

# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation  
39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)  
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Website: [www.rosellehistory.org](http://www.rosellehistory.org)

Summer 2020



*Be it Ever So Humble . . .*

## ... There's No Place Like Home!

... unless it has become a combination gym, office, classroom, playground, studio, communications center, and experimental lab. It's cleaner and more sterile than it's ever been. If it could talk, it might grumble something like, "Enough, already! Don't you need to be somewhere?"

As Museum Manager Leslie Drewitz was checking on the wellbeing of the Core Group members during the current COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home order, she found all were staying well and engaged in a variety of activities.

**Milan Bagel** recently moved to Friendship Village where he says life is stable. Protocols are in place, but he manages to get in a one-hour walk most days, and, on one occasion, enjoyed some beautiful piano music being played in the atrium by one of the residents.

**Joan Beauprez** decorated her dining room for Easter, made the family's favorite cookies and toasted the holiday with husband Bob and son Lee. Only sad note was not being able to have the girls and their families with them in person.

**Kay Cahill** spent much of her time revising this newsletter. Many changes had to be made due to the cancellations of all the summer events. When day is done, she enjoys crossword puzzles and a coloring book from her great grandchildren. It's quite intricate and very relaxing. Takes an evening to complete a page.

**Mary Crompton** had some elective surgery postponed, so she's catching up on a lot of reading and purging a bunch of old files.

**Leslie Drewitz** is finding it hard to sit still. She's keeping the Museum office germ-free with frequent wipe-downs and, at home, she may just take her husband up on his suggestion to wash all the curtains in the house. (You go, girl.)

**Ray and Sharon Hitzemann** are into jigsaw puzzles and have offered to leave some of them on their front porch for puzzle fans to simply take and enjoy. No physical contact—just a wave and a nod.

**Joyce Kuhlmann** is putting her sewing skills to work making masks that are sent to hospitals where there are shortages. She is also doing some quilting, while Eddie enjoys listening to CDs.

Are you doing your part?



**Hank Kvintus** is shredding 25-year-old files, giving his shredder a run for its money. He warns us against gaining weight during our additional time at home.

**Walt and Paulette Lotz** consider themselves "under house arrest." To combat the isolation, they manage an almost-daily stroll around the pond on Gary Ave. Paulette, like so many, is purging "stuff," and Walt escapes to his own little corner of the world he calls his Hobbit Hole.

**Barbara Peterson** is sewing quilt tops for the humanitarian work of Lutheran World Relief through her church. She's doing some genealogy research, spring cleaning in her own yard and the Museum's yard, and cooking lots of soup.

**Tom Piorkowski** has really good news. He was accepted into the PhD program at NIU. He wanted us to know that if he seems a little giddy these days, that's why. (Congratulations, Tom!)

**Keri Soukup** is doing her job from home and catching up on some reading. She has also joined the newsletter staff as a proofreader. (Welcome aboard, Keri!)

**Glenn Spachman** says, "no news is good news." While Sue digs into her quilting, he prepares their tax returns.

**Megan Wozniak** celebrated her birthday by baking with her mom via video chat, which she encourages everyone to do. She's also "zooming" with 3,000 museum professionals about how to go digital. (Something the Museum can look forward to.)

**Frank and Claranne Zielinski** are adhering to the protocol of wearing masks when they go outdoors. Frank said their kids respond to their every need; he merely makes a request, and it's done. Something new to Frank and Claranne is the Meals on Wheels program, for which he has very kind words. The meals come every day.

### *With Deepest Sympathy*

*The staff and members of the Roselle History Museum extend our sincere sympathy to our DuPage County neighbors who have lost family members, friends, or neighbors to the COVID-19 virus.*

Today's Buzz Words: Wash Hands – Social Distance – Stay at Home – We're in This Together

## Signs of the Times

### Museum Closed Until Further Notice

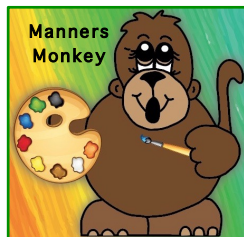


The entire Museum Campus (Sumner House, Richter House, and Museum Office) will be closed to the visiting public until further notice due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Manager Leslie Drewitz announced that the Museum Office has been

and continues to be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized for staff members who have essential business at the office.

