Jefferson County Historical Society

April 2017

Newsletter

Margaret Dick with many other JCHS members supporting her on February 3rd, 2017 met at the KSHS meeting room to present the grant request for needed funds for restoration of the boyhood home of John Steuart Curry. The windows and siding are in need of repair or replacement. Unfortunately our request was denied by the KS Heritage Trust Committee due to lack of funds.

The JCHS board decided to continue with the restoration so the building can be preserved. The costs are nearly $20,000.00. A special fund account has been set up to accept donations. A benefit event will be on Saturday, August 26th, 2017 called Drive Your Favorite Ride to Church. This is also a matching fund event of Modern Woodmen of America. They will match funds up to $2500.00.

**Anyone wanting to make a tax-deductible donation between now and even after our event can be made to the JCHS – Designate the Curry House in your memo – will be gladly accepted. Sent to Mary J. Luse, Treasurer, 16786 126th Street, Winchester, KS 66097**

Many thanks for Margaret and her time spent working on the grant application. Her time and efforts are GREATLY appreciated.

Many other volunteers help with getting the “Opening Weekend” of May 6th and 7th of Old Jefferson Town and its weeks before.

We like to recognize Chris Hotchkiss and his students from John Dewey Academy of Ozawkie as their winter project was cleaning up the original sinks and ready for installation in the Barber Shop display located in the Tibbot Building. The mirrors were found in 2011 when cleaning for the auction but we needed good “muscle power” to clean the sinks that came from that barber shop. Plans to get those sinks installed soon.

This group also helped pick up limbs and trash before the annual community Easter Egg Hunt that was held on the grounds on April 15th. Their constant work during our season is greatly appreciated.

The Jolly Junior 4-H club will be volunteering on Saturday, April 29th. This club has chosen Old Jefferson Town as their community service project. Their help is deeply appreciated.

Thanks for the Community Service these groups have given to Old Jefferson Town. Very much appreciated!

Our events committee met in January and made these plans for the season. These events could be subject to change. If you are a Facebook fan check our website for updates.

Here is the list of events planned for this year:

* **Saturday, May 6th between 1:00 – 4:00 pm and Sunday, May 7th between 1:30 – 4:00** pm will be the county wide school art show. Virginia Winsor has been working hard to organize the Art Show this year. This year will be the first John Steuart Curry Art Scholarship to be given to a senior that participates in the Annual John Steuart Curry Art Show on the weekend of May 6th & 7th. An anonymous donor gave $500.00 for the scholarship. It will be given to an art student that participates in the art show this year, meets the criteria for the scholarship, and plans to continue their education in the design or art degree. Good Luck to the seniors from the county schools.
* **Beginning May 6th thru the end of May** a month long (or longer) displays will be going on throughout the season so for opening weekend is the “Lost Communities of Jefferson County” – Western Half of Jefferson County. A display of a map of these communities will be on display for most of May. Information that is in our files will be shared on these communities. Pictures from individuals and stories are welcomed to add to our files.
* **May 27th – 4th of July** – Various military uniforms will be displayed in buildings from our donated collection. Please come in and see our planned display. We are proud of our veterans that have served.
* **June 23rd – 24th** – Old Settlers Reunion in Oskaloosa – Plans to have past history and display of past Old Settlers will be displayed, various wedding dresses be displayed in the buildings from our collection, and another art display in the Curry House.
* **Month of July** – Another “Lost Community” display is planned of the eastern half of the county. Again welcome stories and pictures from any of these communities to share with our files.
* **Month of August** – Displays of past Clubs and Organizations in the community. This has brought more history out from the communities so we plan to share what we have and hope to get more information to share in the future.
* **August 26th, Saturday – Fundraiser – “Drive Your Favorite Ride to Church” -** This has been a success for our society and great event in the community. It may be a warm evening but plans to have an “old-time” church service and an “old-fashion chicken dinner and pulled pork” with many great cooks sharing their culinary skills with the public. There are plans for a silent auction for various donated items. We hope you mark your calendar for this event and share an evening of just slowing down, enjoy the “ride display” and have a great evening of visiting.
* **September 30th & October 1st** – Yes we are open in October, just because the 1st of October falls on Sunday. We want the public to be able to enjoy all of Old Town as long as they can. Tentative plans to have wagon rides with the horses. Hope you can come and enjoy the fall weather with us.
* **2017 Annual Meeting – Sunday, November 5th** – This will be an election of officers for the upcoming year and a short planned program. Plans in the Reynolds building will be a “soup supper” and again share the company of the members & visitors that come. Please mark your calendar or follow Facebook for the time of this meeting and supper. This will wind down the season that we are looking forward to 2018. But hope members and visitors will come to one of the “Jewels of Jefferson County” and visit or attend an event this year and come back again!

**Season hours are:**

**Saturdays 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm and Sundays 1:30 – 5:00 pm**

Matt Teague is working on a book of Jefferson County history and pictures. If you have any information and pictures you would like to have in book, please let Margaret Dick know at maggie2929@hotmail.com

Thank you – Leanne Chapman, JCHS 2017 President

Questions or concerns can contact me at: [chapmanfarm94@yahoo.com](mailto:chapmanfarm94@yahoo.com) or cell phone 785-691-6751.