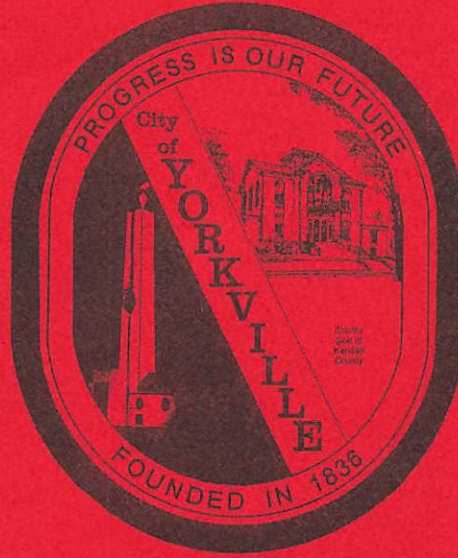


# City of Yorkville



# TOWN MEETING 76



May 15, 1976

Yorkville High School





"People Making Progress With Pride"



May 15, 1976

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THE NEW SONG

Yorkville Town Meeting

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"PROGRESS IS OUR GAIN"

(Tune: He's Got the  
Whole World In His  
Hands)

1. We had the Fox Indians on the land  
We had the Fox Indians on the land  
We had the Fox Indians on the land  
And then the settlers tilled the land
2. We've got pride in our churches and our schools  
We've got pride in our churches and our schools  
We've got pride in our churches and our schools  
We've got pride in our community.
3. We've got people helping people in our town  
We've got people helping people in our town  
We've got people helping people in our town  
To improve our common life.
4. The mighty Fox flows through our town  
The mighty Fox flows through our town  
The mighty Fox flows through our town  
We need another bridge to cross.
5. Progress depends on us  
Progress depends on us  
Progress depends on us  
Progress is our gain.

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## THE NEW STORY

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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### YORKVILLE - PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

Families in covered wagons settled in the Fox Valley in the 1830's to clear the lands and till the fertile soil. Families with visions of a better life came to settle along the Fox River Valley. In spite of unbelievable hardships, illness, Indian attacks, and severe winters they cleared the lands and tilled the fertile soil. They established churches, homes, mill, stores, schools, and a community way of life.

From the earliest days the community had a deep regard for human dignity, shown by participation in the "Underground Railroad". As progress continued over the Chicago - Ottawa Trail, the railroad replaced the horse - drawn vehicles as a means of transportation.

Yorkville became the county seat with the Courthouse on the hill south of the river. Later Yorkville and Bristol, originally separate towns, merged into one city.

Love of one's neighbors, a goal of keeping a lovely community for family life brought Yorkville into the present time.

In the face of rapid growth, birth of new subdivisions and increased traffic problems the sense of community feeling remains. Though predominantly a farming area it is hoped that some small business will share our future.

As we look to the future the same sense of community is a concern to all. We are striving to keep Yorkville a community where people have the small town feeling. We all hope to continue to see children riding their bicycles, to observe tree - lined parks and people caring for each other.



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## ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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### ECONOMIC COMM'INALITY

In the arena of Production Systems and Economic Comminality. The following blocks, priorities and the lack of funds and easements. Indicate the underlying contradiction of planning but no implementation. This is illustrated by the open ditch from Circle Center to the Fox River. Secondary streams in the county, and the railroad crossing on Rt. 47.

Guild A

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### CAN WE MOTIVATE

In the arena of the Economic. The fact that we have inadequate economic resources indicates the underlying contradiction is lack of decisiveness and intentionality. This is illustrated by the majority of citizens don't vote, people don't attend Council, School Board, don't write Representatives.

Guild B

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### INCREASED INVOLVEMENT

In the arena of People and Government. The following blocks, governmental bodies indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of knowledge. This is illustrated by poor community involvement.

Guild B

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### ACCEPTANCE OF ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITY

In the arena of Common Distribution. The following blocks, there are insufficient monies indicate the underlying contradiction of the fact that improvements are necessary, but that inflation has outdated current tax levels. This is illustrated by the fact that we all complain about the sewer system, the railroad crossings, etc., but are unwilling to accept the individual responsibility to incite and pay for these improvements.