### Manners Program Postponed

“CHARACTERS OF CHARACTER,” the children’s program originally set for April 4, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It’ll be rescheduled later this year or early next year.



Watch for notification of the new date and consider having your children, grandchildren, and/or great grandchildren ages 3-10 participate.

This 90-minute program, teaches children the nine positive character traits—behavior, perseverance, friendship, healthy habits, manners, respect, responsibility, self-esteem, and kindness—all through the use of paints, puppets, and storytelling.

### Irish Dance Program Postponed

THE BENTLEY SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE program for children ages 3-12, originally set for July 11, will be held later this year or early next year. Watch for the new date.



The show features a performance by the students from the Bentley School, a bit of Irish lore, descriptions of the costumes and the different shoes, as

well as the intricate Celtic designs from the Book of Kells. The children in the audience will also learn some basics of Irish step dancing.

### Cancellations

THE 2020 ROSE PARADE and the 2020 FLAGS FOR ROSELLE program are canceled. Subscriptions for the 2021 Flag program will be accepted beginning Tuesday, December 1, 2020. Mark your calendar!

## A Relatively Forgotten Historical Event

by Tom Piorkowski



In the last few months, a rather obscure and relatively forgotten historical event has suddenly found itself back in the popular consciousness. The Spanish Flu Pandemic has

often been overshadowed by the events of World War I. As the world faces another widespread pandemic a little over 100 years later, this earth-shattering event and its longstanding consequences are starting to receive more and more attention in their own right from people around the world.

Beginning in January 1918, the Spanish Flu Pandemic devastated the world for almost three years before finally ending toward the close of 1920. During that time roughly 500 million people were infected, with low-range estimates placing the death toll at 17 million and others placing it as high as 100 million. The disease itself was a strain of the flu called H1N1, the same strain that caused the swine flu outbreak in 2009. The name Spanish Flu actually arose out of an accident of history. During World War I, the warring governments suppressed newspaper coverage of the outbreak in order to maintain morale among the troops as well as the civilian population. Spain was neutral during the war, so Spanish newspapers were allowed to freely report on the disease. This gave the impression to people in other countries that Spain was uniquely hard hit by the pandemic, a notion reinforced when their king, Alfonso XIII, was stricken with the disease.

The effects of the disease were devastating. With a world population at the time of roughly 1.8-1.9 billion, the death toll was between 1% and 6% of the world population. While some areas were hit harder than others, a remarkable aspect of this pandemic was that it was truly global in nature and affected even remote areas of the world. Another strange aspect of this pandemic was that people between the ages of 20 and 40 were affected in much larger numbers than is common in other flu outbreaks, with people in this age group accounting for roughly half of all fatal cases. There are several theories for why this may have been. One theory holds that the older generation may have developed immunity during an influenza outbreak known as the “Russian Flu” that lasted from 1889 to 1890. Another theory is that this flu triggered something known as a cytokine storm, wherein the immune system’s response is what actually caused most of the damage to an infected individual. This meant that having a healthy immune system actually made one more vulnerable to the disease.

Despite the devastation the 1918 pandemic wrought, it was largely overshadowed by World War I even as it was occurring and was called until recently “the forgotten pandemic” by many historians. This event had longstanding consequences only briefly touched on here, and anyone interested in finding parallels between historical events and today would be well served to take a deeper look at this devastating moment in world history. (Suggested resources:

[www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/1918-pandemic-history.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1918-commemoration/1918-pandemic-history.htm))





## Flags for Roselle 2020 Program Canceled

The following is excerpted from FFR President Scott Williams' letter to subscribers:

"After hours of thoughtful discussion on how best to protect our volunteers and citizens during these very uncertain times we, at FFR, have decided to suspend flag installations for the remainder of 2020."

