

Hey Park Ridge, Did you know?

by the Park Ridge Historic Preservation Commission



1) Did you know that steel magnate Andrew Carnegie gave money to small communities all across America so that libraries could be built? Did you know that he gave the people of Park Ridge \$7500 to build a Library? Opened in 1913, the original library building still exists at the intersection of Touhy, Northwest Highway and Prospect Avenue in uptown Park Ridge.



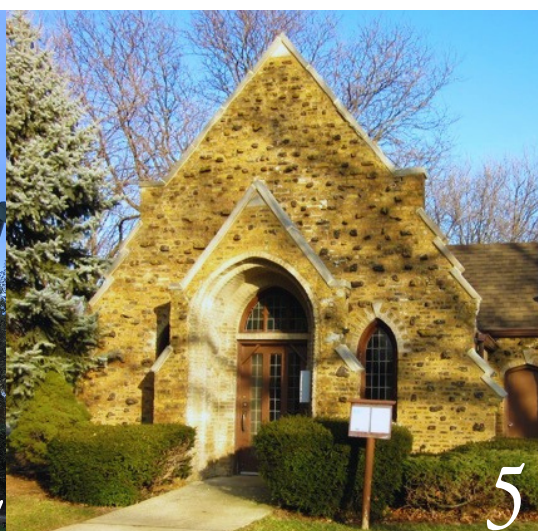
2) Did you know that the iconic Art Deco style Pickwick Theatre Building is on the National Register of Historic Places? It was built in 1928 by William Malone, the second Mayor of Park Ridge.

3) Did you know that famous American artist Grant Wood has a Park Ridge connection? Early in his career he was a student at the Art Institute of Chicago and lived in Park Ridge working as a silversmith at the Kalo Center. He lived in the barn on the property of Henri Eicher at 312 Cedar Street, north of Touhy. The Eicher house is another of Park Ridge's local landmarks!

4) Did you know that Mayor William Malone was a local entrepreneur who helped shape Park Ridge? Among his projects was the construction of five homes on Cedar Court, north of Touhy. He hired local artist Alfonso Iannelli and well-known architect Barry Bryne to create a Cotswold-Cottage-style development. The home at 611 Cedar Street is one of Park Ridge's local landmarks!

5) Did you know that the Town of Maine Cemetery is the resting place of six Park Ridge Mayors and nearly a dozen Civil War veterans? The cemetery, located at the southeast corner of Dee and Touhy, was chartered in 1858. The Cemetery's gatehouse, facing Touhy Avenue, was designed by Alfonso Iannelli, a local artist and sculptor and is another of Park Ridge's local landmarks!

6) Did you know that there is a small area in Park Ridge called "Spanish Town?" It is found a block south of Talcott Road, west of Vine Street and to the southwest. The houses in this area are built in typical "Spanish" style with white stucco exteriors and clay tile roofs. Take a trip and enjoy the flavor of the American Southwest here in Park Ridge! The home at 424 Talcott Place is one of Park Ridge's local landmarks!





7) Did you know that the Park District's Prospect Park used to be the location of the Park Ridge School for Girls and is on the National Register of Historic Places? Three of the original School buildings are still there, one of them is the Park Ridge History Center (which is currently hosting a display featuring Trailblazing Women of Park Ridge: Hannah Solomon, Clara Barck Welles, St. Frances Cabrini and Hillary Clinton). The three buildings on the Campus are also Park Ridge local landmarks!

8) Did you know that the first Mayor of Park Ridge was a dentist? Mayor Albert Buchheit was elected in May of 1910. During his term as Mayor, he signed ordinances to erect Park Ridge's first Public Library, to establish a house numbering system of addresses and to install fire alarm boxes on street corners. He subsequently built a building on Vine Street, across from Hodges Park, to house his dental practice. You can find his name on the end of the building facing the Metra tracks!

