



# NORWOOD PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Headquartered in the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House

## Upcoming Events

### Building & Museum Exhibits Now Open

Saturdays 12pm-4pm

*Appointments must be made  
online in advance.*

### Museum Store Now Open

Saturdays 12pm-4pm

*Browse our items [online](#)*

### Landscaping Work Days

Sat. Aug. 15th @ 10am

Sat. Sept. 12th @ 10am

*Contact Diane to get involved!*

### Giant Yard Sale

Sat. Aug. 22nd @ 8am-3pm

*Contact Shirley to donate or  
volunteer*

### Craft, Crochet & Knit Night

Fri. August 28th @ 6:30pm

### Game Night

CANCELLED

## 2020 General Meetings

3rd Wednesdays @ 7pm

Sept. 16th, Oct. 21st.

### Newsletter Editor:

Janette Spenny

[janette.Spenny@gmail.com](mailto:janette.Spenny@gmail.com)

September newsletter

submissions due by Wednesday,  
August 19th.

## Giant Yard Sale ~ Sat., Aug. 22nd, 8am-3pm

Wander through tables of wonderful treasures: housewares, antiques, books, toys, games, holiday items and more - all at bargain prices! All proceeds support The Norwood Park Historical Society which is home to Chicago's oldest house.



**Admission:** Free for members, \$2.00 for non-members.

**COVID-19 Precautions:** All attendees and volunteers must wear masks while on the grounds and in the house. Admission is limited to 50 people on the grounds and 20 people in the house at any given time.

**Donation Deadline is August 17th.** No clothing/shoes, bulky furniture, mattresses, TVs, computer equipment or large appliances. A drop-off appointment is required.

**Volunteers** are needed and there are many different opportunities to help - such as setting up tables and tents, sorting and unpacking boxes, and organizing the tables. We will also need cashiers, people to count the numbers coming in the gate, admission collection people and a crew for clean-up.

**Contact Shirley Rustemeyer to donate or volunteer:**

**773-774-2838** or [rustyrailroad1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rustyrailroad1@sbcglobal.net)

## Reminder: Update Your Contact Info!

Please keep us informed when you move or change your email address. Updates can be sent to:  
[membership@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org)

## Welcome to our New President!



The Norwood Park Historical Society introduced its new president, Amara Rozgus, on July 1, 2020. Amara and her husband moved to Norwood Park in 2000, and she joined the Society as a volunteer in 2002. She served on the

Board of Directors for two three-year terms, from 2005 to 2007 and again from 2009 to 2012. She also served as Vice President from 2007 to 2009. In 2008, she worked with a team to launch Stems and Steins (formerly Wine Fest), an annual fundraiser held each September.

In the new role as president, Amara is learning from her predecessor, Judy Rustemeyer, and from board members and volunteers to help move the society forward. Amara works for a media and technology company, where she manages the team that provides content for engineers. Her many years in publishing and media have prepared her to think analytically and work on tight timelines. Her education includes degrees in Animal Sciences and Journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. When not working (from home at the moment), Amara and her husband love to travel. They've bounced around the world, enjoying big cities and outdoor adventures. Before being grounded by COVID-19, Amara traveled at least once a month. She has presented at conferences around the world, tacking on a few days of travel after work trips.

If you have ideas or questions, contact Amara [president@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:president@norwoodparkhistoricalsociety.org)

## Welcome New Members!

**Ryan Fanucchi**

*Welcome Back:*

**Jeraldene Bloom Stephenson**

## Museum Update

Our museum officially re-opened on July 25th under current Covid-19 guidelines and we had a nice turnout from the community. Tours and exhibits, including our newest exhibit "The History of Sports and Recreation in Norwood Park" are now available. Please schedule an appointment in advance on [our website](#).



*Left: Bob Kelly, board member and creator of our new exhibit, gets a thorough temperature check.*

*Below: Laura Banash, Shopkeeper, displays collectors plates.*

*Photos by Art Krumrey*



## Museum Store

The Museum Store was fully operational reopening day, with credit cards accepted for the first time. The store opened at 10am with collectors plates, NSCH limited edition prints, 1907 and 1949 maps of Norwood Park, golf balls, t-shirts and signed books by local authors. Visitors browsed the store before and after their tours purchasing a variety of items.

*~ Laura Banash, Museum Store Shopkeeper*

## Building & Grounds Update

We would like to thank Paul Benson for taking care of our grounds for many years. His efforts on the lawn, trees, driveway, fencing and sprinkler system has kept our property in top-notch shape. Paul and his wife, Carolyn, are moving out of the Norwood Park community and heading for the Denver area where they have purchased a home near the Rocky Mountains. We wish Paul and Carolyn all the best of luck in their new location, we will certainly miss them here at the NPHS. Paul has passed the baton to Diane Spenny who has already hit the ground running. She has named the southwest area of our property the "Woodland Garden" and has formed a landscape team to clean it up in order to make it attractive and inviting to our members and guests. Some work has already been done but there is much more to come.