Subscribers wishing to receive a refund of this year's \$50 subscription fee can request it by sending a note to [flagsforroselle@gmail.com](mailto:flagsforroselle@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 72001, Roselle, IL 60172 by May 15. A check will be issued regardless of your method of payment. If you would like to donate the subscription fee to FFR, no further action is required, and your contribution will continue to support your local community organizations.

Looking forward to 2021: Watch the FFR website and Facebook page for information concerning next year's program. You may subscribe as early as Dec. 1, 2020, for next year. Call the people who live around you. Make it a neighborhood endeavor.

Gratitude and kudos to all the volunteers, subscribers, and fellow citizens for their support past and present. President Williams says, "We will get through this together and be better for having stayed strong."

## Certificate of Recognition for Flags for Roselle

The Flags for Roselle program received another accolade recently when Laura M. Murphy, State Senator 28<sup>th</sup> District, sent an Illinois State Senate Certificate of Recognition to Mayor Andy Maglio congratulating the Village on receiving the 2019 Governor's Hometown Award in the Education Category.

In her letter to the Mayor, Sen. Murphy said, "I am sure you, along with the town's families and friends, take tremendous pride in this award. Your dedication to better your community has been noted through the Flags for Roselle Project." She added that getting students and volunteers involved has brought neighbors together and shown the Village's patriotism. She closed with, "Thank you for working on making Roselle a better place."

If you haven't driven down Central Avenue lately, make it a point to do so. The larger-than-life sign provided by the State of Illinois honoring the Flags for Roselle program stands proudly on the south side of the street at Presidential Drive. It's a giant "Thank You" to all flag



subscribers and to the volunteers who continue to make the program possible.

## Over \$28,800 Given Back to Community

Where does your FFR subscription money go? First, to pay for the flags and flag building materials. The net proceeds go back to the community, specifically to the participating organizations. In 2017, three organizations each received \$1,818.68. In 2018, each of five groups received \$2,173.51. Proceeds in 2019 grew to \$12,500, making it possible to award \$2,500 to each of the five groups: American Legion Post 1084, Lake Park HS Educational Foundation, Roselle History Museum, Boy Scouts of Roselle, and Girl Scouts of Roselle.

Museum volunteers are doing their part to earn the Museum's share of the Flags Program proceeds: RHM Secretary Tom Piorkowski is the FFR Secretary, is a member of an installation team, and is President of the Roselle Library Board. Hank Kvintus is the liaison between the Flags program and the Museum. Megan Wozniak, RHM's marketing manager, maintains the FFR website.

## Flags for Roselle Contact Information

Website: <http://FlagsForRoselle.weebly.com>

Email: [FlagsForRoselle@gmail.com](mailto:FlagsForRoselle@gmail.com)

Regular mail: P.O. Box 72001, Roselle, IL 60172

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FlagsForRoselle](http://www.facebook.com/FlagsForRoselle)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/FlagsForRoselle](http://www.instagram.com/FlagsForRoselle)

Phone: 630-207-1136 (Scott Williams, FFR Bd. Pres.)



# 30 Years! Are You Kidding Me?

... And Then There Were **LIGHTS!**



It's been 30 years since **LAKE PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S** football program held its first night game on Aug. 31, 1990. Retired football coach Dean Bladel said, "For the first time in a number of years, we would no longer be the *Only Show in Town* on Saturday."

Dave Victor, retired teacher/administrator, remembers the District's concern regarding security for the first night game and other night games that first year. "To address this," he said, "administrators were given white (neon) jackets with the word *security* on the back. Our job was to be visible. . . . There was never a problem that I encountered, and the District's concern may simply be a reflection on the times. . . . This indicated the concern the District had in moving to something new and wanting to make sure the environment was positive."

