



The Oneida Daily Dispatch  
[www.OneidaDispatch.com](http://www.OneidaDispatch.com)

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COVER PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

The Egan Brothers baseball team of Sherrill had the reputation of being the best baseball team in Oneida and Madison county about the turn of the century. Most of the brothers, at one time or another, were employed by Oneida Ltd. In the front row is Robert D. Egan, son of John H. Egan, the team mascot. Seated in front are Albert J. and Arthur A. (Ben). Middle row, from left: John H. Edward P., Fred and Charles. Back row: Robert H., Frank W., and Joseph H. Ben Egan later played in the major leagues for several years and served as a manager and coach in the major leagues. He also caught Babe Ruth in Ruth's first major league appearance.

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# SHERRILL'S PASTIME

By Kyle Mennig

[kmennig@oneidadispatch.com](mailto:kmennig@oneidadispatch.com)  
[@DispatchKyle on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DispatchKyle)

Last week, Sherrill Post and the Sherrill Silversmiths each played their final baseball game of the summer at Noyes Park.

Those games wrapped up a summer tradition that dates back farther than the city itself.

Carl Sofranko, author of the booklet "A Diamond Community" that details the history of the Community Associated Clubs baseball in Sherrill, said the sport began to catch on with members of the Oneida Community in the late 1800s. Area businesses and organizations all had their own teams

and they would all play each other.

Sometimes, even families would field a team like the famous Egan Brothers. James, John, Charles, Joseph, Frank, Robert, Albert, Edward and Arthur made up the original nine, with youngest brother Fred too young to play when the team started. Arthur, the second-youngest, would become the most well-known and was better known by his childhood nickname: Ben.

Ben Egan was one of the few Sherrill players to reach the major leagues. According to Steven McPherson's bi-



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

Ben Egan of Sherrill poses with Babe Ruth. The two were Baltimore Orioles teammates in 1914.

BASEBALL » PAGE 4

## Upcoming Events at the Mansion House

- ◆ **Members Viewing: *Lost Drawings of the Mansion House* - August 26, 2016**
- ◆ **Gallery Talk - August 27, 2016** View the *Lost Drawings* exhibit with its curator Anthony Wonderley
- ◆ **Historic Preservation Housekeeping - September 17, 2016** Preservation specialist Jackie Roshia leads hands-on workshop
- ◆ **Wine & Design - September 23, 2016** Architecture tour and wine tasting with Owera Vineyards
- ◆ **Archaeology Day - October 15, 2016** Explore 19th c. settlement patterns on site with curator Anthony Wonderley
- ◆ **OC Cemetery Tour - October 29, 2016** Curator Molly Jessup leads a walking tour of mourning culture

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# Baseball

FROM PAGE 3

ography of Egan, he signed his first professional contract in 1905 to play with Rome for \$50. He worked his way through the minor leagues until he made his debut with the Philadelphia Athletics in 1908. He returned to the majors as a backup catcher for the A's in 1912 and served the same role in Cleveland for parts of the 1914 and 1915 seasons.

Egan's biggest impact came behind the plate. He served as a mentor to Hall-of-Fame pitchers Lefty Grove and Stan Coveleski early in their careers but one of his biggest claims to fame is catching Babe Ruth's first professional game while the two were teammates on the



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

Front row, from left: Wm. Rich (LF), Lola Lee (3B), Ed Herlan (2B sub), and Leo Humphrey (P). Middle row, from left: Bob Egan (2B), Joe Johnson (1B), Al Royley (Mgr.), Frank Smith (CF), Sherwood Griffith (P). Rear row, from left: Clayton Chamberlain (P), Joe Egan (SS), H.V. Noyes (O.C.L. representative), Allie Hall (RF), and Carl Rutan (C). Mascot is Hward Noyes.

minor-league Baltimore Orioles in 1914.

Ruth and Egan were teammates for just four months

but formed a friendship that led to one of the biggest leg-ends of Sherrill baseball: Ruth once played in a game at

Noyes Park in Sherrill. While Egan and the Orioles did play in Sherrill in May 1914, Ruth did not play and Sofranko said he was not there at all. Late baseball writer Gene Carney wrote the famous photo of the two players was likely taken much later than 1914, based on Ruth's appearance and uniform.

