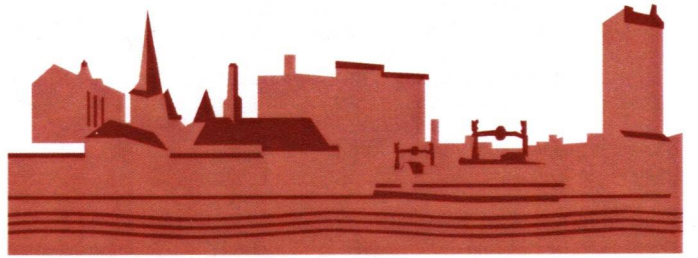
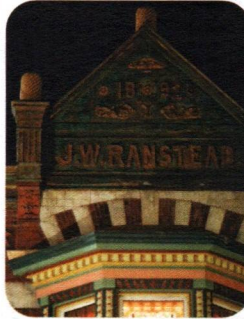
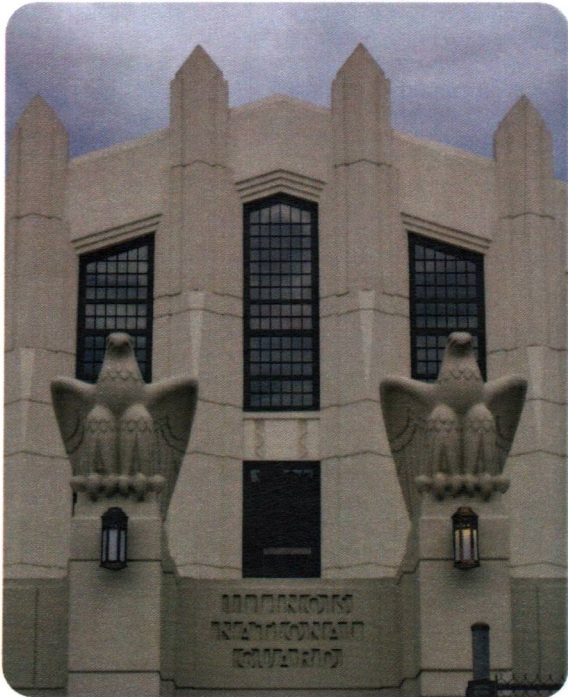


Open ELGIN



For the latest updates about Open Elgin, please check openelgin.com.

#OpenElgin



Award-Winning *Open* ELGIN Architectural Tour

The Open Elgin tour is free of charge and will run from
1 - 4 pm on Saturday, April 29
with sponsorship from the Elgin Development Group