Dean Bladel paraphrases then football head coach Bob Monken's concern: *We were at a disadvantage since all of our opponents' coaches could come and scout our Saturday games. Night football would help equalize things.*

Thank you to Jerry Blew, retired teacher/coach/administrator, who sent us souvenir pencils pictured here. The slogan, "I can—Together We Will" appears on the underside.



## Lake Park's Foundation Celebrates 30 Years

The 2019-2020 school year marks the Lake Park High School Educational Foundation's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The LPEF was founded on September 6, 1989, under the leadership of the then assistant superintendent Gene Swierczewski and 10 community and educational leaders. During its first 15 years, the Foundation engaged in a variety of projects focusing on the school's newly emerging technology needs. A satellite dish was purchased and installed to provide access to university satellite network programs for classroom use, and software network programs were purchased to enhance student study skills. The Foundation also began to recognize students who excelled in the classroom in its annual 5.0 Banquet, as well as alumni who achieved distinction in their chosen fields in its Distinguished Alumni Recognition Program.

Since its inception, the Foundation has been committed to working with the high school to assess needs and develop projects and programs that benefit teachers and students. This effort expanded during the next phase of the Foundation's growth, beginning in 2005.

The Foundation initiated these new programs and community-based activities: Funds for Excellence Grants ♦ Scholarship Program ♦ Spirit of Excellence Program ♦ Commencement Box Suites ♦ Night of Fine Dining and Theatre ♦ Emergency Need and Support Fund ♦ Reaching out to the Community (Memorial Garden, Reunion Tours, Northern Illinois Food Bank, Make a Difference Day, Business Sponsorships, Robotics and TAP Partnerships, and the Rotary Youth Leadership [RYLA] scholarships.)

Over the past 30 years, the Foundation has provided more than \$200,000 in college scholarships, over \$140,00 in teacher grants, and over \$20,000 in emergency support for students with financial need.

To meet the expanding responsibilities of guiding the Foundation, the position of executive director was created in 2015, and Jennifer Jungel was named to the position. That was a turning point. Becky Wyatt, an LP alum with foundation and nonprofit experience, succeeded Jennifer and has brought in new ideas, and has been instrumental in helping the Foundation develop its programs and meet emerging needs. The LPEF is committed to having an even greater impact in the future on those who call Lake Park "home."

*(Thanks to LPEF Pres. David Victor for granting permission to print excerpts from the 2018-2019 Annual Report, which can be viewed in its entirety at [www.lphs.org/foundation](http://www.lphs.org/foundation). For Foundation information, contact Becky Wyatt at [bw Wyatt@lphs.org](mailto:bw Wyatt@lphs.org).)*



## *Someone You Should Know*

### *Nancy Behnke*

Nancy Behnke has been a volunteer at the Roselle History Museum for the past ten years. A major part of her role is to identify and number photos for the photo files. She also helps at the Museum's Christmas Open House and happily bakes for the various programs during the year.



Volunteers like Nancy are at the heart of what makes the Museum hum.

In 1956, Nancy and her husband Paul moved to Roselle from Wrigleyville in Chicago and found life in Roselle quite different. A co-worker had suggested the Behnkes check out a house that was available in a town

called Roselle, and it turned out to be just what they were looking for. Added perk: The train was a convenient way for them to travel to and from work in the City.

Nancy loved the small-town feel. At that time, the population was around 1,300. One drove on a two-lane road, encountering many stop signs, to reach Golf and Roselle Roads. Little by little, Roselle was growing.

About two years after settling in to their new town, Nancy and Paul welcomed their first son, Stephen, who is now a physician. Then came Tom, an accountant today, and then Dan, now a carpenter. When the boys were in Lincoln School, Nancy, a stay-at-home mom, became anything but a stay-at-home citizen as she took on one school volunteer assignment after another.

