

# Rochelle's History & Heritage

The town of Rochelle, Illinois became a city in 1853, and at that time was known as Lane. Today, the City of Rochelle boasts an array of various things to do, such as enjoying the many parks; some with playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields, baseball and softball fields, skateboarding, boating and fishing. There is also an indoor pool at Hickory Grove Center as well as an outdoor pool at Spring Lake Marina. You may also enjoy a bike ride on Rochelle's 4 mile bike path. While visiting Rochelle, you may also wish to take in a movie at the Hub Theatre in the Historic Downtown of Rochelle, or a theatre production at Vince Carney Community Theatre in Hickory Grove Center, or enjoy shopping in the many unique gift shops and antique shops Rochelle has to offer.



The 1918 Standard Oil Filling Station, which serves as the Rochelle Visitor's Center and Tourism Office and was restored in 2001, is located at 500 Lincoln Avenue. Standard Oil of Indiana acquired this property in 1918 from Carrie E. Stocking of Shelby Bolivar County in Mississippi for the grand total of \$6,200. It was a perfect site for the filling station, with the location being on a high visibility corner at a 90 degree turn on the transcontinental Lincoln Highway. This was the first filling station on the Lincoln

Highway in Illinois and the first one built in Rochelle. (D20 on the map)

The Lincoln Highway Mural of Emily Post on the corner of Lincoln Hwy & 5th Avenue on Hub City Furniture is the 3rd in a group of 43 murals commissioned by the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition to be placed in towns along the Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway in Illinois. Emily Post, before she became widely known as an author of etiquette books, traveled the newly formed Lincoln Highway in 1915. During her travels she became stuck in the mud in Rochelle and spent 3 days in Rochelle at the Collier Hotel. At that time the Lincoln Highway was America's only coast-to-coast highway. The 10' x 20' mural was unveiled on Memorial Day, May 28, 2007. (D12 on the map)



The Rochelle Railroad Park is located at 124 N. 9th Street. Anywhere from 80 to 120 trains pass through Rochelle in a 24 hour period. This has made Rochelle a "hot spot" for train watching, drawing visitors from every state in the nation and world wide. Because of the number of visitors, Rochelle acquired the land east of the diamond in 1995 and constructed a park just for train watching. The park, which was dedicated August 30, 1998, includes a handicapped accessible observation pavilion with various vantage sites for the best visitor viewing and photography. The park also includes a gift shop, a 7 ton Whitcomb engine and 50 ton Whitcomb engine which were built in Rochelle, handicapped accessible restrooms, and a replica of the



original 1854 Steel Strap Rail. Visitors can see locomotives from many different railroad companies pass through Rochelle on the Union Pacific and the BNSF lines. (I1 on the map)

The Rochelle Firehouse Museum is located on the corner of 5th Avenue & Main Street. The first piece of fire equipment that Rochelle owned was a hand drawn hose cart which was drawn by four men. It was eventually sold to 20th Century Fox for \$35 in 1935 to be used in the movies. Next purchased by the City was a 1912 American LaFrance chemical fire truck and the two pieces resided for a time in the town hall. In 1924 a second American LaFrance was bought and is the fire truck that has been restored and whose home is in the Fire Station Museum behind the fire station on Main street. If one happens to come by during the evening hours there is a button on the south side of the Museum that can be pushed to turn the lights on and view "Gertie", which was Rochelle's first water pumper. (D7 on the map)



The Flagg Township Public Library is located at 619 4th Avenue. Andrew Carnegie's first library was built in the town of his birth, Dunfermline, Scotland, on July 27, 1881. This was the beginning of the construction of a total of 2,811 buildings of which 1,946 were erected in the United States. Not wanting to have his name on the buildings, they were commonly recognized by sun rays over the text of the words, "LET THERE BE LIGHT." The Flagg Township Public



