## From the President Rachel Smith

"Spring is the time of plans and projects." -Leo Tolstoy

Admittedly, my family and I hibernate throughout the winter season. We are truly bears in a sense and fully enjoy being at home but admittedly, forced isolation due to the pandemic has impacted us in innumerable ways. So, we are looking forward to sunny Spring days, bulbs bursting through the dirt bringing gorgeous color into view. And the inevitable home improvement projects that every Pullmanite loves/loathes. Gardening, refreshing paint, repairing what nature has damaged (sigh...the squirrels are the bane of my existence this year). Spring also brings the opportunity to engage with our neighbors in person — and not run inside to avoid the cold, walk our babies (fur-babies too) and fully embrace being here in this place.

A wise neighbor shared his belief that if neighbors could see each other and be cordial/kind when walking to and from their cars, they would be more likely to fully engage in this community. That the act of seeing, recognizing and speaking to one another can build bridges where there may not be any at present.

Pullman is the kind of Chicago neighborhood where it's difficult, but not impossible, to live your whole life and never know who lives next door (or down the street). So, another wise neighbor recommended that we make a conscious effort to reconnect, especially after a year of isolation, loss and grief, to re-introduce ourselves to each other and build bridges. Therefore, I'd like to make a feature of each month's President's article the opportunity to introduce a new-ish neighbor to the community. This month, I'd like to introduce Alexis Willis, by sharing her own words. If you see Alexis out and about, please feel free to strike up conversation and get to know her.

Hi Pullman neighbors and friends!

I'm a visual and performing artist who has spent most of her life in Chicago as well as the Northwest Suburbs with early, early years in the countryside of Mississippi surrounded by cows, horses, dogs, and snakes. I'm an actress, singer, dancer, flautist, composer, painter, and writer. I also enjoy working with youth, bike riding, and travel. I'm grateful to reside in a community whose goals and actions strive toward economic development, unity, and continually being a landmark for honoring history.

Living in Pullman Artspace lofts has provided a sense of stability for me as I expand my career. I'm impressed with the level of talent and drive here amongst my peers. We strive for excellence. Currently, I'm auditioning for acting opportunities, and I'm collaborating with peers to create murals in their homes.

My favorite aspect of Pullman is how neighbors share their passions. I love that there is a local beekeeper, a Pullman Welcome loaf, facade restoration, gardening, and a beautiful green church whose presence is like a symbol reminding us to keep Faith. I look forward to meeting more of you!

Blessings

P.s. I love dog sitting!

Thanks for choosing Pullman, Alexis. And thanks to all who work to make Pullman home.

## \*\*\*PCO General Membership\*\*\* Virtual Meeting Access

FreeConferenceCall.com
Dial-in number (US): (701) 802-5236

Access code: 297632# Online meeting ID: pcopres

Join the online meeting: https://join.freeconferencecall.com/pcopres

Be well.

#### News from the Pullman Monument Teri Gage

When we rang in the new year, like many of you, we were hoping for healthier and happier times in 2021. At Pullman National Monument (PNM), 2021 is also shaping up to be a year of important milestones and accomplishments. As we close out the first quarter of the year, we wanted to share some updates on our progress and achievements.

February 19 was a big day at the Monument! We marked the sixth anniversary of Pullman's designation as a national monument and celebrated with a virtual event on Facebook Live. Nearly 200 of our closest friends and neighbors joined us online to celebrate this milestone and enjoy a virtual tour of the new visitor center and exhibits.

The Historic Pullman Foundation (HPF) became the official friends group of Pullman National Monument. HPF President Joe Szabo, Pullman National Monument Superintendent Teri Gage, and National Park Service Midwest Regional Director Bert Frost joined us online for a virtual signing of the Philanthropic Partnership Agreement that defines how HPF and PNM will work together to accomplish mutual goals and increase our collective capacity for stewardship of the resources and programs entrusted to our care.