McPherson wrote in his biography of Egan that the photo was likely taken in 1920 or 1921 in Ruth's hometown of Baltimore.

"He had a very close appearance with Ben Egan and even Egan's memoirs never mentioned that Babe came by," said Sofranko.

When Egan's coaching career ended 1928, he returned to Sherrill where a new powerhouse had replaced the Egan Brothers squad. Oneida Community, Limited and the Community Associated Clubs

had began sponsoring a semi-pro team, known by many names including the Silver-smiths and the Platers. In addition to playing in a local league, the C.A.C. team would face any travelling team that it could. In addition to the Eastern-League Orioles, Sherrill also hosted several Negro League teams as well as "Shoeless" Joe Jackson and the Cleveland Naps, the major-league franchise that would eventually be renamed the Indians.

Egan played a key role in bringing these teams to Sherrill and began working at Oneida Community Limited after his final year of coaching and took over as manager and coach of the baseball team in 1930. The squad consisted mostly of company

BASEBALL » PAGE 6

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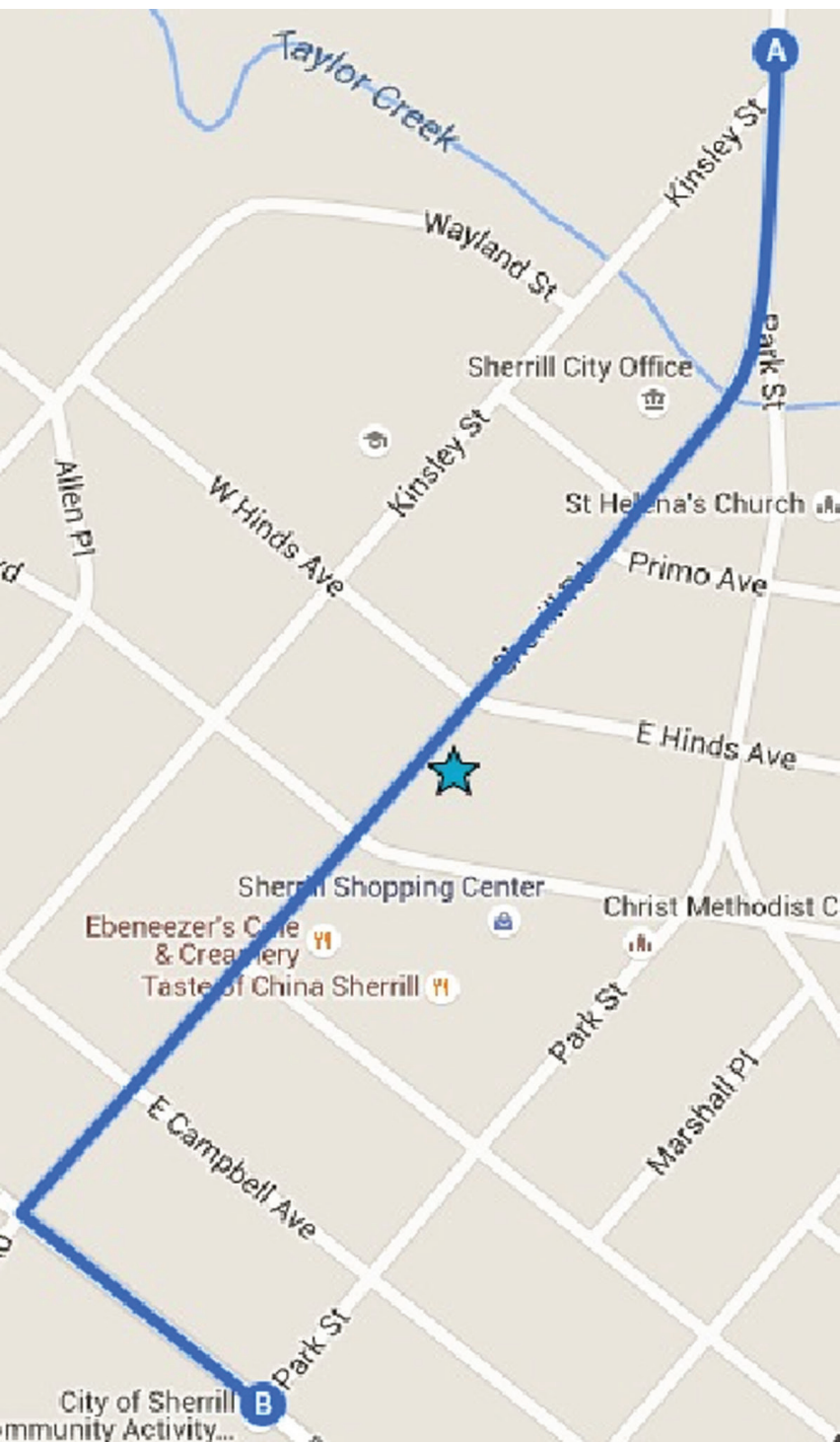


