



## 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:

www.ioniahistory.org  
facebook.com/ioniahistory  
email: info@ioniahistory.org  
phone: 616-527-6281\*

*\*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.*

- President:  
Linda Ciangi ..... 616-527-4945
- Vice-president / Rentals:  
Barb Ehlert ..... 616-522-0844
- Directors:  
Katelyn Mooney ..... 616-902-7777  
Stacy Tchorzynski ..... 517-763-1770  
Dave White ..... 989-855-2350
- Secretary/Webmaster:  
David McCord ..... 616-527-3784
- Treasurer:  
Kathleen Cook ..... 616-527-2626

The upcoming events are the most prominent topics on our agenda. The “Spring Into The Past” event marks the opening of the season for the many museums in our area, and allows us to open up the Blanchard House to practice our hosting skills. We will welcome visitors to the house the afternoons of May 4th and 5th. If you can help, please contact President Linda Ciangi at the number listed to the left.

Thanks to Joan McCord who purchased a yard sign for the “Spring into the Past” event.

Summer Sundays are coming up soon - each Sunday afternoon between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. If you, dear reader, would like to help any time the House is open, we could use a greeter to welcome our guests, and if you’d like to give tours, we do have training available - just ask!

Next will be the annual “Upstairs/ Downtown” tours in Ionia on May 18. This event is critical to help us meet our expenses for the month. We have 5

confirmed sites on the tour this year, and a couple of “maybes”. Tickets will be on sale the day of the event near Cornell Alley, for just \$10 per person. The event is from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For this event we’ll need a few more volunteers as well - people to hold open doors and guide guests to the upper floors. An easy task, and if you can spare a few hours to help, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Kathleen Cook at the number listed in the left column of this page.

Stacy Tchorsynski has helped us to get a couple of grants through the Ionia County Community Foundation. Now we have some new computer gear in the Accessions department, and have some funding to start rebuilding the back steps on the Blanchard House. (The existing steps to both back doors are getting dangerous.) Dave White is working to get these fixed ASAP to accommodate the summer traffic.

The budget is tight, but maintaining the Blanchard House is our top priority.

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We have hired help to keep the place clean inside and out, but volunteers on Thursday afternoons are always appreciated, and donations welcomed.

Linda Ciangi noted that committees affiliated with "Project Rising Tide" in Ionia have organized a downtown beautification day on Saturday, May 11. The ICHS has committed to maintaining Cornell Alley, and Dave White volunteered to clean it up during the Rising Tide event. If you'd like to help, contact Dave (his number is on the list).

The Board has discussed other opportunities for us to participate in Ionia area events. Recently, several members have arranged presentations to area students for historical lectures and tours. We hope to be involved in several Main Street events in the coming months, and will be putting together a display for the Antique Village area at the Ionia Free Fair in July.

We're discussing putting in a "Butterfly Garden" as an added attraction to the Blanchard House grounds. A kit is available through the Conservation District for only \$60, and maintenance is minimal.

David McCord reports that other events have taken precedent over the History Hike and Carriage House projects recently, but after the busy month of May has passed, he should be able to get back on track with those projects. David also attends the Tri-River meetings and continues to represent the ICHS at the Keutsche Center for Local History at GVSU.

Our major sources of income for the Historical Society are through fund-raisers. In recent years, this income has been dwindling. We've lost some dedicated members, and still need to find interested people to come forward and take over. If you care about our local history, and about preserving our local heritage through the artifacts and documents entrusted to us, we could sure use your help. Contact Kathleen Cook if you know how to run a raffle, a duck race, or a capital campaign. (Or something we haven't thought of yet!)



# Save The Date:

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

Saturday, May 4, and Sunday, May 5th — the Annual "Spring Into The Past" kicks off the Museum season. The Blanchard House will be open for tours - watch for more details soon.



Saturday, May 18 - the ICHS **"Upstairs/Downtown Tours"** in Ionia's business district. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at \$10 per person. To help, contact the event Chair Kathleen Cook.

Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m. — **"Votes for Women!"** - a special presentation on the subject at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, July 3, 6:30 p.m. — Our annual Independence Day Pot-luck at the Blanchard House. All members and guests are welcomed!

Wednesday, July 31, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Board Meeting at the Blanchard House.

Wednesday, August 7, 7:00 p.m. — Presentation by Al Bryant on "The House of David" at the Blanchard House



Be sure to monitor our  
Facebook Page & Website  
for current information!



## Our usual Weekly Activities.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Blanchard House is open for tours on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to staff the house on these afternoons, either as tour guides, greeters, or companions.

Wednesday evenings are work sessions for the Accessions Committee, documenting the artifacts in the Historical Society's historical collections. If you would like to help, please contact Shawna Hoekstra, 616-430-1348.

Thursday afternoons are work sessions for housekeeping and displays. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact Linda Ciangi at 616-527-4945

NOTE: The work schedules are subject to change.