

Scott County Historic Preservation Society, Inc.



June 2018

Annual SCHPS Picnic

Next Meeting: The June meeting will be our annual members' picnic starting at 6:00 pm on June 14, 2018, at Schuetzen Park, 700 Waverly Road in Davenport, Iowa.

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Mary Costello
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SCHPS Address
1820 Grant Street
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This summer we will enjoy our group picnic at one of the Quad Cities' finest green spaces - Schuetzen Park, 700 Waverly Road next door to the Good Samaritan Center. The Park refers to itself as "One of Nature's Fairest Spots." We meet on Thursday, 14 June 2018 starting at 6:00 p.m. Buffalo Wild Wings has generously donated the chicken for the event, so all you need to bring is a dish to share, your own place setting, and a good appetite. Please call Jean Froehlich at (563) 324-7643 so we know how much chicken to order.

If you have not already done so, now is an excellent time to renew your membership in SCHPS...send your check for \$15 (\$20 if you wish to receive the newsletter via USPS) to Ferenc Beiwel, SCHPS Treasurer
1820 Grant Street
PM Box 5017
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722-5017
Or bring your renewal to our picnic this coming Thursday! Thanks.

We will conduct our Board Elections at the picnic...please consider becoming a member of the SCHPS Board...your ideas and enthusiasm will help us continue as a vibrant organization committed to historic preservation.

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A little about the location of our picnic from the Park's website [<http://www.schuetzenpark.info/history.html>]:

This site holds many special memories for generations of local German-Americans and other area residents. In 1870, the Davenport Schuetzengesellschaft (later called the Schuetzen Verein) created this "Schuetzenpark," or shooting park, as a target range for rifle marksmanship. In addition to the shooting and target houses, the park included an inn, dance hall, music pavilion, zoo, bowling alleys, roller coaster, refreshment stands, athletic field, picnic grounds, and other amusements. As many as 12,000 people visited the park in a single day for major events.

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The popularity of Schuetzen Park began to decline around 1917, when the anti-German hysteria from World War I restricted the activities of German-Americans and led to the prohibition of the use of the German language in public. Many businesses and organizations changed their German names. For a time, Schuetzen Park was renamed Forest Park. The Davenport Schuetzen Verein became known by its English equivalent, the Davenport Shooting Association.

The park was dealt another serious blow in 1919 when the "Prohibition Act" outlawed the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, which had been a major source of revenue for the park. The park was sold in 1923, and it became the site of the Chiropractic Psychopathic Sanitarium. ... In 1960, much of the property again changed hands to the Davenport Good Samaritan Center.

Today, what remains of this special site is being preserved as a "Wildpark." The only original park building that remains is the 1911 street car waiting station, which was named a local historic landmark in 1998 by the City of Davenport.