PHOTO COURTESY THE SHERRILL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Sherrill Centennial Parade route.

# Historic celebration

By **Teresa Farrell**  
newsroom@oneidadispatch.com  
@OneidaDispatch on Twitter

The Silver City is celebrating its biggest birthday yet, and doing so with a bang.

The City of Sherrill will celebrate its 100th anniversary this weekend with three solid days of festivities, taking




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KYLE MENNIG - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

Mitch Cavanagh pitches for the Sherrill Silversmiths.

# Baseball

FROM PAGE 4

employees, who were paid for their time at work and then again for the time they spent playing and practicing.

This opportunity drew many local players to the team, including Sofranko's father Mike. "A Diamond Community" began as a tribute from Sofranko, who now lives in Opelousas, Louisiana, to his father. He said it "got out of hand" but the project resulted in a 150-page booklet that provides details on several players from the 1940s, many of whom played for the Sherrill Post American Legion team as well. Two of those players also reached the majors and played in Sherrill on opposing ends of their careers. Steve Peek pitched for the New York Yankees in 1941 - the year of Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak - and earned a World Series ring. He returned from serving in World War II to play in the minor leagues before coming to Sher-

rill in 1948. Ted Lepcio, meanwhile, played for the C.A.C. from 1947-1949 and went on to play for the Boston Red Sox from 1952-1959 before bouncing around from four teams over the final two years of his career.

One of the Sherrill team's last big days came in 1948 when a game was held to celebrate Ben Egan Day. Former teammate and Hall-of-Famer Chief Bender was on hand and Ruth had promised to be. When the day came, however, Ruth was too ill to attend and sent a telegram that was read to the large crowd. He died of cancer later that year.

Ben Egan Day drew one of the last big crowds of the era to Noyes Park. With no league to play in and attendance dwindling, the C.A.C issued a bulletin that it would not sponsor a team in 1952. Sofranko said the rise of television, and with it the ability to watch Major League Baseball games from home, led to the team's decline.

BASEBALL » PAGE 10

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PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF SHERRILL ARCHIVES

From left, front row: Wilford Smith, Charles Dickenson, Leonard Ressegger, Henry Fox, Warwold O'Dell, James Mammone, Martha Tousley, Pierrepont Noyes, Florence Winters, Joseph Austin, John Maiura, Robert Johnson, Charles Copeland, Maurice Seeber, Nathan Barnes, Samuel Lupica.

Second row, Bertha Flagler, Anna Kelly (40 year), Marjorie Davenport (40 year), Agnes Pfendler, Cora Harris, Jane Ottaway, George Wells, Arthur Miller, Joseph Lorenz, Willis Corney, Charles Fox, Fred Wier, Daniel Gray, Donald Perling.

Third row, Marvin Rauscher, James Candee, David Stirling Jr., Donald Johns, Howard Buss, John Warburton, Donald Chamberlain, Charles Raymond, Kenneth Morey, William Smith, John Loosmann, Harold Hyatt, Howard Patrick, George Gradwell, James Roy, Joseph Koen, John Rice, Richard Pawlicki, Harold Greer, Marion Murphy, Martin Johns, Margaret Lyons, Milford Mack, Ralph Sayles, Merrill Petrie, James MacArthur (40 year).

Fourth row, Eugene Lane, Norbert Walter, Earl Halstead, Joseph Scribner, Watson Fellows, Donald Wittman, William Sarensky, Julius Nixdorf (40 year), Clarence Southfield, Alfred Gambitta, Leonard Mott, Herbert Butler, Lorian Butler, Fred Roberts, Spencer Elmer, John Dixon.

