



Western Springs Historical Society

Winter 2001

Presentation of the 2001 Preservation Awards

"Preserving our past, our present, our future," describes the meaning behind the Western Springs Historical Society's annual *Preservation Awards*, which were presented to five homeowners at an Ice Cream Social on Sunday September 9, 2001, on the village green.

These awards were created to recognize private as well as commercial and public buildings for maintaining or preserving their historic or architectural integrity while undergoing restoration, renovation or expansion. In addition, one house received the *Good Neighbor Architecture Award*. This award recognizes that preservation is not limited to older homes and it is given to newer construction. These homes call attention to architectural styles and represent examples of replications in designs.

Many residents gathered in the tower for ice cream and cookies, which were provided by Tischler's Finer Foods. The Historical Society's museum and children's museum was open and residents were given an opportunity to step back into the past as they viewed antiques and artifacts that represent the history of Western Springs. It has been said that the more we learn about the past, the better we can understand the present and plan for the future.

All residents who have thoughtfully executed projects that have enhanced the beauty and historical feel to the community were commended for their efforts. They have made a significant contribution to the character and sense of pride in the village.

The following houses received the *Preservation Award*:

Marilyn and Tom Cahill
4118 Central
Tudor ~ built in 1930

Ann and Doug Porter
4804 Lawn
Prairie ~ built in 1928

Holly and Jon Fraleigh
4312 Grand
Victorian ~ built in 1901

Lisa and Pete Najarian
1018 Chestnut
Victorian ~ built in 1892



1018 Chestnut - Victorian - built 1892

The following home received the *Good Neighbor Architecture Award*:

Claire and Bert Schafer
4821 Woodland
Neo-Tudor ~ built in 2000

Each award winner was presented with a bronze plaque that is designed for placement on the exterior of the house. The preservation awards have been presented annually since 1996. Nominations were sought from village residents from all neighborhoods for houses that were at least 50 years old.

Criteria used for awards have been established by the Department of the Interior and are recommended by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

A panel of judges determined the winners. We are grateful to David Cholewiak, public historian, Chicago Historical Society; Lesley Gilmore, architect, Gilmore Franzen Architects, Inc.; Jan McDermed, past president, Western Springs Historical Society; and, Patricia Rothchild, proprietor, Stems and Twigs Co., for sharing their expertise and determining the winners.

Photos of all award-winning houses are on display in the museum located in the water tower. The museum is open on Saturday's from 11 am until 1 pm.

Several of the award winning homes will be featured on the Western Springs Housewalk, which will take place on May 19, 2002. In addition, the preservation committee will be accepting nominations for the 2002 Preservation Awards beginning next June. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

Holiday Ornaments

It's time for our ornament-making tradition at the Children's Museum! Beginning Saturday, December 1, during the Holiday Walk, children can make their own "house" ornaments. Volunteers will show you how on the following dates:

December 1	2 pm - 4 pm
December 8	11 am - 1 pm
December 15	11 am - 1 pm
December 22	11 am - 1 pm

Historical Society Updates

Children's Museum

Children of all ages are invited to visit the Children's Museum on the third floor of the Tower. It is open every Saturday from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Stay and play with the assortment of old-fashioned toys, the playhouse, blocks, dress-up clothes and dolls. New additions include a stack of puzzles, Tidily Winks, and a Tic-Tac-Toe game. On display are antique toys that will take you back in time.

Request for Donations for Children's Museum

The Children's Museum is looking for donated children's books of a historical nature for the children's library. In addition, if you have any dress-up clothes, jewelry or other playhouse items, please call us. Thanks again to everyone who has contributed!

Children's Museum Great for Birthdays & Group Tours!

The Children's Museum is also available for birthday parties and group tours. A tour can be designed specially for different groups. Some of the groups who have visited the Museum this year include Brownies, Cub Scouts, pre-schoolers and primary grade school children. It can be educational and fun!

For more information or to make a contribution, please call Joan Binder at 246-6753 or Mary Donnelly at (708) 784-0513.



Holiday Ornaments

Beginning Saturday, December 1, children can make their own "house" ornaments. Volunteers will show you how on the following dates:

December 1	2 pm - 4 pm
December 8	11 am - 1 pm
December 15	11 am - 1 pm
December 22	11 am - 1 pm

Recent Museum Acquisitions

A 1907 geography textbook was recently found in the attic of a house on Wolf Road and was donated to the Historical Society. Thank you to our contributor!