Superintendent Teri Gage presented the first annual Pullman Partner Award to Mike and Pat Shymanski. The Shymanski's have lived in Pullman for over 50 years and have devoted much of their lives to the preservation, protection, and telling of the Pullman story. We are so grateful for their many contributions and willingness to share their knowledge and expertise. Thank you and congratulations to Mike and Pat!

On March 1, we announced an addition to our permanent staff. Grace Kruse began work as a seasonal park ranger at Pullman National Monument in 2019, and we are pleased to welcome her as a permanent member of our interpretation team. On March 12, the Shared Visitor Information Center located at 11141 S Cottage Grove Avenue reopened for the season. Current hours of operation are from 11AM to 3PM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Masks and social distancing are required. We are glad to be back!

On March 16, we received a "Letter of Substantial Completion" from the Denver Service Center, the office that manages large construction projects for the National Park Service. What exactly does that mean? Substantial Completion means the renovation is sufficiently complete in accordance with the contract documents so that the Government can occupy or utilize the building for its intended purpose. Next steps? Purchase of interior furnishings and fabrication of exhibits for the visitor center. That same day, the Monument hosted a virtual hiring workshop to provide assistance to anyone interested in applying for the seasonal jobs that were advertised on March 25. We anticipate hiring two Park Guides and two Park Rangers for the summer season.

On March 25, exhibit specialists were onsite to measure and photograph the museum objects that will be displayed in the visitor center. The exhibits and display cases will be constructed over the next few months and installed in August -- just in time for the grand opening on Labor Day 2021!

Yes, we are working closely with several partner groups to plan for the grand opening of the visitor center and factory grounds! We will have more details to share in the May issue of the Flyer.

In the meantime, please help us kick off National Park Week with a Pullman Street Clean Up on Saturday, April 17, at 9:30AM. We are honored to join with other Pullman partners (Pullman State Historic Site, Pullman Civic Organization, Historic Pullman Foundation, the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, the Bielenberg Foundation, Greenstone United Methodist Church, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, the Office of Alderman Anthony Beale, and the City of Chicago) to celebrate National Park Week and do some spring cleaning in the neighborhood. We will meet at the Shared Visitor Center at 9:30AM. Trash bags and gloves will be provided. Face coverings and social distancing will be required.

In all we do, we are thankful for the continuing support of our Pullman neighbors and are frequently reminded of these words: "That's the story of this place – that, together, we can do great things that we cannot accomplish alone." Barack Obama, February 19, 2015



### The Pullman Flyer

#### Solon Says: A Report of the PCO Beman Committee Megan Lydon and Wyatt Ollestad Co-Chairs

pcobemancommittee@gmail.com



Ask the Builder: Ralph Larson

Have you ever taken the time to closely examine the trim inside your house? Each board was milled by hand with a specific profile that can sometimes help tell the story of who may have originally lived there. Ralph Larson, a self-taught contractor and builder, has dedicated the last 50 years to not only carrying on the tradition of custom-milled woodwork, but also to crafting the custom tools needed to recreate the original Pullman profiles. He has slowly built his tool library over the years to include 25 different interior

profiles, in addition to numerous exterior profiles and other custom-cut samples such as exterior brackets and scrolls.

The Beman Committee recently sat down with Ralph and his wife, Beverly, to learn a little bit about his unofficial role as the millwork master here in Pullman. Many DIY homeowners who have taken on the tedious task of milling custom woodwork can attest to his knowledge, charismatic personality, and genuine heart for neighbors helping neighbors. Ralph grew up in Roseland where he first had his hands in home repair and construction, including learning some basics in mechanical and electrical work from a neighbor. As a young adult, he worked a short stint at an architecture firm before beginning his career as an independent contractor. "I realized I enjoyed being out on the job site," Ralph said, "and decided I wanted to work for myself." In 1972, shortly after leaving the firm, Ralph purchased his first property in Pullman; a multi-unit rowhouse he renovated and moved into several years later. He quickly began taking on odd jobs around the neighborhood, so much so that he was able to focus his work here full-time. Within a few years, Ralph was one of a select few contracted to complete the renovation of the Hotel Florence's veranda. The job required extensive millwork, but no tools for replication yet existed. It was the first of many jobs that helped to slowly build his library of custom milling knives. When taking on a new project in Pullman, Ralph often asked the homeowner to purchase the new knife needed for the job in lieu of monetary payment for his labor. "I've always tried to do work for as low cost as possible," he said, "and leave the money-making to Beverly." Ralph's graciousness and generosity has allowed preservation to be an affordable and accessible option where it may have otherwise been lost. So, what's next for Ralph and his work? He is currently looking to step back a bit from some of the heavy lifting and find a new home for his tools where they can be easily available to trained contractors and individuals. The Beman Committee celebrates the incredible impact Ralph has had on preserving Pullman one project at a time for over 50 years.

