



Gretna in Winter

TIME & PLACE

Vol. 5 No. 1

On our cover

The Gretna Depot commemorates a by-gone era when the Chicago and Great Western Railroad tracks ran along St. Charles Road. The station was then located near the current Ozinga site. The dismantled depot was rebuilt in Armstrong Park in honor of the Bicentennial of the United States.

Volunteers reconstructed this link to the area's past. It was dedicated on July 4, 1976 and served for a time as a museum of local history.

The building is currently closed to the public.



Gretna (Carol Stream) Depot when it was still active prior to 1976. The photo is looking east. With St. Charles Road on the right.

CSHS REGULAR MEETINGS**

2021

JANUARY 28	JUNE 22
FEBRUARY 23	JULY 27
MARCH 23	AUGUST 24
APRIL 27	SEPTEMBER 28
MAY 25	OCTOBER 26 (ANNUAL MEETING)

**MEETINGS ARE NOW ON ZOOM.

We will not meet in person until Illinois Covid-19 sanctions permit. See our Facebook page for meeting and event updates.

We meet the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. January - October.

February 2021 meeting link

Click Below to Join

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6238043544?pwd=cjRBbXNqSW1URoZORVlBd0xzOFBrdz09>

OFFICERS 2021

MARGARET LEABRU, *PRESIDENT*

SUSAN BENJAMIN, *TREASURER*

KAREN SHREVE, *SECRETARY*

OPEN POSITION, *COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

LAURA SCHMIDT, *HISTORIAN*

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Time & Place Newsletter

Published quarterly by
CAROL STREAM

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VOLUME 5, Number 1

As Time Goes On—Memories



It makes me sad that so many of the recent Historical Society newsletters contain articles about noteworthy members of the Carol Stream community who have died. It is part of the society's mission to honor and preserve the part these people played in our local history.

When people pass, it is always wonderful to hear the memories that other people are willing to share. The memories may be well known or are heard for the first time. Sometimes there are stories and topics, we regret, may now be lost with the death. It could be the photos that need a description of who or what event is pictured. It could be a family heirloom that is missing its significance. Maybe it is how our grandparents met or how the books were acquired for the first library. Our legacy combines the stories, facts, and pictures we share with others, whether it is our family or local history, decades past or last week, newsworthy or a family tradition. Please take some time to write down, video or just sit down and share face to face your stories with your family, friends, and maybe local historical society. Remember that you and your family are part of our local history too.

Margaret Leabru
President, CSHS

**"I believe that when an elder dies, a library is burned:
vast sums of wisdom and knowledge are lost."**

Elizabeth Kapu'uwailani Lindsey

If you would like to share photos, memoirs, or artifacts relating to Carol Stream, please contact us at: carolstreamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

We would love to hear from you.

WWW.CAROLSTREAMHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

TIME & PLACE

Carol Stream Historical Society News

Lynn O'Dell

Longtime Carol Stream Librarian

Lynn Marie Luegge O'Dell left us on Monday, January 18, 2021. When Lynn and her husband, Norman settled in Carol Stream, they both became involved in the young community.

Current Carol Stream residents may not know her name but for 41 of its 59 years, Mrs. O'Dell was the Director of the Carol Stream Public Library. She was only the second person to hold that position. As such she was one of the pioneers of the community.

In 2009, Lynn spoke about her early library experiences at a Village board meeting. She recounted that her salary in the beginning was \$1.00 a year and that the library operated with the help of dedicated volunteers.

In 1968, Mrs. O'Dell was honored as the Woman of the Year by the Wheaton Area Business and Professional Women's Club. The recognition was based on "...achievement and/or dedication to ... business or profession." Exceptional service to the community was also cited as well as her role in providing service to the public through library programs. She was a charter member of the Lutheran Church of the Master and served as organist. The Carol Stream Women's Club was among her other involvements.

Lynn left an impression as noted by former Library Board member, Mike Ashby, *"I had the pleasure of working with Lynn O'Dell as a member of the Library Board of Trustees from 1985 to 1993, 3 years as Treasurer and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, 1 year as Chair of the Space Expansion Committee and 2 years as President. Lynn was so easy to work with, and had a great sense of humor. She was my mentor in helping prepare me for the different responsibilities that became mine during my tenure. I couldn't have done it without her. We worked well together over the years, especially as we expanded the library space to meet the needs of Village residents and celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Library. She was a real asset to*



Lynn O'Dell, Woman of the Year 1968.

TIME & PLACE

Carol Stream Historical Society News

A Good Read...

Residents tend to take it for granted that community resources include a public library. The Carol Stream Public Library had humble beginnings when it opened on September 29, 1962 in a room of the then Village Hall at 397 Blackhawk Drive. The Library eventually filled the entire building and remained at the location until the current library on Hiawatha was dedicated on April 9, 1978.

In those early days, the Village of Carol Stream was growing by leaps and bounds. Community involvement and volunteerism were the prime movers behind many of the amenities we have today. Books were donated by generous residents. Volunteers organized and shelved books and materials. Library cards could be purchased for \$2.00 by resident families. The library also hosted a variety of activities for the community then, just as it does now.



