

Sesquicentennial Events – Preliminary Report

Welcome to the Village of Wilmette's Sesquicentennial website. Over the next year, you'll be able to visit this website to find information about the activities and events that are being planned to honor the 150th anniversary of the Village's founding on September 19, 1872.

The planning process is still underway, but here are the ideas that the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee hopes to turn into events, activities, and projects during the Sesquicentennial year:

- An interfaith Thanksgiving service at St. Joseph's Church (the Village's oldest religious institution) in November 2021. Many of Wilmette's religious organizations will participate.
- A Wilmette Winter Fest featuring ice sculptors executing their works of art and fun for the kids. This event will be held on February 12, 2022.
- A special Memorial Day parade and ceremony on May 30, 2022, recognizing the 110 men and women by name, and the families of these heroes, for their sacrifice in the service of their country.
- An art fair featuring Wilmette artists with activities for kids. This event will be held in the early summer of 2022.
- A concert by the Evanston Symphony Orchestra at Wallace Bowl in late August 2022. The concert will specifically honor Wilmette's 150th anniversary.
- A big Wilmette Birthday party at the Village Center, featuring bands, entertainers, and other attractions. The "Big Event" will be held on September 10, 2022.
- A photography exhibit, featuring photographs submitted by Wilmette photographers and supporting the theme, "Bringing Wilmette Together." The event will be held in October 2022, and the photos will thereafter be displayed in various locations throughout the village.
- A landscaping project on the north side of Glenview Road east of Skokie Boulevard. The project will beautify this entrance to the Village and will enhance the Tree Memorial established in 1969 to honor Judge Burton Kolman, a blind man with a vision.
- An inviting walkway in the Village Center, conveniently leading from the Central Avenue restaurants and shops to the Metra parking lot. The space currently is an alley between the Baker Building and the Laundromat but has the potential to become "Ouilmette Way," a decorated and lighted pathway to attract patrons of the Village Center.

Besides the activities, events and projects being planned by the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee, Wilmette's other governmental units and civic groups are participating in the observance of this milestone, including the Park District, Library District, School Districts 37 and 39, Wilmette Historical Museum, Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Clubs.

For example, The Wilmette Historical Society will host a series of speakers throughout the year who will address topics related to Wilmette's history. The first will be John Jacoby on January 30, discussing his new book *Wilmette @ 150*. A history BINGO is planned for February and a new Sesquicentennial Exhibit will open at the Museum in March. The annual Housewalk in May will have a 150th theme as will the children's scavenger hunt in the summer. Auto Historica, the Society's vintage car show, will occur in September with a 150th slant.