



Join us for the Tour of Homes

Sunday, June 26

Summer 2016

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

June

June 4

Ray Bradbury's Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival
(*Waukegan Historical Society is a sponsor*)

June 11

Guided History Walk
Discover Bowen Park (see page 5)

June 26

Waukegan Tour of Homes (see page 4)

July

July 3

American Independence Day Parade and Festival
(*museum open all day*)

July 23

Guided History Walk
Historic Homes of Sheridan Road (see page 5)

August

August 5

Guided History Walk
Waukegan and the Movies (see page 5)

President's Letter

Harry E. Came

The year 2016 is shaping up to be an exciting one for the Historical Society. On May 15 we were lucky enough to have Mark Moran, a very well-known antique appraiser, join us to appraise and enlighten our guests with his knowledge of antiques. Although no Rembrandts or Faberge items showed up, a lot was learned and there were definitely some surprises.

We hope everyone will join us at the annual Dandelion Wine Festival in Bowen Park on Saturday, June 4th from 11 AM to 6 PM. The Society has partnered with the Park District on this popular event every year, and it just keeps getting bigger and bigger. The museum will be open during the festival.

Our biggest fundraiser and most popular event of the year, the annual Tour of Homes, is coming up on Sunday, June 26th and includes three wonderful homes, a coach house, gardens, and St. Anastasia School and Church as well as the Waukegan History Museum and Lilac Cottage. You will be getting a letter shortly so you can buy your tickets in advance and at a discount. Tickets for members in advance are only \$10. On the day of the Tour tickets are \$20 for everyone so fill out your form and mail in your check early. Think about buying extra tickets and giving them as gifts. The Society is able to keep membership fees and ticket prices low because of the funds we generate from the tour.

The Society has been very lucky to have had donors offer to match all gifts for the Museum addition fund up to \$10,000 if donated before June 30. This means that every dollar you donate will double and will provide a total of \$20,000 for the Building fund. Make your donation count times two by writing a check and mailing it today. A donation form will be included with the tour mailing or you can donate online at www.waukeganhistorical.org. We are hoping to have pledges of over \$200,000 by the end of 2016 and we are well under way to reach that goal.

Our partner, the Waukegan Park District, is beginning to celebrate their 100th anniversary in December 2016 and will have events throughout 2017.

The Waukegan Historical Society will celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2018 and we look forward to continuing our work to fulfill our mission statement in service to Waukegan.

945 Sheraidan Road will be open during the 2016 Tour of Homes



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Tour of Homes

Sunday, June 26

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Tour of Homes on Sunday, June 26 from 1-5 PM. This year there are three homes that are all within easy walking distance of each other. Two homes on Sheridan Road, including one with a huge garden and recently rebuilt coach house. There is also a wonderful home just behind these homes on North County Street.

Also on the tour this year is St. Anastasia School, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, and St. Anastasia Church, an important social and architectural part of Waukegan. There will be special tours of the Church only between 3-5 PM.

Members can purchase tickets in advance by mail for only \$10 each. You will be receiving a letter with a form to mail in with your check.

Tickets on the day of the tour will cost \$20, so buy them early and buy extras for friends. It is a great gift and a great way for you to share our beautiful neighborhoods and support the Society.

More information about the homes, including color photographs, will be available at on our web site, waukeganhistorical.org.

936 N. Sheridan Road will be open during the 2016 Tour of Homes



Upcoming Guided History Walks

Pre-register for walking tours at waukeganparks.org, call the Jack Benny Center for the Arts at 847-360-4740 or visit the Jack Benny Center at 39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park.

Discover Bowen Park

Saturday, June 11 at 10 AM

Starts at the Waukegan History Museum

Historic Homes of Sheridan Road

Saturday, July 23 at 10 AM

Starts at the Douglas House-732 N. Genesee Street in Upton Park

Waukegan and the Movies

Friday, August 5 at 5:30 PM

Starts at the Visual Arts Center-533 Grand Avenue in Powell Park



924 County Street will be open during the 2016 Tour of Homes

Historical Happenings

Waukegan Homes

Ed Link

Waukegan is fortunate to have many older homes which exemplify the beauty and style of their time. Several have been featured in previous Tours of Homes and made available for public viewing. These structures exist only through the efforts of many people. The architects and builders of the homes are responsible for their creation and the owners over the years are responsible for their preservation.

Initially the homes obviously were log cabins, using the abundant forests available to the pioneers. The first recognized style of homes was Greek Revival in the 1840s. Many early settlers came from New England and New York State and this style was popular in that area at that time. It is understandable that the settlers brought their preference for houses with them.

Perhaps the next style to become popular was Gothic. Following were a wide variety: Italianate, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts/Craftsman, Prairie, and up to the more recent Ranch. It is important to note that few houses follow the strict definition of a particular style. Often the owners saw pictures of different styles and picked the characteristics of each that appealed to them. The importance of many of these homes can be seen by the Historic Marker Program administered by the Waukegan Historical Society.

Our earliest city directory is 1874. In it are listed as architects C.T. Dickinson and H. Look. Little is known of them. Also listed is Porter & Bros., but their accomplishments will be covered in a future article. Through the years many other architects have worked in Waukegan, designing homes and public buildings. Listing all of them and their accomplishments would be impractical, but here are some that contributed to the community. George H.

