



**BOLINGBROOK  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

In 1993, the Village Board created the Historic Preservation Commission (BHPC) to preserve historic sites, archive documents and artifacts and educate the public about the history of this area and the development of Bolingbrook. The commission has 20 members.

## PROJECTS

### Boardman Cemetery

#### Paxson Drive north of Royce Road

In 1832, Harry Boardman set aside one acre of his land for a cemetery. February 22, 1846, he deeded the



cemetery to Will County. In 1972 DuPage Township took title to the property. With help from BHPC, the Township cleared debris and overgrowth, restored headstones and installed a new fence and gate.

### Bolingbrook Historical Museum

#### 444 E. Briarcliff Road

In 2000, the village of Bolingbrook bought the 1940s Schrader Family farmhouse. It became Bolingbrook's first Village Hall. In 2015, the house was opened as a museum. The jail cells are still in the basement. Artifacts and displays fill every room.

### Living Farm: Essington Road

The Village bought the land and has moved several buildings to the property including a Sears Craftsman kit barn, two farmhouses and the Bolingbrook Round Barn.

**Historic Markers** at various locations

**Display cases** in the Village Hall lobby.



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## EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

**Memorial Day:** Wreath laying ceremony at Boardman Cemetery

**June, Village Picnic:** Booth with information and displays

**September, Pathway Parade:** Float

**Halloween:** Boardman Cemetery living history program. People assume the role of some of those buried in the cemetery, telling about their lives. Candy and activities for children.

### Bolingbrook Historical Museum



444 E. Briarcliff

Open the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Children's Story Time  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

#### How You can help:

Donate or loan the Museum artifacts, printed and handwritten materials or oral information you have on the pioneer families of DuPage and Wheatland Townships and the early days of Bolingbrook. To contact us, see below.

**The Bolingbrook history book** was published in 2015 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary. Copies can be purchased through BHPC.

**Come to a meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month, 7:15 p.m., Village Hall Boardroom. Share your experiences, contribute ideas or volunteer to help.

[www.BolingbrookHistPresComm.org](http://www.BolingbrookHistPresComm.org)

[bbhistpresscomm@yahoo.com](mailto:bbhistpresscomm@yahoo.com)

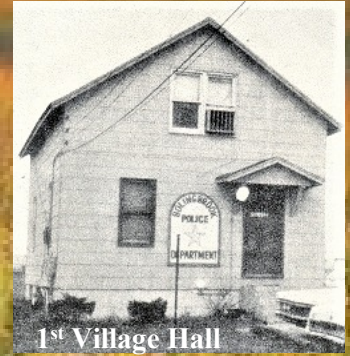
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Facebook: Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission

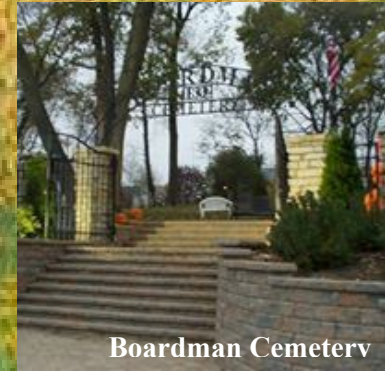


**Bolingbrook, Illinois**  
a place to grow

# Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission



1<sup>st</sup> Village Hall



Boardman Cemetery



Old Chicago

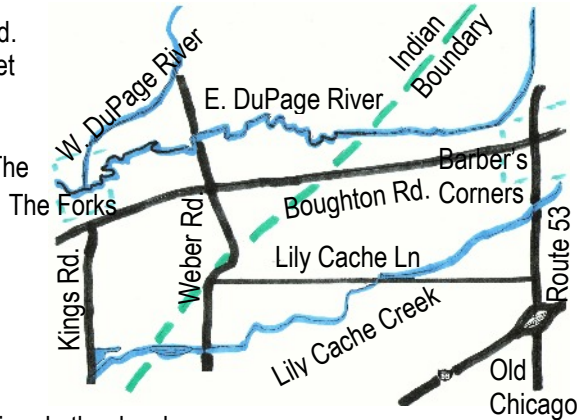
**Roger Claar, Mayor**

[www.BolingbrookHistPresComm.org](http://www.BolingbrookHistPresComm.org)

**THE PRAIRIE** stretched from central Indiana to the Rocky Mountains. The Illinois prairie was unlike any in the world. In some places, the grass grew eight feet tall. The roots reached down just as far into the ground. Trees grew along the DuPage Rivers and Lily Cache Creek. The Illini and later the Potawatomi Indians hunted deer and bear and fished for sturgeon. In the early 1800s, fur traders built a trading post known as "The Forks" at the confluence of the two branches of the DuPage River.

