



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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Recent Events:

A brief summary of ICHS activities since our last newsletter.

Major points of business from the past two month's business include the following:

President Ciangi suggested that the annual Spring Into The Past event in May be henceforth dedicated to the memory of Joe and Joan McCord. Mrs. McCord (Joni) passed away last month. She was the ICHS representative and a charter member of the Tri-River Museum Network which sponsors the Spring event, and she was past President of the ICHS and organizer of many of our events over the past 35 years.

ICHS Director Barb Ehlert's heart surgery was a success and she has recovered very well.

The Oz Festival was very well attended and all reports have been positive. Some of the sets and decorations from the Oz Fest are being stored in the Sentinel-Standard ICHS storeroom.

At the Free Fair parade, we once again enjoyed having John Rick's Shelby in the line-up. The Board approved presenting him with two Shelby T-shirts in thanks. Thanks also to Barb and Linda C. for hosting the Queen's Reception before the parade. And thanks to Kathleen Cook, Barb Hogan, David McCord, and Phil Kahl for their help at the Antique Village at the Fair.

Dave and Lori White hosted a rental, as well as continuing to maintain the lawn

at the Blanchard House. Thanks to Jane Horrocks for her help with the gardens. Dave White also reports that he's still trying to make arrangements to get the back steps and railings rebuilt that won't cost an unreasonable amount.

Film maker Aaron Russman rented the Blanchard House in July for a new production. The House has proven to be popular for movies, and we received an invitation from Warner Brothers Entertainment to register the house as a resource in their supplier database for future projects.

Due to a lack of volunteers, the Board voted in July to change our schedule of public tours (a.k.a. Summer Sundays) to the first Sunday of every month, at least until further notice. Volunteers are needed to staff these Sundays. Interested members and friends, please contact a member of the Board.

The Accessions Committee has been working diligently the past couple of months, and have collected some items for the Board to review and determine their disposition. Compliments were expressed to the committee considering the challenges of our situation, being a museum in a historic home. Also regarding Accessions, it was noted that newspapers and other documents

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have been stored in the furnace room for many years, which is probably not a safe place for such documents.

David M. apologized again for the lack of progress on the Carriage House project due to an incredibly busy summer. He reported continued progress on the development of a new walking tour ("History Hike").

The recent fire at the Jackson home (a.k.a. Dr. Long's residence on East Main) called upon immediate information for the press from our organization. Luckily, David M. was able to supply some info, but to provide better resources for information about Ionia's outstanding architecture, Kathleen Cook has assembled a cross-referenced file of all the ICHS "Historic Home Tour" booklets from year past.

A number of items have been recently donated to the ICHS, including a fine set of Ypsilanti Reed furniture, a 1931 Ionia baseball uniform, and others. A large quantity of items have been donated for our upcoming Yard Sale. For the time being, these will be stored in the Carriage House, and work there will proceed after the Yard Sale.

Former Board member Goose Elliott suggested to President Ciangi that an amendment be made to our Bylaws that members of the Board be required to live within Ionia County. This was based upon his experience having lived outside the county during his term, and its inconveniences. The Board agreed, and David M. will write up the necessary paperwork for this and a few other policies in discussion of late.

The Board and committee chairs have set dates for several of the season's upcoming events, as reflected in the accompanying calendar.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING

Nominations for Three Board Seats Due at September 4 Meeting.

The terms of Linda Ciangi, Dave White, and Stacy Tchorzynski will expire. Stacy has expressed interest in running again, and other nominees thus far are Kathleen Cook and Ron Thomas. Additional nominations should be conveyed to the Board.

Save The Date:

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

Wednesday, August 28, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Sunday, Sept 1, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. — The Blanchard House will be open to the public for tours. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 p.m. — Musical program by the local band "Three Husbands on the Loose" with special guest, Colleen Farrell. This year's theme: "Music from the Woodstock Festival, 50 years later."

Friday & Saturday, September 6 & 7 — The annual ICHS **YARD SALE** to raise funds for the coming winter expenses. Donations to sell gratefully accepted!

Wednesday, September 25, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 p.m. — The ICHS **ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION of DIRECTORS**, plus a general discussion of the ICHS programs and special events coming up in 2020.

Sunday, October 6, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. — The Blanchard House will be open to the public for tours. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Sunday, October 13 — The annual **ICHS Cemetery Tour!**

Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)

Thursday, Oct 31, 6:00 p.m. — Trick-or-Treat at the Blanchard House. Volunteers and treats welcomed!

Sunday, November 3, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. — The Blanchard House will be open to the public for tours. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 p.m. — The Historical Society presents "Game Night" with David McCord, with historic games from his extensive collection and the chance to play them, plus popular favorites.

Wednesday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)