- 1. Gail Borden Main Library** **270 N. Grove Ave.**
The award-winning main Gail Borden Public Library, located north of Kimball St. on the Fox River, features a Prairie School-inspired exterior that blends with the old and new architecture of the area. The two-story structure is clad in warm buff and terra cotta-colored stone and has ample windows that maximize natural light and offer views of the Fox River. The special Violins of Hope exhibit, violins played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust, is currently on display.
- 2. Elgin City Hall** **150 Dexter Ave.**
Built in 1968, this building is Elgin's 5th City Hall since its incorporation in 1854. The building was designed by notable Chicago architecture firm in the International Style, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. They are known for their design of Chicago's Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower, built in 1973, as well as the John Hancock Center (1970), among many others.
- 3. Elgin Professional Building and Elgin Art Showcase 8th Floor** **164 Division St.**
Built in the Gothic style, the interior of this c.1928 gem is not to be missed.
- 4. Inspire Realty - Volsch Brothers** **111 Douglas Ave.**
The Volsch Bros. building was the headquarters of the Volsch Bros. meat market for over half a century. Julius' son, Louis, continued the business in partnership with Charles Fillmore. The building is still referred to as the Volsch Bros. building and has a painted sign advertising the Volsch Bros. meat market at 109 Douglas.
- 5. Steffen's Loft** **11-17 Douglas Ave.**
This building was completely updated in the early 2000s, including an elevator and all separate utilities for the units. Total square footage of 15,840, not including basement level. There are 5 units: A first-floor restaurant space, a first-floor office space, a second-floor co-working office space, a basement-level restaurant space, and a third-floor luxury residential home. The penthouse home is the most elegant loft home you will find in Elgin. 3960 SF in size featuring a huge Great Room with 19 ceilings, a gourmet kitchen, and a full roof deck overlooking downtown.
- 6. The Ashbury - Kresmery Lofts 3rd Floor** **1 Douglas Ave.**
This c.1851 building burned to the ground in 1974. It was reconstructed in 1999 using reclaimed brick and timbers from other period buildings that were demolished.
- 7. Angularis Tech** **68 Grove Ave.**
Angularis Tech, located at 68 Grove Ave., has commercial occupants on the first floor with large display windows and signage above. The second floor features large windows, some of which are bay windows. The buildings bear the names Webster and Columbia Block.
- 8. Senior Services Associates** **101-103 S. Grove Ave.**
This 87-year-old limestone Art Deco style offers up close samples of this art form's geometric ornamentation.
- 9. Side Street Studios** **62 S. Grove St.**
Side Street Studio Arts have outgrown its old building and will be moving to 62 S. Grove Ave. The nonprofit which focuses on art exhibition, education, performance, and advocacy. The building dates to the early 1900s and is 18,000-square-foot. It is spread out over two main floors with a mezzanine and a full basement, which is more than triple the space of Side Street's current location.
- 10. Als Café & Creamery - Ranstead Building** **43 Dupage Ct.**
Make sure to walk up to the second floor for great period detailing in this c. 1892 building which has housed law offices, a flower shop, and currently Al's Café.
- 11. Wait Ross Allanson Funeral Home** **51 Center St.**
Originally established in 1875, offices and funeral church of the Wait-Ross-Allanson were extensively remodeled in 1958. The firm was founded by William T. "Billy" Wait, who before his last illness and death at 89 in 1938.
- 12. First United Methodist Church** **216 Highland Ave.**
Step inside this Bedford limestone structure and notice its magnificent stained glass windows.
- 13. First Congregational Church** **256 E. Chicago St.**
Explore Richardsonian Romanesque architecture outside, then head inside for a glimpse at the stained glass windows and historic pipe organ, which is open for Open Elgin viewers to see its mechanics.
- 14. Congregation Kneseth Israel** **330 Division St.**
Elgin has had a Jewish congregation since 1892. This modern-style building was built in three stages from 1948-1958 and is the third site for the Elgin synagogue location. Ten years later, a second phase was added on.
- 15. Elgin Armory - Illinois National Guard** **254 Raymond St.**
The Elgin Armory - This Illinois National Guard art deco building was built in 1939 for \$125,000 as part of a Works Progress Administration project. It is located on Raymond St., two blocks east of the Grand Victoria Casino. The armory has served as the home of the Illinois National Guard, and it is not the first building to serve them. The building has undergone extensive refurbishing throughout and now allows the Illinois National Guard to better live up to its motto, "Always Ready, Always There."
- 16. U-46 Planetarium & Observatory** **312 Watch St.**
(Open 1 - 3 pm.) This 1910 Classic Revival was built by the Elgin Watch Company so their watches could be precisely set by the stars.
- 17. Oak Crest Residence** **204 S. State St.**
The Lord Family donated the land overlooking the Fox River for a retirement home in 1906. W. W. Abell designed the building including overhanging eaves supported by simple brackets and a unique porch.
- 18. Philadelphia Holiness Full Gospel Church** **76 S. Jackson St.**
Designed by noted Elgin architect W. W. Abell for the Zion German Methodist Episcopal Church in 1892, the building has been home to the current congregation since 2003.
- 19. Saint Edwards High School** **335 Locust St.**
The St. Edward High School was acquired by the Rockford Diocese in 1941, and it opened later that year with eight classrooms and a cafeteria. The school was named St. Edward in honor of the patron saint of Bishop Edward Hoban and dedicated on the eve of the Feast of St. Edward, October 12, 1941. Four sisters of the order of St. Dominic were involved in its foundation, and the building was originally constructed in 1877 as a public grade school.
- 20. Elgin Public Museum** **225 Grand Blvd.**
(Open 1 - 3 pm.) The Elgin Public Museum is now the oldest building in Illinois built expressly as a museum that is still serving that purpose. Its Neo-Classical style of architecture is unmistakable from the front with its two free columns and two square-engaged columns. Inside the Museum, visitors can still experience the beautiful and original oak woodwork, plaster wall ornamentation and ceramic tile floors.
- 21. Elgin History Museum** **360 Park Ave.**
Check out the landmark Greek Revival architecture outside and then explore the extensive collection of Elgin Watch Company timepieces inside.
- 22. Bethlehem Lutheran Church** **340 Grand Blvd.**
The Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a contemporary-style building with rugged stone walls and ascending roof lines that help to elevate one's thoughts. The laminated arches in the sanctuary create space, and the large area of colored glass provides a transparent quality, allowing one's vision to project outside.
"Unlimited space is obtained by allowing one's vision to project outside." - Leroy W. Bonesz, Architect
- 23. Church of the Brethren General Offices** **1451 Dundee Ave.**
Tour the staff chapel and beautiful courtyards. Learn about the moveable walls and don't miss the mid-century cafeteria with original Eames furnishings!
- 24. McKinley Elementary School** **258 Lovell St.**
In 1851 legislation was passed to use local taxes to fund schools that were free to the public. The McKinley Elementary School, which opened in 1887, is the third elementary school built in Elgin. The building has a pointed arched entry, molded stone and string course, two projecting entry bays and a stone plaque with the inscription "McKinley School 1918." It was designed in the Collegiate Gothic style and has had two major additions over the years.

