

Highwood Historical Society

MAKING HISTORY EVERYDAY

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Letter from the President

Thank you to all friends and family who attended our May 20th Annual Meeting at the Highwood Bocce Club. Delicious food—Wonderful evening – Great program. We appreciated hearing from Tom “Toad” Garrity from Toadstool’s Pub, Lenny Innocenzi, Buffo’s, Dan Pierantoni, Al and Jane’s. and Bill Pigati, Del Rio. The stories and history they shared were informative as well as entertaining. HHS is pleased to now welcome Rick Sachen as a new Board member. Amy Strege, while no longer a board member, will continue to help HHS as a member of our PR committee and continue as an administrator of our Facebook page.

The HHS has been busy this June and July hosting a booth at the Wednesday Evening Market. In spite of all the Highwood road construction the market has had record crowds. We’ve enjoyed visiting with many friends and sold memberships as well as books, keychains and postcards.

August continues to be exciting. A Reunion with Mary Mazzetta will be held on Sunday, Aug 9th at St. James (see page 3 for details). Mary was a former dance instructor during the 1940’s 50’s and 60’s. She touched the lives of many young women and men. If anyone has photos of those fun practices or recitals, please send them to the historical society for our archives. It is important that we preserve the history of this special community.

Looking ahead: Save early December for a holiday HHS dinner. We are now in the planning stages, but will have more information soon. HHS will also be working with the Celebrate Highwood committee to plan the annual Tree Lighting event that will take place on Saturday, November 28th.

Thank you. We are always happy to hear from you. Check out our website, send us emails with questions or concerns, like us on Facebook, attend our HHS Board meetings that are held the second Thursday of each month at the Highwood City Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. You are the keys to our success.

Teta Minuzzo, President

Please remember to send in your dues for 2015-2016.
We rely on these funds to support our programs, pay for storage of our archives, and publish our newsletters and information for members.

The Highwood Historical Society continues to seek office space. Any help you can offer us will be gratefully accepted. We have many interesting artifacts and photos that are now in storage that need a "new home" so they can be viewed. We are a 501 (c) 3, not for profit organization that allows potential tax savings to individuals or businesses that will provide us space or donations of materials and/or funds.

Recent Acquisitions:

- Old City Hall architectural plans. Special thanks to Mayor Charles Pecaro and Business Manager Scott Coren.
- St. James School uniforms, banners, letterhead, and ephemera. Special thanks to Mrs. Mary Vitulli, Principal, and Mrs. Julie Leske, Secretary.

St. James Students Salute Highwood's Fallen Heroes By Cynthia Krol

Every Veterans Day students at St. James School honored America's veterans with a prayer service celebrating the courage, duty, and sacrifice of our Armed Forces and their families. At the end of the service, an honor roll of Highwood's casualties was read and a minute of silence was enacted. We practiced the correct pronunciation of the names (yes, not everyone in Highwood reads Italian), and I would stress how important it was to announce the names correctly. But then it struck me . . . Why am I focusing on the name, and not the young man? How would my students care about a monument, a plaque, or a list, if they did not understand for whom it was created?

My U.S. History class took a wild turn and we began our Fallen Heroes Project. We have 22 Casualties of War from Highwood and I had 24 students. Each student was randomly assigned one Hero and I had two trusty editors. Students began researching ancestry.com census and military records. Some met with surviving relatives, others interviewed friends and acquaintances. Our dearly departed Bruno Bertucci was an immeasurable asset. In most cases, he was able to give each student a short biography or a name of someone to contact. Bruno was scheduled to visit the class in April but in his own words "caught a cold" and sadly never recovered.

Members of the Highwood Historical Society assisted students with newspaper searches and biographical

information. Nancy Webster of the Highland Park Historical Society helped traverse the HP Library resources and HP Historical records. I think the adults experienced just as much excitement as the students while searching through old HPHS *Shoreline* news and Deerfield Township Yearbooks.

The students began to make connections and the Heroes were no longer names on a plaque. They were boys who walked the very same halls of St. James or played at the Rec Center. They lived in houses that the students passed every day on their way to school. They won awards, played musical instruments, and tried out for high school sports. They had girlfriends, wives, and children. Their lives ended early and they were missed. The student essays were compiled into a small booklet and distributed at this year's Memorial Day service. Three examples follow:

S/SGT. Norman Bell

Staff Sergeant Norman Bell was born on December 11, 1901 at Fort Custer, Michigan. Fort Custer was a Michigan Army Training Facility used for training people of all branches of the military. He lived at Fort Custer for most of his life and eventually relocated to Fort Sheridan. According to United States census records, between 1930 and 1940, he married, had three children and moved to Highwood. His wife was named Anna and they lived at 326 North Avenue with her mother, Catherine Studney, her sister, Mildred Studney, and their children, Joseph, Norman, and Mildred.

Norman Bell served in World War II as a Staff Sergeant. Sadly, on September 2, 1945 (the last day of the war) he was killed. At the time of his death, Norman was forty-four years old.

Staff Sergeant Norman Bell understood military life. He was raised on a military base and he served in the army in peacetime and during war. I think I can understand how he may have felt. I am a military child and have to move around many times. Like Norman Bell, my dad goes on deployment a lot, so I understand how his children felt too. I would like to conclude with showing my appreciation for how much Norman Bell has done for my country and for myself. Thank You, Norman Bell!

- Bailey C.

