

FRIENDS OF THE OLD COURTHOUSE OFFERS FUN TO RAISE FUNDS

A new group of community members dedicated to helping restore the Old McHenry County Courthouse & Sheriff's House is offering several ways for residents to show their support while having a good time.

The group is urging residents to help break a Guinness World Record for “Longest Cartoon Strip by a Team,” recreating panels from Dick Tracy comic books, the famous detective created by longtime Woodstock resident Chester Gould. The continuous comic strip will be almost a mile in length and traced over original detailed drawings. Drawing is done in sections, 5 inches high and 10 feet long; 430 sections are needed for Woodstock to break the current record. Groups of any size (ages over 10)—families, teams, scouts, businesses or clubs—can sign up for supervised drawing at local sites on the Friends’ website at <http://www.friendsoftheoldcourthouse.org/events-woodstock/>. Public drawing events will also occur, such as this Sunday, May 15, during Fair Diddley, from 10am – 4pm at Stage Left Café.

The finished strip will be videotaped for submission to the Guinness judges and then displayed on the Woodstock Square during the Friends’ planned public event, Dick Tracy Day 2016, on Saturday, July 2nd beginning at 1pm. Free family-oriented activities are scheduled, incorporating the criminals and colorful characters found in the Dick Tracy cartoons, along with themed music and refreshments. To help promote this event, Culver’s in Woodstock is donating 15% of all orders on Friday, May 20, with a coupon available on the Friends’ website.

The Friends have also launched their first capital campaign: “Windows to Our History”. A video showing the building’s extensive repair needs, and urging all McHenry County residents to help contribute to the restoration efforts, can be found on YouTube and at: <http://www.friendsoftheoldcourthouse.org/donate-woodstock/>. The video highlights the importance of rescuing this 1857 architectural gem, one of the few pre-Civil War Courthouses left standing in Illinois. The window restoration project, scheduled to begin this summer, will cost several hundred thousand dollars. It is part of over \$5 million in essential repairs still needed for the building, and tax-deductible donations of any size may be made at the Friends of the Old Courthouse website.

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