Fun at the Library on Blackhawk circa 1973. Librarian Lynn O'Dell (in pink top), joins the fun.

Lynn O'Dell—Continued from page 4

the community, and will be greatly missed by those of us who got to know and work with her."

Former Village manager, Greg Bielawski said, "*Lynn was passionate about Carol Stream and of course the Carol Stream Library which she shepherded through the challenging growth years of the village to be an example of a premier suburban library committed to providing a range of services to the residents.*"

We extend our sincere condolences to the O'Dell family.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Early in each year, Carol Stream residents gather to celebrate the Citizen of the Year awards at a banquet gala. This event recognizing volunteerism in the village began in 1965 and ran continuously until this year. The Citizen of the Year (COTY) determined in November of 2020 that it would be prudent to cancel what would have been the 56th award ceremony in 2021.



While the pandemic may have canceled the formal recognition of those who give significantly of their time and talent for the benefit of the community, volunteerism in Carol Stream is alive and well. The Carol Stream Historical Society salutes all those who have given from their hearts in so many ways over the past months of the pandemic and continue to do so. The generosity of our citizens may be taking somewhat different forms than would be typical, but many have given of themselves to assist their neighbors and community.

Thank you for organizing and donating to food drives, checking in on the homebound, contributing to the Christmas Sharing Program, keeping organizations afloat via Zoom, creating socially distanced, safe activities; shoveling snow, displaying messages of encouragement, supporting local businesses, offering helping hands in a million ways and so much more.

Carol Stream—A Community that Cares! We're so proud to know you.

COTY has a vibrant history. Learn about past Citizen of the Year recognitions and see vintage photos on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/CSCOTYA/>

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

The Historical Society would like to thank all of the 35 of 40 renewals from our dedicated members. Also, the donations were over \$400 which will help us purchase shelving so that we may display items for the public to view. Thank you again for your generous donations.

Just a reminder, we have monthly zoom meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please join us with your ideas so we can again be open to the public with new faces and things to do. If you know of anyone who would like to join us or just support our efforts to preserve the history of our town, an application is available in this newsletter and can be duplicated for more than one person.

We have many members from the Woman's Club, and the Red Hat Society. Thank you, but how about some Village Board, Park Board, and Library Board members supporting our efforts in keeping the history of Carol Stream alive.

Thanks everyone!!!

Barb Simkus,
Membership Chairman



MEMBERSHIP FORM ON P. 10

What's Behind Those Doors?



Storage for the Historical Society's archives is at a premium at the Farmhouse. As the collection expands, the need to utilize the existing space has become an important issue. Currently shelving is being installed in two smaller former clothing closets. A larger walk-in closet is being reconfigured to maximize its storage space as well.

The Historical Society maintains a relatively small collection which is carefully curated to reflect the history of the immediate area. Community members who may be interested in contributing artifacts that reflect local history are most welcome to contact us. We are particularly interested in photographs, documents, and items with a strong connection to Carol Stream and its rural roots as well as significant artifacts related to ongoing area history.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Your order
will benefit
CSHS!**

**345 Army Trail
Bloomington**

We & History

and Carol Stream

The origin of Valentine's Day is a bit obscure but it likely has roots in early pagan festivals and Roman spring rituals. Giving valentine cards and letters to one's sweetheart likely came much later. It is thought that a love poem penned by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife in 1415 is the oldest surviving valentine. At the time Charles was a prisoner in the Tower of London.

Exchanging cards didn't become popular until the 1900s. The trend gained popularity when printed cards became available and postage was more affordable. It was then that Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced cards in the U.S. Her creations in the 1840's featured fancy designs with embellished with ribbon and bright pictures called "scrap."

Today, Valentine's Day is very popular in the United States and the United Kingdom. The holiday is also celebrated in Canada, Mexico, France, and Australia but apparently isn't widely popular across the globe. Americans celebrate the day in many ways; most especially by giving valentine cards. The Greeting Card Association estimates that 145 million valentines are sent each year. That number does not include the ones children exchange in their classrooms (or did, pre-Covid). *Happy Valentine's Day!*

The sampling of vintage valentines pictured at the right may be familiar.

Just for fun: If you have a vintage valentine, snap a photo of it and post it on our Facebook page. Tell us about what year it's from if you can.

Carol Stream Historical Society





Already a
Member?
Thank YOU!

Questions?

Contact CSHS at
630.473.8308

Carol Stream and her father, Jay Stream, in 1984. They were visiting the Village for its 25th anniversary celebration.

Join our February 23 meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Click the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6238043544?pwd=cjRBbXNqSW1URoZORVlBd0xzOFBrdz09>

Carol Stream Historical Society

2021 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 2021: _____
I am enclosing a donation of \$ _____*

• CSHS is a Public Charity – tax deductible donation as allowed by law

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)

Thank you for your support! Connect with us today!



[Carolstreamhistorical.com](https://www.carolstreamhistorical.com)