Elma Historical Society

ECHOS OF ELMA

FALL 2026 • VOL. XXVIII NO.2



HURD HOUSE

UPCOMING SOCIETY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held March, April, May, June, and September in the Elma Senior Center, No meetings in July and August. For specifics, please see below or online. **Exception: We are trying Sunday afternoons to make it easier for members to attend. Watch the notices or our FaceBook page, Instagram, and website for details.**

SOCIETY BOARD MEETINGS are held every first Tuesday of the month at 1:00-pm in Hurd House. Members may attend; seating is limited

MUSEUM SEASON IS ALMOST OVER!. We will be open through October on the 1st Sunday each month from 1pm to 3 pm, and every Thursday from 1pm to 3 pm. Group outings are available. Schools, home schoolers, and other groups can call for information.



HURD & BRIGGS SAWMILL

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th 2 PM AT THE ELMA SENOR CENTER

The Life of Chief Red Jacket - with Local Historian Ken Horn

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20th 2 PM Marilla Ag Day Parade

We will again take part in the parade this year showcasing some of our historic farm implements



BARN MUSEUM

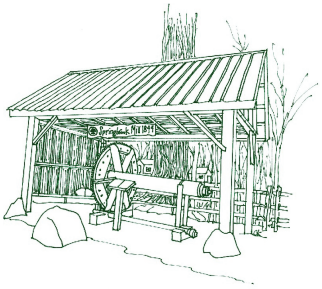
MONDAY OCTOBER 12th 5 PM AT THE ELMA SENOR CENTER

Fall Dinner And Basket Raffle

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17th 11 AM to 2 PM AT THE MUSEUM CAMPUS

Annual Apple Pressing Event and Barn Dance Social!

Schedule to be determined but we're considering an apple pie eating contest for kids, and Apple Pie Baking competition, an apple crisp fundraiser, and music in the Barn



SPRINGBROOK MILL
GEAR & AXLE SHELTER

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8th 2 PM AT THE ELMA SENOR CENTER

The Indian School Iniative - Jacinta Garcia. This should be an interesting look at one of the failed initiatives of the federal government in dealing with the Native Americans

TENTATIVE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 . 2-PM to 4 PM AT THE MUSEUM

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE!

Watch our website and social media for exaxt day and time.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th 11 AM to 2 PM AT THE MUSEUM

Meet and Greet with Santa Claus

from the President's Desk...

It has been a busy year so far for the Society with still more to come.

In July of 2024 the Society took possession of the totem pole that had been erected at the entrance to the original football field. The pole had been created and then donated to the school by the Class of 1976. It was installed in June of that year. Some may think that was the original totem but you would be wrong. This was the third. One of Iroquois' football rivals had taken down the first two. I'll leave the details out as our Town Historian, Bill Markowski, is working on the history of all the totems. Fast forward to June of this year and the totem has been restored and erected on the Society's campus. This happened 50 years to the date of its original installation and in time for that class' 50th Class Reunion. Thanks to Bill Markowski for all his work on restoring the totem, and lining up the contractors to install it. And most importantly, Thanks to the Honorable Bill Boller for arranging the financial support to make this happen.

Lorem Ipsum

To complete the painting last year of the Museum, Paul Rauff and I re-glazed and painted all the storm windows for the Hurd House, and Buffalo Power Washing hand-washed all the museum windows and installed the storms for us as well. They did an awesome job! Paul and Jay Elliott also repaired the handrails to the kitchen entrance. They look original, as they should!

To celebrate the 4th of July and our country's 250th Birthday, Dixie Coffman, our curator, and her merry band of volunteers decorated the museum with new commemorative banners and some lights to brighten up the house. They looked amazing. The Town kicked off their festivities on July 1 with the first concert of the season. Elma Kiwanis sponsored activities for the kids. And the Society opened the campus and sold ice cream novelties to cool off the warm evening. We also had a successful fundraiser selling hot dogs, and sausage at the town concert mid-month.

We currently have an eagle scout project happening on the property with some of our building signs being renewed and refreshed. More details to come in the near future.

Bill and Kathy Markowski also spearheaded our Erie County Fair display. "Red, White, and Summer Nights" was the theme. We showcased a town circus that occurred in 1903. We came back with an honorable mention. It was a really nice looking display.

In our gift shop there is a commemorative Iroquois Chief t-shirt for sale, along with raffle tickets to win one of 5 - $100 gift cards. Tickets are $5 with the winner drawn at our basket raffle in October.