Guild C

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### UPGRADING YORKVILLE

In the arena of Community Planning. The following blocks, that conditions and facilities are better elsewhere, indicate the underlying contradiction of a lack of motivation on the part of the community and individuals to initiate change. This is illustrated by the apparent stagnant conditions in the downtown area.

Guild C

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## ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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### COMMUNITY FEELING

In the arena of Economic Commonality. The following blocks, money isn't well distributed, people are unsupportive; there is lack of communication with public officials; and lack of legal support. Indicate the underlying contradiction of people not becoming involved and laws not being strictly enforced. This is illustrated by poor streets and roads; no medical care in Yorkville; poor railroad crossings; need for community blood banks; lack of supervision of public areas; and lack of volunteers for help.

Guild D.

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## POLITICAL CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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### POLITICAL COMMONALITY

In the arena of Political Commonality the following blocks, Vandalism and children trampling gardens indicate the underlying contradiction of the lack of effective parenting and community recreational programs. This is illustrated by no community recreational program using existing facilities, and no continuing program for teaching good parenting.

Guild A

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### POLITICAL COMMONALITY

In the arena of Political Commonality the following blocks, the state refuses to prioritize indicate the underlying contradiction of that we don't receive a fair share of our state taxes returned to Kendall County. This is illustrated by lack of movement to solve the By-Pass issue.

Guild A

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### EXAGGERATED SELF INTEREST

In the arena of Political the following blocks, people do not participate indicate the underlying contradiction of people become involved only when it directly affects them. This is illustrated by lack of attendance at most public meetings.

Guild B

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### CORPORATE WELFARE

In the arena of local government the following blocks, not enough money and involvement, lack of organization indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of co-ordination for direction. This is illustrated by not taking issue to proper channel, lack of acceptance of change.

Guild C

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### POLITICAL

In the arena of Political the following blocks apathy of citizens, poor law enforcement, inadequate legislation indicate the underlying contradiction of accountability of legislators, poor communication with officials, lack of motivation of individuals to Back Issues. This is illustrated by drownings at Dam in Yorkville and poor roads and streets.

Guild D



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## CULTURAL CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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### COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

In the arena of Common Resources the following blocks, Human Resources, Natural Resources and Property Claims indicate the underlying contradiction of co-ordinated and community commitment to legitimacy of objectives. This is illustrated by inability to retain local physician.

Guild A

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### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In the arena of Social Structures the following blocks, lack of funding, no understanding, and lack of communication to needs indicate the underlying contradiction of a uniformed public priority of issues. This is illustrated by no community periodic survey taken, lack of communications between students and administration, and no PTA in high school.

Guild A

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### CULTURAL COMMONALITY

In the arena of Cultural Commonality the following blocks, lack of community concern indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of interest, lack of time, importance of peer groups. This is illustrated by drug abuse, lack of community center, lack of senior citizen house.

Guild A

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### PUBLIC APATHY

In the arena of Cultural Commonality the following blocks, lack of understanding of social issues indicate the underlying contradiction of lack of human concern for others; self-centeredness. This is illustrated by our inability to establish senior citizen housing, civic center, park district & teen & child facilities.

Guild B

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### KNOW YOURSELF, YOUR NEIGHBOR & YOUR WORLD BETTER

In the arena of Cultural Commonality the following blocks, lack of involvement indicate the underlying contradiction of becoming more involved and more exposed. This is illustrated by well meaning people who don't follow through, not knowing enough about others.

Guild C

## CULTURAL CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville - Town Meeting

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### CULTURAL APATHY

In the arena of Cultural - Communal Wisdom the following blocks, apathy lack of financial priority setting, hectic pace and societal pressures, lack of cultural priority setting, family responsibilities more important than community responsibilities indicate the underlying contradiction of: 1. Apathy causes pessimism which leads to non-involvement; 2. Set priorities in meeting on attendance; 3. Set priorities by legislative groups for expenditures; 4. Volunteer help; 5. Education of citizens regarding cultural services available; 6. Positive optimistic attitude. This is illustrated by local illustrations in community: School especially parental education regarding responsibilities, positive attitudes and pride in our country would bring about better cultural atmosphere.