Absent when picture was taken: Myrtle Bishop, Lorena Danum, Robert Dick, Nettie Gray, Harry Haight, Thomas Hyland, Leon Lord (40 year), George Lovely, Mary MacDonald, Kenneth Maynard, Martin Mullen, Emerson Noyes, Donald Spraker, Mildred Sullivan.



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

The first O.C.L. football team took to the field in 1916. Seventy-five men reported for practice at the rear of the roll room. The squad bought its own uniforms and passed the hat at Sunday games at Noyes Park to finance traveling expenses on out-of-town games. At the close of the season profits were divided equally among the men - \$1.35 total.

In its first season of play the team rolled up a total of 115 points to their opponents' 26, and created so much interest that the company sponsored it the second year, and until the sport was discontinued in 1933.

Jim Dempsey, of the roll room, coached the squads until the mid-twenties when Bob Drummond took over and Jim assumed the refereeing job.

The Rome Independents was the first team to meet the O.C.L. gridders. During the season four other teams, Washington A.C. of Syracuse, the Syracuse Independents, the North Side Club of Oneida, the Remington A. A. of Ilion tangled with the O.C.L. boys. In later years they played teams from points as distant as Endicott.

Front row — J. Cox, George Laing, George Valley, John Mandy, Shelton Tate, Joe Fritz, Bill Ackley.

Standing — Ed Burlingham, Gerald Graves, George Rowlands, Pete Laing, Elon Hill, Cash Carmon, George Cummings, Wally Burgess, Gene Couture, Charlie Foster, John Dempsey.

# The Kenwood Park School

The school was a key part of Sherrill, and grew even more important when it absorbed many of the classes when Sherrill High School was destroyed by fire in February, 1942.

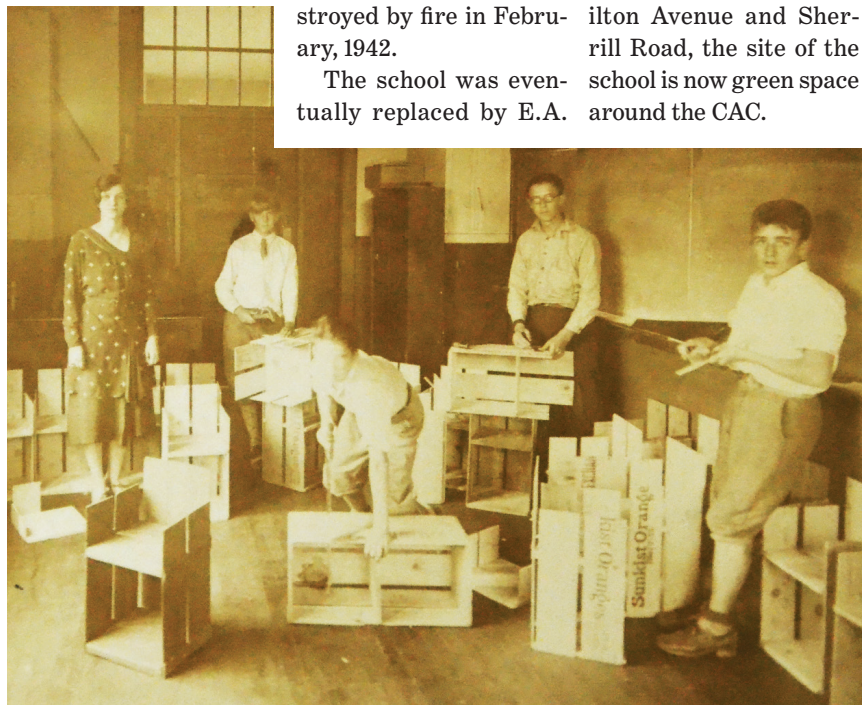
McAllister Elementary School and VVS Middle school after the consolidation with Verona and Vernon schools.

Located at East Hamilton Avenue and Sherrill Road, the site of the school is now green space around the CAC.

The school was eventually replaced by E.A.



Photos Courtesy Sherrill City Archives  
Kenwood Park School faculty; the year is unknown. Seated in the center is Eva Griffin Davis.



