

# Escape to Elsay – December 2021



*“Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold.”*

*- Josephine Bacon*

## Elsah Holiday Walk event - Dec. 4



An afternoon stroll through the historic streets of Elsay on a crisp December day, with village shops, homes, street lamps and bridges charmingly decorated for the holiday season... Carolers singing, music playing, horse-drawn carriage rides and fire pits for warmth and cheer. These are the sights and sounds of the Elsay Holiday Walk, to be held Sat. Dec. 4, 12 to 4 pm. Historic Elsay Foundation (HEF) is offering this as a FREE event this year. Tickets may be reserved at [www.historicelsah.org](http://www.historicelsah.org) or picked up that day at

the Elsay Civic Center, 51 Mill Street. Guests will be able to visit four of Elsay’s historic buildings: the two-room schoolhouse, Farley’s Music Hall, Elsay Museum, and Elsay Methodist Church, with hosts sharing historic information at each site. Elsay’s unique shops and bed & breakfast inns will also be open, serving cookies and other treats. And holiday music will be in the air, performed in Elsay’s two churches. \*\*\*Masks required inside the buildings.

**Elsah volunteers are needed** to make it all happen! We’re looking for building hosts, fire pit managers and a caroling group. Contact Blair Smith: [geneblairsmith@gmail.com](mailto:geneblairsmith@gmail.com), or drop by.

For 50 years, Historic Elsay Foundation has worked for the enhancement and preservation of Elsay’s homes, buildings, architecture, culture and environment. Because its funding is largely dependent on proceeds from fundraisers like the traditional House Tour, please consider making a special donation of any size this year at [www.historicelsah.org](http://www.historicelsah.org) or in person on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It will be greatly appreciated!



## Town and Gown – Up the Hill at Principia College



### Upcoming events

- Nov. 29, 6 pm – Principia Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration, West Quad, Howard Lawn  
**Principia College President John Williams is encouraging Elsay community members to join the campus’ annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration. You can get directions at the gatehouse.**
- Dec. 3, 1 pm – Christmas at Davis, Davis Music Hall  
Cultural events: [www.principia.edu/calendar](http://www.principia.edu/calendar)  
Athletic events: [www.principiaathletics.com](http://www.principiaathletics.com)

## Village News

### Three Rivers Community Farm

Three Rivers Community Farm is now closed for the season. Look for their annual spring plant sale opening the last weekend in April.

### Elsah properties for sale

If you're considering a move to Elsau, these properties are currently on the market:

- 27 Mill St. (home). By owner. 618-791-8656
- 56 Mill St. (historic home). By Ali Tarrant, Tarrant & Harman. 618-974-9598
- 86 Mill St. (home). By owner. 617-391-7652
- 18 LaSalle St. (historic building, commercial). By Mary Beiser, Tarrant & Harman. 618-806-8150
- 44 LaSalle St. (home). By owner. 618-791-8656

### Elsah Book Group – Nov.-Dec. selection

*Bone Broth* by Black St. Louisan Lyndsey Ellis is our next reading choice. For further info, contact [cecilyellenlee@gmail.com](mailto:cecilyellenlee@gmail.com)



### Village enhancement

Thank you to resident, Sally Horbelt, for beautifying the village Maintenance building with lovely planting.





## Business Spotlight: Elsay Galleries



Step into Elsay Galleries in the Mott Building on LaSalle Street, and you'll discover an amazing array of vintage and modern treasures gathered from around the world. Included in these treasures are the gallery owners themselves, Cynthia and Kirk Verseman, and the story of their business together goes back as far as some of their vintage finds.

Both Cynthia and Kirk's families have lived in the St. Louis area for generations (Kirk's family goes back to pre-civil war times, Cindy is a 4th generation St. Louisan). Their two families were friends, gathering socially, and attending the same church and school. Teen-aged Cynthia recalls working summers at her father's famous family business, Ted Drewes Frozen Custard in St. Louis, and watching Kirk drive up with a girl or two in his Triumph Spitfire.