Guild D

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### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

In the arena of Cultural Commonality the following blocks, apathy indicate the underlying contradiction of interest and involvement. This is illustrated by lack of present civic organizations generating interest in our community.

Guild D

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PROPOSALS FOR  
THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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COMMUNITY FEELING

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to inform the public of city activities propose to have the city publish a Monthly Newsletter through the appointment of a Communications director who will publish a news letter and distribute it through local Businesses.

GUILD A

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HUMAN RESOURCES

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to expand the Human Resource Commission propose they identify and utilize local skills through requesting them to be responsible - for example; organizing work days, create human resource bank, etc.

GUILD A

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COMMUNITY FEELING

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to promote a flow of information between the public and Social Structure propose widespread public education so citizens can be more civic minded through 1.) short courses 2.) booklets distributed by city council giving information on social government procedures. 3.) advisory committee appointed by city council to investigate citizen complaints and problems.

GUILD A

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UPGRADING YORKVILLE

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to patronize local business propose a greater sales tax revenue and encouragement of re-investment through advertizing, shop at home and support Chamber of Commerce.

GUILD A

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COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We the citizens of Kendall County in order to improve quality of life by generating citizen involvement in their government propose to form a citizen "Good Government" organization. Call a meeting to begin organizing group. Care will be taken to inform entire community. Human Resource Commission to take responsibility to call the meeting.

GUILD A

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PROPOSALS FOR  
THE POLITICAL CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY=GOOD GOVERNMENT

We the Citizens of Yorkville in order to develop responsible, accountable government propose programs of community action and participation through encouraging people of integrity to run and supporting them, yearly sessions accountability sessions and quarterly workshops with officials, a tax rebate for those who vote.

Guild D

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COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT

We the Citizens of Yorkville in order to enrich our community for new structures propose to plan a park district through creating interest, public involvement, petition signing & a tax referendum.

Guild B

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ACTIVATE & MOTIVATE COMMUNITY

We the Citizens of the Greater Yorkville Area in order to acquaint and involve the entire community propose a Community Day ( in conjunction with Homecoming or Harvest Day) through community effort and involvement - (media, existing groups, library and businesses).

Guild B

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BE INVOLVED

We the Citizens of Yorkville Area in order to get actively involved, be informed and have a regular exchange of ideas propose to attend various respective civic meetings through publishing various meeting dates agenda, providing transportation to such meeting and perpetuating through the Human Resource Commission the outcome of Town Meeting '76.

Guild D

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ORGANIZE FINANCIAL GROWTH

We the Citizens of Yorkville in order to set more money for public expenditures propose to increase the local tax base through: 1) Establish an orderly annexation plan; 2) Encourage and support the Economic and Development Resource Committees to attract industry; 3) Educate people to advantages of shopping locally to increase sales tax revenue; 4) Encourage housing to complement industrial growth.

Guild B



PROPOSALS FOR  
THE POLITICAL CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

We the Citizens of the Yorkville Community in order to improve the effectiveness of our leadership there-by creating more community interest and involvement propose inter-organizations seminars through calling together representatives of government, civic, religious and business leaders.

Guild C

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PROPOSALS FOR  
THE CULTURAL CHALLENGES

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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HUMAN RELATIONS EDUCATION

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to improve concern for others propose to provide instruction for students, parents and other adults in human relations through requesting the board of education to make sociology instruction with community involvement required for all students and to make sociology courses available for adults.

Guild C

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PEOPLE AWARENESS

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to make people aware and encourage them to become involved, propose Discussion Groups, through talking to neighbors, making decisions together, "personally" informing and inviting people to become a part of our plan and offering assistance to those who need it.

Guild C

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PERSONAL VISITATION

We the citizens of Yorkville in order to interest individuals and families to get involved in community activities, propose personal visitation to show personal concern in tragedies and successes, through meeting with Community Organizations to help in contacting people in Community.

Guild C

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GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED

We the citizens of Yorkville, Illinois in order to bring people together propose a social event involving all age groups through a co-ordinator's developing a steering committee for this purpose. The committee should have representation from local groups and community organizations in order to build interest and attendance.

