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The Frankfort Station™

FRANKFORT'S AWARD-WINNING HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER frankfortstation.com • May 26, 2016 • Vol. 10 No. 51 • \$1

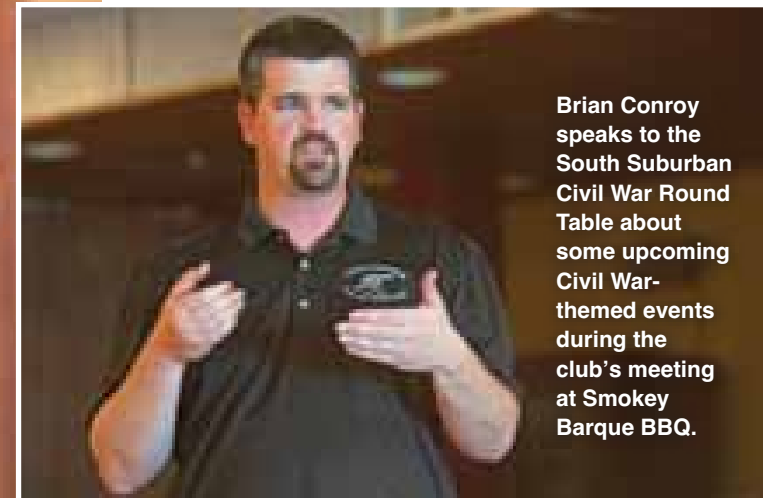
A **Century** MEDIA 22ND PUBLICATION

HAVING FUN WITH HISTORY

South Suburban Civil War Round Table plans for its next season, grows its dues-paying membership, Page 3

Dennis Doyle, president of the South Suburban Civil War Round Table, laughs at a joke Thursday, May 19, during a meeting of the club at Smokey Barque BBQ in Frankfort.

PAUL BERGSTROM/22ND CENTURY MEDIA



Brian Conroy speaks to the South Suburban Civil War Round Table about some upcoming Civil War-themed events during the club's meeting at Smokey Barque BBQ.

New Lenox Food Pantry needs a freezer/cooler, so we need you!

Each week the New Lenox Food Pantry assists nearly 100 neighboring families who are facing a food crisis. In July, the Pantry moves to a new, larger facility and is in great need of a walk-in freezer/cooler to continue helping our neighbors. The wonderful part - you can help too!

Town Center Bank is holding a **donation drive for the New Lenox Food Pantry's walk-in freezer/cooler**. Through July we ask all our neighbors to donate any amount, made payable to the "Family Services Foundation of New Lenox Township", at either of our branches. These donations are 100% tax deductible!

Donate to the Food Pantry Freezer/Cooler at Town Center Bank!

Town Center Bank is not officially affiliated with the New Lenox Food Pantry.



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NEWS COVER STORY

Showing how the past lives on in the present

SSCWRT encourages learning, supports the preservation of Civil War sites

REBECCA SUSMARSKI, Editor

As guests gathered outside Smokey Barque BBQ in Frankfort Thursday, May 19, to view classic cars during Cruisin' Frankfort, one group met inside the restaurant to remember a time when the engine of the American experiment nearly silenced forever.

The South Suburban Civil War Round Table held its last meeting of its 2015-2016 season that evening to discuss club updates, name member Phil Angelo as its

next vice president and more over a barbecue dinner. The club members meet once a month August through May to expand their own knowledge of the Civil War and to share what they know in an informal environment.

The club members take a quiz to win prizes and host a different speaker at each meeting — Bjorn Skaptason of Chicago's Abraham Lincoln Book Shop discussed Chicago Light Artillery at the Battle of Vicksburg on May 19 — but they exchange jokes and laughter just as much as facts. The meetings also spotlight an array of topics from elections to medicine, not only because the Civil War touched every aspect of American life but also to

NEXT ROUND TABLE MEETING

The South Suburban Civil War Round Table's next meeting is to take place at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25, and the topic will be Union General George Thomas. For more information or to become a member, visit www.southsuburbancwrt.com.

encourage attendees to chat and ask questions.

"I think some people feel a little bit intimidated when they hear about groups like ours because they think you have to have a Ph.D.

Please see **CIVIL WAR, 5**



Bjorn Skaptason of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago (right) gives a presentation on the Chicago Light Artillery at the Battle of Vicksburg Thursday, May 19, to the South Suburban Civil War Round Table during the club's meeting at Smokey Barque BBQ in Frankfort. PAUL BERGSTROM/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

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Frankfort Township finds newspaper scraps in streets

Carlson asks residents to throw trash in receptacles, report littering

REBECCA SUSMARSKI, Editor

Frankfort Township Highway Department staff members discovered amounts of shredded newspaper spread along 80th Avenue and Saint Francis Road May 18 that appeared even after the staff members cleaned up the mess.

The staff members found and picked up one-inch strips of newspaper along 80th Avenue before 9:30 a.m. that morning, then saw and picked up similar paper along Saint Francis Road twice within a two-hour period. The scraps along Saint Francis were spread out about 500 feet and head-

ing west towards 80th Avenue, "which is about a city block," said Bill Carlson, highway commissioner for the Township.

