



Warrenville Historical Society  
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January 9, 2026

City of Warrenville  
28W701 Stafford Place  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Dear City Council Members,

The Historical Society would like to extend our gratitude to the City of Warrenville for your grant to allow the Historical Society to contract for a part-time Director/Curator. Your support has allowed our Museum to grow over the past sixteen years and in these times with sustained increased costs, this grant has been instrumental in allowing us to maintain our important work of engagement with the community around local history. By making the investment in our community's rich heritage, you have also helped us to expand our work of preserving Warrenville's past and work to make sure Warrenville history is accessible to all.

As we look forward to another year of expanded programming and activation in Leone Schmidt Heritage Park with the new addition of Warrenville Mercantile, we respectfully request that you continue your support of our mission and work with a renewed grant of \$25,000.

Over the past fifteen and a half years, the Historical Society has contracted with Sara Phalen, an academically trained museum professional with a museum studies graduate degree, law degree and masters in non-profit management. She, with the support of our board of directors, have continued museum operations, developing exhibitions and educational programs, community outreach, interactions with other museums, organizations, schools and individuals in the pursuit of historic education, accumulation of historic items, coordination of programs with various other organizations and local school districts, accessioning of Museum artifacts, and receiving and responding to requests for information and historical documentation. Over the past eight years, Sara has also taken part in inclusivity and accessibility work in the larger museum field and is honored to serve on the City's IDEC Commission as well. In 2024, Sara was appointed by Governor Pritzker to the Illinois America 250 Commission and is helping to represent Warrenville and other small museums in the state's commemoration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States which will take place this year.

We could not accomplish all we have done without your past support. Thank you. The Historical Society is also grateful for all the encouragement and collaboration the City of Warrenville has provided over the years. We look forward to our continued partnership as we continue to activate Warrenville history for all. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Melissa Simmons, President