Photos Courtesy Sherrill City Archives  
A carpentry class at Kenwood Park School; the year is unknown.



Photo Courtesy City of Sherrill Archives  
Eighth-grade graduation at Kenwood Park School in 1930.



# Centennial

FROM PAGE 5

place Friday through Sunday, July 29-31, throughout the city. The weekend's schedule is jam-packed with plenty of events and activities, with something to appeal to everyone.

"It's really exciting," said Sherrill Parks and Recreation Director Sara Getman. "I hope the community enjoys the celebrations and creates joyful memories to look back on."

"We hope everybody comes out to enjoy the activities going on this weekend," added Sherrill City Manager Michael Sayles. "It should be a fun weekend. It's a good showcase for our city. It gives a good idea of why people that love Sherrill are living here."

Leading up to the weekend, a few festivities have already begun. Since Sherrill officially turned 100 on Thursday, April 7, exactly a century after the



PHOTOS FROM WWW.DXPLIVE.COM, WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHOWTIMETHEBAND

Donegal Xpress and Showtime will perform at the Sherrill Centennial Celebration on Friday, July 29.

day the city's charter was signed in 1916, there has been a steady stream of Sherrill-themed historic talks and other activities for residents to enjoy throughout the spring, all leading up to this weekend's official centennial celebration. Sherrill's 100th anniversary art show is already underway, with paintings and drawings from Sherrill and Kenwood's artists of all ages on display at Sherrill

City Court. The show, which began on July 24, will continue until Sunday, July 30 and will be upon daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. July 18 marked the kickoff of the Silver City Medallion hunt, a city-wide outdoor search on public property for a silver medallion with clues posted on the city's Facebook page each day until the medallion is found.

The centennial weekend celebration itself officially begins on Friday at 8 a.m. with the sold-out Sherrill Cen-

ennial Golf Tournament. On Friday afternoon, families can gather in Sherrill's Noyes Park from 2-5 p.m. for family-fun activities, which will also be going on Saturday morning in the park from 10 a.m. to noon.

"The family fun activities are going to offer something for a variety of ages," said Getman. In fact, food, games, face painting, a magician and balloon artist, puppet show, inflatable obstacle course, a bike rodeo, photo and dunking booths, and a kickball tournament are just a few of the scheduled activities for kids on Friday and Saturday.

The opening ceremonies for Sherrill's centennial weekend event will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday on the lawn of the Community Activity Center, with state and local dignitaries, government officials, city managers and commissioners, and other guests of honor in attendance to help commemorate the occasion. Then, from 6-11 p.m., the CAC lawn will host the Sherrill Centennial Festi-

CENTENNIAL » PAGE 12

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# Baseball

FROM PAGE 6

Sherrill, however, continues to provide a pathway to professional baseball. Tyler Mautner and Marc Iseneker, both Vernon-Verona-Sherrill alums from the city, each played Legion Baseball for Sherrill Post and were selected in the Major League Baseball amateur draft in the past three years. The new-age Silversmiths began play in 2009 and are now a part of the New York Collegiate Baseball League, a summer wood-bat development league for college players that is partially funded by Major League Baseball. Iseneker is one of four Silversmiths currently on a minor-league roster along with Nick Lynch, Mike Bunal and Ka'ai Tom.



Sherrill City Baseball Team, date unknown.

PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES



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PHOTO COURTESY THE SHERRILL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

5K Run and Walk route.

of food and beverages to choose from local vendors visiting the festival.

On Saturday morning, July 30, the city will host a 5K race, walk and fun run celebrating the centennial, with the fun run beginning at 8 a.m. Registration for the races is now open at Sherrill's centennial website, [www.sherrillny.org/100th-anniversary/](http://www.sherrillny.org/100th-anniversary/), and on-site registration will be available at the CAC on Thursday, July 28 from 5-7 p.m. and again before the race at 7 a.m. on Saturday morning.

"These events will be a fun way to kick off Saturday's festivities," noted Getman. "I encourage everyone who's interested to sign up for the 5K race or participate in the walk or the kids' fun run or to come cheer everyone on."

The City of Sherrill Centennial Parade will begin at the top of Reilly-Mumford Park on Saturday at 1 p.m., with viewing in Reilly-Mumford Park, Sherrill Road, and Noyes Avenue.