Open ELGIN



You can also access
the map at
OpenElgin.com/map23



Building Lots

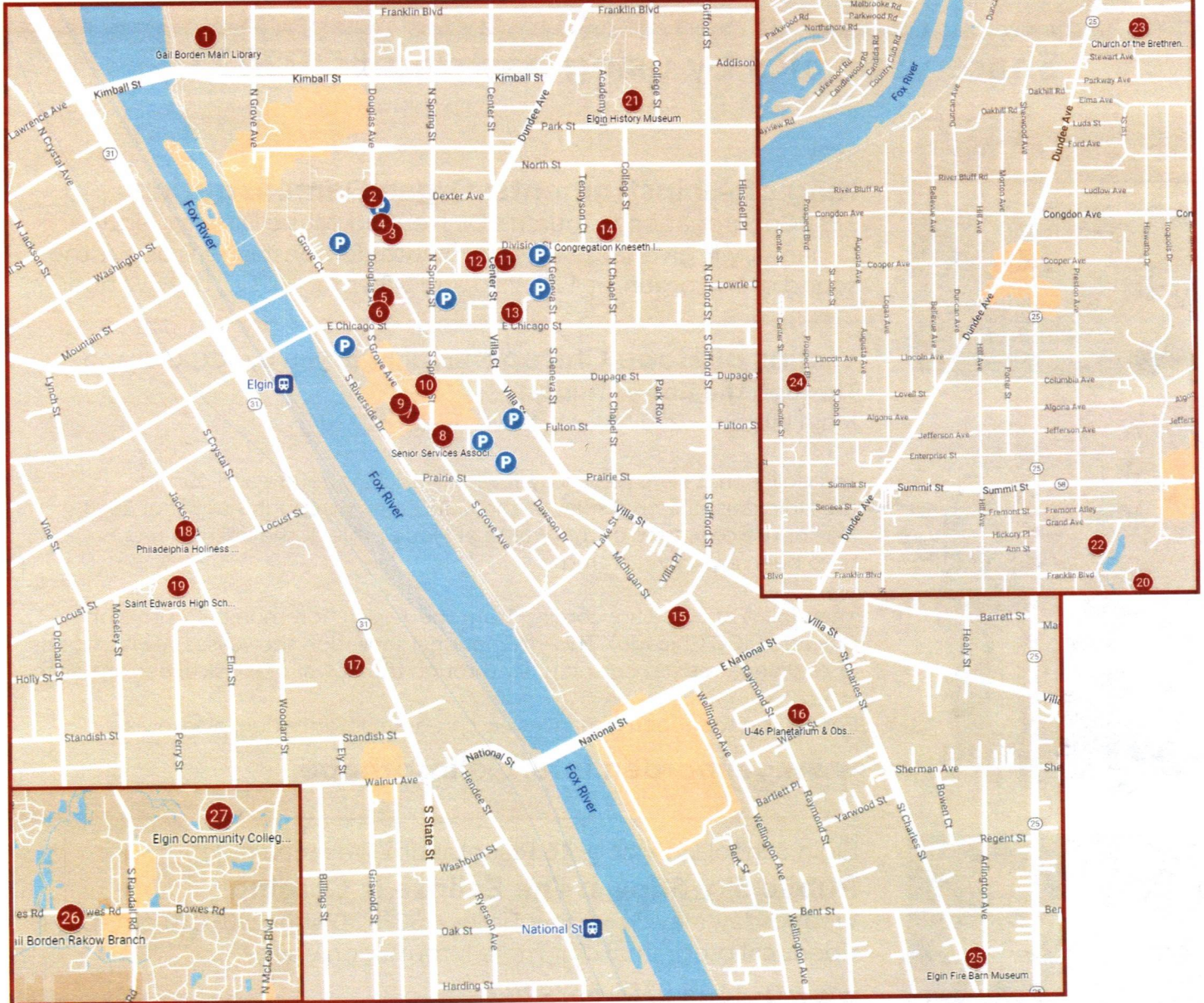
If a building has a parking lot, you are welcome to use it to tour the facility.