Guild C

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

Sponsored by - City of Yorkville and Yorkville Human Resource Commission

### Co-Sponsors:

* City of Yorkville	Junior High Parent - Teacher Organization
* Community Benefits	Elementary Parent - Teacher Organization
* Yorkville Congregational Church	Bristol - Kendall Fire Department
* Yorkville Area Chamber of Commerce	Yorkville Lions
* Yorkville Women's Club	Countryside Center
* Kendall Family & Youth Services	Yorkville Music Boosters
* Kendall Lodge No. 411- A.F. & A. M.	Yorkville High School Student Council
* Yorkville United Methodist Church	Kendall County Historical Society
* Yorkville Jaycees	Kendall County Bicentennial Commission
* Bristol & Yorkville Girl Scouts	Helmar Lutheran Church
* Yorkville Jaycees	Kendall County Women's Republican Club Yorkville Jr. High Student Council
* Kendall County Women's Republican Club	
* Order of the Eastern Star No. 295	
* South Kendall Unit Homemakers	
Extension	Donors:
* Yorkville Education Association	Caterpillar Tractor (Registration Forms)
* Kendall County Farm Bureau	Kendall County Record (Posters)
* Yorkville Senior Foxes	Yorkville Girl Scouts (Name Tags)
* Contributors	Sr. Foxes (Cakes)

in cooperation with The Institute of Cultural Affairs

### Honored Guests and Dignitaries:

Leroy Thanepohn, mayor  
Sen. Robert Mitchler, Illinois State Senate, 39th Dist.  
Rep. Timothy Hall, U.S. Congress, 15th Dist.

### Workshop Leaders:

John Behrens  
Mike Obenauer  
C. R. Ellis  
Ed Malinowski  
Helen Clayton  
Bill Carpenter  
Audrey Ayers  
Dan Townshend  
Peter Fry  
Kate Collins

### ICA Staff:

Faith Vance  
Steve Allen

EMCEE

Richard Walker

### Hosts:

Mrs. Alice Dickson  
Mrs. Adele Reynolds  
Mrs. Barbara Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Clayton  
Rev. & Mrs. Larry Rezash  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Richard Ellis

### Scribes:

Gladys Ainsworth  
Kathy Lamb  
Karen Law  
Yvonne Howell

May 15, 1976

COMMITTEES

Yorkville, Illinois

STEERING COMMITTEE

Larry Rezash, Chairman  
Blanche Smith  
Identa Austin  
Bill Carpenter  
Mary Ellen Ellis  
LeRoy Thanepohn  
Mike Obenauer

PRACTICS COMMITTEE

Richard Mau, Chairman  
John Behrens  
Joelle Anderson  
Joan McEachrn  
Judy Middleton  
Robert Ortman  
Bob Bazan  
Roland Stafford  
Jeff Farren  
Adele Reynolds  
Jeness Medin

ENTERTAINMENT

Frank Harris, chairman  
Bert Harris  
Dallas Ingemunson  
Dodie Ingemunson  
John Milner  
Jerry Tuttle  
Jill Tuttle  
Jack Tuttle  
Sue Tuttle  
Bill Hernandes  
T. J. Johnson  
Judy Bell  
Bob Thomas  
John E. Behrens

PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Richard Haynes, Chairman  
Jerry Davidson  
Linda Hanback  
Jim Holstine  
Karen Zinn  
Sarah King  
Barbara Johnson  
Helen Clayton  
Harold Feltz  
John Lies

ENABLEMENT COMMITTEE

Bruce & Ginny Buhrmaster  
Shirley Yuill - Childrens Town Mtg.  
Nadine Pierce - Babysitting  
(Co-Chairpersons)  
Bessie Lough  
Doris Lowe  
Jeannie Wollenweber  
Mae Houck  
Alice Dickson  
Mary Hinman  
Lucie Stafford  
Belle Ringe



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May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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Sing to tune "Yankee Doodle"

TOWN MEETING SONG by Alice Dickson

Neighbor and I went down to town to have a good Town Meeting  
And there we met our friends and foes, who had the same good feeling.

