

Autumn 2020

TIME & PLACE

Vol. 4 No. 5



*Carol Stream Historical Society*  
*Annual Meeting*  
*Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m.*  
*Via ZOOM*

**Agenda**

*(to include)*

Election of Officers (2021)

Mission Statement, Values Statement,  
& Tag Line Presentation/Vote

*(See page 7)*

Program: Vintage Carol Stream Video

*Identify and Reminisce*

**REGULAR MEETINGS 2020\*\***

JULY 28

AUGUST 25

SEPTEMBER 22

OCTOBER 27 (ANNUAL MEETING)

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER (NO MEETINGS)

*\*\*We will hold virtual meetings until  
further notice. See our Facebook page  
for meeting updates.*

*NOTE: All 2020 Events have been  
canceled.*

**OFFICERS 2020**

MARGARET LEABRU, *PRESIDENT*

SUSAN BENJAMIN, *TREASURER*

KAREN SHREVE, *SECRETARY*

SCOTT SIMKUS, *COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

LAURA SCHMIDT, *HISTORIAN*

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# Celebrating the Right to Vote



**T**his year was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, which was ratified on August 18, 1920 and officially added to the constitution on August 26, 1920. Voting is a right we should not take lightly. Presidential election years bring out more voters than during primaries and non-presidential years. The national races get the most coverage. The other local, county and state races may affect us more directly.

## *A Vote to Preserve*

Did you know that since 1891, Illinois women had limited suffrage? Some of these women played an active role in bringing the question of creating a forest preserve district to a referendum vote on June 7, 1915. The passage of that referendum helped to save and protect natural areas within DuPage which can be enjoyed today. The article “Women’s Vote Helped Win the Case for the DuPage Forest Preserves” [www.dupageforest.org/blog/womens-vote](http://www.dupageforest.org/blog/womens-vote) goes into greater detail about how this 1915 countywide election and active women created these public nature preserves for all to use.



## *Making History*

We will be making history with the current voting cycle, whether you participate via a mail-in ballot, early voting, or at your polling place on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please carefully consider the importance of every race and referendum. Just remember - register, educate yourself, and exercise your right to vote.



**Margaret Leabru**  
**President, CSHS**

**Confirm your voter registration at:**

<https://ova.elections.il.gov/RegistrationLookup.aspx>

**WWW.CAROLSTREAMHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM**

# TIME & PLACE

## Carol Stream Historical Society

# Halloween Decorating Contest

If you live in Carol Stream, it's time to get ready for Halloween! Get your front yard ready to celebrate by "dressing" it up in "frightening fashion" for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Stream Halloween Decorating Contest. The Village is challenging residents to create spooktacular displays for the upcoming holiday. This year's themes are:

- **BIG PUMPKIN (Traditional Décor)**
- **FAMILY FUN (Kid-Friendly Décor)**
- **JUDGES FAVORITE (Best in Show)**

Nominate your favorite home(s) by e-mail at [DecoratingContest@carolstream.org](mailto:DecoratingContest@carolstream.org). Be sure to include the street address or addresses in the body and the phrase **Halloween Decorating Contest** in the subject line. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, **October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Judges will visit nominated properties and shortly thereafter make their award recommendations. Check out the [Halloween Story Map](#) online so you can take a physically distanced tour of the properties. Homeowners from winning displays will be recognized at a Village Board meeting.

Happy  
Halloween



# HOW SWEET IT IS

## A Little Bit Corny

What do candy corn and chicken feed have in common?

In the late 1800's, George Renninger, an employee of the Wunderlee Candy Company, is said to have invented the tri-color candy we know as candy corn. The sugar and corn syrup concoction was made and marketed by the Goelitz Confectionery Company (now Jelly Belly), originally of Belleville, IL. Candy corn became popular in the 1920's when the United States was an agrarian society and the candy was marketed with farm children in mind. It was sold in a box with a rooster on the front and nick named, chicken feed. In addition to the corn shaped mellowcremes, candy turnips, pumpkins and other agricultural shapes were made.



*The 1898 Goelitz Candy Corn packaging design.*

*-Jelly Belly Candy Company*

Candy corn began to be associated with Halloween in the 1950's when trick-or-treating gained wide popularity. There is even a National Candy Corn Day. It falls the day before Halloween, October 30.