PVT. Fred Caldarelli

Co.1, 30th Infantry. PVT Fred Caldarelli served in World War Two. He was very young when he died, only twenty years old. He died in action in Anzio, Italy on January 29, 1944. He is buried with his family in Memorial Park Cemetery in Skokie, Il. For his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

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Highwood Historical Society

proudly presents

Last Chance to Dance *with* *Mary Mazzetta*

Sunday, August 9th
1:00—4:00 pm
St. James Parish Hall
Refreshments Served
Call 847-682-9039 to R.S.V.P.

Help us pay tribute to Mary Mazzetta, Highwood's legendary Dance Instructor. Who could forget those Saturday morning classes . . . shuffle, shuffle, step, step? And the endless rehearsals for the spine-tingling, full-costume recitals at the Highwood Rec Center where our parents, grandparents, and friends sat in awe. Join us in celebrating with Mary the remarkable impact she had on a generation (or two or three) of Highwood children. Please pass the word on to your friends and families. Join the event on the Highwood Historical Society Facebook page, call 847-682-9039, or email highwoodhistory@gmail.com to R.S.V.P.



Fred was born in Highwood in 1923. He had six brothers and four sisters for a total of ten siblings. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Caldarelli, and the huge family lived at 240 Jeffrey Place. Before Fred went to war he worked as a cab driver for Bartlett Cab Co.

After he died, his family started a fundraiser for the Highwood Hospital that wasn't built yet. His family collected \$237.00. The hospital is now the nursing home at 50 Pleasant Ave. In conclusion, I would like to give a huge thank you to Mr. Caldarelli and Mrs. Caldarelli for being a big part of Fred's life. And a humongous thank you to Fred for protecting and serving the U.S.

- Tyger G.

CPL. Francis F. Novello

Corporal Francis Novello was born on May 22, 1925 to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Novello. Together as a family they lived in Highwood, Illinois. Frank Novello attended Oak Terrace School and then went on to Highland Park High School. A few years after graduating Frank enlisted into the Army at the age of 21, and boy would he make his country proud.

When Vietnam had a civil war, North vs. South, Frank volunteered. The Vietnam War was the second longest war in American History after the war in Afghanistan. There were 58,000 American deaths in the war with Frank being one of them. Frank was ready to try and help these South Vietnamese people fight the Communists. Serving as an advisor to South Vietnamese troops on a search-and-destroy mission through the jungle he was hit by enemy fire while planning to establish a base. "Sgt. Novello continued to assist and encourage his men until he was mortally wounded by Communist fire," the Army reported.

"He was an advisor on combat operation when he engaged a hostile force..." That was part of a telegram message from the Army received by his parents stating how he had died. Frank was married to, Catherine, and together they had had three children. His wife went to Washington D.C. to receive the Purple Heart Medal in his honor. Frank was also awarded the Infantryman Badge, MACV Patch, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Francis F. Novello is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

I'd like to thank Frank Novello, for the amazing things he did for his country. Serving in three of the most significant bloody wars of the world, being, WW2, Korea, and then giving his life for America in Vietnam. According to Bruno Bertucci, Frank worked as a milkman in civilian life. He was sort of like Superman, answering the call to serve his country when it needed him most. He's a fallen hero, I would like to follow his example of what he did for our freedom.

- Gabe S.

In memory of the men from Highwood who gave their lives in the wars of our nation.
May God bless them!

We lost several friends of the HHS recently.

- Adolph "Bum" Baracani – long time member and HHS Patron and benefactor- June 16, 2015
- Bruno Bertucci – lifelong resident of Highwood and resident "historian." – July 2, 2015
- Gloria Linari Bentley – opera star and voice teacher – July 9, 2015

Their obituaries can be found at <http://symondsfuneralhome.com/category/seguin-symonds-funeral-home>. We send our condolences to their friends and families.

**Stop By and Visit our Booth
at the
Evening Market
Every Wednesday,
Everts Park**



We are still collecting information on the Swedish history of Highwood. If you have any information, photos, or artifacts you wish to share please contact us, tel: 847-682-9039.

To our friends on Highwood, North and Pleasant Avenues . . . hang in there, the construction end is near!



Early City Hall: "Cost, schmest! They guarantee right on the box we'll get at least one hundred years out of these pipes!"

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8th ANNUAL TERRIFIC TOMATO CONTEST—Wednesday, Aug. 19th

The summer growing season is well underway and the Highwood Historical Society is thrilled to hold its 8th Annual Terrific Tomato Contest. All residents of Highwood and all members of the Historical Society are eligible to submit their tomato to win the title of Most Terrific Tomato in Town and corresponding prize of \$100.00. Tomatoes will be weighed, calibrated, judged, and displayed at the City of Highwood's GarlicFest on Wednesday, August 19th. Garlic AND tomatoes, does it get any better?

Join us as we celebrate the "art" of gardening in Highwood and add information to our ongoing Highwood Homes Project. We invite all gardeners of any age, with any experience, to knock-out last year's reigning champion, Omar Chuc. It only takes one.

Want to enter the contest? Sign-up in person on Wednesdays at any Evening Market in Everts Park, via email: highwoodhistory@gmail.com, or call 847-682-9039.

Want to volunteer? Join the pick-up team on Tuesday night, August 18th. Meet the contestants and see their amazing gardens.



Just want to see how our incredible gardeners overcame the last six weeks of cold and rain? Then come and support the Highwood Historical Society as we crown this year's Most Terrific Tomato!