

Tombstone history

Graveside performances bring past to life at Elgin Cemetery Walk



BY LIZ MARSTON 2012

Linda Rock as Anne W. Martin at the 2012 Elgin Cemetery Walk. Rock portrays artist Jane Peterson this year.

The Historic Cemetery Walk in Elgin takes the phrase “bringing the past to life” to a whole new level. The event, sponsored by the Elgin Area Historical Society and Museum and celebrating its 27th year, uses volunteers to tell the stories of some of the residents of Bluff City Cemetery.

“The actors do a portrayal at the grave site of the person and (become) that person for the afternoon,” said Laura Strowd, who has run the event for the last seven years along with her husband, Steve.

Strowd said attendees will hear about several residents, including artist Jane Peterson (1876-1965), who became internationally known for her watercolors; Anne W. Martin (1826-1906), who studied and practiced medicine; and August Scheele (1859-1940), who founded Elgin’s largest food store in the late 1800s.

“Bluff City Cemetery was incorporated in 1889, and it’s quite large, with rolling hills and historic monuments,” Strowd said. “We always do (the walk) on the last Sunday of September, and we had over 600 people come through it last year. It gives people a real flavor for a lot of the citizens who came before all of us.”

Ninety-minute tours depart every 15 minutes from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. 945 Bluff City Blvd., Elgin. \$10; \$8 museum members; free ages 14 and younger. Only lightning would cancel event, organizers say. elginhistoriccemeterywalk.org.

— Jenniffer Weigel, Tribune Newspapers
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Get Out

A few ways to make Sunday the best day of your week

Antiques abound

At the Randolph Street Market Festival you can find art, fashion, music, artisan food vendors and antique treasures all in one place. This European-style, indoor-outdoor market in the West Loop includes more than 200 vendors, plus food trucks, kids activities and more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. \$10; \$5 with student ID. 1340 W. Washington Blvd. randolphstreetmarket.com.

Walk in her shoes

Guys, put on some high-heeled shoes and walk to raise awareness about violence against women at the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, sponsored by the Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault. Heels will be provided to men who don’t bring a pair, and spectators can wear red and black to show support. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 5. (Walk starts at 11 a.m.) \$25. Proceeds benefit Northwest CASA, which helps victims of sexual assault and their loved ones. Centennial Park, Church Street and Sheridan Road, Evanston. nwcasa.org.



GARFIELD FARM

Fun on the farm

Take a drive to Harvest Days on the historic grounds of Garfield Farm to experience farm life in the 1800s. Whether you’re touring the 1846 Brick Inn or learning how to care for the animals, such as chickens, sheep and oxen, there’s plenty to enjoy for the whole family. 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 5. \$6; \$3 ages 12 and under. Garfield Road, north of Illinois Route 38, Campton Hills. 630-584-8485 or garfieldfarm.org.

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Have a fun event that falls on a Sunday? Email it to sunday@tribune.com.

Fest celebrates Ravenswood’s arts and industry

Artist Laura Matzen creates large-scale oil paintings of birds, trees and buildings silhouetted against the sky at sunrise or sunset — all inspired by her photographs of Chicago.

So she took a similar approach when she decided to enter the poster competition for this year’s Ravenswood ArtWalk Tour of Arts and Industry, working from a photo she shot along the Ravenswood corridor at dusk.

Her oil painting (pictured), depicting the iconic Ravenswood clock tower at 1770 W. Berneau Ave., was



BY LAURA MATZEN

named the winning entry for the art fair, now in its 13th year.

Dozens of artists, including Matzen, will exhibit their works

under tents and in their studios, but also in open houses at local businesses to show how the buildings in this former industrial corridor have been re-purposed.

Also worth a visit is the Detour (on North Ravenswood Avenue between Berneau and Belle Plaine avenues), which was launched last year.

It offers a place to relax, enjoy craft beers from area breweries and food truck fare, listen to live music and take part in family activities.

“It’s my neighborhood, and I like being a part of everything going

on here,” Matzen says. “It used to be just an art walk, but now they’ve built up the Detour with bands and breweries and food, and you can also discover the different businesses, so it’s also a social event.”

11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday (Detour open till 9 p.m.); 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 5. North Ravenswood Avenue between Waveland and Leland avenues. \$5 donation. 773-975-2088. ravenswoodartwalk.org.

— Nancy Maes,
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