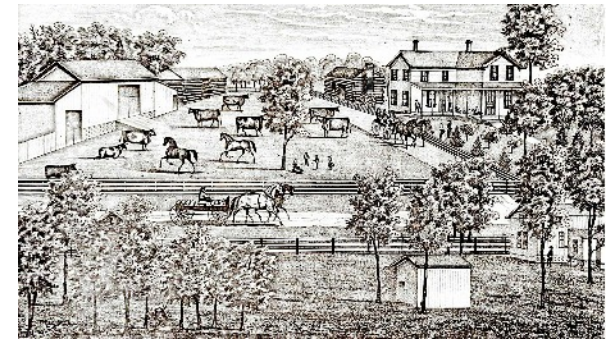
**THE INDIANS:** In 1816, the Potawatomi and other local tribes ceded a 20-mile wide strip from Lake Michigan southwest to the Kankakee River. The northern boundary runs through what is today north Bolingbrook. The 1833 Treaty of Chicago forced all Indians to leave Illinois.

# PIONEERS ON THE PRAIRIE



**THE SETTLERS:** As the Indians left, white settlers arrived. Besides farming, Stephen Scott and his son Willard built the first local sawmill on the DuPage River. Pierce Hawley had a gristmill where he processed corn and wheat, the primary "cash crops" grown here. Ralph Stowell had a stage coach stop and tavern on the Ottawa to Chicago route. He was the first postmaster.

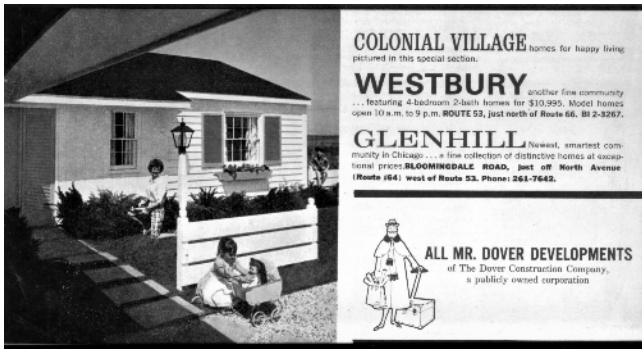
**A SCHOOL AND A CHURCH:** In 1833, Josiah Giddings opened a log cabin school. Rev. N. C. Clark organized the first church. His congregation met at that hickory schoolhouse until the congregation built the First Presbyterian Church of DuPage.



**BARBER'S CORNERS:** March 1832, Captain John and Emma Barber moved from Vermont to DuPage Township. Around their property (now Route 53 at Boughton), a crossroads town grew up. Barber's Corners had a general store, a cheese factory and other businesses plus the Methodist Church, a school and the DuPage Post Office. By the 1870s, this area's dairy herds provided milk products to the growing population of the Chicago area.

## BOLINGBROOK yesterday and today

**1960: Dover Construction Company** lays out the Bolingbrook Subdivision. Houses sold for \$10,000 with as little as \$200 down. The three original tracts, Westbury, Colonial Village and King's Park, sold from 1961 to 1965. Unlike most construction companies, Dover promised to establish a town with stores and schools.



**1961:** First model homes go up on Rocklyn Court off Route 53. First families move in on Avondale Court.  
**1963:** First try at incorporating the village fails.  
**1964:** First grocery store opens. North View, the first elementary school opens.  
**1965: Village incorporation passes.** Population 5,300 in 1,200 homes. Jack Leonard elected 1st village president.

**1969:** Library district created by referendum.  
**1970:** Park District created by successful referendum.  
**1971:** First homes built in Indian Oaks, Winston Woods, Ivanhoe, Cherrywood and Cinnamon Creek.  
**1972:** First shopping center built - Route 53 at I-55. First Bank built. Bolingbrook Park District passes a \$2.2 million referendum for acquisition and development.  
**1974:** Bolingbrook High School (BHS) opens.  
**1975:** The 20,300 square foot Community Center on Recreation Drive opens. Library opens.  
**1975: Old Chicago opens.** *The 345,000 square foot complex included plans for the world's first indoor amusement park with a roller coaster and Ferris wheel, ringed by specialty shops, boutiques and restaurants. In 1980, Old Chicago closed. It was torn down in 1986.*  
**1979:** Remington Boulevard built to attract industry.  
**1980:** Third Village Hall built. Post Office built. The Bolingbrook Park District received the National Gold Medal Award as best in nation. A \$3.4 million referendum for parks approved.  
**1981:** Boughton Ridge, Bolingbrook's first golf course opens  
**1982:** Bolingbrook Aquatic Center, the first indoor wave pool in the United States, opens.  
**1984:** President Ronald Reagan speaks at BHS.

**1986:** Roger Claar elected mayor and continues as mayor today. Under his administration, Bolingbrook has grown into an elite community with a park district, library and performing arts stage second to none. His support of youth and civic organizations have developed high quality institutions, making Bolingbrook a great place to live and raise a family.  
**1988:** 800 acre industrial annexed north of I-55.  
**1989:** Wood View Elementary recognized as one of the best in the nation. Major industrial building south of I-55.  
**1990:** Bolingbrook gets its own Zip Code - 60440.  
**2004:** New BHS opens. Old BHS is Brooks Middle School.  
**2007:** Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital opens. Promenade shopping center opens.  
**2011:** New Fountaindale Public Library opens.  
**2015:** Village celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation.