Western Springs Archives

The Archives of the Western Springs Historical Society serves the community by documenting our Village history and furnishing extensive research material for its residents. The staff is comprised entirely of volunteers, and managed by Ann Vance, a long time Western Springs resident.

Information is obtained from various local publications and from within the community. This data is categorized, filed and Microfiched. There are extensive files on Village history, including Village administration, genealogy dating back to the 1800's, schools, businesses, churches, houses, along with a large collection of historical photographs. There is also a newly catalogued collection of over 2,000 historical slides that are available on loan.

The Archives are located on the second floor of Grand Avenue School (access at Grand Ave. entrance). It is open on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-12:00. For information Call 246-9230. Request forms are also available at the Tower Museum.

• Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 9-12a.m. to help catalog the Historical Society donated items and articles. Please contact Ann Vance at 246-9230.

Slide Programs

Free slide programs with "do-it-yourself" scripts or a Society narrator are available. It's a great way to gain insight into our community. The following programs are available:

- ◇ A history of Western Springs, the first One-Hundred years
- ◇ Village Postcards of the Past
- ◇ Early Western Springs Businesses
- ◇ Low Down on our High Rise (Old Water Tower)

For more information call or the Western Springs Archives at 246-9230.

Archiving Historical Western Spring Homes

One of primary functions of the Western Springs Archives is to document the changing face of Western Springs for future generations. Over the years, numerous Western Springs historical homes have been razed. In many cases, no written history or image of these homes was ever assembled, only to be lost to history.

Society members Rus and Michele Nelson, of Nelson and Nelson Graphics, Western Springs, are providing the Archives with photomontages of houses that have obtained demolition permits. Special thanks to Rus and Michelle.

Since last spring at least twenty-four demolition permits have been granted to Western Springs houses!!!

Western Springs Historical Society: A Gift Resource

Don't forget that the Tower Museum offers a great choice of WS memorabilia and stocking stuffers. These items make great gifts for friends and family. Members to the Society receive a 10% discount.

- ◇ Framed tower/train station prints
- ◇ Christmas cards, posters
- ◇ Western Springs Centennial books
- ◇ Children's Museum T-shirts
- ◇ 8 Watercolor note cards by Peggy Taylor of Village Scenes - Now on sale at the museum for \$5.00.
- ◇ New Historical Society postcard, featuring a dramatic photo of the Water Tower with the Sears Tower in the background. This postcard can also be purchased at selected business' in Western Springs.

Call for Trustees

A board of trustees governs the Historical Society. Trustees serve two-year terms. People interested in serving as trustees should call the Society at 708-246-9230. Please leave your name, address and phone number and let the Society know that you are interested in becoming a Trustee.

Historical Society Updates

Former Historical Society President Named Western Springs Woman Of The Year

Jan McDermed has been chosen as this year's Western Springs Woman of the Year. This award was given in recognition for Jan's involvement with the Western Springs Historical Society and the Western Springs Community Center Association (WSCCA) which saved the Grand Avenue School Building.

Jan moved to the village in 1958. She was the Reference Librarian at Thomas Ford Library from 1961-1968 before becoming Head Librarian at the LaGrange Library from 1968-1972. In 1972 she started working downtown at the Continental Bank (now the Bank of America) as the Head of Inventory Services. She then became Managing Director of Corporate Banking Services until her retirement.

Jan first became involved with the history of Western Springs in the 1960's. She attended meetings at the home of Maude Erickson on Central Avenue to discuss the formation of a Historical Society for the village. One mission for the society was to develop a location to display all the historical artifacts and memorabilia Maude was currently storing in her dining room.

The Western Springs Historical Society was organized in 1966, and the current museum at the Water Tower was dedicated in 1970. In recent years, Jan has served as President and on the committee for the House Walks that are fundraisers for the society. During Jan's presidency, Kim Murphy developed the Children's Museum, which is located on the third floor of the Tower Museum. Many artifacts and children's toys are on display, thanks to the efforts of Kim and Jan.

CONGRATULATIONS JAN!

