



Official publication of the  
 Roselle Historical Foundation  
 39 East Elm Street, Roselle, IL  
 60172-2026  
 (630-351-5300)  
**Facebook: <https://facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum>**

## ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM



## TASTE OF ROSELLE

The 2025 Taste of Roselle was a real success! Lots of great food,  
 great music, great weather and lots of fun!



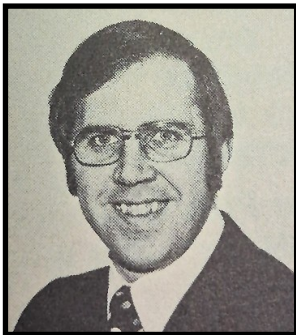
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## Marketing Manager's Corner

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The summer of 2025 has brought lots of changes for Roselle and for the RHM! This summer, new events like the French Market and Summer Concert Series meant that something was happening in downtown Roselle almost every week- and sometimes more often! With many events being held at or near the new Petal Plaza right across from the Museum campus, the RHM was able to welcome more visitors than ever before! This year we also enjoyed a change of location for our booth at the Taste of Roselle. This year, Prospect Street was transformed into a hub for craft vendors and community organizations like the RHM! We enjoyed the close proximity to the museum and being able to encourage people to visit us just a half a block away!

Speaking of the museum, we have recently added “new” artifacts and displays! Upon entering the second room of the Sunner House (main museum), you will be greeted by a large television in our gift shop, playing videos related to Roselle and surrounding local history like news features about Lynfred Winery and the history of the Schaumburg area. We have also added some projector equipment to our displays of old AV materials. Hopefully these new additions will “reel” you in to visit the museum!



### Remembering Gary Pileski - 1941 - 2025

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Mayor David Pileski, whose father Gary Pileski recently passed away at the age of 83. Gary served his community as a Roselle Village Trustee from 1973-1977, and partnered with organizations like the Roselle Lions Club and the Roselle United Methodist Church to help make Roselle a wonderful place to live. It is evident that Gary's legacy will live on in Roselle.

*Keri Soukup, Marketing Mgr.*



“Never jump in a pile of leaves with a wet sucker.” —  
Linus, *It's the Great Pumpkin,*  
Charlie Brown



Thank you to Countryside Funeral Homes & Crematory for being our first business sponsor

# Looking Back.....



Botterman's Roselle Market replaced their horse and wagon with this modern delivery truck in 1910, shown here in front of the Bokelman and Troyke houses on east Irving Park Road. (Chicago Street in 1910).

Roselle Fire Department was formed in 1905. The fire equipment was housed in a village barn on the northeast corner of Irving Park Road and Roselle Road. The fire bell hung in a metal framework outside.



As early as 1939, when the area of Pine Street, Hill Street and Maple Avenue was plotted into lots, the Joliet Diocese began purchasing lots to build St. Walter Church. Construction on the first church began in 1947 in an undeveloped area of west Pine Street.

## THE STORE IS OPEN!

**Come and visit our Museum store!  
We have nostalgic t-shirts, Books,  
and numerous assorted  
Roselle memorabilia**

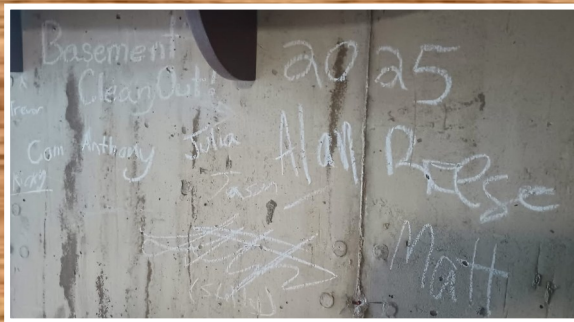
For different t-shirt designs or sizes from different businesses from yesteryear Roselle, please visit the **Eye Heart Roselle** store at

**[eyeheartroselle.threadless.com](http://eyeheartroselle.threadless.com)**

This store is dedicated to preserving the visual language of the Golden Era of Roselle, IL. All profits are donated to the Roselle Historical Society.



Several of our hardworking young volunteers spent a day in the basement of the museum. They sorted all that has been down there for many years! We're so grateful for all their hard work! They left their mark on the basement wall!



The Roselle History Museum would like to thank **REDI-STRIP** @100 W Central in Roselle for sand blasting some of our antiquated rusted containers and planters that are now located in our New Outdoor Patio Garden that The Roselle Garden Club are now using as planters at our campus, that were salvaged from the Pizza Cottage. REDI-STRIP is helping us preserve Roselle's past; ONE ARTIFACT AT A TIME!

