



Calumet City Historical Society Newsletter

760 Wentworth Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois
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www.calumetcityhistoricalsociety.org

September–October 2024

Vol. L • No. 5

A Note to the Members. . .

MEETING & PROGRAM

The September General Membership Meeting is Sunday, September 8, 2:00 p.m. After the meeting, we will serve a light lunch with sandwiches and desserts. Also, there will be a tribute to 9/11.

We are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the name change from the City of West Hammond to the City of Calumet City. It was renamed for the waterways (Calumet being the name of the peach pipe of the local Native Americans). A local reporter visited in 1924 and described the city as "a charming suburb just shy of Lake Michigan."

Author and historian Professor Joseph Bigott plans to give an exciting presentation about life in Calumet City in the 1920s. He left off last year with Mayor Paul Kamradt defeating Mayor Konstantine Woszczynski in 1915. Most of the presentation will discuss life under Mayor Paul Kamradt and Mayor John Jaranowski, the new city hall built, how the Calumet Memorial Park District was formed in 1922, followed by acquiring land to create a central park and building of a state-of-the-art field house (for 1924 standards), the Prohibition era, and more. This program should be a fun-filled and informative afternoon!

September 8 ~ Meeting & Program

2:00 p.m. ~

**General Membership Meeting,
followed by light lunch and refreshments,
last call for raffle tickets.**

3:00 p.m. ~

**Program "100th Anniversary of the
Name Change & Calumet City in the 1920s"
by Joseph Bigott.**

4:00 p.m. ~

Grand Raffle Drawing.

ARTS & CRAFTS AND FLEA MARKET AT THE HERITAGE CABIN

For a third year, CCHS will host this event on Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Three dozen vendors and artisans will showcase their local talent for art, crafts, food products, and various items. CCHS will have a basket raffle, a Country Store, a bake sale, a food/snack pavilion, and tours to benefit the log cabin fund.

CLEAN UP TIME CHANGED ON SEPT. 7

Due to a funeral, the time of the volunteer clean-up of the cabin grounds is changed to between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. A quick sprucing up before the event scheduled on September 21 will be helpful. Please bring your own tools. ■

**Calumet City
Historical Society Center
760 Wentworth Ave.**

**Museum Hours:
Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Hours Feb-Apr & Jun-Nov:
Tuesday 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.
2nd Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.**

**General Membership
Meetings & Program:
2nd Sundays
Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Program 3:00 p.m.**



Mayor Paul M. Kamradt
1915-1925

**SEE PAGES 2 & 3 for
IN MEMORIAM
HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOROTHY
ANNUAL RAFFLE
THORNTON DISTILLERY TOUR RECAP
CAL CITY IN 1924
CAL CITY JEOPARDY RECAP**

In Memoriam. . .



George Petrich, 93, was a long-time resident of Burnham. George was a past member of CCHS for many years and served a 3-year term as Director on the board. George provided much wit and shared his knowledge, including doing a presentation on his historical home in Burnham built ca. 1927 for Johnny Patton, the boy-Mayor of Burnham. George was an attorney for more than 60 years and had

his law office in Hegewisch. He was a long-time parishioner of Mother of God Catholic Church in Burnham, the Hegewisch Lions Club, and the Serbian Club, passionate about his nationality. The wake is Friday, September 6, at Opyt Funeral Home. The funeral Mass is Saturday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle. We send our condolences to his wife, Rosemary, and his family. A Mass Intention for Sunday, September 29, 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle church was donated by the Society in memory of George. ■

Happy Birthday Dorothy. . .

On September 1, centenarian Dorothy Polus turned 101 — our oldest member! She is our only member who witnessed the name change from West Hammond to Calumet City! She was baptized at St. Andrew the Apostle Church — an anchor of the century-old institution. Congratulations! ■

September 8 ~ Program ~ 3:00 p.m.

“100th Anniversary of the Name Change and Calumet City in the 1920s”

The Calumet City Historical Society, Inc. is an Illinois non for profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

**Mail: 760 Wentworth Ave., Calumet City, IL 60409
Email: calcityhistory@aol.com**

Board of Directors 2024

- Mike Wolski, President**
- Sue Warner, Vice President**
- Marilyn Schultz, Secretary**
- George French**
- Carol Schrum Muenich**
- Joseph Plovich**

Annual Raffle. . .

The Calumet City Historical Society Annual Raffle is well on its way. Each raffle ticket costs \$2 or 3 for \$5, and additional tickets will be available through September 8. The five cash prizes are:

- 1st place ~ \$300**
- 2nd place ~ \$200**
- 3rd place ~ \$150**
- 4th place ~ \$125**
- 5th place ~ \$100**

The drawing will be at the September General Membership Meeting & Program on September 8 at 4:00 p.m. following the program. A light luncheon is planned for that day as well. It will be an enjoyable afternoon with an excellent history program by Cal City native Joe Bigott, fellowship, and maybe several winners present.

Thank you to the sponsors and donations who supported this year’s Annual Raffle. The Primary Sponsor who covered the cost of the ticket printing is M&M Car Care Center (Owners Jason and Jen Smith were born and raised in Calumet City, and they have several locations, including Hammond, Dyer, Hobart, Merrillville, and Schererville, Ind.). The Supporting Sponsors, which cover the cost of postage, mailing, and the luncheon event, are Anonymous, Debbie Helminski, Marie Kalemba, John & Beverly Kasperek, Jerry & Lori Munda, and Marilyn Schultz. We appreciate everyone’s donations! ■

Thornton Distillery Tour Recap. . .

