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# Neighbor & Classifieds

## All aboard RAILS to Victory

Travel back to 1944 France this weekend via the Fox River Trolley Museum

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Residents of South Elgin and the surrounding area will get a chance to travel back in history this weekend — all the way back to June 1944 in France.

The Fox River Trolley Museum, in conjunction with war re-enactors from across northern Illinois, the South Elgin Park District and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, will host RAILS to Victory, the trolley museum's second annual living history event.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10, RAILS to Victory will transform South Elgin into the French countryside in the month following June 6, 1944, otherwise known as D-Day. Wednesday marked the 68th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, eventually liberating the nation and much of Europe from Nazi rule in World War II.

Throughout the weekend, the museum's trolley operation will be in full swing, providing patrons an interactive experience as they travel from "Paris" to "Rouen," otherwise known as Black Hawk Forest Preserve, along the mighty Seine, a part played by the Fox River. Other events throughout the weekend include re-enactments of famous riverfront battles and a vintage women's baseball game, also played by local re-enactors.

Rebecca Tulloch, event coordinator, said the weekend aims to be an interactive experience



Nicole Stadie, Dan Reycraft and a third re-enactor pose before departing via trolley for the All American Girls baseball game. The game was part of the Fox River Trolley Museum's living history event last year.

COURTESY OF REBECCA TULLOCH

for families and a time for commemorating fallen soldiers and those who have served in the military.

"Memorial Day just passed and D-Day is this week," she said. "It just seems like an appropriate time to be remembering World War II veterans and soldiers since there aren't that many left."

Though this is the museum's second foray into living history, Tulloch said RAILS to Victory is a production on a much larger scale than last year's event. She and a team of coordinators have been working toward this weekend since October.

"Last year it was not really publicized at all; it was all thrown together in about five days," she said. "But the museum enjoyed what we had done, so (this year's event) is really to the benefit of the people."

More than 200 re-enactors are registered for

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## Elgin kids offered free lunches this summer

Elgin Parks and Recreation Department

The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department, Northern Illinois Food Bank and several local churches are teaming up to provide free nutritious lunches to the youth of Elgin this summer.

"We want to make sure that children in Elgin are eating lunches on a daily basis and that the lunches they are eating are nutritious as well," said Elgin Parks and Recreation Director Randy Reopelle in a news release.

The free lunches will be provided Monday through Friday to Elgin-area children 18 and younger, from June 11 to Aug. 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at various locations throughout the city. The lunches are being provided by the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

"Every child should be able to count on at least one nutritious meal a day," Reopelle said. "With Elgin's unemployment still well above the state and national averages, coupled with the fact that so many children won't have access to the free lunch programs during the summer typically provided at the schools, we see a true need to provide children access to a nutritious lunch every day."

Lunch program site sponsors are the city of Elgin, the Salvation Army, Harvest Bible Church, Bethesda Church of God in Christ, Christ Community Church, Elgin Community Church and Second Baptist Church.

"There will be no paperwork and no registration required," Reopelle said. "If children are hungry and show up, they can eat lunch. All park sites have a picnic shelter, so rain or shine kids will be fed."

Lunches will be provided at the following

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LAURA STOECKER/lstoecker@daillyherald.com — Hop on board a train at the Fox River Trolley Museum in South Elgin this weekend for a living history event.



COURTESY OF REBECCA TULLOCH  
 An American military encampment sits ready for trolley museum patrons as part of last summer's living history event. This year's event, RAILS to Victory, is set for Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10.

— REWARD CHECKING —  
 2.00%  
 NO MINIMUM BALANCE TO EARN THIS RATE.  
 NO MINIMUM

## History: Event a way to honor veterans

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the weekend; 60 will be participating in the trolley ride while still more will portray the Allied and Axis powers in the battles. On Sunday morning, the World War II Girls Baseball Living History League, founded by Tulloch, will play a demonstration game as the Rockford Peaches. The Peaches were an actual team in this era and were portrayed in the 1992 film "A League of Their Own."

Kyle Burson of St. Charles will portray the commander of Allied forces in this weekend's re-enactment. As president of the 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group-Midwest Chapter, Burson oversees the re-enactment of

his particular unit. Though the 200 re-enactors are responsible for fighting three battles throughout the weekend, Burson said much of the interaction is ad-lib.

"It's not scripted but there's an overarching idea of what needs to happen," he said. "We try to keep things a little more authentic, a little more realistic for the public so they can see how things change as the battle goes on."

Burson, along with Axis force coordinator Rick Pennington, has worked with the museum on RAILS to Victory for months. Burson pointed out the area's ties to the war effort in World War II — from soldiers and families to local businesses.

"This is a very old community with a rich history," he said. "Commemorating (World War II) is very big, especially since World War II veterans are dying at an astonishing rate."

RAILS to Victory patrons can either purchase tickets for both the trolley ride and general admission (\$12, \$10 for kids ages 11 and younger) or opt for general admission only (\$4, \$2 for ages 12 and younger). Battle re-enactments and the Rockford Peaches baseball game are covered by general admission.

The Fox River Trolley Museum is at 361 S. La Fox St., South Elgin. For more information, visit railstovictory.com for event details.