On-Street Park

Unless otherwise marked, all on-street parking spaces are limited to two hours, M-F from 8 am - 5 pm. No limit on weekends!

Parking Lots

City-owned surface lots and parking decks offer free parking for up to 72 hours.



- 25. Elgin Fire Barn Museum** **533 St. Charles St.**
This fire museum, designed by Elgin architect Smith Hoag in a Classical Revival style, required room for horses that pulled the water tanks to fight fires in 1903.

- 26. Gail Borden Rakow Branch** **2751 Bowes Rd.**
The Gail Borden Rakow Branch opened on August 15, 2009, is an environmentally friendly LEED-registered building. The branch has state-of-the-art features, including a geothermal field that uses the Earth's high heat flow rate to extract deep, permeating water for surface heating.

- 27. Elgin Community College, Building A Health Professions & Science Building** **1700 Spartan Dr. Bldg. A**
Kahler Slater designed Elgin Community College's Health and Life Sciences Building to address the shortage of allied health professionals, offering hands-on learning opportunities for nursing, radiology, dental assistance, histology, surg. tech., massage, and physical therapies. The building, which opened in 2012, provides laboratories, classrooms, PT/OT, and student collaboration spaces. Designed to be transparent, the building promotes community, inspiration, and lasting relationships among students, instructors, and employers. The LEED Silver-certified building received an Honor Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 2014.



ELGIN AREA CHAMBER



EDG

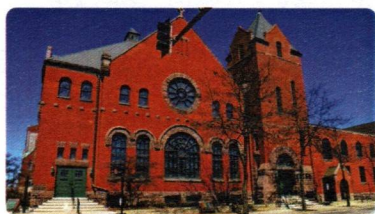
ELGIN DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The Open Elgin event is sponsored by the Elgin Development Group's Enhancing Elgin committee, which consists of representatives from Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Elgin, School District U-46, Judson University, Explore Elgin Area, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Elgin History Museum, Elgin Community College and the Gail Borden Public Library.

Open ELGIN

Share your pics by using hashtag #OE2023

Don't Miss...

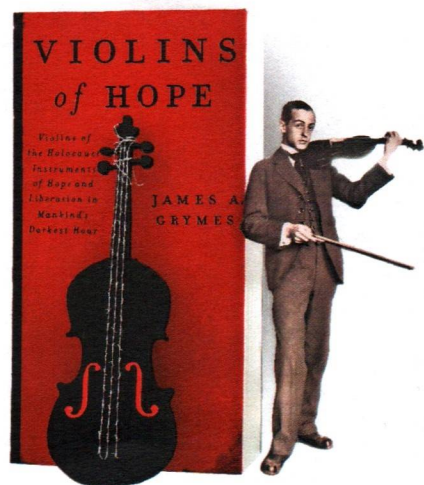


King of All Instruments: Organ Demonstration

First Congregational Church's Dr. Neufeld, Music Director, and Organist, will give three fifteen-minute demonstrations about the sound of the organ, at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 pm. Exit at the SW door.

Violins of Hope Chicago Brought to you by JCC Chicago Through the End of August

Main Library - 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin 60120

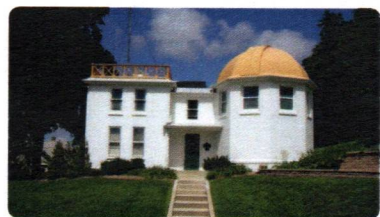


Ten violins that were played by Jewish musicians before and during the Holocaust are on display at the Main Library through August of 2023. Part of the collection of the Violins of Hope project, the instruments have been lovingly restored.

The Violins of Hope are coming from the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago (JCC Chicago). This international sensation showcases Jewish stories of resilience, resistance and unity through the power of musical performance.

For exhibit tours, performances and program information, please visit:

www.gailborden.info/violinsofhope



Elgin School District U-46 Planetarium Presents:

Public Sky Shows: The Eclipse is Coming

Wednesday, May 24 - Show Times 4:30-5:30 and 6:30-7:30 pm (Identical programs). For more information visit:

www.u-46.org/Page/9102

Click down memory lane!

gailborden.info/ElginAreaMemories • elginhistory.org

Tell us what you think about OpenElgin.
Send us a text at 847-741-5660.