



Pandemic Stories

LIVING HISTORY

March 13, 2020 is a day most McClure students won't forget...they were told that school was closing and e-learning — a word we're all too familiar with now — would begin the following Monday. Illinois was put on a statewide stay-at-home order to try to control the spread of COVID-19. What started out as something new and kind of fun (no "going" to school), turned into an end of year filled with cancellations and missed experiences. The WSHS asked McClure students to share how the pandemic was affecting them in their day-to-day life. Below are excerpts from those contributions, sent to us in May.

"Quarantine was really hard to adjust to. Not seeing teachers, friends, family, staying home, not traveling, it was all so crazy. And still is. By now I am used to the process of E-learning but I don't think I just speak for myself when I say there is nothing that can replace the time we spend in class with our Bulldog peers and teachers. I hope next year things can go back to normal, whatever the new normal may be. I miss McClure so much and can't wait to go back next year." *Kennedy, 7th grade*

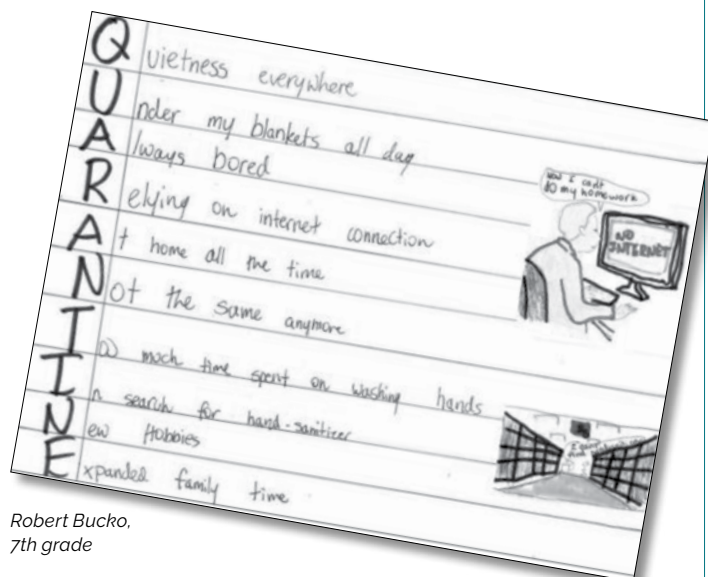
"The days don't really have structure anymore. After I finish my schoolwork, I mostly just facetime friends, go on my phone, go outside to tumble and walk my dog. We have to wear masks to walk into a store, which is a strange thing to get used to. Everything feels very surreal. I want people to remember to be thankful for their daily lives and appreciate all healthcare and front line workers because they are the ones who are helping the most and risking their lives for others." *Sadie, 8th grade*

"I was having fun the first weeks into quarantine but as the weeks turned to months, I became more and more bored. I wished to go back to school, something I thought I would never say, but I just really wanted to see my friends again. I started to slack off and I would take lots of breaks in between school work. I thought that this would be fun but it wasn't. I missed all of the fun activities we would have done at school." *Will, 7th grade*

"The thing I want most people to remember from this pandemic is that by working together as a community, we can get through anything. No matter what you do individually, it will never compare as to what you do with the help of your neighbors. In order to fight off this virus, we had to work together and we still are. It is going to take a lot of patience, but in the end we will look back on this for we had lived through history in the making." *Lily, 8th grade*

"Although the pandemic has been awful, there are good things to come out of it. Almost every weekend, car parades drive past people's houses to celebrate one's birthday. Chalk messages appear on sidewalks with messages reading, 'We got this!' or 'Thank you, essential workers!' Whenever someone walks by, everyone always waves, even if you have no idea who they are. There are stories of people coming together to make the best of our situation and spreading happiness." *Maddie, 7th grade*

"Due to this everlasting pandemic, I have had to make many changes in my daily life. A few of the big ones would be how I can't see my friends often/at all, We are doing e-learning instead of just being at school, and also probably having to adjust to being stuck inside. It makes for a very non eventful lifestyle, but surprisingly relaxing too." *Kevin, 8th grade*



Robert Bucko,
7th grade

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD

Continuing Our Mission

2020 has been an extraordinary time in the United States, including here in Western Springs. Throughout this year, the Historical Society has worked to find new ways to fulfill our mission:

- ✂ In the spring we launched our Pandemic Stories initiative to capture this moment in time for future generations.
- ✂ We launched a new website www.westernspringshistory.org to make our village's history more accessible to people near and far.
- ✂ We held our biennial Preservation Awards honoring homes or businesses in town that have worked to preserve or restore their older home, add a compatible addition, or build a new home that is in character with the older homes in the village.
- ✂ Through money raised by generous donors to a GoFundMe campaign, we were able to restore an 1881 map of the village.

