

THE CARMEL SIGNAL

CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Third Quarter 2023

Established 1975

Our 48th Year



CARMEL CLAY HISTORY FAIR

This year is the 200th anniversary of the founding of Hamilton County. As part of the bicentennial celebration, the Carmel Clay Historical Society is partnering with the Carmel Clay Public Library to celebrate the history of our city and township! Join us on November 12, 1–4 p.m., in the library’s community room for the Carmel Clay History Fair. This event will feature a program of speakers, live music, video montages, exhibits, refreshments and more. [You can register here for this free event.](#)

are working daily on exhibits and programming to share in the museum. If you have ideas of subjects you would like to see included, please email info@carmelclayhistory.org. This is a community space with the emphasis on COMMUNITY!

CARMEL INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The [Carmel International Arts Festival](#) is September 23 and 24th! This year, CCHS will have a booth located in the Youth Area of the festival. Carmel educator Jill Kniptash will coordinate a collaborative mural painted by children that will hang in the Children’s Gallery of the new Carmel Clay History Museum, where visitors can admire it for years to come. CCHS is grateful for the Regional Arts Partner Grant funding this project.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Work on the Carmel Clay History Museum commenced this summer! After so many years of waiting, we are grateful to see daily progress on this important project, and we look forward to its completion scheduled for next summer. Along with progress on the building, we



CCHS ANNUAL MEETING

CCHS Members are invited to attend our Annual Meeting of the General Membership on Sunday, October 22, at 2 p.m. in Community Room A on the first floor of the Carmel Clay Public Library. We will share an update on the new museum and present our Year in Review.

Members will vote on the following candidates. Additional nominations from the floor will be allowed before the election.

Officers (1 year term)

President: Brad Sexauer
Vice President: Lily Pai
Secretary: Lisa McLaughlin
Treasurer: Ginny Steckley

Board Members (3 year term)

Mickey Brooks



SQUIRREL STAMPEDE

We are so grateful to all of the families and runners who joined us on September 16 for our second annual Great Squirrel Stampede on the grounds of Coxhall Gardens. Proceeds from this event will help fund the construction of the Carmel Clay History Museum. This fun-run was first conducted last year in honor of the Bicentennial Celebration of Hamilton County. The squirrel theme commemorated an event that happened two hundred years ago, when a great squirrel emigration swept across Central

Indiana and destroyed everything in their path. Farmers lost much, if not the entirety, of their cornfields and gardens. The incredible number of squirrels involved was confounding, and the pioneers were helpless to stop them.

We would like to thank our generous corporate donors:

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Thank you to our event sponsors as well:

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Current in Carmel
My Dad's Sweet Corn
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Michelle Armstrong
The Gangstad Family
The Poland Family
The Trostle Family
The Fuertges Family
The Steckley Family

CARMELFEST

CCHS was proud to help organize Clay Township pioneer descendants to serve as grand marshals for this year's parade to commemorate the county's bicentennial!! Thank you to the families both local and out of state who joined us in the trolley!! Thank you also to Clay Township Trustee Paul Hensel and former Clay Township Trustee Doug Callahan for leading our group!

Special thanks Hamilton County Commissioner Christine Altman for providing candy and decorations for our parade vehicles. We also appreciated our energetic Bicentennial Ambassadors, Libby Parkins and Sophia Stephens, for handing out the treats along the route.



Member News

We welcome the following New Members who joined CCHS in the 3rd Quarter of 2023

Stephanie Borlik
Cheryl Pleak Copeland
Jerry and Judy Fuertges
Kristina Moorhead

Vivian Ryker
Dan and Melissa Schneider
Diane Wallis

Tidbits from our Facebook Page

In 1944, Marge Dawson and her husband organized a parade for the neighborhood children. The kids dressed up in patriotic costumes and decorated their bikes, trikes and wagons. The parade headed for ice cream at the drug store and then back to the neighborhood for contests and refreshments. The parade became an annual event and was sponsored by the Carmel School Mothers Club in 1946. That year, prizes were awarded for the best costumes. In 1951, the newly established high school band led the parade. The parade ceased to be an annual

feature of the holiday in Carmel from 1954 to 1974.

In 1975, the Bicentennial Steering Committee organized a horse and buggy parade that included patriotic floats. The bicentennial parade the following year was large and well attended. The picture included in this post was from 1976. Parades from late 70s to the early 80s were smaller, but Carmel's sesquicentennial anniversary gave momentum for larger parades in 1986 and 1987. In 1988, CarmelFest was born!



**SPECIAL THANKS IS EXTENDED
TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS:**



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Range Line Storage, Church Church Hittle + Antrim,
Old Town Design Group, DOZ Charitable,
Flanner Buchanan, The National Bank of Indianapolis,
Current in Carmel, The Barrington,
Anthony's Chophouse, and Wine and Rind.

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