The architecture of Pullman is central to our community. We invite you to notice the historic details of the interior trim of your home as well as your neighbors. What common features do you see? What is different? Which rooms have rosettes? What is the style of your door casings? Take a moment to walk around and look!

If you have questions or want to learn more about the interior details of your house, please contact Beman Committee pcobemancommittee@gmail.com.

## Family Safety Lynne Collins

Earlier this month the Safety Committee, led by Chair Carol Lagadinos, had an informative and productive meeting, via Zoom, with 005th District Commander Glenn White, and Office of Community Policing Sgt. Bridget Robinson, about our desire to work together to solve crimes and effectively address other policing issues here in Pullman. Commander White has led the district since March 2020, just as COVID-19 took a stranglehold on not just Chicago, but the entire country.

We introduced ourselves as a resourceful team of professionals and pro-police community, who have a long history of being big supporters of Chicago Police. We want to continue to be effective communicators, and partners with police to work diligently to effect safe community involvement, communications, crime fighting, and community relations. Committee members Debbie Newman, Lynne Collins and Thomas McMahon shared community views on working together with police in these matters.

Commander White shared that now, there are nine District Coordination Officers who work days on the streets, and are assigned to walk the beats, conduct investigations, and get to know residents as constituents and stakeholders. It is hoped that continued efforts to bolster communications between residents and police will promote continued, effective police/community relations, reduced crime, and community safety.

Our next regularly scheduled #531 Beat Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20th via Zoom. Please check the Calendar of Events, for further details.

#### Nominating Committee Patrick Brannon

The Nominating Committee has selected a slate of candidates for 2021-22; the slate will be presented at the April 21 meeting and other nominations may be made from the floor by PCO members. The election will be held at the meeting and the newly elected officers will be sworn in in June. The general PCO meetings are the third Wednesday of the month and until Covid is conquered, will be held virtually. Please join us to hear what is happening in the neighborhood and to share concerns you may have; all Pullman residents are welcome to attend!

**Executive Board** 

President: Rachel Smith-Kovarsky (second consecutive one-year term)

Vice-President: John Lydon (new) Secretary: Wyatt Ollestad (new)

Treasurer: Debbie Newman (second consecutive one-year term)

Zone Directors

Zone 1: Darrell Hill (new)

Zone 2: Lynne Collins (beginning of second two-year term)

Zone 3: Margaret Kania (new)

Zone 4: Luanne Wethington (beginning of second two-year term)

Zone directors are elected officials and are expected to attend monthly PCO Executive Board meetings, distribute Pullman Flyers to each of their Block Captains, partner with Block Captains to promote PCO membership, and explain duties of Block Captain to a prospective new volunteer.

2022 Nominating Committee Felipe Granados Annie Lira TBD

#### **Block Captains**

Block Captains are not elected PCO officials, but are assigned a side of one block in the neighborhood to promote membership and involvement in the PCO. They deliver the Flyer prior to monthly PCO meeting, alert the Welcome Committee on arrival of new residents, and turn in collected dues and membership cards to the Membership Chairperson.

Thanks to the 2021 Nominating Committee for their work: Beverly Ash-Larson, Pat Brannon, Felipe Granados, Annie Lira, and John Lydon.