Library has the words '19 TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY 12' over the original main entrance, was built in 1912, and paid for with Carnegie funds. In 1973 the building was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior. This plaque is located on the south side of the library. The library was expanded in 1988 to its present size with the help of federal funds. (D10 on the map)

The Flagg Township Museum is located at 518 4th Avenue. The town hall that almost wasn't. Even though the land was purchased in 1869 for the grand sum of \$2,000 the actual building wasn't built until 1884. In 1866 Flagg Township voted a township tax of \$3,000 for the purpose of building a town hall with the understanding that the City of Rochelle would pay \$3,000 as part of its share of the cost and the building would be jointly used by both parties. In 1884 both parties came to an agreement and a local contractor built the building for \$6,200. The building was almost demolished in 1968 for additional city parking. Fortunately in 1968 the Flagg Township Historical Society was created with one of its main goals being the preservation of the old brick and limestone building. On June 1, 1971 the historical society obtained the building. It since then has been the home of the museum and the resting place for artifacts of Rochelle's colorful history. The only existing Partin-Palmer resides there which was produced in Rochelle on the site of the old locomotive factory. This car along with other items are on display for the public Thursday - Sunday from 11am - 4pm. (D15 on the map)



500 Lincoln Avenue  
PO Box 331  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-7031  
www.rochelletourism.com



Lincoln Highway  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-4189  
www.downtownrochelleassociation.org



1221 Currency Court  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-4189  
www.rochellechamber.org



420 N. 6th St.  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-6161  
www.cityofrochelle.net

experience  
**ROCHELLE**  
Illinois

815-562-7031  
www.rochelle tourism.com

## Events to experience



**Rochelle Municipal Band**  
Concerts in Atwood Park  
June - August  
Wednesdays 7-9pm



**Rochelle Railroad Days**  
Rochelle Railroad Park  
1st weekend in June



**POPS Meet**  
Chicagoland Skydiving Center  
Last week of June



**Rochelle Regatta**  
Lake Sule  
Late June or Early July



**Independence Day Celebration**  
Atwood Park  
July 4th



**CSC Independence Boogie**  
Chicagoland Skydiving Center  
1st week of July



**Lincoln Highway Buy-Way**  
Yard Sale  
(Along Lincoln Highway)  
2nd weekend in August



**Lincoln Highway Heritage**  
Festival  
(Downtown Rochelle)  
3rd weekend in August



**Rochelle Fly-In / Drive-In**  
Rochelle Municipal Airport  
3rd weekend in August



**Downtown Christmas Walk**  
(Downtown Rochelle)  
1st weekend in December

## Rochelle Hotels



**Baymont Inn & Suites**  
567 East Hwy 38  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-9530  
www.baymontinns.com



**Comfort Inn & Suites**  
Hwy 251 N & Hwy 38  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-5551  
www.hotelrochelle.com