As a room mother at the boys' school, she worked the Hot Dog Days. As a Cub Scout Leader, she learned how to keep young boys occupied by making things. Her prize project was a log cabin that turned out well enough to be raffled off, and one scout was able to take it home.

Nancy, a Catholic, and Paul, a Lutheran, had friends all over Roselle. Nancy said, "It was funny to go to St. Walter's in the Wagner Hall basement and have the pews move. (They weren't bolted down.)" She added that, in the early years of the church, only about two dozen parishioners attended Mass.

When the Behnke boys were grown, Nancy responded to a need for help at Snyder's Drug Store (Main and Prospect Streets, where 8,000 Miles Restaurant is now) and began an interesting career. Two years into her

position at the store, when it was purchased by Howard's Pharmacy, Nancy was made director of the gift shop, which was something new for the store. Howard challenged Nancy once again by assigning her to the pharmacy, where she served as a technician for years and learned that one is never too old to learn. Nancy is proud of her nearly 30 years at the store and says, "I met a lot of nice people and still meet some of them when I go to the Taste of Roselle."

Along with her volunteer work at the Museum, Nancy is involved with the Senior Center and the Walk-and-Talk group at the Park District where she combines exercise and socializing. Once a month she serves coffee at St. Walter's. "I have to keep busy," she says.

## *Board Election Coming Up*

### *Something to Think About*



The Roselle Historical Foundation is seeking new members to add to its Board of Directors. An election is tentatively scheduled to be held in September, but the date will depend on when the coronavirus restrictions are lifted. In the meantime—during the next month or so—start giving some thought to placing your name (or someone else's name) in nomination.

New people with new ideas and talents are being sought to bring the Foundation and its Museum into the 2020s. Many upgrades have been accomplished and innovations incorporated in the past couple of years, and plans for further enhancements are among the organization's goals.

A Board of Directors, such as this one, reflects the community. Members come from the fields of art, business, education, finance, gardening, homemaking, law, etc. The list goes on. High school and college students are also encouraged to consider running for the Board.

A nominee needs to be a Roselle History Museum member in good standing. If you are not currently a member, simply complete and mail the form on Page 8. You do not need to be a Roselle resident.

## *Here's All You Need to Do*

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or if you have questions about Board member responsibilities or the meetings schedule, contact Museum Manager Leslie Drewitz at 630-351-5300 or send an email to [rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net) (type Leslie's name in the subject line).

*Have a Seat!*



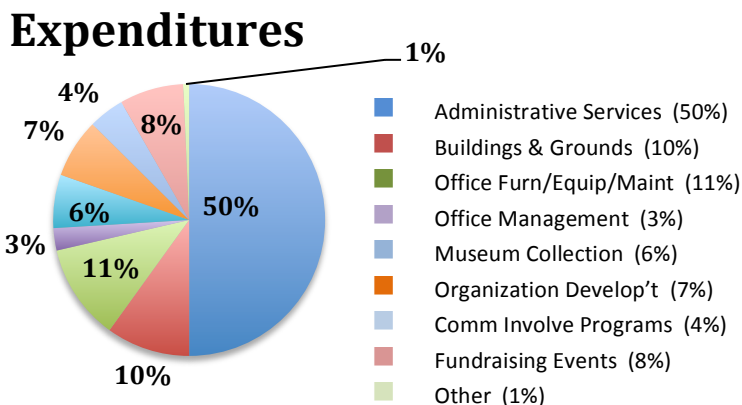
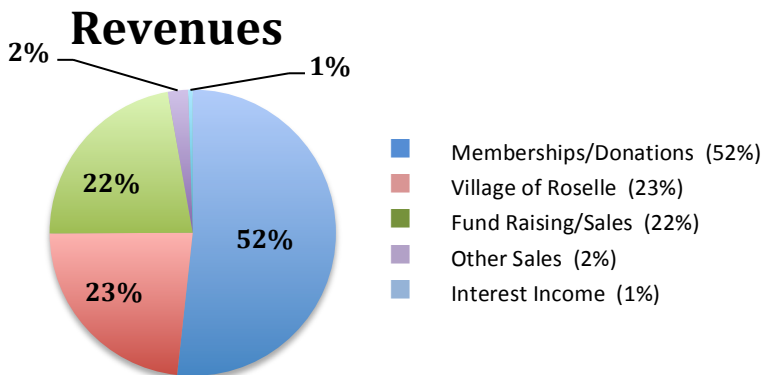
## 2020 RHM Budget