Our barn-building team, headed by master carpenter, Tim Suwinski, is nearing completion. Once electricity is installed by Ardmor Electric, it will be ready for use.

*~ Tom Spenny, Building Chair*



*Picture above & right: Tim Suwinski & Charlie Taylor*



*The Barn-Building team worked tirelessly, in the blazing sun, M-F, 7:30am-12pm for the month of July. After laying down the 1st floor ceiling/2nd floor flooring, they assembled 26 rafters and sheeted the roof. John Cebulak was hired to shingle the roof. The barn is almost complete, with only minor construction and electric work remaining.*



*Construction photos by Janette Spenny, drone photo by Art Krumrey.*

## Landscape Renewal

On Saturday July 17th, our new landscaping team met to work on restoring what was the "Oak Tree Garden", now to be called the "Woodland Garden".



*Pictured (Left to Right): Collin Roche, Carolyn Benson, Judy Rustemeyer, Carmine Fantasia, Tom Spenny & Noreen Alpert*

Thank you to all of our volunteer team members who put in a lot of hard work on this hot and steamy day. There were 7 volunteers that put their hearts and backs into this labor of love. We decided which plants were weeds and which were savers, then pulled, dug and eliminated the weeds. We marked the volunteer trees for removal, and shoveled dirt that had accumulated off the walk. We cleaned out the beds, but there is much more to be done. Noreen identified plant and tree volunteers with tape. Carolyn pruned the much overgrown trumpet vine on the arbor. Carmine and Diane worked on the weeds in the beds. Tom and Collin cut down and trimmed bushes and volunteer trees. Tom weed-whacked the fountain area of weeds. Judy worked on the north side garden, pulling weeds and overgrowth, filling several garbage carts, and she did it in the HOT SUN! We all enjoyed discovering plants that we did not know and looking them up on plant websites. The path can now be walked without having to avoid things reaching out and grabbing you. This serene sanctuary is located south of the house across the driveway. There are beautiful Oak trees, which makes it a shady, peaceful spot to wander as well as sit and enjoy. Please come enjoy the peaceful garden.

We have more group work days scheduled for Saturdays, August 15th & September 12th @ 10:00am. We will work and also continue discussing landscape ideas and plans for the Woodland Garden. The more input we have, the better our plan will become, because, "two or more heads are better than one".

Please contact me to join our landscaping team.

~ Diane Spenny, Grounds Chair 773-631-5644 or [dispen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dispen@sbcglobal.net)

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*Photos by Diane Spenny*

## Volunteering Opportunities

Each year brings a mixture of challenges and opportunities. Part of our mission is to discover, collect, preserve and promote the history of Norwood Park.

In order to do this, we need to interact with community members both past and present to discover, interview, collect stories, and artifacts, a task which our Curator, Susan Kroll, and the Museum Committee undertakes. Among their many tasks, volunteers examine the contents of the boxes of historical items stored in our archives. The artifacts are acquired and catalogued with an identifying number, donor information and description and history. Photos are scanned. Collections, as important as they are, need to be properly identified, documented and stored in order to be exhibited and tell their stories. In addition, docents greet visitors to the house every Saturday. We are currently looking for several volunteers to become regular docents and assistants.

Our wonderful staff of volunteers believe in our mission and put in countless hours to make it a reality. With that being said, we could do a lot more with additional help. I challenge you to think of the opportunities to help us with our mission.

If you are interested in helping, we ask that you call 773-631-4633 and leave a message for the person who chairs the committee.

Museum Committee ~ Susan Kroll

Technology Committee ~ Arthur Krumrey

Marketing Committee ~ Stan Banash

Constitution and Bylaws ~ Stan Banash

Building Committee ~ Tom Spenny

Grounds Committee ~ Diane Spenny

Kitchen Committee for General Meetings  
~ Shirley Rustemeyer

Yard Sale ~ Robert and Shirley Rustemeyer

Indoor Sale ~ Tom Spenny

Craft Show ~ Cindy Wrobel & Debby Scrimgeour

Cafe ~ Judy & Shirley Rustemeyer

Birthday Party ~ Judy Rustemeyer

Membership Committee ~ Denise Waechter

House Tour ~ Looking for a chairperson

Stems and Steins ~ Looking for a chairperson

You will find there are many ways to help as much as you would like. Just give us a call and let us know you're interested. ~ *Judy Rustemeyer, Treasurer*

### NPHS Officers:

President - Amara Rozgus

Vice President - Art Krumrey

Recording Secretary - Judy Sirvio

Treasurer - Judy Rustemeyer

Corresponding Secretary - Laura Banash

### NPHS board of Directors (3-Year Terms):

Class of 2021 - Harris Miller, Keith Engelman & Deborah Stein

Class of 2022 - Carmine Fantasia, John Kwasinski & Cindy Wrobel

Class of 2023 - Susan Bragg, Bob Kelly & Ryan Ruehle

### Board Update

Art Krumrey's election to the Vice President position left a vacancy in the Board of Directors Class of 2021. The Directors voted to appoint Harris Miller to the vacancy.