Chorus:

Hash the problems of our town and say a lot about it.  
Lights and streets and parks and schools will all come in for comment.

The City needs a traffic light down town on '47.  
The State declines to do its part, so we should look to heaven.

Chorus

Parks were next upon the list. A shelter is suggested.  
Some were for and some against, and that is where the matter rested.

Chorus

Sewers need repair, say those who have a little problem.  
If some may have the service(s) now, the rest should also have them.

Chorus

Town Meeting of year '76; a glorius occasion.  
Friends & neighbors work along to make a better world and nation.

Chorus

JUST A THOUGHT by Frank Preas, Caterpillar Tractor Co., Aurora

Anti-patriots scare me,  
Looking at life as a drag  
They forget about blood shed,  
Defending our flag.  
You read of the bad kids,  
Running wild and on dope,  
But believe me there's good kids,  
Here lies our future and hope.  
One thing we should all do,  
But a lot of us lack,  
Is love for all mankind,  
White, red, yellow and black.  
In some hearts exist prejudice,  
Frustrations and hate,  
This only can lead us,  
To a disastrous fate.  
Everyone believes in something,  
Maybe it's not God above,  
But why can't we think alike,  
About togetherness and love.

Around this whole world,  
Things in the schools they can't teach,  
Are freedom of worship,  
Free elections, and speech.  
We have been through rough times,  
And now we are two hundred years old,  
I love this old country,  
On this I am sold.  
I'm not a philosopher,  
And very far from a poet,  
And now that you've read this,  
Even you know it.  
I'm not a rich man,  
My talent is art,  
And I'm thankful to God,  
From deep in my heart.  
For my closing comment,  
Believe this when I say,  
I thank God I'm a citizen,  
In the U.S. of A.

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PARTICIPANTS

---

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

---

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Yorkville 60560

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May 15, 1976

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Yorkville Town Meeting

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May 15, 1976

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Yorkville Town Meeting

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May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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---

PARTICIPANTS

May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

---

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May 15, 1976

Yorkville Town Meeting

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## CITY of YORKVILLE

County Seat of Kendall County  
Yorkville, Illinois 60560

May 4, 1978

**MAYOR**

LEROY E. THANEPOHN

**CLERK**

LUANNE ERICKSON

**TREASURER**

MARILYN J. MERKEL

**ALDERMEN**

**First Ward**

FRANK WOLFF

LARRY A. BEACH

**Second Ward**

BLAINE HARKER

DANNY HANBACK

**Third Ward**

HERSHEL D. SMITH

ROGER SIMMONS

**Chief of Police**

WINFRED PRICKETT

**Superintendent of Waterworks  
and Streets**

ELDEN MADDEN

**City Attorney**

FRED DICKSON

Sue Townsend  
Institute of Cultural Affairs  
4750 West Sheridan  
Chicago, Illinois 60640

Dear Sue:

We are now about two years past our Town Meeting "76" which the Institute helped us with.

We still have such a wealth of ideas, initiatives, and proposals from that Town Meeting, that it will take years to implement and work through them all. While the town meeting itself was an exhilarating time, the working through and implementation of the ideas that evolved into proposals is the real reward.

This community, and I know that no other community that has held a good "town meeting" on the concept of the Institute could ever be the same.

The second ingredient in a successful town meeting is an open, receptive City Council which places the highest value on the public good. We have that kind of a City Council, and they in turn motivate so many willing, talented and energetic citizens to serve on the various commissions and boards, that it always amazes me the quality of people involved in our city affairs.

We have accomplished many goals and expanded many ideas from that 1976 Town Meeting. I can only detail some of the more significant ones.

I am enclosing a couple of the city newsletters which are being published as a result of the desire for that from the town meeting. They are well done, kept informative and non-political.





