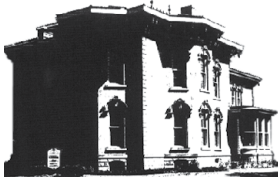




A note from the President:

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:

Kathleen Cook616-527-2626

Vice-pres./Webmaster/Newsletter

David McCord616-527-3784

Directors:

Bryan Kimble616-897-6592

Lori Johnson.....(Interrim)

David Cusack517-763-1770

Secretary:

Linda Ciangi616-527-4945

Treasurer:

Mary Kimble616-867-6592

Rentals:

Barb Ehlert616-522-0844



Dear members and friends,

Our 50th anniversary was a fun event and we saw lots of familiar faces along with a few new ones.

It was the perfect day

for an ice-cream social and I appreciate everyone who made the day festive.

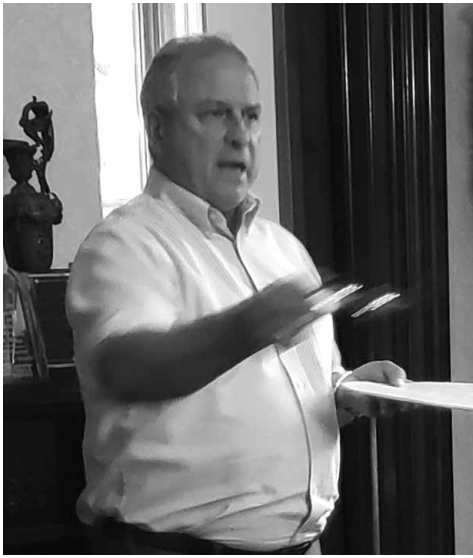
The accessions committee continues to meet once or twice each week. They are going through our item's piece by piece and cataloging them into a database.

Several times each month, I receive a phone call for a donation or two, adding to their work. The things that we received recently include clothing, ledgers, and a trunk from pioneer families. The accessions committee have been meeting in the tearoom but there are some problems with that. The tearoom no longer looks like a room where Mrs. Blanchard would entertain her guests and the area is not suitable for the accessions group because they do not have a large enough space. The solution is to build a new space for them. My husband Greg hopes to break ground and begin building this fall.

Our next membership meeting is on October 2, 2024, at the John C. Blanchard House. It is our annual meeting where we vote for new officers. If you would like to vote, make sure that your membership dues are paid by then. I am excited to announce that we will also **Pamela Withrow as a guest speaker.** She will be talking about her time as the first female warden at the Ionia Reformatory. Corrections has played a major role in Ionia's history so if you have not heard her speak, I urge you to attend. Her book will also be available for purchase.

Lastly, our annual **Cemetery Tour** is scheduled for October 13, from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. There isn't a theme to this year's tour other than I planned a simpler walking route in the prettiest part of the cemetery. If you have not attended this event, it is our most popular event and one of our major fundraisers. We ask that you park in the lot where the girl scout house once stood and take the bus to the top. For a small fee, concessions will be available. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of our board members.

— Kathleen



Former Mayor Dan Balice addressed our meeting on August 7 on the subject of the Ionia Hospital's history.

Current needs and ways you can help support the ICHS:

The ICHS can always use help with **housekeeping and lawn care**.

There are small maintenance projects at the Blanchard House for folks skilled in basic **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.

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, October 2, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Annual Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all) including election of new Board members. **ALSO: SPECIAL GUEST PAM WITHROW**, author and former Prison Warden will address attendees regarding her fascinating career with the D.O.C.

Sunday, October 13, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. — Our Annual **“Spirits” Cemetery Tour** at Highland Park. (SEE ADVERT BELOW)

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

Thursday, October 31, 6:00 p.m. — **TRICK OR TREAT** at the Blanchard House! McCords will once again host handing out the goodies. If anyone would like to help, just show up! Meanwhile - **PLEASE DONATE BAGS OF WRAPPED CANDIES!!!** (These can be dropped off at the B.House.)

Wednesday, November 6, 7:00 p.m. — Monthly Program Meeting at the Blanchard House (to be announced)

Wednesday, November 27, 7:00 p.m. — ICHS Business Meeting at the Blanchard House (open to all)



SPIRITS

of Ionia's Past

2024

**ONLY
\$5**

Our Annual Cemetery Tour

On Sunday
October 13th
from 1:00 p.m.
until 4:00 p.m.



**IONIA
COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
IONIA MICHIGAN

Highland Park
Cemetery
on East Main at
Prairie Creek