

FLASHBACK

THE HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2025

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WEB: www.hammondhistoricalsociety.org EMAIL: contact@hammondhistoricalsociety.org

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: 19th CENTURY LIFE THROUGH ARTIFACTS



Brothers Michael and Mario Bovino present "19th Century Life Through Artifacts."

"19th Century Life Through Artifacts"
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 2025
At 10 a.m. in the Community Room of
the Hammond Public Library.

The brothers are modern-day "diggers"
who will explain how they unearth remnants
of the past in the Chicago area.

The brothers will have numerous artifacts
on display during the program. Their talk
will feature a detailed explanation of how
they recover these artifacts and some background
information on displayed items. The goal is to
give people of today a look into what life
was like in the Region from 1860-1890.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Several year-end programs have now
been finalized. Saturday, September
6th at 10 a.m. **Speaker Series:** Larry
McClellan and Tom Shepherd **Topic:**
The Little Calumet River Underground
Railroad Project.

Rounding out the year's programs—
Saturday, November 1st, 2025 at 10
a.m. **Speaker Series:** Author and NWI
Times reporter Joseph Pete. **Topic:**
101 Things to do in Gary and North-
west Indiana Before You Die.

More details will be published later.

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The Hammond Historical Society — President, Tom Novak — Vice President, Keri Tharp —
Secretary, William J. Uzdانovich — Treasurer, Brian Poland — Officers serving for 2024-2025



Our Next Scheduled
Meeting — — —

**Saturday 10 a.m.
February 1st, 2025**

In The Community Room of
The Hammond Public
Library 564 State Street
Downtown Hammond, IN

**Featured Program—
"19th CENTURY LIFE
THROUGH ARTIFACTS"**

**With Guest Speakers—
Brothers—
Michael and Mario Bovino**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

A Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. prior to the general meeting. All officers and board members are asked to attend the board meeting.

Editor in Chief — William J. Uzdانovich
FLASHBACK is published monthly from
September thru May—Eight times a year
except in December, June, July & August

The Hammond Historical Society
is a 501 (C) (3) organization, all contributions
are tax deductible under section 170 of the
United States Internal Revenue Service
— Founded 1960

— FLASHBACK is a publication of
The Hammond Historical Society Incorporated
564 State Street, Hammond, IN 46320-1532
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OTHER BUSINESS / OTHER NEWS



COMMITTEE NOTES

Below are notes from our first group of committee meetings that were held on Saturday, December 14th, 2024.

Membership Committee Update

Membership committee had its kickoff meeting on December 14, 2024 at 9 am. We pooled and discussed various ideas.

Update the New Membership form.

Would like to give it a refresh. Also, There are two forms that are currently used. Would like to combine into one.

Change membership options.

Discussions ensued regarding membership levels. Discussed adding a student membership as well as incorporating a household membership.

Purging membership for nonpayment of dues.

Develop a standard process of purging members for nonpayment. This process would probably include a couple of notifications prior to revocation of membership.

Boosting Membership

We discussed various ways to boost membership. We can target people via an email campaign. Also, we would like to seek more business memberships. Discussions evolve marketing their business, perhaps even prepare some history of their business for the newsletter.

We would like to start having a table at events and fairs. We will start coordinating.

Events Committee Update

Events committee had its kickoff meeting on December 14, 2024 at 11 am. We pooled and discussed various ideas.

Fundraising Ideas

Discussed various ideas, such as a second cemetery tour in the future. Also discussed hosting a walking tour. We

would like to make a Jean Shephard themed tour for Christmas season, perhaps borrow a bus from municipal resources. We are considering a Pullman National Monument field trip. We are considering a Hesselville tour as well as a Woodmar tour. Bring back the Oak Hill Cemetery book for sale. We can elicit Corporate Sponsors to offset costs.

Promotion ideas

Discussing having a table at events, including Cruise Night. We would like to make a special display for our books at the Friends of the Library bookstore.

Other

We will be landscaping the 1919 Steelworkers memorial. Will try to get supplies and labor donated.

Program Committee Update

The Program committee had its kickoff meeting on December 14, 2024 at 10:00 am. We pooled and discussed various ideas.

There is interest in developing a program for kids to take to the schools, i.e., use their assembly hall to present during the school day. We would like to put the monthly program calendar in schools and get kids more involved. We would like to create a little booklet to hand out for kids at various events. When we have a table at events, to have it available for the children. Finally, we discussed starting a formal historical society network to communicate with regularly.

Publications and Publicity

The Publications and Publicity committee had its kickoff meeting on December 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm. We pooled and discussed various ideas.

Publications

We discussed developing a survey of what kind of books members may want to see. We are working to reprint the Hammond Braves baseball book.