"The parade is going to be really great," said Getman. "We encouraged

local residents and local groups to make floats and be involved in the parade. There are over 50 groups, and a great mix of local residents, organizations, performers, bands, and more. It's fun when people start to get involved—that's what makes the whole thing come alive."

On Saturday evening, bands and revelers will gather in Reilly-Mumford Park for free live music by Matt Chase & Thunder Canyon from 5-6:45 p.m. and Target from 7:45-9:45 p.m. Saturday's festival will come to a close with a fireworks display at 9:45 p.m. "The fireworks will be more spectacular than ever before," said Sayles.

Sayles noted that the weekend's events are about celebrating more than the city's anniversary.

"It's not our celebration, it's their celebration," said Sayles of Sherrill's residents. "A lot of people who were here as

# Centennial

FROM PAGE 9

val, an all-ages event with free admission featuring concerts by the bands Showtime from 6-8 p.m. and Donegal Xpress from 9-11 p.m., as well as plenty

CENTENNIAL » PAGE 13



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# Centennial

FROM PAGE 12

kids are coming back just to be here for the weekend. It's memorable for them. It's a time to reflect on past anniversaries and celebrations, and to enjoy family."

Local artists, businesses, and community organizations like the school, churches, Legion, Rotary, and others are all working to contribute to the commemoration of 100 years in the Silver City.

"It's been a wonderful experience to work with the 100th Anniversary Committee, Sherrill Commissioners and all of my colleagues who work for the City of Sherrill to plan the 100th anniversary," Getman said. "There are so many people who have contributed something special to the celebrations and offered incredible support. It's also been really wonderful to connect with people in our community who are participating in the events or planning to attend. I am so grateful for all of the positive energy and enthusiasm so many people have shared. I think the 100th anniversary celebration will be a great time for the community to together, spend time together, and connect with their neighbors."

For more information or to get involved in the festivities, visit [www.sherrillny.org/100th-anniversary/](http://www.sherrillny.org/100th-anniversary/).

# 100 years of protection

By John Brewer

[jbrewer@oneidadispatch.com](mailto:jbrewer@oneidadispatch.com)  
[@DispatchBrewer on Twitter](https://twitter.com/DispatchBrewer)

For more than 100 years, volunteers from the Silver City have put their lives in harm's way to keep the smallest city in New York safe from fire and other disasters.

Unlike any other city fire department in New York, Sherrill-Kenwood is comprised entirely of volunteer firefighters, providing the department a unique claim to fame.

Originally founded on Nov. 18, 1914 as the Oneida Community Ltd. Fire Department, the Sherrill-Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department has been in existence two years longer than the city it is committed to protecting. Created to serve the Oneida Ltd. Silverware-making



JOHN BREWER - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

FIRE » PAGE 14 The Sherrill-Kenwood Fire Department.

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# Fire

FROM PAGE 13

facility and offices, the department spent just two years with its original moniker before adopting its modern day name when Sherrill was incorporated as a city in 1916.

The original fire station was located at the end of the former Oneida Silver plant on Seneca Street, sporting a few garage bays that are still visible at the location today. Those bays helped house the first pieces of fire equipment owned by the city, three hand-pulled chemical carts.

Comprised of a large, metal tank with a hose to shoot the chemical extinguishing agent, the method of travel for the carts would

make modern day departments cringe. Equipped with a pull handle, the metal tanks nestled between two giant wooden wheels were carted through the streets of the city to wherever there was a need, even in the heart of cold, snow-filled Central New York winters.

Fortunately today, the Sherrill-Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department has much faster response times, sporting a fleet that includes a rescue truck, two engines, and a 100-foot ladder truck. Operating from a city-owned building with city-owned equipment, the present-day department's equipment would likely make Herbert Moody, Sherrill-Kenwood's first fire chief, jealous.

With a crew of roughly



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Sherrill-Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department, date unknown.

30 individuals in 1914, the department has grown in the past 102 years, now boasting more than 50 members, including emergency medical technicians

and auxiliary members. The fire station is now located at 373 Sherrill Road

with the department moving to the present day location in the early 1980s.

