



Shorewood Historical Society President Bob Dean sprays non-permanent yellow and white chalk through a stencil on Ridgefield Circle on Aug. 3 to promote purchase of home birthday markers. C.T. KRUGER/NOW NEWS GROUP

# Shorewood sidewalk plaques are coming back

## Sales to fund digitization of newspaper articles

**Jeff Rumage**  
Now News Group

SHOREWOOD - For nearly 100 years, the Shorewood Herald — now known as North Shore Now — told stories about Shorewood's residents, government, schools and businesses.

From controversies to celebrations, The Shorewood Herald chronicled many significant moments in the village's history.

The Shorewood Historical Society has kept an archive of every edition of the newspaper going back to 1923, back when the paper was called the Shorewood Radio. The name of the paper changed to The Shorewood Herald in 1930.

Although the historical society has

done its best to preserve the aging newspapers through bound volumes, Shorewood Historical Society President Bob Dean said the older newspapers are starting to deteriorate.

"Time is working against us," he said.

The historical society plans to digitize the old newspapers and host the digital copies on the historical society's website. The organization plans to digitize archives from 1923 to 2004.

Unlike the microfiche copies of the newspaper available at the library, these new digital archives could be searched by keywords.

"We think this will be a tremendous service to our citizens and anyone who is interested in our history," Dean said.

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## Plaques

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Digitizing the archives would cost \$15,000. The historical society hopes to fund the program through a second phase of the birthday markers program.

Last year, 203 Shorewood residents purchased a birthday marker, which is an 8-inch granite plaque engraved with the year their house was built. The markers can be found in the parkway in front of the home, where the carriage walk meets the sidewalk.

Dean said another 40 residents have already expressed interest in buying a birthday marker for their home. If the second phase of the project is as suc-

cessful as the first phase, Dean said the historical society would have enough money to fund the \$15,000 newspaper digitization project.

The birthday markers can be purchased on the Shorewood Historical Society website, shorewoodhistory.org, for \$99. The historical society is accepting orders from Aug. 1 through Sept. 30.

Dean is advertising the initiative by spray-chalking the sidewalk next to existing birthday markers with a pitch to "order yours now at shorewoodhistory.org."

Dean said a home does not have to be historic to have a plaque placed along the sidewalk. The plaques ordered last year ranged from 1885 (the oldest house in the village) to 1954.

"Eventually all of these houses will be part of our history," he said.