About a dozen members visited the Thornton Distilling Co. on August 25 and toured the oldest former brewery in Illinois. Kevin Barron of SouthCookExplore was our guide and provided an informative history about the area, the JS Bielfeldt Lager Beer company, the history of the building, and the current production floor. The highlight of the tour was going down the stairs and tunnel to the historic limestone artesian well — this natural spring provides clean water still used today in production. ■



Photo of those who went down to tour the artesian well.

Cal City History. . .

CALUMET CITY IN 1924

1924 was a big year for Calumet City. Not only was there the name change, but some of the monumental buildings constructed are still here today, most notably City Hall and the Calumet Memorial Park Field House.

CONT next column...

Cal City Jeopardy Recap. . .

The Cal City Jeopardy program was a lot of fun, with six lucky people drawn to play and win prizes. The first game featured Henrietta Wright, Patrick Owens, and Marie Kalembe, with Henrietta as the winner. The second game featured Bob Schneider, Kathy Barron, and Dolly Malciauskas, with Bob as the winner. Congratulations to Henrietta and Bob! Some thought the questions were challenging, but most of the material was from recent history stories and programs held and summarized at CCHS, and most of the time, the person said they knew it but forgot. So, if we plan another one, we will continue with some easier trivia questions. Thanks to Carrie and Cindy, who helped Mike as scorekeeper and hostess for the event, and Luis, who collected the participation tickets for those who wanted to play. ■



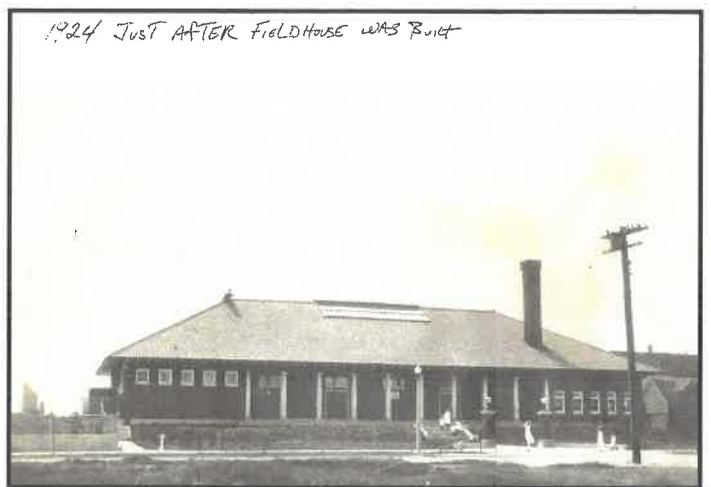
Photos courtesy of Carrie Woodall and Luis Vela.



CALUMET CITY IN 1924 CONT...



Jerry Munda provided some research about the building of the Calumet Memorial Park to become the new Central Park for Calumet City. Several homes were on the blocks between 152nd Street, 153rd Street, Wentworth Avenue, and Lincoln Avenue, including two residences on 152nd Place owned by the Munda family, Frank (Jr), Frank K. & Martha, Matilda (wid.), and John. Frank & Martha's house was moved to 443 154th Street. The other homes were moved to nearby locations. The value in material and the labor was cherished with these solidly constructed homes, even though many were frame construction, the quality materials were valued (unlike today's disposable society).



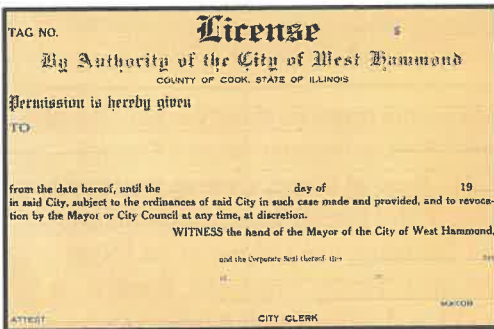
The style of architecture was an American adaptation of the classic with matt face brick to harmonize with the red Spanish tile roof. It contained locker rooms, a large auditorium, club rooms, a kitchen, and an adjacent swimming pool. ■





Calumet City Historical Society
 760 Wentworth Ave
 Calumet City IL 60409

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Newsletter
September – October 2024

Upcoming Events. . .

September 7 – Cabin grounds clean-up.
 TIME CHANGE—12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

September 8 – 2:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting.
 Program - 3:00 p.m.: “100th Anniversary of the Name Change & Calumet City in the 1920s.” by Prof. Joseph Bigott. Enjoy an afternoon with lunch, history, and our Annual Raffle. See page 1 for more details.

September 21 – Arts & Crafts and Flea Market.
 Schrum Heritage Log Cabin site – See flyer —>

October 13 – 2:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting.
 Program - 3:00 p.m.: “Chicagoland: More than the Sum of its Parts.” by Ann Keating. This talk will cover four basic types of settlements found in nineteenth-century Chicagoland: farm centers, industrial towns, residential railroad and commuter suburbs, and recreational and institutional centers—many connected to the city by the railroad.

November 10 – 2:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting.
 Program - 3:00 p.m.: “Lost East Chicago and Indiana Harbor” by author and journalist Joseph Pete. A digital presentation about his new book, which will be for sale. ■

Arts & Crafts and Flea Market at the Heritage Cabin
 presented by the
Calumet City Historical Society

Saturday, September 21, 2024
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Schrum Heritage Log Cabin next to Veterans Park
 Heritage Drive (166th) west of Burnham Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois

Support Local Artisans and Small Businesses!

Sale to include:
 Arts & Crafts
 Flea Market & Antiques
 Packaged Foods
 Historical Society Country Store
 Bake Sale / Light Refreshments
 Raffle Baskets

Tours of the historic 1836 Schrum Heritage Log Cabin will be available!

www.calumetcityhistoricalsociety.org
 www.facebook.com/CalCityHistoryMarket