polk Street intersection and a decorative informational sign outside the main entrance on Jackson Street.

The new monument sign includes an "Open" and "Closed" sign that serves to

alert drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists who are eastbound on Jackson Street that the museum is open for visitors.

"We're hoping the new signs will help drive more traffic to the museum and will better inform the community about our activities," suggested museum manager Tina Heidrich.

In addition, the Hilltop Garden Club has continued to brighten the museum's grounds—Heritage Park—during the past year by completely revamping the Heritage Garden along the park's east border with a new collection of heirloom perennials.

"There are flowers blooming there during just about every month during the growing season," noted museum director Roger Matile. "We really appreciate all the work the gardeners put in every year."

Projects planned for the coming year include refinishing the pulpit platform/stage in the main Roger Matile Room, and other minor maintenance items.

"Without the park district's assistance, we simply couldn't afford to keep up the museum," Matile said. "This is one public-private partnership that's worked well. ♡

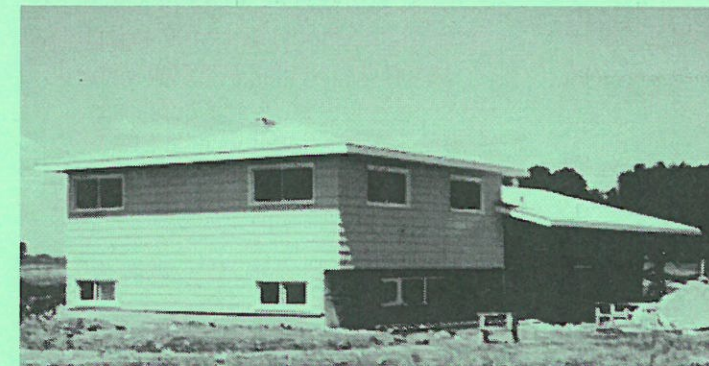
Among the projects the Oswegoland Park District completed during the past year was replacing the monument sign at the intersection of Jackson and Polk streets. The new sign incorporates "Open" and "Closed" signs to alert motorists and pedestrians whether the museum is open.

During the past summer and autumn, the Oswegoland Park District has funded a number of maintenance projects at the Little White School Museum, making sure ongoing maintenance of the historic building is a top priority.

Money for the projects is generated by the separate Museum Fund real estate tax levy that is part of the Oswegoland Park District's real estate tax rate.

Help us collect Boulder Hill history...

Boulder Hill celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2021



Mr. and Mrs. Bev Skaggs' house at 22 Briarcliff Road, the first house sold in Boulder Hill, under construction in the summer of 1956.

In the summer of 1955, Don L. Dise, Inc. purchased the 716 acre Boulder Hill Stock Farms owned by the Bereman family, with the hope of building a new community mirroring those already under construction in Pennsylvania and New York by the Levitt family.

The development, which had a major impact on the entire mid-Fox River Valley, will celebrate its 65th anniversary in 2021.

The big push westward from Chicago to the suburbs was just beginning in 1955; so it was a good time for Dise and his investors to attempt such a venture. Caterpillar Tractor Company had already announced plans to build a huge manufacturing complex a couple miles west of the Fox River from the farms, and Western Electric, the manufacturing arm of AT&T, was busy opening a new plant on the opposite bank of the river. Eventually, the two plants employed some 10,000 workers and the need for housing was obvious. In addition, liberal government loans through the post-World War II and Korean War G.I. Bills offered excellent financing for the young veterans of the two conflicts and their families.

As the first step, a professional city planner, Carl Gardner & Associates, was hired to map out a town, with houses and apartments to attract buyers in all income levels, as well as space for churches, schools, parks, and essential businesses. The completed plan provided for approximately 2,000 families.

had been the clubhouse for one of the first golf courses in the area. The grand opening of the Aurora Golf Club was held on the site in May 1901. The club leased 50 acres from the Bereman farms and laid out a nine-hole course, just 11 years after the very first course in the United States was laid out in Yonkers, NY. In those pre-paved road days, the course was relatively isolated and in 1907 it closed and moved to Aurora and was renamed the Aurora County Club. The Bereman land reverted to farm uses until 1955.

During the summer of 1956 utilities were brought in, roads were laid out, and six model homes were built. The first house at 22 Briarcliff Road at was sold in May 1956 to Mr. and Mrs. Bev R. Skaggs of Aurora. The model homes, two of which were completely furnished, were opened to the public in September 1956. By the end of the year, 11 families were living in Boulder Hill, including Mr. and Mrs. Dise and their two children, who moved into the large Bereman house on the hill, and the A. C. Hydes, who had rehabbed the farmhouse.

Growth continued during the following years. In 1963 Don L. Dise, Inc. purchased the Warren Norris farm along Douglas Road to the east, making it pos-

Ground was broken in the spring of 1956 for the first group of model homes in Unit 1. The sales manager for the corporation, A. C. Hyde, decided to rehab one of the three farm homes on the property for his own residence. In doing so, it was discovered that it

sible to extend streets through to Douglas Road. This was the first of several additional parcels of land added to Boulder Hill. Eventually growth to the south permitted Boulder Hill Pass to be extended to U.S. Route 34, east of the Village of Oswego, with the Boulder Hill community becoming contiguous to the village.

Originally, sanitary sewer service was provided to the development by the Aurora Sanitary District—now the Fox-Metro Water Reclamation District—and water came from one of the old Bereman farm wells at 7 Briarcliff Road. In September 1958 an agreement was concluded with the Village of Montgoemry to supply municipal water service to Boulder Hill—at double water rates.

When the subdivision opened, rural mail delivery to a long lineup of rural mailboxes at 5 Briarcliff Road came from the Oswego Post Office. In September 1958, thanks to negotiations by the community's main civic organization, the Boulder Hill Civic Association, the community's address was changed to Aurora and house-to-house mail delivery began.

The community, which remained unincorporated despite it's population as the largest in Kendall County, received it's street and sidewalk maintenance from Oswego Township, and its police protection from the Kendall County Sheriff's Department. The subdivision's children attended Oswego School District 308 schools, and

Continued on Page 7...



The Boulder Hill Playhouse, on Briarcliff Road just across U.S. Route 30, opened in the summer of 1958 as a community theatre under the management of Jack and Lucille Goring, and featured several plays every season until it was destroyed by arson in 1967.