The 2020 Roselle History Museum Budget was approved by the Board of Directors at its March meeting. As you can see from the charts below, your support is vital to fulfilling the Museum's three-pronged Mission: 1) To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas; 2) To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be our village history and pride tomorrow; and 3) To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors.

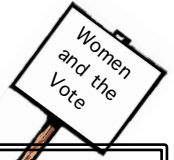
Thanks to your support, in addition to covering the day-to-day costs of maintaining a three-building Museum Campus, the Board was able this year to hire two part-time employees, purchase a new computer and printer, purchase costumes for the Women's Vote exhibit, and pay for several technical and organizational upgrades.

The Village of Roselle covers major building repairs and provides lawn care. The Museum pays for minor building-and-grounds repairs and maintenance. Costs related to the day-to-day running of the Museum range from landscaping to caring for the collection to office supplies and equipment to archival supplies, exhibits, marketing (including this newsletter), and to educational programs.

Questions? Email [rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net) or call 630-351-5300.



What Else is New?



### Special Exhibit at the Museum

A new exhibit, "WOMEN AND THE VOTE," is tentatively scheduled for October 14, celebrating 100 years since the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Learn about the women who made it happen.

### New at the Museum

- A new computer. With more memory, much more data can be stored.
- An upgraded website is in the works. Watch for a whole new look.
- Costumes for the Women and the Vote exhibit.

### Many Hats for Tom Piorkowski

Currently, Tom serves as Secretary on the Museum's Board of Directors, and he was recently named to the Secretary's position on the Flags for Roselle Board of Directors. All this while serving on the Roselle Library Board, too.

**Uncertain Times** The Museum Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers are doing their best to adhere to the stay-at-home orders from Governor Pritzker. However, if you have questions or comments about anything Museum-related, know you can always reach someone by simply calling or emailing. See below.

**Contact Us** If you would like to contact anyone at the Museum Office, you may call 630-351-5300 or you may send an email to [rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net) and type the name of the person you're contacting in the subject line.



ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM  
39 E ELM STREET  
ROSELLE IL 60172



## Summer 2020

*"The most basic task of any museum must be the protection of works of cultural significance entrusted to its care for the edification and pleasure of future generations." (Martin Filler)*

### Mission Statement

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas

To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be our village history and pride tomorrow

To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors

### Board of Directors

President: Ray Hitzemann

VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman

Secretary: Tom Piorkowski

Members: Milan Bagel,

Joan Beauprez, Hank Kvintus,  
Walter Lotz

Museum Mgr: Leslie Drewitz

Marketing Mgr: Megan Wozniak

### General Meetings

Second Saturday of the Month  
10-11:30 a.m. – 39 E. Elm St.

### Museum Hours

Sundays 2-4 p.m.  
Other times by appointment

### Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1 – May 1 – Aug 1 – Nov 1  
Editor: [kaycahill@comcast.net](mailto:kaycahill@comcast.net)

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member    Circle one:    \$30    \$50\*    \$100    \$250    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \*My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the *Remembering Roselle* history book.

I am interested in helping in one of the areas of the Foundation's work. Circle one:

**Computer/Clerical \* Exhibits \* Parade Float \* Research \* Single Event \* Buildings/Grounds**

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible.

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