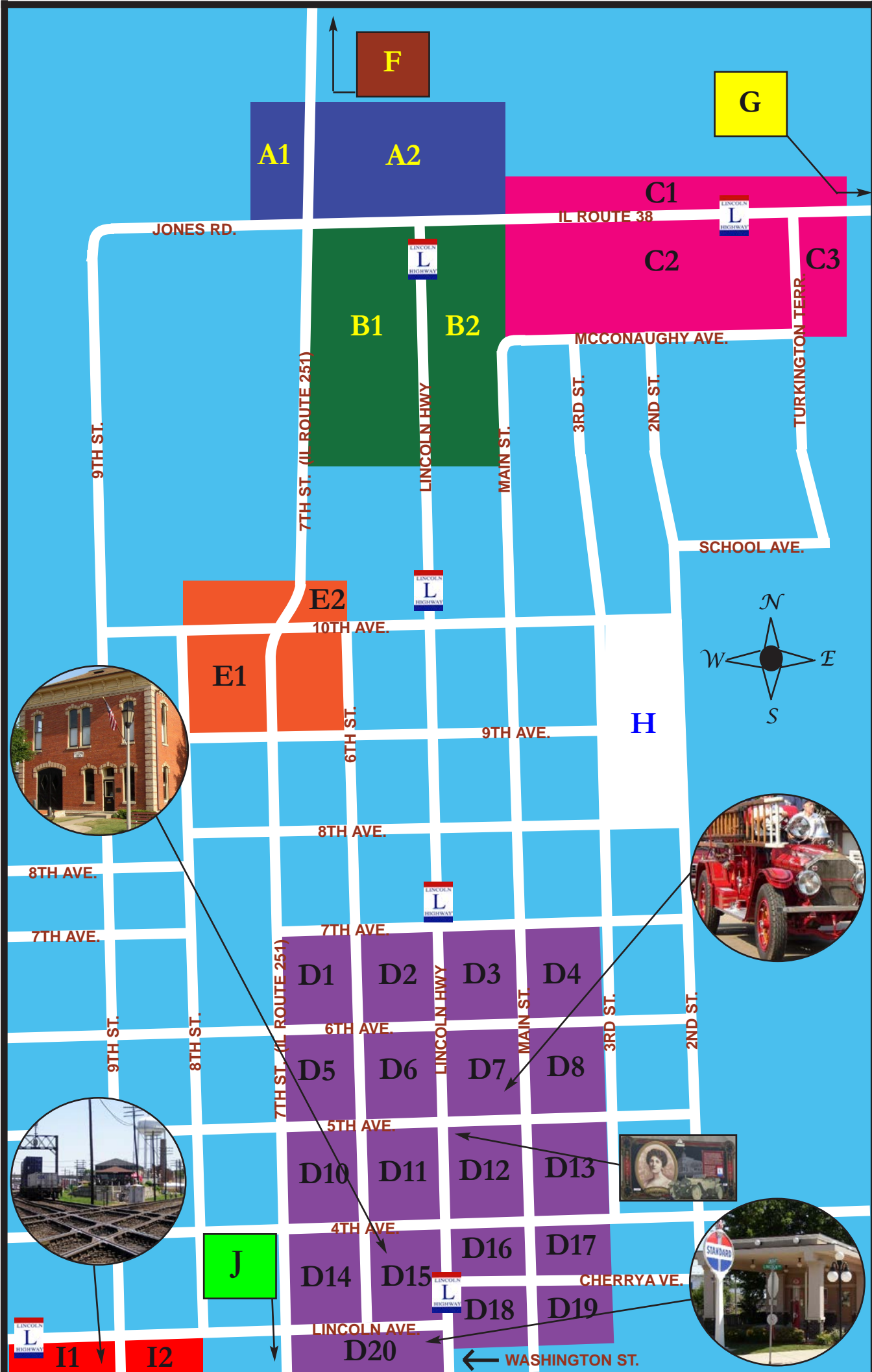
**Super 8**  
601 East Hwy 38  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-2468  
www.super8.com



**Holiday Inn Express**  
1240 Dement Rd.  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-562-9994  
www.hierochellehotel.com



**Rochelle Diamond Lodge**  
215 N. 9th St.  
Rochelle, IL 61068  
Phone: 815-561-7076  
www.rochellediamondlodge.com



**BEAUTY & FITNESS (cont.)**

Ricco's Salon	306 Eagle Dr	815-561-6587	<b>G</b>
Salon 22	308 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-5885	<b>D15</b>
Sha Sha's	718 10th Ave	815-562-4150	<b>E1</b>
Xpressions	238 May Mart Dr	815-561-9096	<b>C2</b>
Zepi's Family Salon	499 W. Route 38	815-562-4247	<b>A2</b>

**HOTELS / LODGING**

Baymont Inn & Suites	567 E. Hwy 38	815-562-9530	<b>G</b>
Comfort Inn & Suites	1133 N. 7th St	815-562-5551	<b>A2</b>
Super 8	601 E. Hwy 38	815-562-2468	<b>G</b>
Holiday Inn Express	1240 N. Dement Rd	815-562-9994	<b>G</b>
Rochelle Diamond Lodge	215 N. 9th St	815-561-7076	<b>I2</b>