9) Did you know that residents of Park Ridge played a role in the building of aircraft in WWII? After the war started, the government was looking for places to build military aircraft. Douglas Aircraft Co. needed a safe place to build four-engine C-54 transports; Orchard Place was rezoned from farm to industrial use and the plant was speedily built. But Douglas Aircraft also needed workers, so housing had to be built. Park Ridge was the site of many "Douglas Homes," constructed in a Georgian style. The home at 122 North Delphia Avenue is one of these homes, and is another of Park Ridge's local landmarks!

10) Did you know that the artist who created the Zodiac signs featured in the Adler Planetarium in Chicago was from Park Ridge? Each of the twelve corners of the 1930s Planetarium building is decorated by a bronze plaque, which represents a sign of the zodiac. These plaques were created by sculptor Alfonso Iannelli who emigrated from Italy and began to collaborate with leading architects on major projects including Midway Gardens with Frank Lloyd Wright and several projects with architect Barry Byrne. Iannelli and his artist-wife Margaret opened a Studio in Park Ridge. Their work included commercial design, product design, and advertising as well as sculpture. The Studio building is located at 255 N Northwest Highway and is another Park Ridge landmark!



Park Ridge Historic Preservation Commission

Local Landmarks

- 1) ORIGINAL LIBRARY
- 2) PICKWICK THEATRE
- 3) 312 CEDAR STREET
- 4) 611 CEDAR STREET
- 5) TOWN OF MAINE CEMETERY
- 6) SPANISH TOWN
- 7) PROSPECT PARK
- 8) DENTAL OFFICE
- 9) 122 NORTH DELPHIA AVE
- 10) IANNELLI STUDIO

Map Labels: DES PLAINES, MORTON GROVE, NILES, CHICAGO, ROSEMONT, PARK RIDGE, BALLARD RD, W DEMPSTER ST, MAYFIELD DR, POTTER RD, TYRELL AVE, DE COOK AVE, MANOR LN, CAROL ST, LUTHER LN, VERNON AVE, FARRELL AVE, PARKSIDE DR, WALNUT ST, WOODLAND AVE, GREENDALE AVE, EDNA AVE, OAKTON ST, GOODWIN DR, FLORENCE DR, FORESTVIEW AVE, SYLVIAWOOD AVE, N SIBLEY ST, N TALCOTT RD, W TOLUHY AVE, N REDFIELD CT, N ROSE AVE, N HAMLIN AVE, N HOME AVE, N SEMINARY AVE, N ALDINE AVE, N KNIGHT AVE, CEDAR ST, GARDEN ST, ALLEY, W CRESCENT AVE, STEWART AVE, BELLEPLAINE AVE, SROSE AVE, S SHAMLIN AVE, S HOME AVE, ENGEL BLVD, GILICK ST, ALBION AVE, ARTHUR ST, E DEVON AVE, S DEE RD, S WESTERN AVE, S KNIGHT AVE, S LINCOLN AVE, S DELPHIA AVE, S GREENWOOD AVE, S CHESTER AVE, W TALCOTT RD, S CUMBERLAND AVE, BROPHY AVE, GRANVILLE AVE, GLENLAKE AVE, PETERSON AVE, W HIGGINS RD, THORNDALE AVE, LAKE AVE, S PROSPECT AVE, COURTLAND AVE, S CRESCENT AVE, VINE AVE, S WASHINGTON AVE, PEAL AVE, HARRISON ST, CLEVELAND AVE, LUNDEN AVE, GROVE AVE, SUMMIT AVE, BERRY PKWY, S MERRILL ST, STANLEY AVE, COLUMBIA AVE, W OAKTON ST, LAHON ST, W CUTTRISS ST, W HOWARD ST, N WASHINGTON AVE, WISNER ST, ELMORE ST, N MERRILL ST, EAST AVE, N ORIOLE AVE, HASTINGS ST, AUSTIN AVE, N LINCOLN AVE, N DELPHIA AVE, GREENWOOD AVE.

QR Code

SCAN