



Preservation Month 2009 "This Place Matters"

Preservation Month has served as a showcase for local communities to honor their past and help build their future for more than three decades. It is a time when we celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states. We expect that the celebration will help bring historic preservation to the forefront of Americans' daily lives by emphasizing the vital importance of protecting our nation's history.

—National Trust for Historic Preservation



Ongoing Events Throughout May 2009

This Place Matters! Campaign

Place matters. The National Trust for Historic Preservation exists to help people protect, enhance, and enjoy the places that matter to them. Sometimes that means going to court, sometimes it means providing a grant to restore a treasured landmark and sometimes it just means helping people celebrate all those special places across our country. Help us spread the word about our mission to save places by participating in our recently upgrad-



May 1 – May 31, 2009 Schedule of Events

Admission to events is **free** unless indicated below.

Friday, May 1 Observatory Tour

Tour the Elgin National Watch Factory's Observatory built in 1910. Gary Kutina will share information about the Meridian Transit telescope and the Observatory's role in Watch Factory development. Sponsored by the Elgin Area Historical Society and ARCHES. For information contact: Liz Marston at (847) 742-4248

Location: 312 Watch Street
Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Saturday, May 2 Civil War Cannon Centennial

Costumed re-enactors will present a memorial program to commemorate 100 years of the Elgin Academy Civil War Monument. Sponsored by the Elgin Area Historical Society. For information contact: Liz Marston (847) 742-4248.

Location: Elgin Area Historical Society, 360 Park Street
Time: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 3 A Retrospective on Elgin's Transportation Systems

A Conversation with historians and writers E.C. (Mike) Alft and Jerry Turnquist. Bring your memories and memorabilia to discuss Elgin's history from trolleys to the automobile. Sponsored by the Gail Borden Public Library. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, 2nd Floor Conference Room
Time: 2:00pm to 3:00pm

Preserving the Written Word: Center City Book Fair

For one afternoon in May, the Elgin Public House will be transformed into a festival for booklovers of all ages and interests. Featured authors include Rick Kogan, senior staff writer and columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*

ed *This Place Matters* campaign. By showcasing the diverse places that matter to all of us, we can change the way people think about our heritage and make a stronger case for preserving it.

What is it? *This Place Matters* is a photo-sharing campaign in which people post photos of themselves in front of whatever places matter to them. From a family home or a neighborhood school, to your local hangout or movie theatre, to that place that made your vacation special—here is your chance to share your passion. By sharing these photos, we can spread the word and get even more people involved in the preservation movement.

Download the *This Place Matters* form from the City of Elgin's website at www.cityofelgin.org. Have a photo taken of you at your favorite place (Make sure you are holding the *This Place Matters* sign in the photo). Send your photo and short story directly to Jennifer Fritz-Williams at fritz-williams_j@cityofelgin.org

All photos received by May 10th will be featured at the 20th Annual Mayor's Awards for Preservation.

Ongoing exhibits at the Elgin Area Historical Society

Elgin: River to Rails

Help James Gifford pack his wagon to move to Illinois in 1835 and visit his log cabin to learn about life in early Elgin. *Elgin: River to Rails* starts the Museum's re-interpretation project to document Elgin history chronologically up to the 1970s urban renewal period. The Elgin History Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday, 12-4 p.m., admission is \$3 for adults, \$1 for students.

Sunday Magazine and host of the popular *WGN-AM Sunday Papers* radio, Don Evans, an award-winning Chicago author who wrote the critically acclaimed *Good Money After Bad*, and Don DeGrazia, the editor of *f Magazine*, a journal devoted to new fiction and author of *American Skin*. Other names will follow. Authors will have copies of their books available to sign and sell. Free hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Sponsored by: State Street Publishing. For information contact: George Rawlinson, at (847) 902-3664

Location: Elgin Public House, 219 E Chicago Street
Time: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

Tuesday, May 5 Genealogy for Beginners

Learn how to start researching your ancestors and other important aspects of your family's history. Sponsored by the Elgin Genealogical Society. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Community Rooms A & B
Time: 9 am to 12 noon

Wednesday, May 6 How to Research a House in Kane County using the Internet

Historian, Rebecca Hunter will lead a hands-on training class showing you the best resources on the web to research the history of your home. Sponsored by the Elgin Heritage Commission. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Computer Room
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Thursday, May 7 Watch Factory Depot Sign Unveiling

Come out and watch as a new sign is unveiled at the Watch Factory Depot. Historic photos were used to replicate the traditional wood sign. Mayor Schock will preside over the ribbon cutting ceremony. Sponsored by the Elgin Heritage Commission. For information contact: Jennifer Fritz-Williams (847) 931-6004.