And we still need to mention the Marilla Ag Day Parade that we will participate in showing some of our rarely seen farm implements, the Apple Pressing and the basket raffle in October, and lastly our Open House.

Looking forward to seeing you before the year is over.

Thanks for all your support.

John Dudek



ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPEAKER SERIES 2026 -

The Life Of Chief Red Jacket Of The Seneca Nation

Sunday, September 13, 2026 2:00PM Elma Senior Center

Kevin Horn, local historian specializing in WNY archeology and history will expose the life of Chief Red Jacket, and why he became a target for the federal government.

The Tragedy Behind The Government's "Indian School" Iniative

Sunday, November 8, 2026 2:00 PM Elma Senior Center

Jacinta Garcia, of Anishinabe descent, serves as Community Support and Belonging Specialist for Indigenous students at Penn State University, will discuss the creation and consequences of the boarding schools and adoption eras. Garcia was previously the HR liason for Native American students at the Lakeshore Central School District.

November is Native American Heritage Month. With our area's history with the Buffalo Creek Reservation, the Seneca Nation and the Iroquois Confederacy, we try to highlight Seneca or other Native American history.

It's Almost Time for our Basket Raffle!

On October 12, 2026, we will be hosting our annual Fall Dinner and Basket Raffle Fundraiser. Tickets are by reservation through Kathy Markowski at {716) **984-8017**. Dinner is courtesy of Patty Burdette, and her team of helpers. This dinner is a real highlight. You need to be here. Seating is limited so get your reservation in early. Unfortunately we do not offer takeouts.

If you'd like to help, baskets are encouraged. Several of our members donate to this annually and we are most grateful. Call with any questions. They can be dropped off at the Museum on Thursdays between 1 and 3 pm.

This is a fun evening with great food and prizes. We also have a separate raffle this year to win one of 5-$100 gift cards. Tickets are $5 and available at the Museum during pen hours, Mary MacIntosh Antiques on Seneca Street at Northrup on the weekends, or at Elma Hardware.

Elma Historical Society

Annual Basket Raffle
Pork & Chicken Dinner



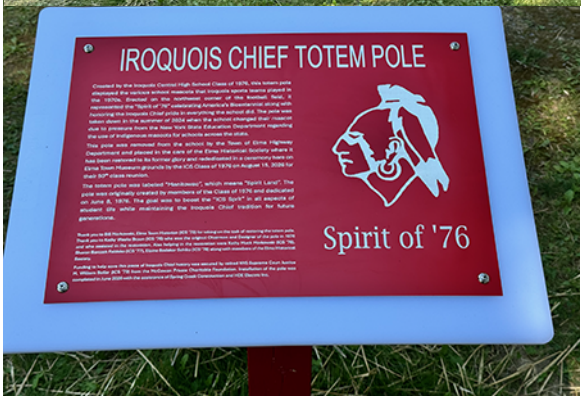
Monday, October 12, 2026

Doors Open at 5 pm • Dinner at 6 pm

Dinner Tickets $25 per person
Reservations Required • Please call **716-984-8017**
Raffle Tickets $5 per sheet

Elma Senior Center
3007 Bowen Road
in the Village Green Park





Totem Pole Re-Dedication

at left: Bill Markowski, Town Historian, shares some of the totem history and the restoration project

at right: Kathy Weeks Braun, ICS '76, directed the totem project in 1976 standing next to former Wood Shop Teacher, Bill Root, who inspired the project.

bottom right: Iroquois alumni in attendance for the re-dedication. Most were in town for the 50th ICS 1976 Class Reunion





ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3011 Bowen Road • PO Box 84
Elma, New York 14059

Save These Dates

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SOCIETY OFFICERS
President: John Dudek
Vice President: Linda Reimer
Secretary: Susan Sudlik
Treasurer: Mary McIntosh

SOCIETY TRUSTEES
Barn Operations: Jay Elliott
Buildings & Grounds: Paul Rauff
Curator: Dixie J. Coffman
Erie County Fair Display: vacant
Fund Raising: Patty Burdette
Hostess: Kathy Markowski
Membership: Sharon McPartlan
Mill Operations: Fred Streif | Jerry Czuba
Sunshine: Pat Coon
Publicity: Christyn Thibault
Librarian: Betty Braun-Renaud

HONORARY TRUSTEE
Elma Supervisor: Wayne Clark
Elma Town Historian: Bill Markowski
(Telephone 716-652-3260)

WEB ADDRESSES
Website: Www.elmanyhistory.org
Social: Www.facebook.com/groups/elmanyhistory
General Email: Elmahistory@aol.com