

# The NOW 'n' THEN

## The official newsletter of the Romeoville Area Historical Society



August, 2020

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The only news since March is the same across the country: COVID-19. The museum opened on March 7 after our winter break and closed again the following week. Several of us have gone in to continue unpacking and organizing boxes of paper, photos, etc. Our photographer 'Walking Joe' Wojcik toured the village taking pictures of closing announcements and empty parking lots. He also built flower boxes for our entryways and a stand for the mail box.

Those of you outside of Illinois had different experiences based on your state's response to the pandemic. Here masks were recommended at first, but required at Phase 2. Essential businesses were permitted to remain open. That included grocery stores, gas stations, Walmart and Target stores, but not banks, department stores, or churches. Visitors were not allowed in hospitals and nursing homes, I was lucky that public trails were open, without requiring masks. In Romeoville, village departments closed, except police, fire and public works. Some staff continued to work behind closed doors. The library accepted returned books, but allowed no-one to borrow. Schools arranged for class work to continue on-line. A sign that appeared in yards in early April said "My teacher misses me". Many churches provided services on Zoom or other media.

In June, signs for graduates at each level, including preschool, were placed in their yards. Some included a photo and mention of sports and clubs. Valley View also made signs for the retiring teachers. Outdoor graduation ceremonies, featuring drive-up appearances with only the graduate leaving the car, were organized for eighth grade and High Schools.

Phase 3: The library began to circulate books by phone request and curb delivery. Restaurants opened for patio dining only. A few restaurants have had outdoor seating they could begin to use again. Romeoville arranged special permits to allow others to add this feature, using picnic tables under tents.

Illinois moved into Phase 4 on June 29. Masks must still be worn. The library is open to all, with limits on the number of people in each room. Other businesses opened. The governor placed occupancy limits for various types of businesses and organizations. The museums are allowed 25% of their occupancy limit, which means our museum may have 7 ½ people (of our occupancy limit of 30) at a time, including the 2 members in charge for the day. We reopened on July 18. Large gatherings are still banned.

Nancy Hackett, President

# WE ARE CURRENTLY RE-OPENED!!

Safety protocols will be in place...

- **Requirements for Visitors:**

- o Masks must be worn at all times
- o Limited Touching – Use provided gloves if touching books/items
- o Maximum of 5-6 guests
- o 6' social distancing
- o Wait outside if there are more than 5 or 6 guests in the museum
- o Guest Book – sign using your own pen, or if using ours it must be sanitized immediately

**HOURS:**

Every Saturday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

2nd & 4th Sunday 12:00pm - 3:00pm

Hope you are able to come out and visit us soon!!

## DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT YOUR 2020 CENSUS!

<https://www.2020census.gov/>



### ***WHAT IS A CENSUS AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?***

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, all residents will be asked to count everyone who lives in their home as of April 1.

Getting a complete count in 2020 requires everyone's help. Individuals, businesses, community organizations and other organizations have a role to play in making sure our community is accurately counted when the federal government determines how to distribute more than \$675 billion annually for new roads, hospitals, housing, schools and other important projects.

### ***HOW THE CENSUS BENEFITS YOUR COMMUNITY***

- Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.
- Local government officials use the census to ensure public safety and plan new schools and hospitals.
- Businesses use Census Bureau data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, and these create jobs.
- Real estate developers and city planners use the census to plan new homes and improve neighborhoods.

### ***WHO TO COUNT***

If you are filling out the census for your home, you should count everyone who is living there as of April 1, 2020. This includes anyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time.

## A RIBBON CUTTING WAS HELD TO CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION OF THE ROMEOVILLE POLICE AND K-9 MEMORIAL

By [Village of Romeoville, Community Contributor](#) Jul 17, 2020 2:00 pm CT | Updated Jul 17, 2020 3:01 pm CT

A ribbon cutting was held to celebrate the dedication of the Romeoville Police and K-9 Memorial, which sits between village hall and the police station. The structure commemorates Romeoville Police Officers who have since passed away, along with all of the department's K-9s and their handlers, both living and deceased. There are currently 10 officers listed on the memorial, along with seven dogs and their handlers.

"We are so grateful to the police officers and police dogs who currently serve and have served our community," stated Mayor John Noak. "This memorial will ensure those officers and K-9s that work to keep Romeoville safe will always be remembered."

The ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony was held with the families of the honored officers in attendance.