Location: 211 National Street
Time: 6:30 pm

This Place Matters

Preservation Month 2009
May 1 to 31, 2009



Elgin
HERITAGE COMMISSION

sponsored by the Elgin Heritage Commission and
the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Friday, May 8 4th Annual Bowl for Preservation Event

You are invited to have some fun while raising funds in support of historic preservation activities. This year's event will feature Retro bowling where Elginites have been bowling for over 40 years. Not a bowler? Join us for dinner and fun for \$10 per person. Don't delay – Sign up today! This event has sold out every year and limited spots are available. Sponsored by the Admirers of Beautiful Old Dwellings of Elgin (ABODE). For information contact: Jennifer Philips (224) 588-7034 or elginabode@gmail.com. Tickets are \$25 per person, \$20 per child under 12, kids 5 and under free; which includes 3 games of bowling, shoe rental, and a dinner buffet. Drinks extra

Location: Elgin Lanes, 401 Shepard Dr
Time: Doors open at 6:00pm, bowling at 7:00pm.

Saturday, May 9 Hallowed Habitats I – In the Woodlands

Children (ages 3-7) interested in the natural world around them are welcome to explore different habitats through this interactive program. Children will discover wildflowers on Willow Creek Trail and in our Native Plants Teaching Garden as well as hear stories, make crafts, and play games related to the world of woodland flowers. Please have children dressed for the outdoors. Register by May 2nd. Sponsored by the Elgin Public Museum. For information contact: Margaret "Peggie" Stromberg at (847) 741-6655, or email: epm@cityofelgin.org.

Location: Elgin Public Museum, 225 Grand Boulevard in Lord's Park
Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Tuesday, May 12 How Baseball Shaped Chicago's History

Charles Billington, author of Wrigley Field's Last World Series The Wartime Chicago Cubs and the Pennant of 1945, shares archival photos and video of the Cubs early days and Wrigley family's influence on the City of Chicago. Find out why the national anthem not sung before every game in 1945 and much more. Book sales and signing will follow the presentation. Please register. Sponsored by: Gail Borden Public Library. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Community Rooms A & B
Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm.

Thursday, May 14 New Urbanism 101

John Peter Barie, AIA, Chair of the Congress for the New Urbanism, Illinois Chapter, will do a presentation on New Urbanism, an urban design movement that arose in the United States in the early 1980s. The goal of New Urbanism is to reform many aspects of real estate development and urban planning, from urban retrofits to suburban infill. New urbanist neighborhoods are designed to contain a diverse range of housing and jobs, and to be compact, well designed, provide options for transit, and be walkable. *Sponsored by: The City of Elgin. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.*

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Community Rooms A & B
Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Friday, May 15 "I Spy Downtown" Architectural Hunt

This activity is an effort to promote and educate students about the rich and historic architecture of Downtown Elgin while giving them fun riddles and pictures to solve/find, a chance to walk around Downtown with their peers, a talk with the Mayor at the Centre, and a Downtown restaurant bag lunch on Walton Island. School classrooms, homeschoolers, and families are invited to participate in this fun field trip in Downtown Elgin. For further details go to www.downtownelgin.org. Please register before May 1st. Rain date is Monday, May 18. *Sponsored by Downtown Neighborhood Association and the Elgin Area Historical Society. To register contact Jennifer Benson at (847) 488-1456 or e-mail jbenson@elginil.org.*

Time: 9:00am to 1:00pm

20th Annual Mayor's Awards for Preservation

The Elgin Heritage Commission honors outstanding contributors to Elgin's heritage. Honorees have demonstrated their dedication to older architecture, neighborhoods and history. R.S.V.P. by May 5th at 847-931-5910. *Sponsored by the Elgin Heritage Commission. For information contact: Jennifer Fritz-Williams at (847) 931-6004.*

Location: Heritage Ballroom, The Centre of Elgin.
Time: 6:00pm to 9:00pm. (Ceremony at 7:00pm.)

