

**Gifford Park Association - General Membership Meeting**  
**Elgin History Museum**  
**July 28, 2019**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Peggy Bernar, Barbara Evans, Susan Kuester, Dan & Pat Miller, EPD Officer Ramirez, EPD Officer Young, Warren Tejes, Josh Von Dran, code inspector for City of Elgin

Welcome

Condolences to Paul Bednar and family who recently lost his mother. And to Steve Thoren and family, whose father Bob, passed away this week.

**R.O.P.E. REPORT** (Officer Ramirez 847-289-2700)

Since last meeting in June,

- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July call numbers are not available. Everyone agrees while additional officers were on the street to deter fireworks, it was and is difficult to identify where the fireworks are coming from unless it is your neighbor. Reminder that fireworks remain illegal and should call if you have an issue. If fireworks are found on premise following a call, homeowner will be fined.
- There was some sort of fight in Festival Park following the fireworks no details are available.
- July 9<sup>th</sup> reported kidnapping on the 100 block of North Porter. Chicago PD shot and killed the suspect. Ongoing investigation and unclear if victims knew the suspect.
- Officer Ramirez will bring pictures next month from ROPE camp at White Pines, July 7<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. Total of 22 children, ages 8 to 12 along with 5 adults participated in archery, horseback riding, smores and much more.

**Upcoming events this month:**

- July 20<sup>th</sup> City of Elgin, at 9AM will have a special Committee of the Whole meeting for city council to hear the findings from the consulting group Hillard Heintz surrounding the DeCynthia Clements case.
- July 22 Lunchtime live with Chief Lalley, from noon until 1 PM Chief Lalley is live on the Elgin Police Department Facebook page, feel free to chat.
- July 22nd Chief's monthly meeting, at 6 PM held at the Police Department
- July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Sport Complex a charity softball challenge between Elgin Police and the Bear Family McDonald's. Proceeds go to the Renz Center. Come join and watch the fun at Diamond #1 from 5:00 to 8:00.
- August 6<sup>th</sup> is National Night Out at Festival Park. Also, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Congregation Kneseth Israel will be sponsoring block party at Division and N. Chapel. Leetz Funeral Home will be providing a petting zoo, food will be available as well as a bouncy house.
- 2018 DUI statistics – city of Elgin ranked 4<sup>th</sup> with 374 arrests. Rockford #1 with 552, Aurora and then Decatur at number 3. City of Chicago is not in this statistic.

Can look at these two ways, drivers not being apprehended or we have fewer drunk drivers. Officer Ramirez states EPD has three officers who are also drug experts who are called upon if someone appears to be driving impaired and has a "0" on a breathalyzer test.

## SECRETARY'S AND TREASURER'S REPORTS

Minutes from June 2019 meeting approved as presented.

### Treasurer's report

A little change in the overall balance of the checking account, no change to the CD's. Checking expenses include ROPE camp for \$300, reimbursement for a corner planting, Web marketing/support \$60, mowing of the pocket park in May \$35.00

Checking account balance is	\$ 38,816.67
CD's total of 4	\$ 83,590.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 123,407.11</b>

### GUEST – JOSH VON DRAN, code inspector for City of Elgin

- Currently doing some rental inspection as well as code issues.
- Wanted GPA to know an investor has purchased 14/16 S Chapel. We should expect to see some changes taking place.
- Offering to contact some of the "good landlords" ask them to come to GPA meeting, so we can meet and hear how they do their rentals, keep up their property etc.
- Josh wishes he could get people to "take pride in own house", sees garbage in yard, peeling paint etc. A citation can cost homeowner \$50.00
- Reminder to homeowners when they state don't have the money, that Habitat for Humanity will help with costs and labor, they take referrals.
- Reminders of code violations he sees while driving around.
  - Putting up a pool requires a permit if it is greater than 24 inches high. Also needs a fence. Pools 4 foot or higher require a removable ladder for safety.
  - Commercial vehicles can not be parked in driveway or street overnight. This includes landscaping trailers.

## **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE** (Paul Bednar paul@paulbednar.com)

Paul will be sending out invite for anyone interested in helping plan the Fall Festival in Gifford Park.

- August 5<sup>th</sup> at the Gail Borden Library, 7:00 PM, is a presentation on Community Gardens. Tom Armstrong will present on funding a garden. Master Gardeners will also be presenting.
- Paul is looking for volunteers to care for the plantings on corners in the Historic District. Contact Paul if interested.
- Laura Knoerr and Sara Hunt are working on plans for a sign at the Channing Community Garden. Also working on plans for a Gazebo.
- Decorative streetlights poles are being repainted. Many of the poles are rusting and so a company is sandblasting them before repainting. A huge thanks goes out to Aaron Neal, the head of public works for checking with us before selecting the new paint for the light poles. The plan is to do the lights north of Chicago Street this year. The lights south of Chicago Street next year and Chicago Street when the street is complete.

## **ELGIN HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR** (Mike Haskins 630-880-7276)

House Tour is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

Tour continues on schedule. Currently selling tickets online and signing up docents electronically.

We continue to look for sponsors and plan to do door to door neighborhood letters for those houses in the walking area of the Tour to make residents aware of tour and dates. If interested in helping distribute letters, please contact Mike.

Also looking for Poster distributors, if interested you can go to [HistoricElginhousetour.com](http://HistoricElginhousetour.com) or contact Mike Haskins above number.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July**, great time at the parade, handing out fans that were a big hit.

**Docent staffing:** currently at 80% staffed with volunteers making a few phone calls. Please encourage your friends and family to visit this page to sign up: <https://www.historicelginhousetour.com/volunteer>

**Video Promo:** Has generated a reach of 8,101 people over 1,300 engagements and 60+ shares. In simpler terms it has helped us reach more people than we have before.

**Facebook:** The CVB ran a campaign promoting the architecture of Elgin and that included the tour. They had 171,000 impressions and 7,500 engagements. During that campaign our Facebook likes grew by 200. The video helped us gain another

200. In turn our Facebook page likes has grown by 400 followers since March of this year.

**Online sponsors:** We received our first online sponsor this year it was Print Loop.

**Raffle:** We have close to 200 raffle entries up from about 50 last year. Our reach continues to grow. Three sets of two tickets will be awarded.

**PORCHFEST** (Peggy Bernar) –

First of many is scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 4PM at 770 W McClure Avenue. The Shared Harvest – Elgin Food Cooperative is hosting. Below is the Facebook invite:

YOU are invited to Shared Harvest's Porch Fest 2019! Whether you are a current or future shareholder of Kane County's favorite Food Coop, we want you to bring your family and enjoy an evening out with us.

Join Shared Harvest at The McClure Mansion on Saturday, August 17th at 4pm for **THE** event of the season! We will have amazing live music by Make It A Double, delectable gourmet food from Q's Kitchen, and artisan drinks for you to enjoy. We will have a rock painting station for kids and adults to stretch their creative muscles, as well as lawn games for all.

Shared Harvest appreciates all of you, and we are hosting this **FREE** event in the name of building community and enjoying each other's company. Come hungry and ready to have fun! We hope to see you there!

**NeighborWorks Day**

August 17 will be the NeighborWorks day. The target is Wellington Street. The plan this year is to only work in the morning. The project needs volunteers from the Gifford Park Association. Contact Jennifer Fukala to volunteer at [JFukala@downtownelgin.com](mailto:JFukala@downtownelgin.com) or on her cell which is 847-542-0508. Some of the projects will be to clean up landscaping, rebuild a retaining wall, possibly some fence removal.

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Kuester