



Recent Events:

A brief summary of ICHS activities since our last newsletter.

The Ionia County Historical Society is headquartered in the historic John C. Blanchard House located at 251 East Main Street in Ionia, including our community's historical museum.



ICHS Contact Information:

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**Messages to this phone at the Blanchard House and Museum are only checked once per week. For a quicker response, please use an alternative contact.*

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The most recent issue of the Chronicle dates back to November of 2016. It's becoming obvious that I just don't have time to do a full issue of the newsletter every month, so I'm going to try this one-sheet and see if I can keep on schedule. This will hopefully give you the highlights of Historical Society happenings. The minutes for each meeting will still be on file if anyone wants to see the details - just contact me (David M) if you'd like some specific information.

That November issue (in case you missed it) included announcements for plans through the holiday season and the first bit of the new year. Here's how it all worked out (in no particular order):

We're still waiting for the construction of the big church building on Main Street to allow us access to the storage space behind S&K Printing. Once the weather breaks, we can start moving some long-term storage items into that space, and gain a little "elbow room" in the carriage house and in the main house as well. The Carr Agency says that the off-site items will be covered by our insurance. We just need to be sure they are properly inventoried.

The holiday season included the ICHS "gift gala" at the Blanchard House as well

as participation in the Mrs. Claus Bazaar, both of which were successful for us. There were a significant number of visits to the Blanchard House for the three December Sundays that we were open for tours.

Rentals continue to be a source of income, as well as good for publicity. It looks like 2017 is off to a good start in this regard.

The Accessions Committee continues to meet and plan, trying to put a system in place to handle both new donations to the ICHS as well as the existing un-cataloged collections. They hope to have a report to the Board in February, and a policy in place by March. Meanwhile, anyone interested in helping please contact the Board.

A plaque will be installed at the Cornell Alley commemorating the history of the location and acknowledging the Historical Society's commitment to keep the site cleaned up. Linda Ciangi also continues to work with the city on the Governor Green / Factory monument project. That effort is nearing the grant-writing phase. (For more info, contact Linda.)

The new ICHS Website is being programmed now. As of this writing, we hope that it will be live before the Ionia Expo in continues on page 2...



March. It will be much faster, easier to update, and compatible with smart-phone and tablet displays, too.

Looking forward to the summer schedule, the ICHS is looking for help with the “Spring into the Past” museum tours and Upstairs-Downtown tours in May, the Car Show, Antique Fayre, Oz Festival, and Farm Power Show in June, and several other fund-raising ideas that are being discussed now, our own float for the Free Fair parade, and helping at the Antique Village display at the Free Fair, too. David McCord (me) is working with Rocky Nelson to bring in displays on the local Indian populations.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meetings and events! As always, suggestions and contributions are welcomed.

Current needs and ways you can help support the ICHS:

The ICHS can always use help on Thursday afternoons with housekeeping and lawn care.

There are small maintenance projects at the Blanchard House for folks skilled in carpentry and electrical work.

Anyone who would like to help with publicity and promotion, we could use help letting folks know all about our projects and programs, from posting fliers around town to sending out newsletters.

The Accessions Committee can use some help sorting, cataloging, and storing artifacts, photos, and documents in our historic collections.

When we participate in area events, we often need help setting up our displays, staffing our booths to share information and sell souvenirs, and (of course) taking it all down again.

If you'd like to give tours or help at the Blanchard House to welcome visitors, please inquire.

In all these cases, we will help to show you the ropes, guide your efforts, give you any necessary training... and happily welcome you to our Society!

Save The Date:

**Our calendar of upcoming events and activities.
To verify current details, please visit our website.**

Wednesday, February 15, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Wednesday, March 1, 7:00 p.m. — Public presentation on “Michigan Lighthouses” at the Blanchard House (sponsored by the Ionia Community Library)

Saturday, March 11, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — Ionia Business Expo at the Ionia High School. The ICHS will have a display at the expo and will be selling souvenirs. Volunteers welcomed!

Wednesday, March 15, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Saturday, March 25, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. — Antiques Roadshow with Glen R. at the Ionia Commission on Aging - \$5 per item donation, please.

Wednesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m. — Program at the Blanchard House by author and survivor of the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, sponsored by the Ionia Community Library

Wednesday, April 5, 7:00 p.m. — Program: Goose Elliott's Route 66 Tour, at the Blanchard House

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. - Presentation by Tracy Groot, author of Sentinels of Andersonville, sponsored by the Ionia Community Library

Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. — Program at the Blanchard House by Three Husbands (and one daughter) on the Loose: “100 years of Popular Songs”

Saturday May 6 & Sunday, May 8 — “Spring into the Past” Tri-River Museum Tours; ICHS Blanchard House “Summer Sunday” begin, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Saturday, May 20, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. — Annual Upstairs Downtown Tours, downtown Ionia