

The Museum Messenger

INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL
MUSEUM & ART CENTER

April 2016

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT — RAY ROTHGEB

The IHMAC Art Club continues to fill workshops and extend their geographic reach to participants from well beyond Independence, giving new meaning to “community”. The recent Steve Greenwall and Monte Toon workshops have sold out and attracted participants from the Kansas City area as well as Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The Canvas and Cocktails event quickly filled 50 spaces with an additional 10 spaces being added to meet demand for the event. Still a waiting list developed.

This month will see the opening of the VVYAE. This will be the third year for the youth version of the VVAE. The event has proven to be a great learning experience for area youth, while providing an excellent show for patrons and visitors. Be sure and get the event on your calendar.

Work continues on the “Law Enforcement” exhibit and refinement of the “Blacksmith Shop”. Joy Barta, chair of the exhibit group has provided excellent leadership. If you are interested in helping with one of the exhibits on the lower level, talk with Joy. There is a room for everyone.

Once again museum hours are 10 am to 4 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, closed Sunday and Monday. The decision to return to Thursday daytime hours is the result of low visitor and activity counts on Thursday evenings. Groups meeting after 4:00 on Thursdays will need to make arrangements for a key with the office.

Progress continues on the renovation project. A recent land donation to the museum prompted another \$2,000 in contributions to the project. We are less than \$90,000 from our goal. Your help in encouraging others to give could help us reach our goal by this summer. It is our hope to have much of the project done by September 2018. This is when we will be hosting the Kansas Museum Association state conference.

If you know of persons that would enjoy a more active role in the museum let a board member know. There is something for everyone.

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New Hours

Tuesday
thru
Saturday
from 10 AM
to 4 PM.

KANSAS CELEBRITY HALL OF FAME

A new era for the Kansas Celebrity Hall of Fame is about to begin. By this summer the exhibits will be packed and moved to a new location. The Independence Community College has suggested the exhibits of the KCHoF be located in the lobby area of the I.C.C. West Campus. The KCHoF committee agrees this is a good choice. Currently the formalities of this collaborative arrangement are being finalized. The KCHoF will continue to operate under the umbrella of the Independence Historical Museum and Art Center at the new location. It has always been known that the KCHoF would someday be required to move from the Museum. The current space will be the location of the new restrooms. As this phase of the renovation project advances this year, the KCHoF must move to allow for construction to begin. A big thank you goes out to the Independence Historical Museum and Art Center Board of Directors. Their vision and support has made this unique hall of fame and museum possible. We also must thank Independence Community College for offering this new location. More information about this change will come in the future.

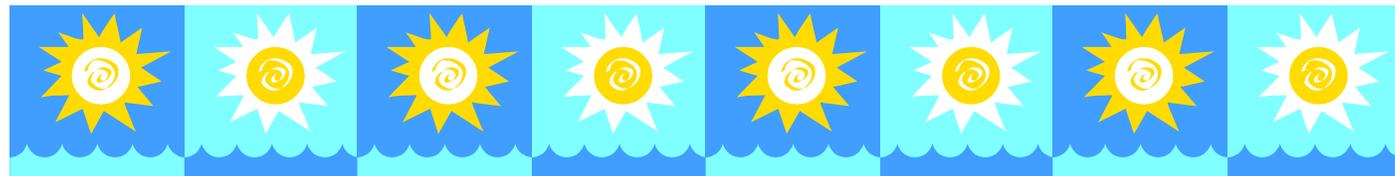
LONDON CENTER – NORMAN CHAMBERS

The Independence Historical Museum and Art Center applied for a \$90,000 grant in November 2015. This grant was for the purpose of completing the renovation of the 2nd and 3rd floors of The Landon Center. You may know that one room has been completed on the 2nd floor funded by a private donation.