Brean, Edward H. Mott, John A. Sutherland and Ira Worsfold all began in the 19th Century. Thomas F. Bleck, Ekstrand & Schad, William A. Ganster, Joseph J. Legat and Robert Seyfarth all performed in more recent years. The results of their efforts can be seen throughout the city.



Chicago Metro History Fair Winner

Waukegan High School students Abigail Crombie and Jackie Moran were the recipients of this year's Waukegan Historical Society Award for the best Waukegan themed project created for the Chicago Metro History Fair Competition. Their project was titled *Small Town Home, Big World Influence: The Story of Ray Bradbury and Waukegan*. The project was a creatively designed exhibit that told the story of Bradbury growing up in Waukegan and the many ways he influenced and inspired so many throughout the world. Congratulations Abigail and Jackie!

Chicago Metro History Fair winners Abigail Crombie and Jackie Moran and their winning project "Small Town Home, Big World Influence: The Story of Ray Bradbury and Waukegan."

Museum Supervisor's Report

Ty Rohrer

The Waukegan History Museum portrays Victorian life of 1870s Waukegan. Throughout the museum you find stories of Waukegan's rich past. Our historic house museum though provides a unique experience to the visitor, one that other similar museum's do not offer. You are able to explore the house museum on your own, getting up close and intimate (without touching of course) to the artifacts and furniture. Information in both English and Spanish is provided throughout to help tell the story of the house, artifacts, and Waukegan. Of course we offer docent led tours, but we find that the majority of visitors prefer to experience the museum at their own pace.

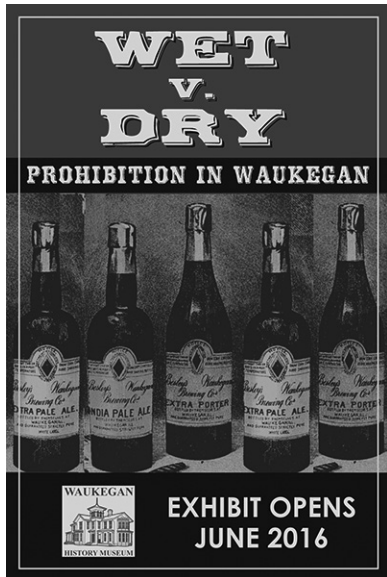
We would like to welcome Bryan Escobar to the Waukegan Park District's Cultural Arts Division

as the new Arts & History Specialist. Bryan comes to us with an extensive background in Public History and he has jumped right in to help tell the story of Waukegan's past.

Opening for the Tour of Homes on June 26th is the new exhibit *Wet V. Dry: Prohibition in Waukegan*. This exhibit commemorates the 100th anniversary of the people of Waukegan voting for city prohibition. This occurred in Waukegan a few years before prohibition in Illinois and throughout the nation.

We hope that you can make the Waukegan History Museum a local vacation stop this summer! We're close to home, free, and in a beautiful and

historic park!



Building Addition Update

Preserving the past—Preparing for the future

In our last newsletter we announced our challenge grant where your gift to the Museum Addition Fund will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000.00. The response so far has been great! To date, \$3,542.00 has been received. With the match this will add \$7,084.00 to the building fund total. Again we are most grateful for those who have donated (listed below), several of you for the second or third time.

If you have not as yet made a donation or would like to add to one, we urge you to do so before June 30th when the matching grant expires. Look for the donation form in the Tour of Homes mailing you will be receiving soon.

Current Donors

Up to \$50.00

Ann Olson
Linda Butkus/Don Schwab
Judith Manning
Janice Schroeder
Max Murillo

\$101.00 to \$500.00

Ed and Fran Streed
Jim and Ann Darrow
J. David Rasche
Wayne Munn

Over \$1,000

Elizabeth Alleman

\$51.00 to \$100.00

Gregory Alloian
Patrick Cosgrove
Beverly Millard
Phillip and Sandra Tobin
Dean and Carolyn Bergman
Laura Wideburg
Janet Kilkelly/Lawrence Kilbane
Richard Cutler
Penny Miller/Richard Hershman
Michael Smole
Nancy Inskeep
Katherine and David Towner
Anonymous

Tour of Homes Room Watchers Needed

We need your help to be able to make sure that the Tour of Homes is a wonderful experience for all. Contact us if you are interested in being a room watcher for the event. You can volunteer for either first shift (1-3 PM) or second shift (3-5 PM). Room watchers receive a complimentary ticket and we encourage you to take the tour on your off shift.

Museum Docents Needed

Interested in welcoming and guiding visitors around the museum during special events open hours? Give us a call and we'll get you trained!



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

For more information on local historical events and programs, like "Northeast Illinois Historical Happenings" on Facebook!

Thank You!

New Members

Richard Cutler
Marilyn Diehl

New Life Members

Nick Nicketackis
Ted Sullivan
Tod Johnson

Donations

Mary Rose Strubbe/Kevin Kane
Jenny and Rick Selle
Bessie Tsausis
Waukegan Women's Club
Friends of the Waukegan Public Library

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$10.00
Student	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$50.00
Life, Individual	\$100.00
Life, Couple	\$150.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
www.waukeganhistorical.org
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information
about events, exhibits, and our
extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Museum Supervisor: Ty Rohrer
847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



Tour of Homes tickets on sale now!

See page 4.



St. Anastasia Catholic Church will be open 3-5 PM during the 2016 Tour of Homes.