

WINTER 2022

Let It Snow?!

TIME & PLACE

Vol.6 No. 1

Carol Stream Historical Society

REGULAR MEETINGS 2022**

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

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

****MEETINGS MAY BE HELD ON ZOOM.**

Please check the Carol Stream Historical Society Facebook page for meeting information.

- *In person meetings are held at the Historic Farmhouse, 300 W. Lies Rd. in Carol Stream*
- *Zoom meetings will be held as appropriate.*

OFFICERS 2022

MARGARET LEABRU, *PRESIDENT*

SUSAN BENJAMIN, *TREASURER*

KAREN SHREVE, *SECRETARY*

OPEN POSITION, *COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

LAURA SCHMIDT, *HISTORIAN*

BARB SIMKUS, *MEMBERSHIP*



On our cover

Carol Stream snow scene from **1967!**

Snowflakes began to fall at 5:02 a.m. on January 26 and by the time they stopped on January 27, the area was blanketed with a record breaking 23 inches of the white stuff. Where were you?

Doesn't the driveway of the Kenneally home on Silverleaf look like a fun place to sled?

(Photo courtesy of William Kenneally)

Newsletter: Carole Ellermeier

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New Year, New Beginnings

We are already well into 2022 and the Historical Society is working hard to put together a year full of events with an eye to flexibility. Covid has certainly taught us the need for that!

This summer we will launch Dairy Day at the Farmhouse. The event will pay homage to the dairying roots of the area, complete with house and garden tours. Mark Saturday, June 25, on your calendar and plan to attend.

Join us in September for our community gathering at the Farmhouse. Bring the family to enjoy the music of folk singer and musical historian, Bucky Halker. This downhome country style event will again feature the fabulous cider donuts of Gourmet Goodies.

Each month, we host regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month either on Zoom or at the Farmhouse, as the situation dictates. You are welcome. We also invite you to support us by participating in the dining fundraisers we will hold throughout the year. All restaurant information and dates will be posted on our Facebook page.

Get to know us by becoming a member. You'll find a membership form on the last page of this newsletter. We'd love to meet you.

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

We want to hear from you.



WWW.CAROLSTREAMHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

TIME & PLACE

Carol Stream Historical Society

1967, 1979, 1999, 2011 etc.

We've Been Snowed!

A winter walk in softly falling snow can be inspiring. But when that snow makes driving hazardous, closes the schools and generally makes life difficult, a winter wonderland quickly becomes a nightmare. January is often the month that brings us snow woes; though December, February and March are right behind with ice, winds, and snow.

In 1967, the greater Chicago area found itself in the midst of its largest snowfall on record. Snow began to fall early, at 5:02 a.m., on January 26 and by noon, eight inches had piled up. By 10:00 a.m. on the following day, 23 inches of accumulated white stuff was being driven by high winds resulting in 4-6 foot drifts. Everything came to a halt.

Only two days earlier, the temperature was a balmy 65 degrees. There were thunderstorms in the evening and then the weather changed rapidly. Temperatures fell and so did the snow.

In Carol Stream, longtime resident, Barbara O'Rahilly remembers snowmobiles making their way down the center of the street. They were out on a mission to help where needed. The four O'Rahilly children, ages six through eleven, were released early from their classes at St. Luke School that day. Joe Resh, a neighbor who lived close by on Seminole drove the kids to the end of their street in his truck. They walked from there to their home on Tomahawk.

Peter O'Rahilly was at work on the west side of Chicago and as the storm worsened started the difficult drive home to Carol Stream. He made it as far as Seminole before becoming stuck in the snow drifts, less than a block from home. When he arrived, Pete and his kids made their way back to the car with a sled to retrieve the groceries he had brought with him.

Not everyone had such a well-stocked pantry but they shared their provisions. Neighbors helped neighbors dig out and kids donned snowsuits to make snow forts and climb snowdrifts. Cars blocked streets as residents waited for the snow plow and tractors to push up mounds of snow and haul some of it away.



King of the Hill! Having some fun in the snow piled high on Silverleaf in 1967.

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The great snowstorm of 1967 is one of a number that have hit this part of Illinois. According to [The Cold, Hard Facts about Winter Storms](#) by Steven Hilberg and adapted by Jim Angel, state climatologist, January is the most likely month for severe winter storms. The earliest on record for our state was in October of 1925 and the latest in May of 1929. Since 1976, Illinoisans have endured three of the most severe winters of the twentieth century. The winter of 1977-1978 was the worst with a severe ice storm that affected 28 counties, followed by the 18 storms winter of 1981-1982 and then the winter of 1978-1979.



Snow was piled high in 1979. The kids didn't seem to mind though. This photo is of Thunderbird looking east, just west of Blackhawk. Note the traffic lights on Gary in the left background.