Saturday, May 23 Kit Homes Trolley Tour

Join the Southwest Area Neighbors (SWAN) for a "roaring" good time aboard a 1920's Trolley car. This exciting and informative tour will showcase over 30 catalog homes that have been documented by local author and research specialist in catalog kit homes, Rebecca Hunter. Two trolley tours will be offered, each will last approximately one hour. Or enjoy the tour at your own pace on foot or bicycle. Judy Brownfield from "Books at Sunset" will have books for sale by local authors including Pat Hill (gardening), Rebecca Hunter (Catalog Homes), Steve Stroud (Elgin Architecture), Bill Briska (History of the Elgin Mental Health Center) and Mike Alft (Local Historian). Enjoy complimentary light refreshments before or after each tour. This event will be held rain or shine. Tickets may be purchased for \$5.00 each at: Book at Sunset, 1100 South St, Elgin (847) 888-1860, Ziegler's Ace Hardware stores, 1158 Lillian Street on Elgin's West Side (847) 695-1722 or 215 North Spring Street on Elgin's East Side (847) 741-5610 *Sponsored by the South West Area Neighbors. For information contact: Kathy at kmoo22@wowway.com or www.swan-elgin.com.*

Location: Tour begins and ends at Zion Lutheran Church, 330 Griswold Street
Time: Trolley leaves at 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, May 28 1917 City of Elgin Plan

Christopher C. Miller, Associate Professor in Architecture at Judson University, will lead a discussion on the very first city plan for Elgin. The 1917 Plan was prepared for the Elgin Commercial Club by Edward Bennett. Mr. Bennett was an associate in Daniel Burnham's firm and was responsible for implementing the Burnham Plan for Chicago. Come learn what ideas Mr. Bennett proposed that were implemented, which were never completed, and how the plan's concepts are still relevant today. *Sponsored by the Elgin Heritage Commission and the Gail Borden Public Library. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.*

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Community Rooms A & B
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, May 16 Great Unveiling

Celebrate the Annual Great Unveiling as neighborhood organizations sponsor the removal of substitute siding in an old fashioned barn raising atmosphere at Elgin residences. Free volunteer labor and a \$4,000 gift are provided to property owners that have applied to have the non-original artificial siding removed from their historic homes. It's a busy day for all volunteers! Bring your demolition tools and work gloves. *For information contact: Jennifer Fritz-Williams (847) 931-6004 or fritz-williams_j@cityofelgin.org.*

Location: TBD
Time: 9:00am to 11:00am (Continental breakfast will be provided by GPA).

Monday, May 18 Becoming a Historic District or Individual Landmark: Myth vs. Fact

Andrew Heckenkamp, National Register Coordinator for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, will be on hand to answer your questions regarding the requirements, restrictions, and benefits of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Jennifer Fritz-Williams and Jan Mangers, City Preservationists for Elgin and Aurora, will speak on these same issues regarding local designations. Light refreshments will be served. *Sponsored by the City of Elgin, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Gail Borden Public Library, Aurora Preservation Commission, Geneva Preservation Commission, Batavia Main Street, and Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.*

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Community Room A & B
Time: 6:30pm to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19 Elgin Alive! - Deep Roots, Green Future

Did you know that Elgin has something in common with the famous 1909 Plan of Chicago by Daniel Burnham and Edward Bennett? Both plans were created by the same team! A travelling exhibit highlighting Elgin's history of city planning, including its future plans to become a sustainable "green" city will be unveiled. *Sponsored by Elgin Community Network with support of the*