**INFORMATION**

Chamber of Commerce	1221 Currency Court	815-562-4189	<b>G</b>
City Hall	420 N. 6th St	815-562-6161	<b>D10</b>
Flagg Township	303 Hwy 38	815-562-7360	<b>C1</b>
Flagg Township Public Library	619 4th Ave	815-562-3431	<b>D10</b>
Rochelle Park District	735 N. 2nd St	815-562-7813	
Rochelle Railroad Park	124 N. 9th St	815-562-7031	<b>H</b>
Rochelle Tourism	500 Lincoln Ave	815-562-7031	<b>D20</b>

**RECREATION**

Chelle-Crest Family Bowling	Rt. 251	815-562-8618	<b>F</b>
Family Video	497 W. IL Route 38	815-562-5950	<b>A2</b>
Hickory Grove Center	1127 N. 7th St	815-562-5668	<b>A2</b>
Rochelle Country Club	555 S. 7th St	815-562-7279	<b>G</b>
T-Byrd Lanes	1172 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-4822	<b>B1</b>

**RESTAURANTS**

Abraham's Grille & Lounge	1127 N. 7th St	815-562-5668	<b>A2</b>
Aldo's Pizzeria	418 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-3456	<b>D11</b>
Alfano's Pizzeria	1115 Turkington Terr	815-562-3312	<b>C3</b>
Butterfly Restaurant	1165 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-5530	<b>B2</b>
China Wok	233 May Mart Dr	815-562-8879	<b>C2</b>
Coffee Cup, The	408 4th Ave	815-562-2627	<b>D16</b>
Country School Restaurant	Route 251 N	815-562-6039	<b>A1</b>
Eddie's Cafe	903 S. 7th St.	815-562-9563	<b>J</b>
El Sol Mexican Restaurant	507 4th Ave	815-562-1851	<b>D11</b>
Hub City Express	139 & Hwy 38	815-561-9595	<b>G</b>
Iron Skillet	139 & Hwy 38	815-562-5840	<b>G</b>
Molly's	411 Cherry Ave	815-562-6568	<b>D16</b>
Naples Delicatessen	703 Jones Rd	815-562-8545	<b>A1</b>
New China Buffet	444 W. IL Route 38	815-562-8012	<b>C2</b>
New York Bagel & Coffee Exch	340 May Mart Dr	815-562-2435	<b>C2</b>
Off The Wall Cafe	422 Lincoln Hwy	815-561-6093	<b>D11</b>
Rochelle Golf & Steakhouse	555 S. 7th St	815-562-7279	<b>J</b>
Rock N' Country Pub & Grill	640 S. 7th St.	815-562-7200	<b>J</b>
Sunrise Family Restaurant	1181 North 7th St	815-562-4877	<b>A2</b>
Tecalitlan Restaurant	1071 N. Caron Rd	815-561-7576	<b>G</b>
Tom & Jerry's of Rochelle	134 May Mart Dr	815-562-4181	<b>C2</b>
Vince's Pizza & Family Restaurant	1071 N. 7th St	815-562-7300	<b>B1</b>

**SPECIALTY SERVICES**

Caron Road Laundromat	955 N. Caron Rd	815-562-7627	<b>G</b>
Custom Cowhide	404 Cherry Ave	815-561-0163	<b>D18</b>
Family Laundry	1063 Caron Ridge	815-561-0088	<b>G</b>
Greencare Cleaners	1221 Turkington Terr	815-562-2242	<b>C3</b>
Hub City Senior Center	401 Cherry Ave	815-562-5050	<b>D16</b>
Rochelle Community Hospital	900 N. 2nd St	815-562-2181	<b>H</b>
Rochelle Laundry	301 1st Avenue	630-729-9604	<b>D19</b>
Rochelle News-Leader	400 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-4171	<b>G</b>
Rochelle Veterinary Hospital	1381 N. 7th St	815-562-5207	<b>F</b>
WRHL Radio	400 May Mart Dr	815-562-7001	<b>C2</b>