# Green Spaces and Places: Exploring Natural areas from Historic Pullman Lynn Smith

One of the beauties of Historic Pullman is that although it has easy transport to the heart of the City it is also much more accessible to wonderful natural areas on the south and southwest Side, Indiana and Michigan- without having to go through high traffic areas in Chicago. In forty minutes you can be walking along an absolutely exquisite trail along the Little Calumet River, for example, called the Heron Rookery Trail, which I will describe shortly. However this trail is just one of many that are more accessible from our south side of the City. Another wonderful collection of nature areas is included in the Shirlee Heinze Land Trust, which includes 2400 protected acres and 6 designated nature preserves in Northwest Indiana. But I will describe that more in another article.

The Heron Rookery trail, located at 1336 - 600 East Michigan City, 46360 (actually more between Chesterton and Michigan City) is a 3.3 mile trail along the Little Calumet River, which in this area is quite pristine. The water is clear and it is one of the best places owned by the Indiana Dunes National Lakesshore- for viewing Spring Wildflowers. Unfortunately, after 60 years of nesting here, the Heron have moved on. However, warblers, Kingfishers and other birds call this area home. The stars of the show are the river, very pretty here, the trail and the wildflowers. Be advised that there is no drinking water or washrooms here . But the trail Is well worth visiting , and opens at 6 am. And we'll keep talking....

#### PULLMAN PAINT LIBRARY IS OPEN!

PCO Members — Spring is upon us which means it is painting season! The Sherwin Williams donated FREE exterior latex wood paint is available in gallon pails. Colors include the researched Pullman dark red, dark green and light green. Finishes available in high gloss & deck paint (dark green only). No masonry should ever be painted.

Contact the Beman Committee at

PCOBemanCommittee@gmail.com with your

request. Current PCO members are eligible to take

advantage of this program. All requests are first come, first served!



#### Metropolitan Water Reclamtion Presentation

Join us on Thur., April 29 at 7:30PM via FreeConferenceCall.com (details below) for a virtual presentation by Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos about what MWRD does, the history behind the agency, and how it is operating during COVID. MWRD is agency with 2,000 employees that operates the world's largest water reclamation plant as well as six other plants and 23 pumping stations.

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6373

Access code: 6515171# Online meeting ID: pcovp

#### From the Dining Car Patty Lawson

Don't wait until the last minute to decide what you are going to do for Mother's Day this year. With social distancing still the name of the game this year, why not fix the main woman in your life an easy, delicious, homemade meal that she will more than appreciate. She may even return the favor by baking it for you on your special day.

This allrecipes.com recipe by Maddiegail (her screen name), turns the traditionally dry chicken breast into a juicy treat that, like me, you'll probably make it more often than you would imagine. It is extremely easy, quick, and always moist. Always.

Grandma's Chicken Chardon

8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

1 egg

Salt and pepper to taste

2 teaspoons garlic powder, divided

1 cup bread crumbs

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1 pound sliced fresh mushrooms

1/4 cup butter, melted

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

In a shallow bowl beat the egg with salt, pepper and 1 teaspoon garlic powder. In a separate dish, mix bread crumbs with 1 teaspoon of garlic powder and Parmesan cheese. Set aside.

Mix together the melted butter and lemon juice. Pour about 2/3 of the butter mixture into the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Tilt pan to coat the bottom. Spread mushrooms in an even layer in the bottom of the dish. Dip each chicken breast into the egg mixture, then into the breadcrumb mixture. Place on top of the mushrooms. Drizzle remaining butter over the chicken, and sprinkle with parsley. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes in the preheated oven, until chicken is golden brown and juices run clear.

#### TIP OF THE MONTH

Whether she is your "ont" or "onty", "ant" or "anty", related by blood or love, |do not forget her on Mother's Day. Aunts are a very important part of our lives.

"Only an aunt can give hugs like a mother, keep secrets like a sister, and share love like a friend." -- Spanish proverb.

Do you have a favorite recipe for the stove, oven, or microwave you would like to pass along? Got a useful kitchen or household tip? How about a quick fix for a cooking catastrophe? Simply email me at fromthediningcar@yahoo. com or place it in my mailbox at 11122 South Champlain. Please include your name, phone number, and/or email address. I may have questions.