Our Tower Museum remains closed at this time, but we are already planning for the celebration of its 50th anniversary as a museum sometime in 2021. Keep an eye out on our website for updates or follow us on Facebook.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our Members during this unprecedented time.

Be safe, be well & best wishes,

The Board of the Western Springs Historical Society

Mark Tobin, Mary Rintz, Mike Medema, Lori Mitchell, Pete Caris, Chris Cone, Jim Havlat, Susan Morrow, Patsy Shutack, Sue Stepaniak, Leslie Walters

PRESERVING TRADITIONS

Thanks to all who submitted entries to our biennial Historic Preservation Awards! The awards, which were first granted in 1996, recognize owners for the thoughtful restoration or preservation of their residence (or business). Houses must be at least 50 years old for the Preservation and Compatible Addition categories, while the Good Neighbor category is for a structure of any age, either residential or commercial, that honors the scale and historic style of Western Springs. The Historical Society appreciates the efforts by all homeowners to maintain their homes; a resident's commitment to preserving their home or adding to it in a period appropriate manner contributes to the charm and historic character of our village.

This year's award winners were announced in October and each will receive a plaque to display. All of the winners were nominated in the spring of 2020 and were reviewed by a panel of judges familiar with historical preservation, construction and architecture. Awards were given in four categories: Preservation/Exterior Rehabilitation, Preservation/Conservation, Compatible Addition, and Good Neighbor.

Congratulations to our 2020 Preservation Award winners!

Preservation/Exterior Rehabilitation



4336 Grand Ave., The Kinsella Family

Preservation/Conservation



4209 Grove Family, The Burns Family

Compatible Addition



4060 Woodland Ave., The Winegar Family

Good Neighbor



4614 Harvey Ave., The Pauli Family

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely 100% on the generosity of our members. Your financial support through membership dues, donations, fundraising events and memorial bequests helps us to continue our mission of preserving and presenting Western Springs' history. Thank you for supporting the Western Springs Historical Society!

OUR STORIED PAST

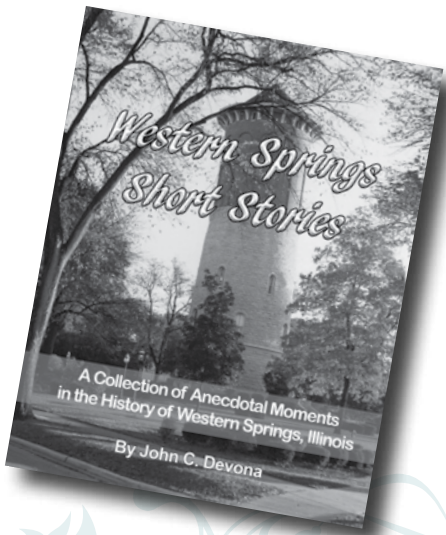
Did you know that Western Springs once had its own zoo and a “Baby of the Month” Club? Or that we’ve had not one, but three planes crash in our quaint town? You can learn all about these fun facts and more in Western Springs Historical Society’s book, “Western Springs Short Stories” by John Devona.

John, a resident of Western Springs since 1972, has been a volunteer for the WSHS since 2011. He’s served as a Trustee, the Archives Manager, Newsletter Editor and museum docent, among other roles. He also wrote a weekly story for the WSHS website called “Blast from the Past”. At the suggestion from some fellow residents, John decided to collect and update the stories and put them into one book for residents to enjoy.

The book’s 514 pages feature 220 short stories and many photos. While not chronological, this collection describes our village’s early years, right up to the present. It is written in an entertaining,

easy-to-read style, with each story requiring only a few minutes to enjoy. If you appreciate history or just want to learn more about our wonderful village, this is the book for you! It would also make a great holiday gift for any resident past or present, young or old.

