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WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Early morning sunrise captured from Bishop Park as the sun rises over Fighting Island on the far side of the Majestic Straites De Troit.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Dear Members of the Wyandotte Historical Society;

To some the study of history can be boring. That it is the memorizing tedious details about who lived long ago that have no impact on the life today. This is not true. Not only can history be exciting exploration into the events and ideas that have helped shape the world. I certainly agree with writer and historian Susan Eggers. Susan has written 3 reasons Why Studying History is Valuable.

1. Everything has a history.
2. Studying history requires critical thinking.
3. History teaches us about God, the world and ourselves.

We have the chance to experience our great history that has shaped Wyandotte today! As we begin opening our museums slowly after dealing with the virus, you have the opportunities to experience Wyandotte's past. It is time to come back and join your museum friends. We miss our Friends the docents, all our volunteers and most of all our monthly historical programs.

Please watch our new website so you can be informed of our future activities, as well as our monthly newsletters. It's great to be back to share our history with you.

Christopher T .Stieler - President

We recently received an inquiry about a possible business from long ago. The question was: Was there ever a water distilling business located at or near the corner of Ludington and Biddle during the 1930's? Call Ken Navarre at 734 285 0799 if you have any info, or at muddrum@aol.com.

ON THE MOVE

It is often thought that people interested in history and its preservation are somehow caught up in an old time warp. I don't think that observation is accurate. At least not with our Historical Society. Let us just recall the continual upgrading of office equipment that has occurred since our beginning. The two staple pieces were the manual typewriter and the Gestetner copy machine. We won't include the stapler nor scotch tape. The good old Gestetner where you first typed a master and then were able to make up to 5,000 copies from that master. And we cannot forget the phone which later featured an answering machine. Next came the speedy electric typewriter. Almost forgot the adding machines and then hand calculators.

It was not long before the computer was the most popular instrument next to apple pie and ice cream. We were not far behind in acquiring this fascinating concept and along with it came the printer. So many things became easier to work with and faster, but maybe a little less accurate. We learned quickly to cope with the problems. Next came the copy machine that could do just about anything but write the newsletter. I don't see a solution for that one on the horizon yet.

We can skip Facebook, Twitter, U Tube, etc. and move on to a WEBSITE. Yes, finally after many conferences, discussions and searching for money, we now have our own website operated and under the direction of your historical society. Thanks to the hard work of Beth Labadie and Jane Rasmussen, it is operational. It was take additional funding but it will be worth the showcasing of our city and its history. Any donations will be accepted gratefully. We are pleased to have brought you up to date on some of our advances over the years that you normally may not be aware of an all made possible by you, our fellow members. We thank you for all your support.

Please visit our new website at wyandottehistory.org.

Ken Navarre

The Updated Historic Marx Home Herb Garden

The gardens to the rear of the historic Marx Home on the museum campus have received a makeover of sorts. During the month of May, staff and volunteers were hard at work throughout the campus, updating and revamping the landscapes. This includes the herb and flower gardens at the Marx Home.

Beginning in the 1970s, not long after the historic home was acquired from the Marx family, the current Memorial Garden began to take shape, an endeavor started by the Wyandotte Garden Club. Over the next 40+ years, this amazing group spent thousands of hours tending to the landscape. This would include a large swath of land to the rear south of the building, which was wholly made up of four herb beds, and a small flower garden to the north of the back stairs. Over time, potted plants in urns, jugs and lamp bases would pop up, as well as beautiful plaques and statuary, commemorating past Garden Club and Historical Society members and volunteers. A bench made it possible for all to come by and enjoy the Memorial Garden.

In 2020, the Wyandotte museum director spoke with several members of the Garden Club and the decision was made to transition perpetual care of the Memorial Garden to the museum, its staff and volunteers. Since then, planting season went into full force and the landscape has been updated to include two herb beds and two flower beds, along with the reuse of two lamp bases. Much of the beauty started by the Wyandotte Garden Club will remain in place for generations to come and the area has truly taken shape into one which residents and visitors can enjoy year after year.

On behalf of the Cultural and Historical Commission, museum staff and its volunteers, the utmost appreciation and thanks go out to current and past members of the Wyandotte Garden Club for all they did throughout the years to, not only create an enduring outdoor space that celebrated the city, our history, and its members and volunteers. But, also for helping to ensure future generations will continue to be inspired by the Memorial Garden.

For anyone interested in seeing the gardens in person, feel free to come down to the historic Marx Home any time! Special appreciation goes to volunteer, Bruce Sininger, for his time and thoughtfulness when updating the Memorial Garden. If you have feedback, send it to museum@wyan.org, call us at (734) 324-7284, or post on our museum Facebook page. And, don't forget to tag us in your posts on Facebook as well!



MUSEUM REOPENING

The long awaited day is here! The museum will reopen for tours on July 9. As with all businesses there will be some changes. Tour times will be scheduled at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm and will be limited to ten guests per slot (unless the group is all one family) so that there is room for some spacing. Face coverings are strongly recommended. Group tours can be scheduled beginning July 13. Cleaning will occur before, during and after each tour day.

Please note, the Music in the Museum program has resumed.