The group discussed writing books that have many pictures and calling it a "coffee table book?" We also talked about authoring other books, such as a Jean Shephard book that discusses the locations of that are named in the book, as well as other topics.

There is interest in reprinting "The Hammond Historical Society presents the Famous 1904 Edition of the Hammond Daily News" as well as reprinting "Pages from the Past – Perspectives of the Calumet Region: Selections from the minutes and newsletters of the Hammond Historical Society, 1960-1980." This was first published by the Hammond Historical Society in 1991. We are considering seeking other existing books we may be able to add to our repository, such as books on Hammond/Calumet Area history that have expired copyrights due to their age.

Publicity

We discussed making a Youtube channel so we can upload the videos. We will work to track down and organize the existing video files we have of presentations and events. A future project is to work on digital transfer of old film & slides, VHS tapes, DVDs, etc.

We would like to ensure more photos, old newspaper ads, and videos are posted on our social media, to engage more viewers.

LOOKING BACK — CLARK HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION AND REMODELING



Clark High School auditorium remodeling
December 26, 1974
Hutton and Hutton, Architects & Engineers



George Rogers Clark High School
addition September 10, 1938.
WPA photo

Photos from the Hammond Historical Society Photo Archives



ST. MARGARET'S HOSPITAL DEMOLITION

The demolition of Hammond's St. Margaret's Hospital is a sad ending of its 120 year history in the city. The hospital was formerly located at 5454 Hohman Avenue in Downtown Hammond. Throughout the many years since its founding in 1898, the hospital grew in size by expansion and adding buildings. The 226-bed hospital took up several blocks and its many buildings covered approximately 800,000 square feet of floor space.

The Franciscan Alliance Board of Trustees allocated \$15 million in 2021 for the demolition of the hospital. The hospital had originally planned to shrink the size of the facility to just 80,000 square feet, or about ten per cent of the 800,000 square feet original size. The hospital would then operate with just 10 inpatient beds along with an emergency department. However, that plan was later scuttled and the hospital was completely shuttered on December 31, 2022.

Demolition of the hospital first started by gutting the hospital's many floors and buildings. This process was ongoing for many months. Once this was completed, work began on the demolition of the structures themselves. Several of the newer buildings will not be razed. The hospital's parking garage will remain and given to the city. The former dialysis/wound center building will be going to Purdue University Northwest. The Medical Arts Building and its parking lot were gifted to TCA Health, and the hospital's laundry facility and its parking lot were sold to Mickey's Linen.

Shown here are several photographs of the expansive hospital complex buildings undergoing various stages of demolition.

Photos courtesy of Peggy Hyde





THE HAMMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
564 STATE STREET HAMMOND IN 46320-1532

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PULLMAN STANDARD — HAMMOND CAR WHEEL PLANT

Originally known as the New York Car Wheel Company the facility opened in September of 1922. It was located just south of the Pullman Standard Company on Columbia Avenue. The plant was built at a cost of \$300,000. However, during its construction the plant size was increased fifty per cent from the original size and specifications.

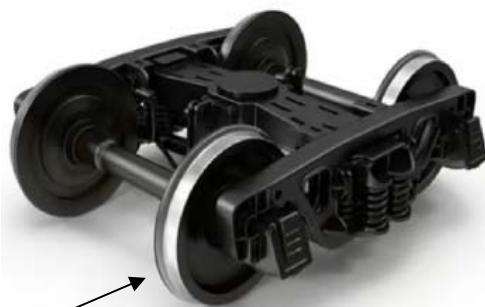
In 1926, the plant was purchased by the Southern Car Wheel Company of Pittsburgh, PA. The Southern Car Wheel Company was controlled by the Mellon family of Pittsburgh, who also controlled the Standard Steel Car Company at the time.

During the mid part of September 1933 the facility was one of Hammond's busiest industries, producing around 1,000 wheels a week and giving employment to 96 men with a 35-hour work week. This was due to many railroads increasing their orders for equipment.

A part of the property at the corner of Columbia and 165th Street was sold to the

Hammond Water Department in 1937 for the construction of a 1.5 million gallon elevated storage tank. A 1 1/2 acre site was sold at the rate of \$2,600 an acre.

In 1961 the plant was sold once again and the building was being readied for demolition and the property being cleared for redevelopment.



Sample of a cast iron railroad car wheel



An aerial shot taken in 1961 shows the Pullman Standard Car Wheel plant as it is being readied for demolition. The sign in the lower right-hand corner says "Manufacturers of chilled car wheels". The building fronted Columbia Avenue and Southeastern Avenues. Source: NWI Times via Newspapers.com. Photo: HHS Photographic Archives.