

Mayor's Minute-July 10, 2025

Did you all have a good July 4th? Well, if you didn't do much, you have a second chance this weekend! Be sure to come out for the Annual Fireman's Picnic on Sat., July 12. We will have the Parade as usual at 10 am and I must thank Pam Monetti and all of the other participants and volunteers that make this such a great annual event. Thank you, everyone! Be sure to get out to the Resi and participate in all of the music and other events the Firemen have provided for us which start at 11 am. The Fireworks will start sometime between 9:00 pm-9:30. We are so fortunate to have Spectrum Pyrotechnics create an amazing show for us every year. Thanks, Boe Yaeger and the Firefighters!

Did you also know that Bunker Hill has a flag? When you come to a city meeting, you may notice that, in addition to the US flag and the IL flag, that there is another blue flag with a white canton that contains a red St. Georges' cross and a green pine tree. This is one of the flags that, according to legend, flew at the Battle of Bunker Hill during the Revolutionary War. There is much disagreement concerning the legend's accuracy; however, this flag has come to stand for the indomitable spirit of a bunch of poorly prepared patriots who stood against overwhelming odds. These folks, who were just like you and me, fought and decimated the British professional Army so badly that it changed the tide of the entire War. They did not win that battle, but their spirit helped win the War.

Our current times can feel just as overwhelming. Thankfully, we are not fighting the British any more-indeed they are close allies; but we are in a battle just as daunting. We are fighting our town's economic decline, apathy, and disconnection from our roots. This town has survived loss of a major railroad throughfare, the loss of a nearby coal mine, a monstrous tornado, devastating fires, and the exodus of residents to city life. It is no wonder we can sometimes feel disconnected, overwhelmed, and isolated. BUT, WE CAN'T QUIT. We have a town worth fighting for. We have families to nurture and raise. We have a history to preserve. We have people on the front lines working to bring in funding, businesses, and families. We are not just wishing-we are fighting. Fighting to make change happen. Just like the town harnessed the horrible tragedy of the tornado, and created an opportunity to rebuild, we can seize the seemingly overwhelming circumstances of today and change them into opportunities.

We have dedicated teachers, preachers, administrators, business owners, first responders, event organizers, and volunteers who work diligently to create a culture in Bunker Hill that provides safety, services and goods, and fosters an environment where we can all belong and thrive. Let's revive the meaning of our flag. LET'S BAND TOGETHER- in spite of bills piling up, schedules running out of control, being overwhelmed, succumbing to the temptation to quit. Let's RECLAIM THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF BUNKER HILL.

There are opportunities to participate in this fight. But wishful thinking and complaining are not going to do it. We need to change the way we think and act. For Bunker Hill, we need to create meaningful change; we need to anticipate that these changes will lead to an expected result; we can do this. Volunteer; shop in town when you can; attend events; get to know your neighbors again; smile at the stranger in the store; lend a helping hand. These are unconventional weapons-but they are powerful. We have lost some battles, but that does not mean we have lost the War.

Come and join us. John Chapman, Mayor



[Medium Image](#)

https://flagdom.com/flag-resources/flag-images/historical/bunker-hill/bunker-hill-flag_125x83.png