In college Kirk sold Ted Drewes Christmas trees. It was after college that the two began dating and were married. The following 40 years included adding 3 children, Cynthia's career teaching autistic and PreK children, and Kirk's work at Enterprise Leasing and then at his family business, Missouri Floor. From life in their penthouse in the Shaw neighborhood, frequent trips across the bridge eventually led to Elsay, and the rental of the stone Ward-Rockabrand house, and then the purchase of the beautiful Onetto-Bradley brick house.



Following their dream of Kirk's to run an art gallery, and Cynthia's to have an antiques store, when a space opened up in 2019, two doors down from their home, Elsay Galleries was born. The shop is an expression of their wide-ranging interests, full of a variety of their discoveries; unique hand-picked furniture, lamps, rugs, pillows, china, old and new home decor accessories, along with serious antique pieces, a large varied gallery of paintings, prints, sculpture, and photography, all reflecting their creative eye. "Everything has a story", Cynthia explains.

This month, holiday treats and treasures will also be for sale, from useful items like wrapping paper, fanciful holiday decorations and more. All during December until year's end, many items will be offered with special sale prices. Although inventory values vary widely, all are fairly priced. Kirk shares his belief that "If you get something for a good deal, you should pass that good deal on."



Come see why the Verseman's and their gallery are both a great discovery and a really good deal!

Note: the Mott Building is for sale, and the gallery may be looking for a new location.

Elsay Galleries - 18 LaSalle Street, Elsay

December hours, Saturdays and Wednesdays 11-3

And by chance or appointment /Please text or leave message: 314-570-2741

## Village government

**Contacts and meetings:** For information regarding local government issues, please contact Village Clerk Crystal Dunham at 618-374-1568, [Elsah.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:Elsah.clerk@gmail.com) or Mayor Mike Pitchford at 618-616-4948, [Elsah.mayor@gmail.com](mailto:Elsah.mayor@gmail.com). The **Zoning Board** meets the first Thursday of the month, 7 pm. The **Trustees** meet the second Tuesday, 7 pm. These meetings are open to the public. The Trustees' agenda is posted on the outdoor bulletin board at the Post Office.

## *Warm Holiday Wishes to All!*

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### ELSAH BUSINESSES

*For more information on Village of Elsau shops visit [www.EscapetoElsah.com/shop/](http://www.EscapetoElsah.com/shop/).*

**Elsah Galleries** – 17 LaSalle Street

**Elsah General Store** – 22 LaSalle Street

**Green Tree Inn** – 15-17 Mill Street

**Life in the Postcard Photography Gallery** - 20 LaSalle Street

**The Look Factory** – 43 Mill Street

**Maple Leaf Cottage Inn** – 12 Selma Street

**Peace Works** – 7 Mill Street

**Systir Studio at The Little Barn Floral Design** - 43 Mill Street

**Three Rivers Community Farm** - 22935 Chautauqua Road

**Crocker and Springer** – 25337 Beltrees Road

### ELSAH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

*For more information on Elsau non-profit organizations visit [www.EscapetoElsah.com/attractions/](http://www.EscapetoElsah.com/attractions/).*

**Christian Science Reading Room** (historic Maybeck bldg.) - 17 LaSalle St.

**Elsah United Methodist Church** – Selma Square (historic building)

**Farley Music Hall** (historic building) - 37 Mill St.

**First Church of Christ, Scientist** - 53 LaSalle St.

**Historic Elsau Foundation** - PO Box 117, Elsau IL 62028 - [www.historicelsah.org](http://www.historicelsah.org)

**Principia College** (historic Maybeck buildings) - 1 Maybeck Pl. (off Beltrees Rd.)

**Treehouse Wildlife Center** - 23956 Green Acres Rd., Dow, IL 62022

**Village Museum** (historic building) – 26 LaSalle St. –

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*Please invite friends, family, neighbors and others to  
subscribe to the monthly newsletter at [EscapetoElsah.com](http://EscapetoElsah.com)*

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**Shop. Stay. Explore.**

**Escape to Elsieh  
Communications & Events Team**

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*(Please reply to this email if you wish to unsubscribe.)*