Though a century has

FIRE » PAGE 15

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# Fire

FROM PAGE 14

passed, bringing with it technological advances that provide firefighters with equipment unimaginable when Sherrill was first incorporated as a city, the department still tips its proverbial cap to the past, maintaining its fire whistle to alert community members to emergencies.

Before there were pagers, a department's whistle would sound to bring in the volunteers for help and then again when firefighters would return from the scene to alert the community to the safe return of the department.

While most departments have done away with the second signal, the use of whistles or sirens remains a tradition to simply let smaller communities know something is going on.



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

Front row, left to right: Myron Kinsley, Louis Bohrer, Robert Egan, Paul Glover, Edward Voelker Sr., Harold Bohrer, Fred Wright, Jack Barron, Edward Voelker Jr., and Chester Burnham Jr. Middle row, left to right: George Fogg, Clifford Young, Harold Gifford, Raymond Boylan, Fred Murphy, Henry Allen, Charles Chesebro, Robert Ingersoll, Carl Wilson, Charles Mallery, and Lyle Reames. Rear row, left to right: Forest Reames, Stanley Reames, George Salisbury, Nathan Barnes, Samuel Osborne, Paul Luczak, Fred Endemann, Ernest Griffith, and George Berdanier. The members were dressed in the first uniforms to be used by the department - dark blue shirts with red lettering on the back, red ties, and dark blue trousers with white stripes.



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By John Brewer

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A staple of the neighborhood for decades, the Sherrill Community Activity Center may well be the most visited destination in the Silver City.

A century after Sherrill was recognized by then-New York State Gov. Charles S. Whitman as a city on April 7, 1916, the CAC receives nearly 30,000 visitors a year according to city manager Michael Sayles, serving as a venue for visits from Santa, Halloween costume parties, casual or more serious sporting events, and a gathering place for local community groups to hold meetings

and fundraisers.

Despite its present day status as a hub of activity, the CAC has much humbler beginnings. The building's original use was a cow barn, constructed in 1876, the same year Alexander Graham Bell is credited with inventing the telephone and General George Custer made his infamous last stand.

First used by the Oneida Community and then later the Oneida Community, Limited, the large barn remained true to its original intention for 46 years. Then, in 1920, powers that be in the commu-

CAC » PAGE 17



JEN SANTIAGO - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

Kids attend the City of Sherrill Fall Festival at the Community Activity Center in 2015.

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# CAC

FROM PAGE 16

community made the decision to convert the barn into what was then known as the Community Associated Clubs.

The original purpose of the club, according to the late Steve Peek, who studied the CAC history extensively, was to provide members of the community with three different types of activities in which they could participate.

“The Community Associated Clubs combine athletic, educational and recreational activity to all Oneida Ltd. Employees in one organization,” Peek wrote of his studies.

In order to gain access to the happenings at the Silver City landmark, one did not need to pay dues for a membership. Instead, all that was required to join was 30 days of service within the Oneida Community, Limited. Following a month of work, employees automatically became members.

Throughout its history, the CAC



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

This photo was taken in 1876 when the Oneida Community cow barn, later to become the CAC Clubhouse was under construction. The photo is looking west from the backyards of residences on East Hamilton Avenue. When built, it was believed to have been the largest barn in New York state. It was first known as the Hitchcock barn, being located on the farm of that name. Its lands extended north almost to Taylor Brook (Mud Creek). The pasture in the foreground ran south all the way to the Knife Plant and also covered the area where Sunset Lake was built later.

sported three different divisions: the Club House Division, the Lewis Point Division and The Nurses Division.

The Club House Division included the

bowling alleys, sports auditorium, billiards and socials rooms used by various clubs throughout the CAC’s 96 year history.

The Lewis Point Division was actually based outside of the Silver City, located on Oneida Lake, serving as a summer recreational destination replete with 15 cottages available for rent by CAC members, a hotel with dining room and bar, a clambake-style restaurant, picnic tables, fireplaces and beachfront. Also included at the Lewis Point Division were harbor and boat-docking facilities for member use as well.

The Nurses Division, according to the late Peek, was a result of the World War II climate.