Carlson's seven employees and often Carlson himself go out weekly to clean the boulevards to which they are assigned before they return the next day and mow the landscaping in those areas. Carlson said the scraps of newspaper appeared as though they had been thrown from a vehicle.

"To me [someone] purposely threw it out there because wasn't like a garbage bag that flew out of the back of a pickup truck," he said. "I don't know if they're watching and seeing us clean it, because we always try to keep the streets as clean as possible. It just got repeated every couple of hours."

Though May 18 marked

the first time the staff cleaned multiple newspaper trimmings in one day, Carlson's team saw a similar instance "a year or two years ago" when soiled adult diapers appeared in the streets between three to five days a week. The team never found the person/s behind the littering, but they nicknamed them "the diaper bandit" and have similarly been referring to the newspaper litterer/s as "the garbage bandit."

Carlson emphasized that littering has become "an almost daily" occurrence along 80th Avenue and Saint Francis Road, as well as North Avenue and occasionally 84th Avenue, all main thru streets. Weekly, the staff members typically collect two to four full kitchen bags worth of garbage when they go out to clean the boulevards the

day before they mow, and they usually fill at least one more bag the next day as they mow, Carlson said.

Items that the staff members frequently see include bottles, soda or beer cans, beer bottles, McDonald's bags and Mariano's plastic grocery bags filled with containers and plastic silverware from take-out dining.

"It's literally like they're taking it out of their vehicle and throwing it out the window as they drive by," Carlson said. "Any sharp, protruding object could be in the garage bags that they're throwing out and it could [impact] the tires on your vehicle."

Carlson encourages all residents to throw out their trash in provided receptacles and, if they see other drivers throwing trash outside of their car windows,

FRANKFORT TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

To report an instance of littering or for more information about the Frankfort Township Highway Department's regular maintenance procedures, call (708) 479-9673, or email ftrd@comcast.net.

to write down their license plate numbers or take a photo of the license plates to let the highway department know.

"I would not hesitate to have the sheriffs run their plate," Carlson said. "Littering is a violation and whether they live here or they're driving through, that's just disrespectful to the community to throw trash out their windows."

CIVIL WAR

From Page 3

amount of knowledge about [the Civil War], and you absolutely don't," said Russ Tarvid, current member and former president of the SSCWRT. "Some of these guys who have such a high level of knowledge are still learning.

"You could read hundreds of books — I'm sure there are people in this room who have literally done that — but when you get to interact with people on that, you get so much more out of it than you do from a book."

Officers from the SSCWRT announced May 19 that the club has chosen its 10 speakers and topics for its 2016-2017 season, including "Will County during the Civil War" and "News reporters during the Civil War." The officers also reported that the club

has increased its dues-paying members to 44, up from 40 in May of 2015.

The club uses the funds for occasional field trips and other miscellaneous items, as well as to host a holiday party every year that benefits preservation causes, including the Civil War Trust. The club also encourages members to support historic places in other ways, such as by sending emails in favor of listing Camp Douglas — a Chicago POW camp for Confederate soldiers — as a site on the National Register of Historic Places.

Some group members participate in reenactment events or lay flowers at memorials, and recently Dennis Doyle, the club's president, organized a Civil War symposium at Joliet Junior College. The members take part in such events to not only remember the Civil War but also to teach others

that the past never truly remains in the past.

"A lot of people I think make the mistake of looking at history as these moments in time, when it's really just this ongoing thing," Tarvid said. "It's kind of a cliché [when] people say we're still feeling the effects of the Civil War, but it's absolutely true. There's so many issues going on now and that will continue to go on that will go back to that time."

The club offers an outlet to discuss those issues and exchange new ideas. Tarvid recalled when a presenter gave background information on Illinois during the Civil War and said the southern part of Illinois did not lean as pro-Union as many tend to believe.

Another time, three round table members sat on a panel, and they each delivered a different, well-supported argument on the same top-

ic, which sparked a deeper conversation. Jon Patterson, member of the club, liked how the round table could discuss such topics in an open manner.

"Schools can be more politicized, where they have the politically correct way to teach," he said. "Here, the speakers are experts in their field, but they're not looking at the aspect of 'is it politically correct to say this,' necessarily. It's just a matter of, 'is it a documented fact?'"

The club began in 1953, and many of its members also belong to other round tables. The members' interest in the Civil War blossomed in various ways; Tarvid grew up reading his older brother's books on the war, while member Brian Conroy learned more about the period after he became a reenactor.

Though the members'

opinions on some historical issues may differ, they remember "a house divided against itself cannot stand" and always enjoy uniting behind their common interest.

"I can go to anybody where I work and start talking about the Civil War, and the majority of them have absolutely no idea what I'm talking about," Conroy said. "Here, you have a lot of camaraderie."

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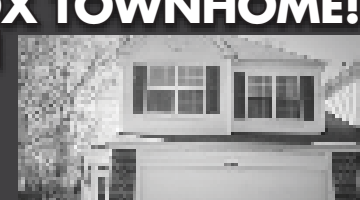
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