



MEDIA RELEASE: September 8, 2021
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Vintage Baseball Game is back at Elmhurst University on June 4

ELMHURST, Ill. – The “kranks” and the “strikers” are gearing up and preparing to “hit the apple out of the orchard.” That’s Vintage Baseball verbiage for “play ball!” The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation is once again presenting a throwback competition played by the old-school rules of the 1850’s when the Vintage Baseball Game returns to the Elmhurst University campus on **Saturday, June 4, 2022 starting at 2 p.m.**

The fans (known as “kranks”) will be on hand to cheer and jeer in fine Victorian fashion as two Elmhurst clubs face off in a Town vs. Gown showdown between the City of Elmhurst and Elmhurst University staff players. The game is open to the public and takes place on the Elmhurst University Mall at 190 S.

Prospect Ave. (in front of Hammerschmidt Chapel. Admission is free, and fans are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, picnics and refreshments to enjoy during the game. Free parking is available in the Elmhurst University parking lots.

The Elmhurst University team will be led by President Troy VanAken, and Mayor Scott Levin will take the reins of the City of Elmhurst team. The Elmhurst History Museum’s executive director, Dave Oberg, will oversee the activities in the role of “barrister” (also known as an umpire) and share the rules and slang terms with the audience.

“Vintage Baseball is a passion of mine, and it has grown in popularity among baseball enthusiasts in this area,” said Oberg. “The game is a fun way to learn about the history of one of our country’s most treasured pastimes, and the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation is proud to be a part of bringing the game to Elmhurst.” said Oberg.

Oberg added that the competition is stepping up as players become more comfortable with the game's unique rules and terminology. "We have been hosting this game over the last few years, and each year the players get more engaged in the competition," said Oberg. "The Vintage Game is an homage to the roots of baseball in this country, so it's a participatory way to learn about the game's history and traditions. One thing is for sure, everyone has a great time whether they're playing or watching, so we are looking forward to another great afternoon at Elmhurst University."

All are invited to join in the cheering and jeering on Saturday, June 4th at 2 p.m. at Elmhurst University. For more information, visit the Elmhurst History Museum's web site at www.elmhursthhistory.org or call (630) 833-1457.

The Elmhurst History Museum is a department of the City of Elmhurst supported by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization. The museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. General admission is free. For more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit our web site at www.elmhursthhistory.org.

SIDEBAR: Examples of 19th-century Baseball Terminology

Vintage Baseball Games are filled with their own unique vocabulary, including cheers and jeers from the stands and players. Here is a guide for some of the terms that can be heard in typical vintage baseball competitions:

Apple/Onion/Horsehide/Pill: The ball

Artist: Proficient ball player

Blooper/Banjo: A weak fly ball

Boodler: An ungentlemanly maneuver

Bowler/Feeder/Hurler/Thrower/Twirler: Pitcher

Club Nine: Ball team

Kranks/Bugs/Rooters/Throng: Fans

Kranklets/Charming Deadheads: Female fans

Daisy cutter/Ant killer/Worm burner/Bug crusher: Sharp ground ball

Dandy: Cool

Dead or Hand Dead!: Player is out!

Dew drop/Foul tick: Foul ball

Dish: Home plate

Drop a duck egg on 'em: Hold them scoreless for the inning

Glad hand: Clapping

Go back to Hackensack!: An especially vicious taunt

Hit the apple out of the orchard/Lay the willow on that onion: Hit a home run!

Hurl that hoghide/Sling that orb/Whip that onion: Said to encourage the pitcher

Huzzah!: Hooray!

Lobster: A villainous or hated player

Muff/Duff: Error

Peach!: Said for an excellent play

Run, you icewagon!: Encouragement for a slow moving player

Show a little ginger!: Play harder!

Wasn't that a corker?: Said of a surprising play

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