## CITY of YORKVILLE

County Seat of Kendall County  
Yorkville, Illinois 60560

**MAYOR**  
LEROY E. THANEPOHN

**CLERK**  
LUANNE ERICKSON

**TREASURER**  
MARILYN J. MERKEL

**ALDERMEN**  
**First Ward**  
FRANK WOLFF  
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**Third Ward**  
HERSHEL D. SMITH  
ROGER SIMMONS

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WINFRED PRICKETT

**Superintendent of Waterworks  
and Streets**  
ELDEN MADDEN

**City Attorney**  
FRED DICKSON

Page 2

Also I have enclosed a copy of this summers park commission program. This whole park commission and program is a direct result of the meeting. It is at a minimal cost. Commission members all work hard with no compensation. We do hire a park director on a part time basis. We have a super park program with practically no cost.

The Chamber of Commerce guide which I have also included was something the Chamber agreed to undertake, the need for which was highlighted at Town Meeting "76".

A human resource bank has been established and is described in one of the newsletters I have sent you.

We have been holding regular accountability sessions on the 5th Thursdays in which months they happen to fall. They include press and live radio coverage, with live question and answer sessions.

A Community Center has been made possible through the willing of an estate by a former leading citizen, who left the city approximately \$275,000 for that purpose. A very active and dedicated committee has been working on it. A site selection will soon be accomplished. The city has committed \$100,000 from Revenue Sharing, and the committee is enlisting all of the organizations involved with town meeting to support and raise funds for it. Here again, the experience of cooperation and fellowship gained by all these groups in the Town Meeting "76" will be put back together for another grand purpose.

Our Business & Economic Development Commission is working on the economic proposals. They have come to the aid of, and have lead the business community into some cooperative efforts which is giving new life to the older run down business areas, and is improving the business climate.



## CITY of YORKVILLE

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ELDEN MADDEN

**City Attorney**  
FRED DICKSON

Page 3

We have, in Yorkville, probably the finest Senior Citizen Housing Development in the entire country. You have to see it to believe it. The Town Meeting "76" I believe, helped set the climate to accept and then to support this project.

Many, many good things have happened in this community because of our association with the Institute of Cultural Affairs in the Town Meeting program.

I am forever grateful, and we are now considering another town meeting of our own to build more understanding, and make this community even greater, and strive to yet improve more and more the quality of life here for every citizen.

I am also including a copy of the Illinois Municipal League article, which happens to be noted on by State Senator John Grotberg.

Sincerely yours,

LeRoy E. Thanepohn  
Mayor  
City of Yorkville

LET:mjm



## YORKVILLE -

### "GOT ITSELF TOGETHER" WITH TOWN MEETING "76"

By: LeROY E. THANEPOHN

Mayor, City of Yorkville

Yorkville is a changing rural community in the heavily industrialized Fox River Valley. It is located approximately 50 miles west of the Chicago loop, and 10 miles south of Aurora.

The city is being affected by the urbanizing spread. There are presently about 3000 residents. The anticipated growth has slowed with the economy. However, it is still projected to double in the next ten years and then double again in the following ten years.

It has been said of the City of Yorkville that we have the best planned community in the best planned county in the State of Illinois.

We have a growing industrial park as well as other developing industries. There is one of the finest local shopping centers in the area, as well as the successful downtown shopping area. The city is served by one U.S. highway and three state highways. The Burlington Northern supplies a freight line. Airport facilities are available 10 miles north or at O'Hare Field 40 miles away.

The city has a great deal of annexed land waiting to be developed, and the annexability capabilities are tremendous.

In Yorkville, we held a Town Meeting "76" to let the people put forth the challenges as they saw them. Then, also, for the people of Yorkville to make proposals to deal with these challenges.

This exercise in democracy was an extremely rewarding experience for all of the participants and for the community. The Illinois Department of Local Governmental Affairs put out a briefing on the Town Meeting program early in 1976. It was from that briefing that we sought further information. The program is put together by the Institute of Cultural Affairs. The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a non-profit organization which researches community life and social organization, and which is committed to economic and social renewal in communities. The Institute of Cultural Affairs believes that true community development depends on local citizens. The Institute has developed well tested methods of problem solving, teamwork, and motivation. The Town Meeting demonstrates to the people of any community that they can make a difference by involving themselves in civic affairs.

There was some initial doubt that our citizens would participate in the numbers necessary for a good consensus. This was not a politically sponsored meeting at all, but was a grass roots effort.

