

PRESERVATION MONTH 2024

MAY IS PRESERVATION MONTH! THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ENCOURAGES THIS MONTH LONG OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE HOW COMMUNITIES ARE CELEBRATING AND SAVING HISTORIC PLACES YEAR-ROUND. THE ELGIN HERITAGE COMMISSION ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO COME CELEBRATE THE CITY’S RICH HERITAGE BY VISITING ITS HISTORIC PLACES AND ATTENDING EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY.

Historic Elgin

Begun as a grassroots initiative, Elgin, Illinois has been dedicated to preserving its architectural and cultural heritage for over 40 years.

Elgin is proud of its heritage and welcomes you to explore our City’s historic treasures.

www.historicelgin.com





Heritage Commission

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: JOHN MARSTON
JANINE HNATUSKO
REBECCA HUNTER
TONYA LUCCHETTI
CHRISTINA PILA
JOHN REGAN
MARGE ROWE
DENNIS ROXWORTHY
SCOTT SAVEL

HISTORIC DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

- SCOTT SAVEL - DRSC CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL BURNS - SPRING-DOUGLAS HIST. DIST.
JOEY CRIST - ELGIN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHLOE BURKHART - ELGIN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CARLY GORICK - ELGIN NAT’L WATCH HIST. DIST.
REBECCA HUNTER - AT-LARGE/BUNGALOW THEMATIC
KRISSEY PALERMO - SPRING-DOUGLAS HIST. DIST.

CITY OF ELGIN

150 DEXTER COURT, ELGIN, IL 60120

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
CHRISTEN SUNDQUIST AT 847-931-6004,
OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.CITYOFELGIN.ORG



ELGIN HERITAGE COMMISSION

PRESERVATION MONTH

MAY 2024



THURSDAY, MAY 16

BROWN BAG LUNCH: LAURA DAVIDSON SEARS ART GALLERY AT THE ELGIN ACADEMY – 100 YEARS WITH ANN CHIPMAN

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL AND IMPORTANT BUILDING TO CELEBRATE ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY. IN PERSON EVENT / FREE FOR MEMBERS / \$5 FOR GUESTS

LOCATION: LAURA DAVIDSON SEARS ART GALLERY, 200 ACADEMY

MORE INFO: PLEASE REGISTER - ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM: [HTTPS://ELGINHISTORY.ORG/EVENT/BROWN-BAG-LUNCH-LAURA-DAVIDSON-SEARS-ART-GALLERY-AT-THE-ELGIN-ACADEMY-100-YEARS-WITH-ANN-CHIPMAN/](https://elginhistory.org/event/brown-bag-lunch-laura-davidson-sears-art-gallery-at-the-elgin-academy/)

TIME: 12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 16

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY ON THE ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM WITH GUESTS GEORGE P. AND MARY LORD!

PLEASE JOIN THE ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM AND THE ELGIN HERITAGE COMMISSION FOR A FASCINATING LECTURE ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE OLDEST PUBLIC MUSEUM IN ILLINOIS! IN PERSON EVENT / \$3 FOR MEMBERS / \$5 FOR GUESTS

LOCATION: ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM - LORDS PARK, 225 GRAND BOULEVARD

MORE INFO: SHARRY BLAZIER, 847-741-6655; FOLLOW ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK

TIME: 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

FROM PULP TO PRECISION: LAYERING IN PAPER

STEVE KROISS EXHIBIT OPENING AT NANCY KIMBALL HOUSE. LOCATION: 302 W. CHICAGO STREET

CONTACT: ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM, 847-610-0993

TIME: 6:30 P.M. TO 8:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

HILLSIDE CEMETERY TOUR WITH BILL BRISKA

TUCKED INTO THE ELGIN SPORTS COMPLEX IS THE BURIAL GROUND FOR THE OLD ELGIN STATE HOSPITAL. TOUR THE CEMETERY WITH HISTORIAN BILL BRISKA TO DISCOVER THIS LITTLE KNOWN SITE AND SOME STORIES IT HAS TO TELL.

CONTACT: [HTTPS://ELGINHISTORY.ORG/](https://elginhistory.org/)

LOCATION: MEET AT HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE EAST PARKING LOT, ELGIN SPORTS COMPLEX, 875 SPORTS WAY.

TIME: 10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT – POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND ELGIN POLICE DEPARTMENT’S ANNUAL POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE, HELD IN THE CIVIC PLAZA SURROUNDED BY MID-CENTURY GEMS INCLUDING CITY HALL, THE HEMMENS CULTURAL CENTER, AND THE 2ND DIST. APPELLATE.

LOCATION: ELGIN CIVIC PLAZA, 150 DEXTER COURT

MORE INFO: CHRISTY SCHMIDT: [SCHMIDT_C@CITYOFELGIN.ORG](mailto:schmidt_c@cityofelgin.org)

TIME: 2:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

COME TOUR THE HISTORIC ELGIN MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING!