Real Estate Ads (sales and rentals) are \$15 per month. Service ads for businesses, personals, and other sales ads are \$10 up to 3 lines per month. Checks should be made payable to the Pullman Civic Organization. All inquires about ads in the Pullman Flyer can be sent to: PullmanFlyerAdvertising@gmail.com.

Non-residents may receive a one-year subscription to the Pullman Flyer by sending a \$10.00 check made out to the Pullman Civic Organization to: please send a \$10.00 check made out to the Pullman Civic Organization to:Pullman Flyer, (Attn: Beverly Ash-Larson, Distribution Coordinator), 614 E. 113th Street, Chicago, IL 60628

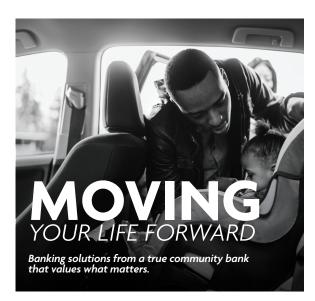
#### The Pullman Flyer

Pullman Calendar for April-May 2021		
WEEKLY ACTIVITIES		
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm *subject to change with holidays	Free Covid Testing Pre-Register ChicagoCovidTesting.com	Gately Park 744 E 103rd (east of Cottage Grove)
Pullman National Monument Visitor Information Center - Open Fri, Sat, Sun 11am-3pm		
MONTHLY MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS		
Day	Event (\$ if charge)	Place/Contact
Wed 4/14 7:30 pm PC0	D Executive Board Meeting (2nd Wed	) **Virtual Only
Fri 4/16 10am-12pm Free Food/Produce Distribution Dollar Tree Lot, 209 E 103rd St		
Sat 4/17 9:30am Pullman Street Clean Up & National Park Week Kick Off Meet at 112th/Cottage Grove		
Tue 4/20 6pm Virtual Beat 531 Meeting with the Office of Community Policing Zoom Meeting Id: 838 1658 6579, Password: 017640		
Wed 4/21 7:30pm PCO General Membership Meeting (3rd Wed)  **Virtual only (see pullmancivic.org for link)		
Sat 4/24 10am -	1pm Celebrate Earth Day with a Cle	ean-up at Beaubien Woods
Mon 4/26 7pm	Coloring and Conversation (4th Mor	n) carollagadinos@att.net
Wed 4/28 7:30pm PCO B	eman Committee Virtual Meeting pcob	emancommittee@gmail.com
	Virtual Meeting with MWRD Commis Call.com - Meeting Id: pcovp or (425)	
	ebrate the start of the restoration of 35 ge Grove * Covid rules in place* RS\	
Fri/Mon 5/7, 5/10	Street Sweeping - Look for si	gns and move your vehicles
Mon 5/10 7pm	Coloring and Conversation (2nd Mor	n) carollagadinos@att.net
Wed 5/12 7:30 pm PC0	D Executive Board Meeting (2nd Wed	) **Virtual Only
Tue 5/18 6pm <i>Zoc</i>	Virtual Beat 531 Meeting with the Com Meeting Id: 838 1658 6579, Passw	
Wed 5/19 7:30pm PCO General Membership Meeting (3rd Wed) **Virtual (see pullmancivic.org for link)		
Wed 5/26 7:30pm PCO Beman Committee Virtual Meeting pcobemancommittee@gmail.com		

The Pullman Flyer is produced monthly by the Pullman Civic Organization, 614 E. 113th Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628. The viewpoints expressed in The Pullman Flyer are not necessarily the convictions of the Pullman Civic Organization. The deadline for the upcoming Flyer is the last day of the previous month. Committee reports, announcements, letters to the editor, dedication suggestions, and articles should be emailed to sandyczajko@sbcglobal.net. All submissions become the property of The Pullman Flyer.

Submit your Pullman / local community event details to pullmancalendar@gmail.com

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