

The Museum Messenger

August 2016

Independence Historical Museum & Art Center

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Letter from the President – Ray Rothgeb

The past two months have brought a number of operational challenges for IHMAC: Staff on leave, air conditioners going out, and a wet bedroom to mention a few. Last month I commented on the dedication of IHMAC board and museum members in keeping the office open while Sylvia was on leave. Now I must comment the Research Center folks for keeping the doors open during the hottest days of July. The air conditioning unit went out just ahead of those days. Despite the heat, our volunteers and staff continued to work keeping the center open during the morning hours. Thank you volunteers Sandy Faler, Elizabeth Gray, Allen & Susan Johnson, Barbara Lasater, Sue Prince, Janet Rau, Doris Sholly, Bonnie Wible and Margaret Wood; and staff members Barry Edwards and Terri McLaughlin. To add to the air conditioning issues, the museum unit went out near the end of the month. Fortunately cooler weather provided some relief and work is being done as I write. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, air conditioning will have been restored in both facilities. One of our greatest facility challenges remains, the bedroom exhibit where water is seeping into the room through the floor. Drew Demo is working diligently to locate the cause and explore a fix. A special thanks to staff members, Rob Davis, Jordan Britt and Donna Gilchrist for their continuous efforts in keeping the floor mopped and artifacts safe. Now, for the fun stuff! I'm happy to announce that on August 15 work will begin on the third phase of the renovation project. As you will read elsewhere, the KCHoF is moving to allow construction of accessible restrooms. We hope that disruption to normal activities will be kept to a minimum. Please bear with us during this time. We expect the project to be complete by mid-November. Much has been done! Much remains to do! Everyday I am encouraged by the willingness and generosity of the members of this organization. Thank you!

Museum Hours

Tuesday
through
Saturday:
10 a.m. –
4 p.m.

Coming Events (check for dates)

"Kansas Awes"

"Arts & Crafts
Fair"

"Pottery
Extravaganza"

"Photo Show"

"Spring Tea"

"Woodcrafters
Show"

"VVYAE"

MUSEUM AID

There are many ways to support INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ART CENTER. Of course, like in every situation, cash is always nice but there are alternatives that might be more attractive to certain individuals.

Many who have planned for retirement and have put away a little nest egg have done so with some type of Individual Retirement Account "IRA". As you reach a certain age, usually 70½, you are required to take what are known as mandatory distributions. When those distributions are taken, they must be reported as income on your tax returns. However, you can make arrangements with the firm, bank or investment company that is holding the IRA to make a portion or all of your distribution payable directly to the INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ART CENTER. In that manner, you can direct an amount to support the museum and you also will not pay income tax on that portion. As you are probably aware, when these mandatory withdrawals are taken they must be reported for income tax purposes but the law continues to exist that permits you to not report these types of direct payments and to report them as a charitable deduction. It is certainly one of many ways you can give much needed support to our INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ART CENTER.

If you would like more information on diverting your mandatory withdrawals as charitable donations to the INDEPENDENCE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ART CENTER, please contact your investment counselor, banker or tax preparer. Also, I would be happy to visit with you.

Tim Emert
331-1800

"Thank you"

Thank you to everyone for the cards, calls, visits, the meals and all the thoughts and prayers we received when we lost Larry.

Thanks to all who helped cover the Museum while I was out. You are greatly appreciated.

Memorials were sent in Larry's memory for the Museum and the Home Town Health Care. Thank you to all for your generosity.

Thank you

Sylvia Augustine

Robin & Craig Fankhauser

Rhonda & Chris Bromley

Bryson & Brayden Bromley

Kent Augustine

Gaberiell & Chet Augustine

Check out the website
www.ihmac.org for the list of
 supplies needed for the upcoming
 Carol Dickie Workshop.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Good Day from the Historical Research Center. It has been a tough summer as the air conditioning has been out; but we hear it will be fixed soon.

We are still in need of volunteers to staff the center. So anyone who is interested in history, we would love to hear from you. We are open from 10 am to 3:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday.

The Research Center is again going to participate in the annual 100 mile sale the weekend of September 9th & 10th. We need donated items for this sale, please no clothing or knick knacks. We have for sale the following items: Neewollah cups; Neewollah programs; IHS yearbooks; ICC yearbooks. Stop in and check out our gift shop and research area.

THE KANSAS CELEBRITY HALL OF FAME IS ON THE MOVE

The Independence Historical Museum Board of Directors and the Kansas Celebrity Hall of Fame Committee are pleased to announce the move to Independence Community College West Campus. The move began on July 18th with the dismantling and packing of the exhibits. This will take a period of a few weeks. The exhibits will then be installed in the lobby of ICC West. It is estimated some of the exhibits will be up by the end of August with other exhibits taking longer.

A new era for the Kansas Celebrity Hall of Fame has begun. Early this year the Independence Community College suggested the exhibits of the KCHoF be located in the lobby area of the ICC West campus. The KCHoF committee and the IHMAC agreed. This fantastic space will be great for the advancement and future development of the KCHoF. Thank you to Dan Barwick, President of ICC for spearheading this great opportunity for both organizations. Thank you should also go the members of the KCHoF committee which include Norman Chambers, John Koschin, Ray Rothgeb, Bill Taylor, Mary Taylor and Mike Flood. John Koschin should receive special thanks for designing the space at ICC West and the exhibits.

The KCHoF will continue to operate under the umbrella of the IHMAC at the new location. The two organizations will together manage the KCHoF at ICC West. It has been known the KCHoF would be required to move from the Museum as this is the location of the new restrooms. This improvement is needed and was part of the major capital improvement campaign that was funded by the contributions of many people and businesses in the community. It is wonderful that so many people helped make this happen!

As the improvements at the Independence Historical Museum and Art Center are underway, please understand there will be some disruption. However, this will be for a reasonable short time and the result will be good for the Museum and its patrons. Please stay clear of the construction for safety sake.

A NEW YEAR BEGINS

On September 1st, a new year begins for the IHMAC, HRC and the Landon House. There will be fund raisers, luncheons, special exhibits and more. If you would like to be a part of any of the events coming in the next year contact the office for more details. Some of the Exhibit Areas (aka Rooms) still need someone to help take care of them: clean, arrange, etc. If interested contact the office. Luncheons will begin again on the 2nd Friday of September. Help is always needed for them.

The Board of Directors and Staff look forward to the New Year and all the happenings.