



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Encore Batavia Launches ENGage Batavia Volunteers Project**

New website and information cards centralize and promote volunteering

**Batavia, IL:** Encore Batavia, an initiative of the Batavia Parks Foundation, today unveils a volunteer project a year in the making. “ENGage Batavia Volunteers” came about through listening to Batavia residents and hearing they wanted a centralized location for Batavia area volunteer opportunities. The result? The launch of ENGage Batavia Volunteers project – a custom deck of 68 information cards, funded by a Batavia Rotary Club grant, that features Batavia area non-profits and places to volunteer organized by category. A companion website is available at <https://sites.google.com/view/encorebataviaengage/home> and may also be accessed off the [www.bataviaparksfoundation.org](http://www.bataviaparksfoundation.org) website. New Batavia residents, in partnership with [Welcome Home Batavia](#), will receive a postcard inviting them to participate.

Jan Wright, Encore Batavia member of the purpose team and Intergenerational Advisory Council, was a lead on the project and comments, “The ENGage project is important in moving Batavia to the next level of volunteerism. We are a community that gives back and the ENGage Batavia Volunteers project assists both our residents in helping them find volunteer opportunities and the organizations in gaining new hands to help.”

The ENGage project started first by inventorying area non-profits and organizations that serve Batavia. Next, Encore Batavia purpose team members verified the organizational information. Step three was for the Encore Batavia 2020-21 Intern, Saanvi Chelikani, now a senior at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, to design a template using the newly established Encore Batavia branding. The PowerPoint deck template was used for the information cards, indexing each organizational category by color. Categories include: Arts, Civic, Community Service, Education, Environment, Service Organizations and Social Services. Fourth, cards were digitized and set up on a Google site, and then the final step was for Jan Wright and Jim Dillenburg to create hi-resolution art for the printed cards.

**ENGage Cards Now Available at Partner Locations:** Sets of information cards featuring Batavia volunteer opportunities are stored in decorative tins now available for public use at the following locations: Batavia Park District (Civic & Eastside Community Center locations), Batavia Public Library (coming soon) and Limestone Coffee & Tea (8 W. Wilson St.).

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**ENgage Volunteer Concierge Pilot on July 8:** A pilot 1:1 volunteer concierge service is scheduled for Thursday, July 8 from 9 am until Noon at Limestone Coffee & Tea (8 W. Wilson St., Batavia). Community members are encouraged to sign up to reserve a 30-minute time slot to have an Encore purpose team member review the cards (in person). The online signup is at <https://forms.gle/4GzqTmxo8doT5Qcc9> or interested persons can email [encorebatavia@gmail.com](mailto:encorebatavia@gmail.com) directly – or just show up at Limestone on July 7 and inquire with the Encore volunteer.

The ENGage project is made possible through partners who teamed up to build a solution. From the Encore Batavia purpose team members (Lucy Thelin Atac, Deb McGrath, Britta McKenna, Laura O'Brien, and Jan Wright) to project partners (Batavia Rotary Club, Welcome Home Batavia and Batavia Parks Foundation) as well as IMSA intern, Saanvi Chelikani (Palatine, IL) and partner locations (Batavia Park District, Batavia Public Library and Limestone Coffee & Tea) hosting the decks of cards.

## **BACKGROUND**

**About the Project:** The ENGage Batavia Volunteers project was created by a group of Batavia volunteers on the Encore Batavia purpose team who pursued an opportunity to centralize and promote non-profit volunteer opportunities to Batavia residents.

**About Encore Batavia:** ([bataviaparksfoundation.com/encorebatavia](http://bataviaparksfoundation.com/encorebatavia)). In 2019 Britta McKenna invited 69 people to share a cup of coffee and to provide their insights about the past, present and future of Batavia. Momentum from “69 Cups of Coffee: Caffeinated Insights About Batavia” led McKenna to launch the social entrepreneurship venture, “Encore Batavia.” Now an initiative of the Batavia Parks Foundation, Encore Batavia consists of an Intergenerational Advisory Council and three teams (purpose, placemaking and programs) with a vision of “Creating an intergenerational Batavia” and the mission of “Weaving our community together through experiences fostering purpose and connection.”

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## **Related Links:**

<https://www.bataviaparksfoundation.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/EncoreBatavia>

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