Books may be purchased at Village True Value, Clever Girl, Casey’s and The Uptown Shoppe—and each store will have a select amount of autographed copies. Or you can purchase the book by filling out and returning the form below. The book is \$25, with profits supporting the Western Springs Historical Society!



BOOK ORDER FORM

Western Springs Short Stories by John Devona

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone Email

	Unit Price	Quantity	Total
Western Springs Short Stories Book	\$25.00		
Shipping/Handling (per book)	\$6.00		
		Amount Due	\$

Please make checks payable to “Western Springs Historical Society” and include “Short Stories” in the memo line. Order form and check may be mailed to: Western Springs Historical Society, PO Box 139, Western Springs, IL 60558. Prices include sales tax.

THIRTEEN PARKS, THIRTEEN OPPORTUNITIES TO BE GRATEFUL

This Thanksgiving, the Park Board and the WSHS join together to gratefully acknowledge the residents of Western Springs, their families, and loved ones since passed.

You may have seen the many (more than 300) memorial plaques, trees, and benches that families have dedicated "In Loving Memory" throughout all of the thirteen Western Springs Parks, since their inception in 1923.

The Park Board and the Western Springs Historical Society are delighted to announce the making of the Western Springs Living Memorial Photo & Book Collage, 1st Edition to assure the preservation of our history, and that those who have made a significant contribution to life in Western Springs will always be remembered.

This is an opportunity for all Western Springs families to get out in the parks (before it snows) and find either your family memorial (if you did one) or a bench, plaque, or tree that recognizes one of our residents, living or passed. Find it, take a photo, note the location, and send us your story and/or what the memorial inscribes. We'll assemble an appropriate "Memorial Wall" of park photos and stories that will be displayed for all to see in the Tower Museum. A Book of Honor will also be created.



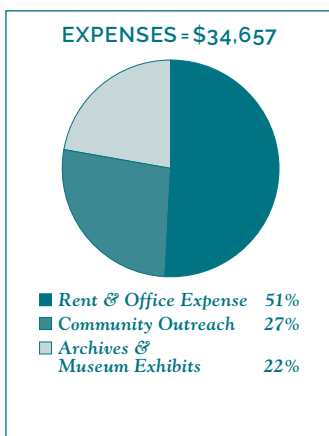
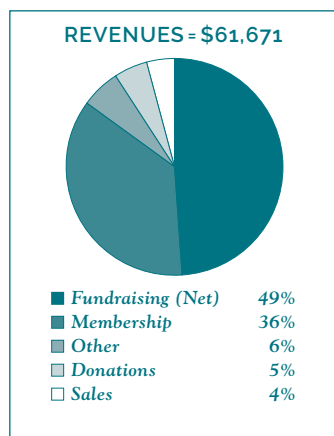
L to R: Ridgewood Park; Spring Rock - Peggy and Harvey Hensel Memorial; Forest Hills - Corey Nelson Memorial; Springdale Park - Pergola Honoring Kelli Joy O'Laughlin

Future annual Thanksgiving collection periods should build a significant memorial collage and an opportunity to tell stories of 'Thanksgiving' gratefulness every year in Western Springs. Please send your photos and a short write-up to Barb Kartzmark (bkartzmark@wsprings.com) or Sue Sernak (lillitoo@aol.com). We'll create a living Google document for all to see, and update as new memories are shared.

Thank you, Western Springs residents and families!

2018-2019

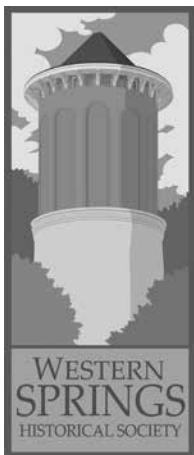
Combined Financial Report



The Western Springs Historical Society is an independent all-volunteer, non-profit organization that does not receive any federal, state or local government funding.

As such, it relies on the generous support of concerned residents like you, combined with careful management of its financial resources, to ensure that the Society remains a viable organization, able to plan and implement programs and services for the community.

The pie charts shown at left summarize the revenue and expenses for the WSHS. Since the biennial House Walk represents a major source of income, some of which is carried over to cover expenses in the following year, these charts include data for both 2018 and 2019 (the most recent two year period for which complete data are available).



**WESTERN SPRINGS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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WesternSpringsHistory.org

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**

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