In 1983, the Western Springs School Board decided to sell the Grand Avenue School Building, which had been closed as a school in 1981. The building and surrounding land were being offered at the appraised value of \$490,000 for residential development. Not wanting to lose the oldest public building in the village, Jan became involved in a group of concerned citizens to help save Grand Avenue School. Jan, along with Jeanette Martin, Liz Hindmarch, Bob Kemper, Charles & Barbara Neal, Marty Smith, Sam Hunt, Don Gianone, Henry Linabury, Ann Vance, Paula Boldt, and Diana Nelson, formed the Western Springs Community Center Association (WSCCA). The WSCCA helped raise the \$100,000 needed for the down-payment in order to save the historic school building. Grand Avenue School was transformed into a full-time Community Center that serves village residents to this day with licensed child care, dance studios, music rooms, the Western Springs Historical Society Archives and a gymnasium for sports and community activities such as the annual Book Fair and craft shows.

Jan keeps busy with her involvement in the Western Springs Music Club, the Western Springs Novel Study Group, as a Plymouth Place Board Member, as a member of Questers; a group that studies antiques and collectibles, and as a volunteer grandmother at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs.

Jan and Sharon Bachmann are the current Co-Chairmen of the House Walk sponsored by the Western Springs Historical Society, will take place on Saturday May 19, 2002.

New Book On The History Of Western Springs Coming

Village resident, Betsy Green is currently writing a book on the history of the village spanning its origin from farmland to its current status as an upper-class suburb known for its excellent schools, low crime rate and fine homes.

CHAPTERS:

1. For \$1.25 an Acre (farm life)
2. Holidays and Everyday (activities)
3. Getting from Here to There (vehicles)
4. Enjoying the Outdoors (outdoor activities)
5. Portraits of our Past (studio portraits)
6. Calling All Cars (disasters and preparation)
7. In War & in Peace (wartime and patriotism)
8. We Gather Together (churches)
9. Home is Where the Heart is (housing)
10. Into the New Millennium (contemporary images of Western Springs)

This book will be released and ready for purchase in May 2002.

Historic Advertisements

All advertisements reproduced from *Western Springs Times*, November 16, 1928



A Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

and the assurance of a keen appreciation of your good will and patronage.

ZAMPA the TAILOR
818 Hillgrove Avenue

The Season's
Greetings



sent in cordial appreciation of the only asset that money cannot buy,

Your Good Will
HENTGE'S BAKERY
Burlington Avenue



This is just a little greeting but it carries a big
"THANK YOU"
for your cordial appreciation during the past year

HENRIKSON-ROSE CO.
DEALERS IN GROCERIES and MEATS
Telephone 380-381

At this Joyful Season our thoughts revert gratefully to those whose courtesy, good will and loyalty have made possible our progress. Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

WESTERN SPRINGS
BARBER SHOP
OTTO H. SCHREDER, Prop.
Expert Ladies' Hair Cutting.
Burlington Avenue





Western Springs Historical Society

Mailing Address: Box 139
Western Springs, IL 60558

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Western Springs, IL
Permit No. 25

OFFICERS

Carole Cosimano, PRESIDENT
Judy Gaylord, VICE PRESIDENT
Harriet Potenza, SECRETARY
Steven Mink, TREASURER

TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Arts
David Barritt
Joan Binder
Charmaine Blessman
Mary Boland
Pete Caris
Sue Darlington
Mary Donnelly
Jim Havlat
Betty Howard
Connie McDonald
Patricia Medema
Alice Perkins
Lynn Rowells

OTHER CHAIRPERSONS

Henry Linabury
Nancy Pegram
Norm Thompson
Ann Vance

NEWSLETTER

Pete Caris, Jim Havlat



Western Springs Historical Society

Archives and Workshop

Grand Avenue Community
Center—2nd Floor
Open Tuesdays 9a.m. - Noon
246-9230

The Tower Museum & Children's Museum

916 Hillgrove Avenue
Western Springs

MUSEUM HOURS:
Saturdays 11 - 1 P.M.



Now All Together, Folks!

RAH! RAH!! RAH!!! for Western Springs

Holler your heads off folks,---let the world, far and wide, know that we folks in Western Springs are just a great big happy family. A smile, a handshake, a cheery greeting for friend or for stranger. A strong, practical idea that it does pay each one of us great big plus returns on our money, to buy everything we can from Western Springs merchants. A pride in our Western Springs that will make every stranger wish to become one of us---and that is exactly what we do want. Join us and welcome. There's room for all---we'll do everything we can to make you glad you did come to Western Springs to live.