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## National Fire Prevention Month

### *Thank You, Carol Stream Fire Protection District*

October is Fire Prevention Month. In 1871, on October 8, the Great Chicago Fire began. In commemoration of that horrific event, the week of October 9 is designated as National Fire Prevention Week. More than 250 people lost their lives and 100,000 were left homeless by the Great Chicago Fire. It also destroyed 18,000 buildings with losses estimated at more than \$200 million.

Today we have the benefits of contemporary fire protection and paramedic services. This was not always the case. Like the area, the Carol Stream Fire Protection District (CSFPD) has evolved over the years to become what it is today.

The history of our “fire department” dates to before Jay Stream’s Durable Construction Company began to develop the rural area that was to become the Village of Carol Stream. In 1951, parts of the area were served by the all volunteer Keeneyville, Cloverdale Fire Protection District and two other fire departments. As village began to take shape, a hearing determined that the development would be protected by the Keeneyville Fire Protection District. By 1960, a year after the village was incorporated, The Carol Stream Company of the Keeneyville Fire Protection District had formed. The Company’s fire truck was a 1947 Ford. It was housed in a lean-to built of reclaimed wood on the site of the village sewer treatment plant. This fire station served the all volunteer fire department until a station was built at 500 Kuhn Road in 1969. That site is now the location of the College of DuPage Carol Stream Center.

In 1964, a dispatch system was begun and two-way radios were installed in the trucks. Two years later the District purchased alerting radios for all firefighters. The radios replaced the phone call system previously used to alert fire fighters. Earl Tedrahn’s general store on Army Trail Road became the communications center when a radio tower there. He and his family took all the fire and emergency calls 24 hours a day for many years.

In 1973 the first full-time Fire Chief, Michael Tuman, and the first full-time fire fighters were hired. A second station, located at St. Charles and Schmale Roads was added in 1976. By 1978, paramedic

services were added. The boundaries of the district expanded and by 1980 all of Carol Stream was served by the District. A third station opened on Lies Road in 1984. In 2004 CSFPD headquarters moved to a new location at 365 Kuhn Road.



1947 Ford Fire Engine—Carol Stream Company

**Learn More at:**

<http://www.carolstreamfire.org/>



# The Carol Stream Historical Society

## Mission

*To promote an understanding of the Carol Stream area by honoring, preserving, and sharing our unique and diverse heritage and history.*

## Values

*Integrity, Inclusiveness, Engagement, and Collaboration.*

## Tagline

*Honor, Preserve, Educate*



## SLATE OF OFFICERS 2021

MARGARET LEABRU, *PRESIDENT*

SUSAN BENJAMIN, *TREASURER*

KAREN SHREVE, *SECRETARY*

SCOTT SIMKUS, *COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

LAURA SCHMIDT, *HISTORIAN*



CCSD93 celebrates 100 years

Link to Podcasts on the District 93 website CCSD93.org  
Talk93 <https://www.ccsd93.com/Page/6396>



Turn the page for more  
District 93 history

## *Be Safe, Be Healthy, Be Happy!*



### WEAR

A Face Covering



### WATCH

Your Distance  
6' Apart



### WASH

Your Hands Often  
Use Hand Sanitizer

# Dr. Elsie C. Johnson

## *First CCSD93 Superintendent of Schools*

Elsie Violet Carlson Johnson came to District 93 as a teacher in October of 1957. She retired from CCSD 93 as its Superintendent in May of 1982, after 25 years of service.

When she was hired to teach the 42 students in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5, the District was a one one-room school. Her half-day classroom schedule was required to maximize the limited space in the old frame school building. She and another teacher who taught grades 6-8 in the afternoon, shared the classroom. A third taught Kindergarten and first grade in the school basement. It is said that when she went to the school on weekends to work, Elsie put her feet up on the desk to avoid the mice that scampered about.



*Dr. Johnson in her office .*

Elsie grew up in rural Marshall County, Illinois, and was not afraid of working hard. Her sister, Henrietta described her as "...smarter and wiser than her age." She graduated at the top of her class and went on to attend Illinois State University earning a degree in Biological Science. Her education continued at the University of Illinois, Chicago where she received a Masters degree in Bacteriology. After 8 years as a Bacteriologist with the Illinois Public Health Department in Chicago, Mrs. Johnson began teaching in District 41 and in 1957 became a teacher in District 93. It was rare for a rural school teacher to have a Masters degree but Mrs. Johnson was not typical. However, District 93 was quickly changing from a rural district to a growing suburban district.