AN OPEN HOUSE OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION OF THE PROJECT DETAILS WITH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND THE ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS.

LOCATION: ELGIN MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY, 1600 DUNDEE

MORE INFO: DAN ALEXANDER, [DALEXANDER@EMSACHARTER.ORG](mailto:dalexander@emsacharter.org)

TIME: 4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

PLANETARIUM FAMILY SKY SHOWS

HISTORY OF THE ELGIN NATIONAL WATCH COMPANY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ELGIN NATIONAL WATCH COMPANY AND ITS CONNECTION WITH THE U-46 PLANETARIUM. TWO ONE HOUR SESSIONS BOTH INCLUDE A LOOK AT THE NIGHT SKY. SAFE VIEWING ECLIPSE GLASSES WILL BE FOR SALE FOR \$2/EACH. A SELF-GUIDED BUILDING TOUR IS AVAILABLE BEFORE BOTH SHOWS, SO COME EARLY! ADMISSION: \$2.00 PER PERSON OR MAX \$10.00 PER FAMILY (CASH ONLY). NO RESERVATIONS; FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED SEATING. FREE PARKING AT RAYMOND ST. AND NATIONAL STREET.

LOCATION: U-46 PLANETARIUM, 312 WATCH STREET

CONTACT: PEGGY HERNANDEZ AT 847 888-5019

TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 4:00 P.M. SHOWS WILL BEGIN AT 4:30 P.M. AND 6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

ELGIN’S 34TH ANNUAL MAYOR’S AWARDS

ELGIN HERITAGE COMMISSION HONORS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTORS TO ELGIN’S HERITAGE. HONOREES HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR DEDICATION TO OLDER ARCHITECTURE, NEIGHBORHOODS AND HISTORY.

INFO: [REGISTRATION REQUESTED, 847-931-6004](tel:847-931-6004)

LOCATION: ELGIN ARMORY, 254 RAYMOND ST, ELGIN

TIME: 6:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. (RECEPTION AT 6:00 P.M.; CEREMONY AT 7:00 P.M.)

THURSDAY, MAY 2

PUTTING SEARS HOMES ON THE MAP

SEARS ROEBUCK IS THE BEST KNOWN OF ALL THE COMPANIES THAT SOLD MAIL ORDER HOMES. LEARN THE HISTORY OF MAIL ORDER HOME MARKETING AND VIEW IMAGES OF HOMES FROM THE EIGHT MAJOR PRODUCERS OF THESE HOMES. THE FABULOUS AND FAMOUS ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN AND SEARS HOMES EXPERT, REBECCA HUNTER WILL BE PRESENTING.

LOCATION: GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY – ELGIN ROOM.

CONTACT/RSVP: REGISTRATION REQUESTED.

HTTPS://ATTEND.GAILBORDEN.INFO/EVENT/9251513

TIME: 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ADMISSION TO EVENTS IS FREE
UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED



SATURDAY, MAY 18

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – CELEBRATING 100 YEARS! OPEN HOUSE AND TOUR

TAKE A TOUR OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CELEBRATING ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY! BEGINNING IN 1838, THREE METHODIST CHURCHES HAVE STOOD ON THIS SITE. THE CORNERSTONE FOR THIS BUILDING WAS LAID ON JANUARY 20, 1924 AND DEDICATION SERVICES WERE HELD IN LATE NOVEMBER, 1924. THE TOUR WILL INCLUDE THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND BUILDING, SIGNIFICANT ROOMS ON THE FIRST FLOOR WILL BE OPEN FEATURING THE EXTRAORDINARY STAINED GLASS WINDOWS IN THE NARTHEX, CHAPEL AND SANCTUARY.

LOCATION: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 216 E. HIGHLAND AVENUE

MORE INFO: AL WALTERS, ALWALTERS1953@GMAIL.COM

TIME: 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

OPEN DOORS ON HOLY HILL!

TAKE A TOUR OF ELGIN’S CHURCHES WITHIN THE HOLY HILL AREA! ELGIN’S FOUNDER, JAMES T. GIFFORD, DONATED LAND TO ENCOURAGE CHURCHES TO COME TO ELGIN LEAVING US WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF AMAZING RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE IN AND NEAR OUR DOWNTOWN. CHURCHES THAT WILL HAVE THEIR DOORS OPENED INCLUDE: FIRST CONGREGATION CHURCH OF ELGIN (256 E. CHICAGO ST), FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (216 E. CHICAGO ST), HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (357 DIVISION ST), ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH (115 N. SPRING ST), PRIMERA IGLESIA BAUTISTA (12 S. CHAPEL ST), VINEYARD CHURCH OF ELGIN (220 DIVISION ST) AND ST. MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH (400 FULTON ST).

