

NAPER SETTLEMENT



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Civil War Days will not return to Naper Settlement, new offering for 2020

NAPERVILLE, IL — The Naperville Heritage Society announced today that Civil War Days will not return to Naper Settlement in 2020. The event was held by the museum since 1982 and featured re-enactors sharing insights of the era, from fashion and medicine to music and the war itself.

“We thank the community for gathering with us the last 37 years for Civil War Days and we extend our gratitude to every re-enactor that has partnered with us over the years,” stated John Koranda, chair for the Naperville Heritage Society Board of Directors.

The decision to move away from Civil War Days is explicitly a financial one. In evaluating the last five years of data on this event, the Society reports a decline of 52% in attendance, 35% in re-enactor volunteers, and 50% in revenue since 2015.

“While a portion of the museum’s everyday operations is funded by the City of Naperville, the remainder is generated through various endeavors led by the Naperville Heritage Society, including our special events. Events have life cycles and we analyze all the variables on a rolling basis. After much thought and consideration, the Naperville Heritage Society Programs and Events Committee recommended that the event sunset, and the Board of Directors accepted that recommendation. This was exclusively a business decision. While we too share in the difficulty of letting it go, we are proud to know that Naper Settlement is part of so many special family moments and memories. Looking forward, we strive to continue to bring stellar programs, events, and exhibits to gather our community, and are excited for the new offerings planned,” said Rena Tamayo-Calabrese, president and CEO of Naper Settlement.

The museum intends to fill the vacancy with new, large-scale pop-up educational offerings that will change each year. In 2020, the focus will be on World War II with Homefront 1940s Weekend. In conjunction with the museum’s Spring exhibit, “Manufacturing Victory: The Arsenal of Democracy”, on loan from the National World War II museum in New Orleans, this

2020 pop-up event will highlight how the Homefront supported the War effort. Activities under consideration include: radio shows, 1940s swing dancing, jazz music, a fashion show, film screenings, military vehicles, and more.

“The Homefront was a way of life for many Napervilleans during World War II and it directly affected our residents and community, shaping how we live as a City today. There are compelling stories right here in our town and they are important to tell the next generation of Naperville. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Homefront 1940s Weekend and creating new traditions,” added Tamayo-Calabrese.

About Naper Settlement

Naper Settlement is a nationally accredited, award-winning outdoor museum set on 13 magnificent acres in the heart of Naperville. Located 30 miles from Chicago, the museum is home to thirty historical structures dating back as early as the 1830s. Featuring exhibits, special events, educational programming and more, Naper Settlement is where history comes alive and the community comes to connect. For more information, visit www.napersettlement.org or call (630) 420-6010.