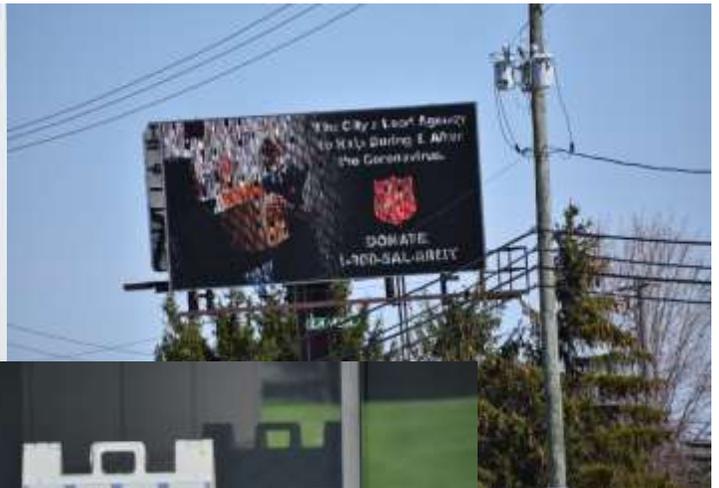


## FLOWER BOXES AND A NEW MAILBOX!

During the closure of the museum due to the pandemic, we have been busy organizing files and making improvements around our museum. Recently, one of our members, Joe Wojcik, made and installed flower beds to beautify the outside of our building. We also had a permanent mailbox installed!



# Covid 19 closures – Spring 2020





# Valley View School District 365-U Honors their local graduates!



# THANK YOU to all local retirees from Valley View School District 365-U!

**Administration Center** - Lorraine Alsobrooks, Dr. James Mitchem, Jr., Patricia Moiziszek, Richard Wright; **A. Vito Martinez Middle** - James Partacz; **Bernard J. Ward Elementary** - Valerie Marion; **Beverly Skoff Elementary** – Elise Foster, Patricia Fredricksen, Mary Beth Lipowski; **Brooks Middle** – Delores Butta, JB Fizer, Debbie Pietrzycki, James Pileggi; **Bolingbrook High** - Gerald Bardachowski, Deanna Benson, Patricia Gennardo, Lauri Mason, Edward Pettit, Maria Putnam, Eddie Saldana, Anne Stanford, Debra Taylor, Karen Theis, Pamela Way; **Hubert H. Humphrey Middle** - Thomas Frentzel, Nancy Goins, Judy Love, Mary Alice Mittelheuser, Patti Nymeyer-Schultz; **Jane Addams Middle** - Joan Michalski; **Jonas E. Salk Elementary** – Susan Brown; **John J Lukancic Middle/Bolingbrook HS** – Gerald Roma; **Jamie McGee Elementary** – Cynthia Kerchmar, Robbin O’Connell, Susan Rice, Gail Shaw; **John R Tibbott Elementary** – Victoria Baurer, Lori Lear; **Kenneth L Hermansen Elementary** – Sheila Fields, Dolores Fogarty; Mafreyette Gadson, Regina Knapp; **Oak View Elementary** – Sandra Brennab, Barbara Gindville-Avila, Susan Nosal, Robin Pycik, Ruby Williams; **Pioneer Elementary** – Carmen Killingsworth, Nancy Werr, Nancy Zider; **Pioneer Elem./Hermansen Elem.** – Myra DeMills; **Robert C Hill Elementary** – Barbara Cortina, Ronly Matthews-Goldman, Barbara Pavlich, Ruthann Perkins, Judith Rehr, Cynthia Wilkin; **Romeoville High** – Eugene Barnish, Craig Bates, Deborah Chesner, Janet Drnek, Annette England, Anna Foran, Reuban Moore, Paula Raheen, Mary Studebaker, Joan Waller; **Secondary Transition Experience Program (STEP)** – Susan Turner, Yolanda Gnatek; **Technology** – Susan Calderon, Susan Kalafut, Joyce Potempa, David Seiden; **Transportation** – Ruben DeJesus, Sarah Freeman, Ann Ingram, Ubaldo Pacheco, Sharon Patten; **Valley View Early Childhood** – Debora Ardison, Milagros Borrero, Diane Duncan, Angela Walker, Rhonda Wallace; **Woodview Elementary** – Marla Bartman



# Local Obituaries



## **Lawrence 'Larry' Walsh Sr.      03-03-1948 / 06-03-2020**

Lawrence M. "Larry" Walsh Sr., loving husband, proud father of six and caring "papa" to 20 grandchildren, passed away at his home, surrounded by his family. He was 72. Larry was born March 3, 1948, in Joliet, the son of Robert and Alice (Hess) Walsh.