CONTACT: CHRISTEN SUNDQUIST, 847-931-6004

TIME: 1:00 P.M. TO 4:00 P.M

TUESDAY, MAY 21

THE LEOPOLD COLLECTION: A 100-YEAR MYSTERY

ON THE EXACT 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEOPOLD & LOEB MURDER THAT TOUCHED OFF THE "TRIAL OF THE CENTURY" IN 1924, ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM IN LORDS PARK EXPLORES ITS OWN BIZARRE CONNECTION TO THE CASE. CONVICTED OF MURDER AND SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON, BIRD COLLECTING ENTHUSIAST NATHAN LEOPOLD DONATED 1500 OF HIS BIRDS TO OUR THEN-AUDUBON MUSEUM. WE WILL DISCUSS THE CONTROVERSY IT CREATED AT THE TIME, AND THE CURATORIAL DETECTIVE WORK OF RECENT YEARS, AS WE ATTEMPT TO LEARN HOW MANY OF LEOPOLD'S BIRDS ARE STILL IN OUR COLLECTION. PLUS, ERIK REBAIN, AUTHOR OF ARRESTED ADOLESCENCE: THE SECRET LIFE OF NATHAN LEOPOLD, WILL SPEAK ON HIS RESEARCH INTO WHETHER THE EVENTUALLY-PAROLED LEOPOLD WAS TRULY A REFORMED MAN WHEN HE REGAINED HIS FREEDOM IN THE LATE 1950s. REBAIN’S BOOK WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE AND SIGNING.

DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM SO THAT GUESTS MAY FIRST VIEW OUR LEOPOLD EXHIBIT, AND STROLL THE REST OF THE MUSEUM; PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7 PM. ADMISSION IS \$5.00 PER PERSON (\$3.00 FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS). DUE TO SENSITIVE SUBJECT MATTER, ADULTS ONLY, PLEASE.

CONTACT/RSVP: SHARRY BLAZIER, 847-741-6655; FOLLOW ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM ON FACEBOOK

LOCATION: ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM, 225 GRAND BLVD.

TIME: 6:00 P.M. (DOORS OPEN) TO 9:00 P.M

THURSDAY, MAY 23

GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ELGIN HISTORY TRIVIA NIGHT – 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL HISTORY WITH HISTORIAN JERRY TURNQUIST. ATTENDEES MAY WORK ALONE OR WITH A PARTNER, OR JUST WATCH! PARTICIPANTS CAN USE A SMARTPHONE OR A DEVICE (LIMITED AMOUNT) PROVIDED BY THE LIBRARY TO RESPOND TO MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS.

LOCATION: GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY – MAIN BRANCH, MEADOWS COMMUNITY ROOMS ABC

MORE INFO: PLEASE REGISTER: [HTTPS://ATTEND.GAILBORDEN.INFO/EVENT/10273067](https://attend.gailborden.info/event/10273067)

TIME: 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

ELGIN MUSEUM CRAWL!

FIVE CLASSIC ELGIN INSTITUTIONS – ONE AFTERNOON! THIS IS THE 2ND ELGIN MUSEUM CRAWL FEATURING THE ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM (360 PARK ST), ELGIN PUBLIC MUSEUM (225 GRAND), U-46 PLANETARIUM (312 WATCH ST), GAIL BORDEN LIBRARY’S 150TH EXHIBIT (270 N. GROVE AVE), AND FIRE BARN NO. 5 MUSEUM (533 ST. CHARLES ST). YOU’LL LEARN FASCINATING FACTS AND HAVE FUN EXPLORING THESE GREAT VENUES! THE ELGIN MUSEUM CRAWL IS PRESENTED FREE OF CHARGE; DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED. VISIT THE MUSEUMS IN ANY ORDER YOU LIKE FOR A UNIQUE AND FUN FAMILY EXPERIENCE!

MORE INFO: ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM, 847-742-4248

TIME: 12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

MONDAY, MAY 27

MEMORIAL DAY AT BLUFF CITY CEMETERY

CO-SPONSORED BY THE ELGIN PATRIOTIC MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION AND THE CITY OF ELGIN.

CONTACT: PLEASE VISIT WWW.ELGINMEMORIALDAY.ORG

LOCATION: BLUFF CITY CEMETERY, 945 BLUFF CITY BLVD.

TIME: 11:00 A.M.; ALSO A LIVE BROADCAST WILL BE ON WRMN RADIO, 1410 A.M.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

PROMINENT ELGIN ARCHITECT, W. W. ABELL

THE MAN, HIS DRAWINGS, HIS HOUSES AND HIS INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO ELGIN.

CONTACT: ELGIN HISTORY MUSEUM, 847-742-4248

LOCATION: NANCY KIMBALL COBBLESTONE HOUSE, 302 W. CHICAGO STREET, PARK AT W. HIGHLAND AND N. CRYSTAL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