# REDI-STRIP

## "Franklin: The Diplomat"

Benjamin Franklin was the first American celebrity, before the concept of an American or that of a modern celebrity even came into being. One fascinating aspect of this was that he knew it, and more importantly he knew how to use it to his and the country's advantage. One of the main ways this occurred was that he volunteered to go on a diplomatic mission to France during the American Revolution. Franklin was a full generation older than most of his revolutionary colleagues, leading some historians to refer to him as the Founding Grandfather. He had also established his reputation decades before, both as a writer and a scientist, and is one of the few members of the founding generation who would still be known even if he had not participated in the Revolution. World famous, he regularly corresponded with Enlightenment thinkers throughout Europe.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, Franklin and his fellow revolutionaries realized that they would need foreign aid to be able to win the war. France seemed like their best chance for a variety of reasons. One was that France was the preeminent land military power in the world at the time. Another was that their navy, while not as strong as the Royal Navy, would have greatly helped since the Continental Navy was a token force at best. A third reason was that France and Great Britain were traditional enemies. In the previous 75 years, they had fought three massive world wars that were part of a series of five conflicts often referred to as the Great Wars for Empire. A fourth reason was that France was already providing aid surreptitiously to the American cause. Because of all this, the Continental Congress decided to send representatives to negotiate a treaty of alliance with France. Franklin volunteered for this role for a variety of reasons, beginning with the danger associated with the mission. At this point, the revolutionaries were technically committing treason. If their ship was captured at sea by the Royal Navy, the British would have been within their legal rights to execute the diplomat for treason. Franklin figured that he was less likely to face this fate than his colleagues. One reason for this was his age. It was less likely that the British would execute an old man. The second reason was his fame.

It was unlikely that the British would execute the world-famous scientist. Finally, he figured that if he were executed, it would be better that it was him than one of his younger colleagues since he had already established his reputation, lived his life, raised his family, etc.

Once in France, Franklin was able to use both his celebrity and the expectations of him to their fullest. The French were unaware that he was coming, so his ship landed with little fanfare. Once word got out that the famous Franklin was in France, crowds began gathering to celebrate him as he went. Once he arrived in Paris, his name was able to gain him access to French government officials who generally wished to meet the renowned Franklin, not necessarily discuss a treaty of alliance. His image began appearing everywhere as merchants and craftsmen began selling items with his face on them, from prints to tea mugs. Like his meetings with officials, these things were not happening because he was the American representative in Paris. People cared that there was an American representative in Paris because he was Franklin.

Franklin used these openings to press his case. Recognizing that he was playing a part, Franklin leaned into the image many in France, and most of Europe, had of Americans. Americans were supposed to be country bumpkins, so Franklin discarded his fancy clothes and dressed down to meet these expectations. He stayed out late at parties and slept in, keeping up an air of nonchalance and a rugged lack of sophistication. And ultimately, his efforts worked. Aided by the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga, Franklin was able to use his connections and his image to gain a very favorable treaty with the French. While some Americans were unhappy with the idea that they were now a junior partner and that the United States was a sideshow in its own revolution, overshadowed by a fourth world war pitting France against Great Britain, Franklin and many of his colleagues recognized the tremendous diplomatic victory that he had been able to pull off. Franklin used his reputation and celebrity to give the United States legitimacy, and in doing so he helped the nation win its independence.

**By Tom Piorkowski**

# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

39 E. Elm St

Roselle, IL 60172

Newsletter generously sponsored by



**Itasca Bank & Trust Co.**

*Together we'll shape the future*

“Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day.” — Shira Tamir



### 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 part of our village history and pride tomorrow.  
To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors.

### Board of Directors & Staff

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Walter Lotz  
Janice Wood

### Friends of the Museum

Brian Elliott  
Andy Hernandez  
Judy Ibeling  
Anthony Johnson  
Phillip Sullivan

### General Meetings

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

### Museum Hours

Sundays: 2-4 pm  
Wednesday through Saturday  
10 am - 2 pm, by appt

**Editor:** Janice Wood  
editor@rosellehistory.org

### CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Circle one: \$30 \$50\* \$100 \$250

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### TWO NEW WAYS TO SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTION VIA PAYPAL

- 1) Scan the QR Code at the right to donate
- 2) Go to <https://tinyurl.com/PayPalRHM>



Scan. Pay. Go.

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

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