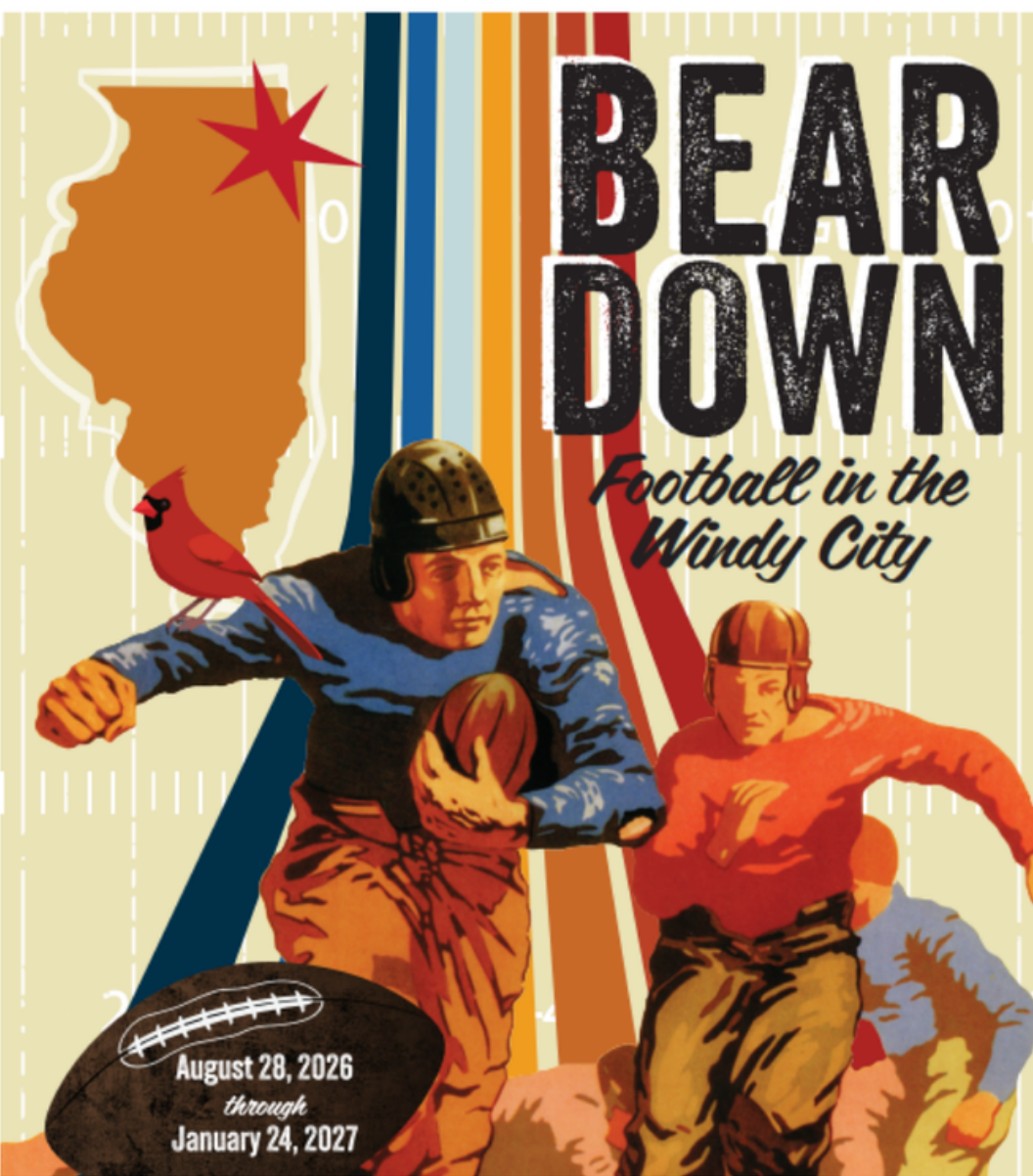




ELMHURST
HISTORY
MUSEUM

Calendar of Events:

August 2026 - January 2027

NEW EXHIBIT

BEAR DOWN

*Football in the
Windy City*

ON VIEW

AUG. 28, 2026 - JAN. 24, 2027

For more than 140 years, Chicago football has been deeply woven into the fabric of our sports culture. From neighborhood prairie fields to iconic venues such as Soldier Field, Comiskey Park, and university stadiums across the region, football has left an enduring mark on the city and its communities. Chicagoland has been home to legendary teams, coaches, and players who helped shape the sport, from the storied Cardinals to the Monsters of the Midway – the Chicago Bears. Generations of fans have followed these teams through victories and defeats, witnessing firsthand the evolution of the sport and the individuals who defined it, making Chicago one of football's most influential cities.