It grew from one interested local leader, to a nucleus of 8 or 10. Then in an amazing response, a total of 30 organizations and churches backed the project. Never before had anyone seen such co-

operation. The press picked up that enthusiasm, and by the day of the Town Meeting great anticipation was prevailing.

The meeting ran from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. There was a welcoming program with Federal, State and local officials on hand. There were some patriotic songs and then that whole group of about 250 people got down to work. They were split into smaller groups, and brainstormed various areas in three main categories, Economic, Political and Cultural. There was even a group that wrote a new song for the community, and a brief history. The support by all of those organizations was so great that no fee was charged, even for the chicken dinner. The challenges were all determined in the morning sessions. The Institute of Cultural Affairs certainly does have a very structured, effective and extremely well planned program. After determining the challenges, they were distilled by the groups into commonalities. The lunch was served on time. Local entertainment was provided. Lunch ended on time. Then, all these people once again split into small groups to find their solutions to the problems or challenges presented in the morning sessions.

It was a tremendous experience. So many fresh, new ideas to solve old, stale problems. It was an exhilarating time for me as Mayor to listen to these discussions.

The afternoon then was spent again brainstorming, finding solutions and offering proposals with which to deal with given problems.

At the same time as this adult program was taking place, a childrens Town Meeting was also taking place nearby. The childrens town meeting followed a similar course and they all enjoyed their day also, and were sorry to see it end.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs has held 500 or more town meetings across the country with an impressive record of success. They are geared up to do some 4500 more in the next couple of years.

The benefits to our community have been great and are continuing.

The cooperation of so many lifted the morale of the entire community. The Town Meeting itself made people aware of the love, concern, and problems of their neighbors and friends.

The very tangible result will go on indefinitely. It has been but 5 months since our town meeting. In that time a Human Resource Bank has been established. This is a bank of willing citizens who have talents and resources that they are willing to share with other people, who for one reason or another may be in need. This may be crisis care or a retired teacher willing to tutor a child in need of help, or a young couple in dire financial condition through inexperience or mishandling. Also the Resource Bank has someone talented in handling finances, and willing to show them how, or a little old lady who needs help with storm windows who cannot afford help, and the Human Resource Bank





## **GIRARD - DEDICATES NEW MUNICIPAL BLDG.**

By **THEODORE W. LAY**  
Mayor, City of Girard

On the evening of September 25, 1976, the City of Girard held open house and dedicated the Girard Municipal Building.

Our town is proud of the new facility which replaces an old one story building, erected in 1914, originally designated "City Engine House No. 1."

The need for a more up to date building in which to conduct the City affairs had long been recognized but the wherewithal presented something of a poser. The Council was reluctant to pursue any of the accepted means, such as borrowing on bond issue. After analysis of our various accounts and finding we had a surplus in some of them e.g., water, general fund, streets and alleys, revenue sharing etc., it was decided to appropriate a sum of money for the expressed purpose of constructing a new building.

After months of discussion, consideration and planning, in committee as well as in Council meetings the decision was reached to advertise for bids. Six contractors submitted bids and a contract was awarded the Maco Construction Company, of Carlinville, Illinois, Lowell Fullington, owner.

The building is a Chief Metal Building, contain-

ing 8750 square feet of space, 4900 square feet for storage of City vehicles and equipment and 3850 square feet given over to a utilities office, an office for the Mayor, City Clerk and Treasurer, a three room suite for the Police, a conference room, a fire proof vault for the storage of City records, a large Council Chamber, an office for the Water and Sewer Commissioner, shared with the Street Commissioner, utility and storage rooms and wash rooms.

All of the above listed areas are of adequate dimensions to meet today's needs as well as allow for future expansion as the town grows, as we are convinced it will.

It is not the intention of the City government of Girard to consider this building as a City Hall per se, rather it is a building for the use of the community. The Council Chamber, for example, is large enough and highly adaptable for Chamber of Commerce, Ladies' Club or Senior Citizens meetings, etc.

The original contract called for an expenditure of \$111,760.00, however, a few minor items were added after the contract was let. These have increased the cost to a total of \$113,548.37.