The 1957-58 Cloverdale School Report to the State of Illinois Department of Education made it clear that Community Consolidated School District 93 (Cloverdale) was changing. "This has been a small country school until this year (57-58) school year. Now we have 80 new homes in our district so we have voted a bond issue for \$100,000.00. We are now building a new school." That new school was the red brick building that in 2020 houses the District's Early Childhood Center.

By the fall of 1959, Jay Stream had started building the 4 classroom Carol Stream School. That autumn Elsie Johnson became the Principal/Superintendent of the exploding school district. It was a job that she had said that she wouldn't have for all the tea in China! However, she took her new responsibilities very seriously. She had a way of fastening her eyes on you with intensity. She listened carefully and responded thoughtfully. Traits she exhibited throughout her career.



*Roy DeShane "pod" under construction in 1963. The innovative design was referred to as open concept.*

By the end of 1961, she was no longer in the classroom. She was too busy writing teacher contracts, purchasing, supervising activities, and preparing board agendas, among other things. Her two sons recall being called upon to help shovel snow and cut grass at school.

As Carol Stream grew so did the need for more class-



room space leading to the construction of Jay Stream School (now Roy DeShane School) in 1963. The Superintendent moved her office there when it opened, along with a bookkeeper and a secretary. The school opened with 711 students that year and closed with 870. In the summer of 1967, Elsie helped to secure 12 acres for the construction of Roy DeShane School (now Jay Stream). That school with its innovative pod design opened in 1968. In 12 years the district had gone from a one room school to 4 schools with an enrollment of 1,350.

Elsie Johnson, from early on, was a bit of a trail blazer. In the 70's it was still rare for a woman to be a Superintendent of Schools. In fact, the Northern Illinois Superintendents' Roundtable had banned women members since its founding in the late 1890's. The ban was lifted in 1972 and that year Elsie became the group's first female member. She also became its membership chairman. The following year she was secretary and in 1981 became the organization's president.

Providing educational opportunities for all children was important to the Elsie Johnson. In fact, she earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in Special Education. The Superintendent offered to house the first Special Education program formed by 6 elementary school districts and Glenbard High School District 87 at Cloverdale School. The Cooperative Association for Special Education (C.A.S.E.) flourished and she was the Principal at the Cloverdale location in addition to her duties as Superintendent of CCSD 93.

Preschoolers and their parents benefited from monthly programs that Mrs. Johnson hosted at Aldrin Community Center in Armstrong Park. The regular educational events offered parenting topics for the adults and activities for the children. Each meeting included time to socialize complete with refreshments presented attractively on a table graced with one of Elsie's fresh floral arrangements.

By 1978, District 93 was again in need of additional classrooms and Western Trails School was built. The building was not yet complete when school opened so students attended half days at Roy DeShane School until October. In May of that year, Elsie Johnson became Dr. Johnson, earning her Doctorate in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois.

No sooner had Western Trails opened than another school was needed. It opened in Hanover Park for the 1981-82 school year. Dr. Johnson worked diligently to plan, staff, and furnish the new school. She wanted it to be completed before her retirement at the end of the school year. At her retirement dinner, the Board of Education announced that the new elementary school would be named Elsie C. Johnson School. The retiring Superintendent was surprised and delighted. On recalling the moment, Dr. Johnson noted, "It was the grand finale to an exciting and exhausting career. I felt so honored that I was recognized while I was alive to enjoy the honor."

After her retirement, Dr. Johnson lived in Florida for many years but returned to the area often to visit. She was proud of her role in the development of Community Consolidated School District 93 during a time of rapid growth. With a smile, she would recall how one school ended with an enrollment of 500. When the school bell rang three months later, the number had risen to 900.

Dr. Elsie C. Johnson passed away on November 2, 2019, at the age of 97. Fifty-four years earlier, the community she served so well even then, honored her by naming her its very first Woman Special Citizen of the Year.



### LEARN ABOUT US

[www.CarolStreamHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.CarolStreamHistoricalSociety.com)

### FIND US—FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



### Not a Member? Join Now!



#### Carol Stream Historical Society

#### 2020 Membership Form—JOIN US!

Please join us in our quest to preserve the history and heritage of Carol Stream. Membership is open all who are interested in supporting this mission.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

I am enclosing my \$10 dues for 2020: \_\_\_\_\_  
I am enclosing my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: CAROL STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAIL TO: Carol Stream Historical Society

P. O. Box 88791

Carol Stream, IL 60188

QUESTIONS—CALL: 630-665-0308 (Barb) or 630-473-8308

Thank you for your support! Connect with us today!



[Carolstreamhistorical.com](http://Carolstreamhistorical.com)