Just eleven years ago, we were pummeled with one of the most powerful winter storms in our history between January 31 and February 2, 2011. From February first through the second, 50-60 mile per hour wind gusts created 2-10 foot drifts. Visibility was near zero at times. The storm was powerful enough to generate vigorous updrafts, resulting in lightning, thunder, and small hail. Over the three day period, snowfall totaled 21.2 inches making it the third largest snowstorm on record for the city of Chicago. The storm is sometimes referred to as "Snowmageddon" or the "Groundhog's Day" blizzard.

Some local businesses, offered respite from the weather. Manhattan's American Bar and Grill on Schmale Road was one. Their Facebook post from February 2, 2011, invited folks to seek relief from cabin fever.

Chicago's Blizzard of 2011 - Manhattan's is Open For Business!!
Posted on February 2, 2011 by [Manhattan's American Bar and Grill](#) • [0 Comments](#)
Break out of your cabin fever! Come over to Manhattan's in Carol Stream!
We'll make the Blizzard of 2011 memorable. Just taste one of our juicy hamburgers, or sip on one of our specialty drinks. Meet your friends at Manhattan's for a night to reminisce about the Great Snow of 2011!
No snow ball fights, please!
Sindy



You can relive the sights and sounds of the three day storm. Just click the link. [The Groundhog's Day Blizzard of 2011](#)

TELL US YOUR STORY

Share your snow day memories and photos! Post your pictures and stories of Carol Stream Snow Experiences on our [Facebook](#) page.

SIXTY YEARS AGO—1962

Late in 1961, in his yearend report to the residents of Carol Stream, developer Jay Stream predicted that the village would one day extend as far north as Army Trail Road. He went on to present an architectural rendering for a shopping center planned for the corner of Gary and North Avenues.



On January 5, 1962, Mr. Stream resigned as the president of Durable Construction Company. On January 6, the Hawthorne Bank opened in the shopping center he had built on North Main Street in Wheaton. Stream was the new bank's president.

The Library Committee of the Carol Stream Woman's Club was preparing for the Bookmobile based in Elgin to begin making stops at the intersection of Arrowhead and Thunderbird Trails at Silverleaf Boulevard.

FIFTY YEARS AGO—1972

In March, Operation Red Ball was implemented. This initiative, initiated by an Addison, IL, Jaycee, encouraged families to place a specially designed red ball sticker in the windows of rooms where children or handicapped persons slept. The stickers would help firefighters quickly determine where those who may need special assistance might be located.

FORTY YEARS AGO—1982

In January, Village staff settled in at the new 38,000 square foot Village Hall at 500 N. Gary. Having just moved from the 7,500 square foot facility across the street (now Brust Funeral Home) the space must have seemed palatial.



Carol Stream Village Hall as it looked in 1982

Carol Stream residents were enjoying the convenience of shopping at the year old Stratford Square and the rerouted and widened Gary Avenue.

A WEE BIT ABOUT ST. PADDY'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day isn't just for those of Irish heritage, at least not in the United States. Like many of our holidays, it's a commemoration that has evolved and been Americanized.

March 17 marks the death of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century Patrick was kidnapped at sixteen and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him and Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.

As the Irish emigrated to America, the observance began to change. The first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in this country, not in Ireland. Some historians believe that parade was in a St. Augustine, Florida, Spanish colony in 1601; at the prompting of its Irish vicar. St. Patrick's Day parades were later held in Boston beginning in 1737 and in New York City in 1762. Chicago's Irish population marched down Clark Street in the city's first parade of the day in 1843. In 1962, Mayor Richard Daley started the tradition of dyeing the river green.

St. Patrick's Day is rich with tradition and celebration. From leprechaun pranks, to corned beef and cabbage, Americans join in the fun. Never mind that the "traditional" meal didn't originate in Ireland. Immigrants to the U.S. during Great Potato Famine were very poor and it is said that the women would go to the docks to buy the salt meat left over from when the ships were at sea for a penny a pound. It was all that many could afford. It would then be boiled three times to remove some of the brine. Cabbage was added to the last boil.

Where did the phrase the "luck of the Irish" originate? It's believed to be associated with the Gold Rush in the United States when a number of the most successful miners were Irish or of Irish descent.

This St. Patrick's Day, as we put on the wearin' of the green, it might be fun to remember that the original color associated with St. Patrick was blue, not green. However, the vibrant green shamrock with its layers of meanings stands as a symbol of the Emerald Isle. To some it is a holy symbol, to others a charm that brings prosperity and good luck. To the Irish military it is an emblem of patriotism. In all of its associations, the shamrock is deeply rooted in the depths of Irish culture, to the time of the ancient Celts. It continues to flourish for those who are Irish and those who wish they were.



On St. Patrick's Day and everyday, Top O the Mornin' to Ya'!



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 2022
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)



FARMHOUSE IN WINTER



A Carol Stream Picture Postcard to enjoy.