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Vintage Baseball Game Returns to Elmhurst University on June 4

ELMHURST, Ill. –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 **Sunday, June 4, 2023 starting at 2 p.m.**

The fans (known as “kranks”) will be out in force to cheer and jeer 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. (between Hammerschmidt Chapel and the Frick Center). 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.

As has been the tradition for the last few years, Mayor Scott Levin will lead the City of Elmhurst squad and Elmhurst University team skipper will be President Troy VanAken. The Elmhurst History Museum’s executive director, Dave Oberg, will oversee the competition as “barrister” (also known as an umpire) and share the rules and slang terms with the audience.

“The Vintage Baseball is a really run way to learn about the history of one of our country’s favorite summer pastimes,” said Dave Oberg. “We are grateful to Elmhurst University for hosting us and to the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation for sponsoring this annual event. It is truly a unique experience for baseball fans of all ages.”

“The Vintage Game is an homage to the roots of baseball in this country, so it’s a hands-on way to learn about the game’s history and traditions,” added Oberg. “Everyone has a fantastic time, whether they are on the field or spectators, so we are anticipating another great afternoon of old-school baseball at Elmhurst University.”

All are invited to join in the cheering and jeering on Sunday, 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

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

Dew drop/Foul tick: Foul ball

Dish: Home plate

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

Glad hand: Clapping

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

Show a little ginger!: Play harder!

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

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