He was a proud graduate of Elwood Grade School's class of 1962, Joliet East class of 1966, and Joliet Junior College class of 1968, earning his Associates Degree in Agriculture. He was awarded two honorary doctorate degrees from Lewis University and the University of St. Francis.

Larry married the love of his life, Irene Quigley, on Nov. 29, 1969. Over 50 years of marriage, they raised their family in Elwood. As a devoted farmer, Larry loved the land and raising his children on the family farm.

He not only cultivated the land, but also grew a legacy of service to his community. The lasting impact of his life's work can best be seen in his children, who like their dad, have dedicated themselves to both farming and careers of service.

Larry began his long career in public service in 1970 as a member of the Elwood School Board. In 1973, he was first elected Jackson Township Supervisor, a position he held until December 2004. He served on the Will County Board in 1974 and 1992.

He was Illinois State Senator, representing the 43rd District from April 1997 until January 2005. Larry finished his career in public service as the Will County Executive, a position he held since being elected in 2004. His mission as a public servant has always been to better the lives of people who live and work in his community. He brought a voice to disability issues, senior citizens' services, preservation and agricultural concerns; always looking to improve quality of life.

An active and dedicated member of the community, Larry served on the following boards: Will County Center for Economic Development, Will County Governmental League, Will County Farm Bureau, Joliet Chamber of Commerce, Joliet City Center Partnership, Joliet Owners and Managers Association and Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning. He was also a member of the Joliet Exchange Club, the Elwood Lions Club, Friends of Hospice, and many local Chambers of Commerce. He passionately contributed to local charities like Morning Star Mission, Make a Wish Foundation, Boy Scouts of America, and Cornerstone, among many others.

Larry was dedicated to his family, loyal to his friends and faithful to God. He was a lifelong parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. He attended daily Mass, was a Eucharistic minister, and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Anyone who knew Larry recognized his loud voice and vibrant personality in a crowd. They could find him playing cards with his many friends, traveling with his wife and dear cousins, MaryJane and Joe, or giving tractor rides to his grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his father, Robert Sr.; his mother, Alice (Hess); father-in-law, Marvin Sr.; mother-in-law, Mary (McCormick) Quigley; his brothers, Robert Jr. and Edward; brothers-in-law, Tom Baudino, Richard Quigley and Marvin Jr. "Jimmy" Quigley.

Surviving are his wife, Irene; his six children, Larry Jr. (Theresa), Frank (Micki), Matthew (Danielle), Sarah (Kyle) Horton, Shawn (Amy), and Brian (Brandy); 20 grandchildren, Katelynn, Frank Jr., Aidan, Jacob, Matthew Jr., Becca Horton, Nolan, Casie, Joshua, Nicholas, Caleb, Breanna Horton, Brayden, Brittany Horton, Liam, Brody, Charles, Griffin, Molly and Samuel.



**Beverly Ann Canaday      02-01-1939 /06-22-2020**

Beverly Ann (Strong) Canaday passed away peacefully on June 22nd, 2020 surrounded by her loving family at the age of 81.

Beverly was born on February 1st, 1939 in Mosinee, Wisconsin to loving parents Darrell and Mary Strong. She had nine siblings and a wonderful childhood. In 1957, Beverly held an office in the "Future Homemakers of America Association" at Mosinee High School.

Beverly married her sweetheart Cliff on October 10th, 1959. Shortly after, the couple moved to Romeoville, IL. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October, 2019.

Beverly is preceded in death by her parents Darrell and Mary Strong and her eight siblings, Jackie, Jeanine, Erma, Betty Lou, Mary Ann, George, Delmar and Dickie. She is survived by her devoted husband Cliff and their four children, Bob, Judy, Gary and Pam, their twelve grandchildren, Rob, Tony, Jake, Warren, Katherine, Reagan, Mitchell, Peter, Paige, Abbie, Claire, and Scott, their two great grandchildren, Myles and Hadley, and her sweet sister Myrna Burskey in Mosinee, Wisconsin.

Beverly will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, sister and friend to many.

