



MEDIA RELEASE: September 8, 2021
PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

CONTACT:

Patrice Roche, Marketing & Communications Specialist

E: patrice.roche@elmhurst.org

P: 630-833-1457 or 630-530-6874

Vintage Baseball Game Returns to Elmhurst University on September 26

ELMHURST, Ill. – Summon the “strickers” up to “the dish” and let the “kranks” hiss and boo! The Vintage Baseball Game is back in Elmhurst for an exciting competition on **September 26, 2021** with a rousing game played by the wildly different rules of 1858. Fans (known as “kranks”) will learn to cheer and jeer in fine Victorian fashion as two Elmhurst clubs play for their favor.

This year, a special Town vs. Gown game will pit a team of locals from the City of Elmhurst against Elmhurst University players. The 2021 Vintage Baseball Game is co-presented by Elmhurst University, the Elmhurst History Museum, and the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation as part of the celebration of Elmhurst University’s 150th anniversary.

The game is open to the public and takes place on the Elmhurst University Mall at 190 S. Prospect Ave. (in front of Hammerschmidt Chapel) on Sunday, September 26 starting at 1:00 p.m. Admission is free, and fans are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, picnics and refreshments to enjoy during the game. The first 100 fans will enjoy free hot dogs and Italian ice. Free parking is available in the Elmhurst University parking lots.

Mayor Scott Levin will serve as captain of the City of Elmhurst team, and President Troy VanAken will take the helm of the Elmhurst University team. The Elmhurst History Museum’s executive director, Dave Oberg, will lead the activities in the role of “barrister” (an umpire by today’s standards) and share the rules and slang with the audience. The Elmhurst History Museum is opening a new exhibit, “An Ever-

Widening Circle: Elmhurst University at 150,” on September 24 in addition to co-hosting the Vintage Baseball Game as part of the year-long sesquicentennial celebration.

“We’re very excited to take an active role in sharing Elmhurst University’s history through our new exhibit and by bringing the Vintage Baseball Game back to town,” said Oberg. “Vintage baseball brings the history of America’s favorite pastime to life in an engaging and immersive way,” said Oberg. “It honors the traditions and history of a sport that everyone knows so well and allows players and fans to learn about the origins of the game. With this year’s ‘Town vs. Gown’ twist pitting local players against the university, there is no doubt that it will be a great time.”

Join in the celebration of history, baseball and the legacy of Elmhurst University on Sunday, September 26 at the Vintage Baseball Game. For more information, visit the Elmhurst History Museum’s web site at www.elmhursthhistory.org or call (630) 833-1457.

The Elmhurst History Museum is a department of the City of Elmhurst supported by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization. The museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. General admission is free. For more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit our web site at www.elmhursthhistory.org.

SIDEBAR: Examples of 19th-century Baseball Slang

Vintage Baseball Games are filled with their own unique vocabulary, including cheers and jeers from the stands and players. Here is a guide for some of the terms that can be heard in typical vintage baseball competitions:

Apple/Onion/Horsehide/Pill: The ball

Artist: Proficient ball player

Blooper/Banjo: A weak fly ball

Boodler: An ungentlemanly maneuver

Bowler/Feeder/Hurler/Thrower/Twirler: Pitcher

Club Nine: Ball team

Kranks/Bugs/Rooters/Throng: Fans

Kranklets/Charming Deadheads: Female fans

Daisy cutter/Ant killer/Worm burner/Bug crusher: Sharp ground ball

Dandy: Cool Dead or Hand

Dead!: Player is out!

Dew drop/Foul tick: Foul ball

Dish: Home plate

Drop a duck egg on 'em: Hold them scoreless for the inning

Glad hand: Clapping

Go back to Hackensack!: An especially vicious taunt

Hit the apple out of the orchard/Lay the willow on that onion: Hit a home run!

Hurl that hoghide/Sling that orb/Whip that onion: Said to encourage the pitcher

Huzzah!: Hooray!

Lobster: A villainous or hated player

Muff/Duff: Error

Peach!: Said for an excellent play

Run, you icewagon!: Encouragement for a slow moving player

Show a little ginger!: Play harder!

Wasn't that a corker?: Said of a surprising play

###