The government of the City of Girard is especially proud that we were able to accomplish this project without the aid of any governmental grants, other than some Revenue Sharing Funds, without borrowing, and thereby saddling the community with a long term indebtedness, and without raising taxes.

has someone willing to help. There are many, many applications in bringing together problems and resources.

The first city newsletter will have gone out on December 1st with information of city activities and articles of public interest. This was another recommendation of the Town Meeting "76" meeting. The newsletters are of the people, by the people and for the people.

Other proposals, all either presently being worked on, or slated to be are: to promote public education; an effort to encourage patronization of local business, which in turn supports the community; propose a "Good government organization"; promote accountability sessions or quarterly workshops with local officials; promote a park district. In fact, as a result, it now appears a park program is developing. Also there was a proposal for a Community Day — a city wide social. There was a great feeling of togetherness at the town meeting, and it has carried over these months. Another proposal was for the Board of Education to make sociology instruction with community involvement required for all students, and also to make these courses available for adults.

Many other proposals were developed, all of which makes the community richer and more of a cohesive citizenry, more sensitive to the needs of others, and more aware of their civic responsibilities.

The great thing about most of these proposals is that they do not cost any money, yet the community benefit is great.

I highly endorse the Town Meeting concept and the specific program that the Institute of Cultural Affairs has put together. The Institute supplies a nucleus to train local citizens who then draw out the comments and handle the discussions. Institute people do not try to inject ideas or thoughts into the process. The end result is a truly local consensus.

We found all of the Institute people to be very effective, enthusiastic, and of very fine character. For interested communities, the address of the Institute is: Institute of Cultural Affairs, 410 South Trumbull, Chicago, Illinois 60624.

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## A REPORT FROM The Bureau of Local Roads Illinois Department of Transportation

MELVIN B. LARSEN, Engineer

### SCHOOL TRAFFIC SAFETY

The title of this article is also the title for a new 18-page booklet published by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). One of the most pressing problems that educators, enforcement agencies and traffic engineers are faced with today is the safety of children en route to and from school. Often, the solution is viewed very narrowly as a need for a sign, signal, or marking at a specific location. The purpose of the booklet is to provide a basis for a systematic look at the problem and the means available to analyze and implement a program to ensure the safest possible trip for the child walking to school. The booklet will be a useful aid to individuals who are concerned with, and interested in, traffic safety for schoolchildren — either as school officials, members of safety committees, or interested parents. The “three E’s” of traffic safety (Education, Enforcement, and Engineering) working together are never more critical and important than with regard to school traffic safety.

The booklet has 13 pictorial illustrations plus two illustrations relative to a typical school route map and typical signing for school area traffic control. It may be obtained on a request basis from IDOT, Bureau of Traffic, 2300 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62764. This publication is not intended for mass distribution, but rather one to be utilized by local officials and organizations working with school safety.

Some of the more pertinent items discussed are: standardization of school crossing protection, traffic control devices for schools, training for guards and safety patrols; planning, selection and execution of a school route plan, unique traffic signs vs. standard

devices, organization of agencies and persons for the administration of crossing supervision, involvement of police officers and pedestrian underpasses and overpasses. Ten related publications on school safety and the addresses where the publications may be obtained are listed for convenience of interested parties.

To emphasize the importance of school traffic safety, pedestrians were involved in over 18% of the fatal accidents and nearly 10% of the injury accidents in 1975. One third (119) of the pedestrians killed in traffic accidents were under 20 years of age.

Perhaps the greatest responsibility for school crossing safety lies with the motorist. Pedestrians (including children) have the right-of-way in a crosswalk, whether the crosswalk is marked or not, when the pedestrian is on the half of the roadway upon which the motorist is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger. Even when the pedestrian does not have the right-of-way, the motorist must exercise due care to avoid an accident.

Although many people feel that the use of unique signs, signals, or markings at a crossing will increase driver awareness, experience has shown that the use of standard traffic control devices is the most effective means of communicating with the driver.

The Illinois Department of Transportation also publishes a Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. The Illinois manual contains a chapter on traffic controls in school areas which is, by law, the basis for all signs, signals and markings installed at school crossings on public roads and streets.

Go safely . . . . .

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