Beverly dedicated many years with her husband, Cliff, to serving in the community of Romeoville. Many remember her for welcoming regulars at the Lovin' Oven Bakery where young adults with special needs were lovingly trained to join the work force.



**Ruth M. Durrer      07-22-1920 / 06-29-2020**

Ruth Marion Durrer, (nee Alexander), age 99, of Joliet, IL passed away Monday, June 29, 2020 at Amita Health St. Joseph Medical Center.

She was born July 22, 1920 in Lockport, to the late Healy and Helen (Baker) Alexander, and was raised on Endwood Farm, the family homestead, which was located at the corner of then Route 66 and Romeo Road. She was a graduate of Taylor School and Lockport Township High School, graduating with the Class of 1940. Ruth went on to work in Ohio and Colorado during WWII, meeting her future husband, Gilbert B. Durrer in Longmont, CO.

Ruth was a loving and devoted wife and mother. She was an avid Cubs fan, and, for many years, enjoyed stamp collecting. She is survived by her children; daughter, Jeanne Durrer of Joliet; and son, William G. (Sandra Deutsch) of El Paso, TX; and numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. Also surviving is her cat, "Patches".

In addition to her beloved husband, Gilbert (1988), she is preceded in death by three brothers, James, John, and Hayes Alexander; four sisters, Mary Nelson, Margaret Eaton, Elizabeth "Betty" Troxel, and Caroline "Kay" Emery; four nieces, and one great nephew.

The family would like to express their gratitude to their loving and kind caregiver, Linda Delost.



**Lawrence (Larry) McCulloch**

**04-12-1933 / 03-01-2020**

Lawrence (Larry) McCulloch was born in Pennsylvania on April 12, 1933 and passed away on March 01, 2020. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley (nee Marquardt) McCulloch and loving children Ted and Kathy.

In 1957 Larry was teaching English in a college in Pakistan and Shirley was a RN in a hospital 500 miles away. In the summer of 1957, they met in Pakistan while riding bicycles, side by side, down a steep mountain road while discussing literature they both loved.

Larry returned to the States in 1959 and they wrote daily letters until Shirley returned in 1960, when they were married in her church in Madison, Wisconsin. They immediately moved to New York where Larry was an Assistant Pastor in a Garden City church for four years.

After that, in 1964, Larry was called to Pastor a church in Illinois. First Presbyterian Church of DuPage, which he pastored until retirement in 1998. They then moved to Westminster Gardens in Duarte, California.

## ADVERTISEMENTS RAN IN THE AUGUST 1964 BEACON

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Please use this form to become a member of the Romeoville Area Historical Society. We are in our new museum located at 14 Belmont Avenue, Romeoville, Illinois. It is named after the late James Sczepaniak, a long-time faculty member of Valley View School, Lockport West High School, and Romeoville High School. He was also a member and contributor to the Romeoville Area Historical Society.

The present cost of membership is \$20.00 for one year or \$35.00 for two years which includes free access to the museum and our published newsletters. **Please mail your check and membership form to Romeoville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 7814, Romeoville, IL 60446.**

**Please print.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

DUES ENCLOSED: [ ] 1 year \$20 or [ ] 2 years \$35. DONATION (OPTIONAL)\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*TAX DEDUCTIBLE\*\***

**\*\* Since we are a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for more details.**

Sponsored by: \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to add a brief reminiscence about your time while living in the Romeoville, Illinois, area please print legibly below or attach your typed statement. Your comments may be shared with others in future issues of *NOW 'n' THEN* or in future publications printed by the Romeoville Area Historical Society.

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Romeoville Area Historical Society  
14 Belmont Road  
Romeoville, IL 60446



## ***We are re-opened!!***

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- **Requirements for Visitors:**
  - o Masks must be worn at all times
  - o Limited Touching – Use provided gloves if touching books/items
  - o Maximum of 5-6 guests
  - o 6' social distancing
  - o Wait outside if there are more than 5 or 6 guests in the museum
  - o Guest Book – sign using your own pen, or if using ours it must be sanitized immediately

### **Upcoming exhibits:**

- o July – August – Scouts
- o September – October – Early Settlers
- o November – December – Veterans, Christmas & Toys

### **HOURS:**

**Every Saturday 1:00pm - 4:00pm**

**2nd & 4th Sunday 12:00pm - 3:00pm**

***Hope you are able to come out and visit us soon!!***