The grant announcements were made in February 2016. The Landon Center was not funded this year. I attended the grant review process in Topeka. There were about twice the dollar amount request as there were funds to disperse. In talking to the Kansas Historical Society personnel, it seems the grant review committee decided to fund those properties that were considered “endangered”. This means properties that were endanger of being torn down and/or being condemned due to neglect. Of course these would be properties having a substantial historical recognition. I understand the desire to try to salvage these kinds of properties. The Landon Center would not be included in this category. Therefore no funding is available this time around.

In order to get the \$90,000 we would have needed a 20% match, or \$18,000. We had commitments for the match. In talking to the matching sources it was suggested we apply again this November and the match would still be available. This will be a Museum Board decision when the time comes.

The Landon Center remains available for rent for events. I encourage you to contact Sylvia Augustine at the Museum for prices and available schedules.



MONTE TOON VISIT

Monte Toon is visiting the Art Club on Monday, April 11.

He is inviting all the membership to drop in between 9 AM and Noon. Come and watch the artists at work or bring something to paint with the group.



PHOTO CLUB

For more information on the Photo Club, contact John Koschin at 330-7525. The next meeting is April 14th at 5:30 in the Historical Research Center 123 W. Myrtle.

LUNCHEON

The next luncheon is scheduled for April 14th at Noon.

Menu: Variety of Salads, Breads & Crackers, Dessert, Coffee and Tea

Program: Andy Taylor – “Images of Independence” Slide Show
Books will be available for purchase.

Please make your reservations by noon April 12th. The cost is \$8.



ART CLUB NEWS

In March, the art club has held three workshops.

The first workshop was color theory class taught by Louise Woodard. The second was March 21, presented by Steve Greenwall and featured drawing a profile and a three-quarter view of the human face. Greenwall's drawing workshops will continue as long as the public shows interest in attending. The fee is \$20 for 3 hours.

The third workshop was presented by Monte Toon on the 28th. He taught waterscapes. The class had 18 participants.

The Art Club is also preparing brochures, posters, and mailings for donations for the Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit which begins in June. Louise Woodard and Eenie Fitzpatrick are the chairs for the exhibit.

We meet the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays of the month. Members are always welcome to attend.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Independence Historical
Museum & Art Center

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WISH LIST

Coffee

Kitchen Broom

Old English
(Light & Dark)

½" & 1" Paint
Brushes (3 ea)

Long (54 x 104)
Fabric Tablecloths
(any color)

Small Paper Cutter

The Independence Historical Research Center is located on the corner of 8th & Myrtle across the street from the Museum. The Research Center was established in June 2013 to collect and preserve documents that are relevant to the history of Independence and Montgomery County dating back to 1869. The goal of this effort is to enable people to utilize these documents to do genealogical and historical research.

The center has original county district court records dating back to 1870 and marriage records from 1870 to 1984. The marriage records are indexed through 1925 and are currently being indexed to 1984.

Montgomery County has over 60 rural cemeteries in addition to city cemeteries of Independence, Coffeyville, Cherryvale and Caney. Records have been compiled on all cemeteries along with funeral home records which are available for research.

The Research Center has access to Ancestry.com and 2 computers available for research. Collections include biographical sketches, obituaries, Old Settlers and Civil War Veterans of Montgomery County. Pioneer Women of Montgomery County is being compiled at present as a work in progress. We have city directories back to 1907, voter registration records back to 1910 and Montgomery County Population Schedules for cities and townships back to the 1920's.

There are many records of Montgomery County Public Schools including the 113 rural school districts about schools, teachers and students back to the 1880's.

We have family files, histories and miscellaneous subjects containing local items of interest throughout the county's history.

This is just a sampling of the vast array of documents and materials at the Research Center that are available for hands-on-research. You can stop by and look for yourself, or one of the volunteers will be glad to help you begin your search. There is a fee if the volunteers do the research but none if you do it yourself. Of course, donations are always welcome.

Volunteers are available Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 am till 3:30 pm. If you are interested in genealogy and would like to be a volunteer we would love to hear from you.

The website is: [www.http://ihmac.org/hrc](http://ihmac.org/hrc)

The email is: hrc@ihmac.org