“The C.A.C. Nurses Division, organized in 1942 to aid Oneida Ltd. Employees, pensioners and their dependents with professional nursing assistance, is a continuation of service begun under wartime conditions,” Peek wrote, before further explaining that two visiting nurses were on call in an office at the CAC and were provided transportation in order to reach the homes of employees, coordinating their efforts with local doctors.

CAC » PAGE 18



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# CAC

FROM PAGE 17

The Community Associated Clubs of Oneida Ltd. continued serving the members of its community throughout the latter half of the century, serving as a meeting place for boys and girls clubs, stamp clubs, garden clubs, trap shoot clubs, archery clubs, basketball leagues, bowling leagues, dances and other community events for years until a turbulent economy in 2004 led to the closing of the Oneida Ltd. Sherrill plant, putting the future of the CAC in question.

Then, in December 2005, with Oneida Ltd. struggling, Sherrill city officials began investigating the possibility of purchasing the CAC from the flatware company. On Monday, Dec. 12, 2005, the city commission passed a resolution to issue \$765,000 worth of bonds to fund the purchase of the CAC, but before proceeding with the purchase, the city held an open house tour of the building, fielding questions from the public as the community prepared for a referendum that would decide the fate of the CAC.

Before the referendum, the city issued a letter explaining

its interest in acquiring the CAC: “[The Sherrill City Commission] has been exploring the purchase of the CAC Clubhouse to preserve a valuable facility with long ties to the city’s rich past...without city ownership – given the times and the uncertainties surrounding Oneida Ltd. - there is great uncertainty surrounding the long-term future of the structure and there is no assurance that existing programs and activities will be able to continue there for the longer term.”

Following nearly two months of discussion regarding the purchase, city residents voted in a public referendum to buy the Community Associated Clubs (CAC) Clubhouse from silverware manufacturer Oneida Ltd. on Jan. 31, 2006.

The cost of the land across from Noyes Park and the 26,000 square foot CAC building itself cost \$385,000, but at the time, the city decided to take out a greater line of credit in order to cover the cost of renovations and repairs. With the purchase of the Community Associated Clubs from Oneida Ltd., Sherrill renamed the clubhouse the Community Activity Center.

Since Sherrill’s acquisition of the center in 2006, the CAC has received numerous upgrades to



PHOTO COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

The Class B bowling league of the CAC on April 2, 1957.

its structure. A key contributor in securing the funding to renovate the historic building is Assemblyman Bill Magee, D-121, according to Sayles, and remains an important part of the Sherrill community and government. Sayles said the city receives approximately \$30,000 a year thanks to the CAC and further upgrades are anticipated.

“We’re not done,” he said of the upgrades to the CAC. “It’s a key facility in the city.”

During the fall, winter and early spring youth center is open on select days for students from grades 4-12. Funded by the city, the CAC also offers regular open bowling hours September-April as well as league bowling play. The gym and upstairs are available to rent for bowling birthday parties, baby showers, graduation parties or other private events, and anyone 16 or older can play pool anytime tables are available.

Sherrill residents celebrate Halloween, Christmas and Easter at the CAC, as previous generations return with their chil-



JOHN BREWER - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

Santa Claus visits the Community Activity Center for the city's holiday celebration in 2016.

dren, enjoying the plethora of activities and events scheduled at the clubhouse, including art galleries for local artists to show off their work, yoga classes, a small skate park, craft groups, visits from the government agencies, open gymnasium time, strength training classes. The CAC has even served as a temporary police station since the city purchased the building, while ren-

ovations were made to the police station.

With tens of thousands of visitors a year, the CAC is truly a center for activity.

Current Sherrill Recreation Supervisor Sara Getman said, “The CAC is a wonderful asset and important to the city as a community place for families, kids and adults to gather for activities, meetings, celebrations and more.”



JEN SANTIAGO - ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH

Children scurry after Easter eggs at the Community Activity Center during the city's annual Easter egg hunt in 2016.



PHOTOS COURTESY SHERRILL CITY ARCHIVES

On June 26, 1982 the alumni of Sherrill High School held an all-classes reunion. The high school building was destroyed by fire in February, 1942, but with classes moved to other sites, the school existed until the 1950s, when the district consolidated with Vernon and Verona to form VVS.

The top photo are reunion-goers from the classes of 1918 through 1940; the other shows members of the classes of 1941 through 1950.



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