**SPECIALTY SHOPS**

Colonial Flowers & Gifts	408 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-8101	<b>D11</b>
Conover Books	405 N. Main St.	815-562-8987	<b>D13</b>
Cypress House	718 10th Ave	815-562-4159	<b>E1</b>
Diamond G Ranch & Western Str	4564 S. Knoll Rd	815-562-4050	<b>F</b>
Granny's Berries	3405 S. White Rock Rd	815-562-4462	<b>F</b>
Hope Chest, The	411 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-8825	<b>D12</b>
In The Beginning Naturals	405 Lincoln Hwy	815-561-6466	<b>D12</b>
Joyeria Ruby Jewelry	406 Lincoln Hwy	815-561-9093	<b>D12</b>
Lifeworks Imaging	306 Lincoln Hwy	815-561-7131	<b>D15</b>
Lottie's Keep	1065 N. Caron Rd.	815-561-6399	<b>G</b>
Presbyterian Thrift Shop	210 N. Washington St	815-562-5252	<b>D20</b>
Quinn's Jewelry Store	426 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-2426	<b>D11</b>
Stone's Gold Crown Hallmark	400 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-2732	<b>D11</b>
Studio Silhouettes	310 Lincoln Hwy	815-558-0170	<b>D15</b>
Sweet Blessings	304 N. 6th St.	815-562-6165	<b>D14</b>

**ANTIQUES**

Bills Trading Post	408 4th Ave	815-562-2627	<b>D16</b>
Hub City Antique Mall	506 Lincoln Ave	815-562-5620	<b>D20</b>
Ray's New & Used Merchandise	316 N. 6th St	815-562-2855	<b>D14</b>

**ATTRACTIONS**

1918 Standard Oil Filling Station	500 Lincoln Ave	815-562-7031	<b>D20</b>
Chicagoland Skydiving Center	1207 W. Gurler Rd.	815-561-3663	<b>J</b>
Flagg Township Museum	518 4th Ave	815-562-3040	<b>D15</b>
Illinois Lincoln Highway Mural	429 Lincoln Hwy		<b>D12</b>
Koritz Field / Rochelle Airport	1201 W. Gurler Rd	815-562-8619	<b>J</b>
Rochelle Fire Department Museum	5th Ave. & Main St	815-562-2122	<b>D7</b>
Rochelle Railroad Park	124 N. 9th St	815-561-1231	<b>H</b>
Roberts Armory		815-561-4445	<b>J</b>

**BEAUTY & FITNESS**

Anytime Fitness	330 Eagle Dr	815-561-6071	<b>G</b>
Beauty Villa	409 N. Main St	815-562-4919	<b>D13</b>
Body & Sol Tanning & Fitness	1141 Lincoln Hwy	815-561-6342	<b>C2</b>
Broome's Barber Shop	929 N. Main St	815-562-7868	<b>D4</b>
Cutting Edge	410 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-8881	<b>D11</b>
Fashion Nails	403 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-6640	<b>D12</b>
Hair Express	419 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-5885	<b>D12</b>
Hairology	1056 Lincoln Hwy	815-561-6018	<b>B1</b>
Hub City Barber Shop	402 Cherry Ave	815-562-5011	<b>D18</b>
Inner Beauty	326 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-8888	<b>D15</b>
Jo Yoga	411 4th Ave	815-762-1876	<b>D12</b>
Mi Tierra Beauty Salon	425 Lincoln Hwy	815-562-8813	<b>D15</b>
Mike's Barber Shop	517 4th Ave	815-562-2621	<b>D11</b>