Friday, May 29 Gifford Park Association Golf Classic

The Gifford Park Association is pleased to announce an exciting new event - our first Gifford Park Association Golf Classic held at the beautiful Highlands of Elgin! The Gifford Park Association has a long and illustrious history preserving Elgin's historic neighborhoods and promoting the City. For those interested in supporting GPA's continuing historic preservation efforts, multiple levels of participation are available. To register or for sponsorship details visit: www.gifford-park-assoc.org/golf *Sponsored By Gifford Park Association. For information contact: Julie Schmitt at (847) 732-4708.*

Location: The Highlands of Elgin
Time: Check in 11:00am, Shotgun start 1:00pm

Saturday, May 30 Settlement Trolley Tour

Back by popular demand! Ernie Broadnax will narrate a trolley tour through The Settlement Area of the Summit Park Neighborhood. This area of town was first settled in 1866 by freed slaves. Mr. Broadnax is a fourth generation Elginite directly descended from those first settlers. The tour begins at the Gail Borden Public Library with a proclamation from Mayor Schock and a presentation by the Boys and Girls Club. Registration is required for the Trolley Tour. Seating is limited! *Sponsored by New Hope Baptist Church, Elgin Heritage Commission and the Gail Borden Public Library. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.*

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue
Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00pm

Sunday, May 31 Roaring '20's Ride

Grab your suspenders, fedora or other Great Gatsby gear and jump in the rumble seat of a vintage Model T as historian C. Morley takes adventurers on a driving tour of Elgin's 1920's and 30's. Experience the dark soaring architecture of an award-winning Elgin landmark, featuring a prohibition favorite, the Ghost Elevator. Whisper secret codes for passage into a long-gone speakeasy and savor Bathtub Lemonade as

Grand Victoria Foundation, Gail Borden Public Library, Elgin Area Historical Society, and the City of Elgin. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue
Time: 5:30pm Exhibit Opening, 6:30pm-8:30 pm Program

Wednesday, May 20 How to Research a House in Kane County using the Internet

Historian, Rebecca Hunter will lead a hands-on training class showing you the best resources on the web to research the history of your home. *Sponsored by the Elgin Heritage Commission. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.*

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Computer Room
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Thursday, May 21 International Museum Day

Bring your lunch as volunteers from the Elgin Police Department History Collection and the Elgin Fire Barn Museum talk about the history of these important government services. Behind-the-Scenes at the Museum tours will also be offered from 1 to 3 p.m. *Sponsored by the Elgin Area Historical Society. For information contact: Elizabeth Marston at (847) 742-4248.*

Location: Elgin History Museum, 360 Park Street
Time: 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Genealogy for Beginners – Slave and Free People of Color

Learn how to start researching your ancestors and other important aspects of African–American history. PowerPoint presentation by genealogist Joyce M. Higgins. *Sponsored by the Elgin Genealogical Society. Register: In person at the Adult Services Information Desk, call 847-429-4680 or Online at www.gailborden.info, Calendar.*

Location: Gail Borden Library, 270 N Grove Avenue, Community Rooms A & B
Time: 7pm to 9 pm

jazz haunts the air. Ragtime picnic near a babbling brook wraps your Sunday afternoon. Boarding passes are \$29 and includes secret code to speak easy and sealed trivia envelope. You must register for this event, seating is limited. *Sponsored by: Books at Sunset and Fox Valley Model T Club. To register call: Judi Brownfield 847-888-1860*

Location: Lord's Park



The Elgin Heritage Commission is a citizen advisory board that promotes Elgin's historic preservation activity through the protection, maintenance and preservation of the city's architecture as well as historic and cultural resources. The Elgin Heritage Commission is composed of nine voting members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Elgin City Council.

Elgin Heritage Commission Members

Chairman: Bill Briska
Betsy Couture
Paul Durrenberger
Evelyn Chapman
Kathy Skaggs
William Ristow
John Wiedmeyer
Rebecca Hunter

Historic District Representatives

Steve Stroud, *Spring/Douglas Historic District*
Dennis Roxworthy, *D.C. Cook/Lovell Area Historic District*
Pat Miller, *Elgin Historic District*
David Waden, *Elgin National Watch Historic District*

CITY OF ELGIN
150 Dexter Court, ELgin, IL 60120-5555

For more information, please contact 847-931-6004