Numerous short-lived professional and semi-professional clubs also competed throughout the Midwest and the league, adding to the area's football legacy. These historic teams also played a pivotal role in the development of the National Football League, thanks in large part to local sports icon George Halas.

Bear Down: Football in the Windy City takes visitors on an unforgettable journey through the history of football in Chicagoland. Guests will discover championship triumphs, fierce rivalries, unforgettable moments, and the enduring legacy left on sports history and pop culture by these legendary teams. Visitors will encounter a diverse collection of artifacts, uniforms, photographs, and game footage that captures the spirit and legacy of windy city football. Interactive touchscreen experiences and family-friendly programming further immerse guests in the story, creating engaging opportunities for fans of all ages to connect with the city's storied football past and vibrant present.

EXHIBIT SPONSORED BY:



ELMHURST HERITAGE
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of Elmhurst

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RAMELLO
& DURKIN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

AUGUST

SPECIAL EVENT

Vintage Baseball Game

Sunday, August 30, 2 p.m.

**Location: Elmhurst University Mall;
190 S. Prospect Ave. (behind the Frick Center)**

Cost: FREE, no reservations required



Join the Elmhurst University staff and alumni and City of Elmhurst elected officials, commissioners and staff as they battle for victory in this year's "Town vs. Gown" old-fashioned baseball game, played by the wildly different rules of 1858. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and get ready to cheer, jeer, and enjoy an afternoon of old-school family fun. Rain or shine. Huzzah!

SEPTEMBER

BUS TOUR

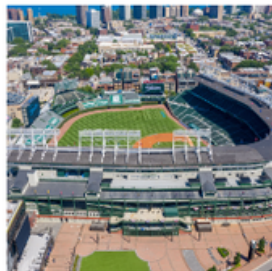
Wrigley Field VIP Tour

Monday, September 21, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(arrive by 9 a.m. for check-in)

Location: Elmhurst History Museum Education Center

Cost: \$70 for Members, \$80 Non-Members



Tickets will go on sale online only August 19 at 9 a.m. Join us for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Chicago Bears' first home stadium: Wrigley Field. From 1921 to 1971, the Bears played their home games on this historic field, sharing the stadium with the Chicago Cubs. Guests will enjoy a 90-minute guided tour featuring the seating bowl, bleachers, the iconic outfield ivy, the press box, the visiting clubhouse, the Cubs dugout, and on-field access. After the tour, attendees will have the opportunity to browse the gift shop and enjoy lunch at one of the many iconic restaurants surrounding the stadium. **Attendees are responsible for the cost of their own lunch. Advance registration is required, and space is limited.**

CONCERTS

Fourth Fridays Summer Concert Series

Scan for
more details!



Join us for the final free Fourth Fridays Concerts of the season on the museum's outdoor stage! BYO seating. Coolers welcome. No pets, smoking, or vaping. All ages welcome!

BLOOZE BROTHERS BAND

AUG. 28 · 7 P.M.

LOS GALLOS

SEPT. 25 · 6 P.M.

The 2026 concert series is made possible in part by the Dr. Virginia R. Stewart Memorial Fund & is sponsored by: Feze Roofing, Elmhurst Living Magazine, and Dollars & Sense for Non-Profit Success.

OCTOBER

SPECIAL EVENT: QUARRY TOUR



Saturday, October 3

Time: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Meet at EHM Education Center

Cost: \$20/person

Tickets will go on sale online only September 1 at 9 a.m. Take a behind the scenes tour of the Elmhurst Quarry Flood Control Facility, a site generally closed to the public. Visit various areas, including private quarry platforms, and see how DuPage County Stormwater Management operates the facility to reduce area flooding. Tours depart from Elmhurst History Museum via bus every 30 minutes from 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., and last approximately two hours. **Participants must be prepared to traverse uneven terrain and board and exit a school bus several times during their experience.** If you have any accessibility needs or questions, please contact us by Friday, September 5. Ages 10 and up, no exceptions.



TALK & MEET N' GREET

Dan Hampton

Chicago Bears Alumni & Pro Football Hall of Famer

Friday, October 23; 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Elmhurst University, Frick Center, Founders Hall; 190 S. Prospect Avenue

Cost: \$45/person (lecture only), \$65/VIP ticket

Tickets will go on sale online only August 19 at 9 a.m. Join the Elmhurst History Museum for a special evening with Dan Hampton—former Chicago Bear, five-time All-Pro, four-time Pro Bowl selection, and Pro Football Hall of Famer. Hampton will share stories from his legendary career with the Chicago Bears, the unforgettable 1985 Super Bowl season, and the dedication it takes to “Dare to Be a Champion.” Guests who purchase VIP tickets will enjoy an exclusive meet-and-greet opportunity, including time for photographs or autographs. **Advance registration is required, and space is limited.**



NOVEMBER

ADULT LECTURE

Foundations of the Chicago Bears

Sunday, November 15; 1 - 2 p.m.

