



4 S. West Street
Plano, Illinois 60545



Best wishes for the New Year!

The historical society museum has embarked on its second year. The last twelve months have been busy with meeting museum visitors and sharing Plano history through our collection.

The museum opened in December 2022. Our members worked throughout the fall to prepare our location at 4 S. West Street. We were overjoyed with the great attendance for our grand opening and ribbon cutting. Then, efforts continued to improve our services and collection.

Plano's Reaper - 1883 Plano Manufacturing Company harvester

In the spring, we partnered with Plano Area Chamber of Commerce on a restoration project for the reaper many have seen in Plano's parades. Its aging trailer had to be replaced, as did the canvas that conveys the grain. Deteriorating wood and missing parts are being addressed as well. There is still a significant amount of work to be done, but the project is well underway, along with fundraising to cover the cost. We appreciate continuing donations to support this effort! We hope to have the reaper ready for the 2024 homecoming parade.

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Winter meeting schedule:
January 30, February 27,
March 26 at 6:00 pm

MUSEUM HOURS

Saturdays 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
and by appointment

Along with direct donations toward the reaper restoration, copies of a limited edition book for children are being sold at the museum and at Plano Community Library, with all proceeds benefiting the restoration. The picture book, *Better Than The Reaper for KIDS*, is based on historical society member Jeanne Valentine's 2019 history of Plano's harvester, *Better Than The Reaper*.

You can donate for the reaper here:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/24472b33-7aac-4ae5-a390-1eeb0b22b7e9>

Donate to the historical society:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/b354cecb-dd14-4515-aec3-1ea51f62eb70>

Outreach

As part of the historical society's community outreach this past year, we participated in the homecoming parade, Juneteenth, Treats on the Street, and presented two programs at Plano Community Library.

We have had the pleasure of assisting a number of past and current residents with local history and genealogical questions. Feel free to contact us. Research requests are welcome!

Our collection has been enhanced by many donations and loans of local history items. Please contact us if you have items that might be appropriate for the collection.

Historical Society Membership

We have been fortunate to welcome new members to the historical society this past year. Our local members assist with the operation of the museum and various projects, each according to their abilities and availability. Please contact us if you are interested.

And finally, many thanks to all who visited, assisted, donated and cheered us on this past year!

T-Shirts for Sale

If you'd like to purchase a cool black t-shirt with our logo, please message or email us.



We're taking orders. When we have 25 requests, we'll notify you.
Sizes:
Small – XL \$18
XXL or larger \$20

School Visits



In September, Plano Historical Society member Jeanne Valentine visited P.H. Miller School where she shared her new children's book about Plano's harvester history, *Better Than The Reaper for KIDS*.

The students learned why Plano teams are called the Reapers and how the harvester was an advancement of the original reaper.

In January, Valentine and Anne Sears, Plano Historical Society treasurer, will visit Emily G. Johns School to talk to students about Plano history and the harvester.



2023 Homecoming parade

CONTACT US

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MESSAGE us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Planos.Past.Illinois>

VISIT our Website:
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