

# Oswegoland Heritage Association, park district partner to offer upcoming history activities in Oswego

The Oswegoland Heritage Association and the Oswegoland Park District are cooperating to present two upcoming history activities, one on-line and the other one a historical walking tour.

A free on-line history program celebrating the centennial of women being granted the right to vote by ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, sponsored by the heritage association in cooperation with the park district, is set for Saturday, Sept. 12.

Beginning at 1:30 p.m., Jeanne Schultz Angel from the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars program will present "Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage in Illinois."



Before 1920, women were denied the vote in the majority of elections in the United States, although they were gradually given the right to vote here in Illinois in certain local elections. The struggle for enfranchisement began with the birth of our nation and was strategized differently in our local, state, and federal elections.

Despite what people today believe to be a straightforward goal, the path to women's suffrage was infused with sexism and racism and triggered a fear of feminism whose roots are still seen today. While wealthy women advocates played a vital role in the suffrage movement, they were not the only ones seeking enfranchisement. From attorney Ellen Martin, the first woman to vote in Illinois, to Ida B. Wells, a woman who did not let racism quiet her voice, women's suffrage was a battle hard-fought by a diverse group of activists in Illinois.

Don't miss this free Illinois Humanities Road Scholars program presented virtually on the Zoom platform. Registration is required by calling the museum at 630-554-2999 or the park district at 630-554-1010 or by going to the museum web site, [www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org) and clicking on "Virtual program event." After registering, participants will receive a unique Zoom link to access the program.

Then, weather permitting, on Sunday, Sept. 13, as well on Sunday, Oct. 11, the heritage association and the park district will partner to offer one-hour Oswego history walks starting at 2 p.m. each afternoon. The walks will travel the same route both months.

Participants, led by Oswego history enthusiasts Ted Clauser and Linda Dean, will step into a journey through time on this guided walking tour of Oswego. History will come alive as visitors pass by homes, businesses, buildings and other sites that have contributed to Oswego's long history and heritage.

Registration fee is \$5, and space is limited. Pre-registration is required by calling 630-554-2999, 630-554-1010, or visiting the web pages of the Little White School Museum, [www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org), or the Oswegoland Park District, [www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org](http://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org).

Participants should be able to comfortably walk for approximately one hour. The event begins and ends at the Little White School Museum, 72 Polk Street, Oswego. Face coverings and social distancing measures will be practiced for this walk, which will be held outdoors through Oswego's most historic neighborhoods.

Both the on-line and walking tour programs are aimed at those aged 16 and older. For more information, call 630-554-2999 or visit [www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org).

**PHOTO** Downtown Oswego as it looked about 1920 when women were granted the right to vote by ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. On Saturday, Sept. 12, Oswego's Little White School Museum will host a free virtual Zoom presentation, "Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage in Illinois." Registration is required. Then on Sunday, Sept. 13, and again on Sunday, Oct. 11, the museum will host a one-hour historic walking tour of Oswego's most historic sites, including the downtown business district. Registration is required for the tour; cost is \$5. For more information or to register for either program, both of which are aimed at those age 16 and older, call 630-554-2999 or visit the museum web page at [www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org](http://www.littlewhiteschoolmuseum.org). The museum is a joint project of the Oswegoland Heritage Association and the Oswegoland Park District.