Location: Elmhurst History Museum Education Center

Cost: FREE to Members, \$8 Non-Members



Join us as author Christopher Serb recounts a fascinating chapter of military and sports history. The Chicago Bears have been part of the fabric of the city since they moved here in 1921 and adopted their current name in 1922, but their story and their founding is dependent on three distinct but interrelated precursor teams. Author Chris Serb has studied and written about all three, and at the Elmhurst History Museum he will explore each of them: The Great Lake Naval Training Station Bluejackets of 1918, the Hammond (Ind.) All-Stars of 1919, and the Decatur Staleys of 1919-1920. "Papa Bear" George Halas played for all three teams, one of eight Hall of Fame players on these teams who would help shape the character of the early NFL.

DECEMBER

ADULT LECTURE

Bears vs. Cardinals: The NFL's Oldest Rivalry

Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m.

Location: Elmhurst History Museum Education Center

Cost: FREE to Members, \$8 Non-Members



Join author and podcast host Joe Ziemba as he deep-dives into the storied history of the Chicago Bears and Chicago Cardinals, including the on-field brawls, cunning backroom deals, financial woes, and the 40-year rivalry that endured while both teams were in Chicago. Figures like Al Capone, Red Grange, Jim Thorpe, and Bronko Nagurski make appearances in the lore of two old adversaries whose uneasy alliance helped ensure the survival of the fledgling NFL.



REGISTER ONLINE!

To learn more and/or to purchase tickets for upcoming programs & events, please scan the QR code or visit elmhursthistory.org.

JANUARY



FILM SCREENING

Leatherheads

Friday, January 8, 2027, 2 p.m.

Location: Elmhurst Public Library; 125 S. Prospect Ave.

Cost: FREE, no reservations required

Visit the Elmhurst Public Library for a screening of the 2008 sports romantic comedy film, *Leatherheads*, directed by and starring George Clooney. Set in 1925, the movie explores the chaotic, early days of professional American football when the sport was struggling for national legitimacy, played by a ragtag group of men in a loose league on the verge of financial collapse.

ONGOING

EXHIBIT GALLERY TALK



Bear Down: Football in the Windy City

Sundays: November 8 & January 17; 12 p.m.

Location: Elmhurst History Museum

Cost: FREE to Members, \$8 Non-Members



Join Curator of Exhibits, Sarah Cox, for an exclusive guided tour of the museum's new exhibit, *Bear Down: Football in the Windy City*! Explore more than 140 years of local football, from its start on neighborhood fields to iconic venues like Soldier Field and stadiums across the region. Sarah will share fascinating stories of our beloved teams, fierce rivalries, championship moments, and the larger-than-life figures who helped make Chicago one of football's most influential cities.

Don't forget to visit our Museum Shop after exploring our latest exhibit! From Chicagoland football memorabilia and merch, to Elmhurst-themed clothing, books, and toys, we have a wide range of souvenirs and gifts available for purchase!

ELMHURST HERITAGE FOUNDATION



ELMHURST CRAFT BEER FEST

Saturday, September 19

Time: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. (1 p.m. early entry)

Location: Elmhurst History Museum

**Cost: \$45 General Admission, \$55 Early Access at 1 p.m.,
\$20 Designated Driver (\$55 and \$70 after 9/11)**

More information: elmhurstcraftbeerfest.com

**Tickets ON
SALE now!**



Raise a glass for the return of the 11th Annual Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest, held on the beautiful grounds of the Elmhurst History Museum! Enjoy craft beer, cider, mead, and seltzers from over 50 renowned brewers, many of which are from Elmhurst and the surrounding areas, live music, and more. Hosted by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising arm for the Elmhurst History Museum, the fest benefits educational programs and exhibits for the museum and Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse.



SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

This year, the City of Elmhurst has celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the founding of America, with the Elmhurst History Museum playing a major role in supporting the city's efforts. As we celebrate the past, we look to the future of many great exhibits coming to the Elmhurst History Museum. This fall, the museum will feature *Bear Down: Football in the Windy City*, a look at how football has been deeply rooted in our sports culture for the past 140 years. These initiatives are only possible because of the support our donors have provided the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Elmhurst History Museum. With your support today, we will be able to provide the necessary funds to allow the Elmhurst History Museum to continue to host world-class exhibits and be a gem in the western suburbs.

**ELMHURST HERITAGE
FOUNDATION**

Learn more about supporting the
Elmhurst Heritage Foundation:
elmhurstheritagefoundation.org

