



## It's CCHSM Membership Time!

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you for your generous support of the museum this past year! With your help we were able to hold many special events, programs, and activities for ALL ages during the year. We are asking you for that generous support once more as we make plans for this next year!! Our expenses have increased as have yours. Considering this, if you are able to add a little to your membership donation this year, we would appreciate it! Without your help we cannot do what we do!



Historic Home Porch Tour

### CCHSM is still a hub of activity! These are some of the events and successes for 2023-2024

- We received the “Reader’s Choice Award” for best museum in Cowley County for the 8th year.
- “Cruise, BBQ and Car Show Too” was held in May at Island Park. 30 cars participated in the cruise along roads in the southeast part of the county. The cruise participants and the public were then invited to enjoy a car show and BBQ.
- “Feed the Need for Speed” held in June had interactive activities for all ages—drones, slot car racing, paper airplane creation and competition, model train, RC racing, timed racing games, food, and more.
- Museum Friends continued to grow. This group offered interesting programs to the public including a Humanities for Kansas speaker. They continued to support and volunteer to help with museum activities and events.
- The new annual exhibit, “Planes, Trains, and Cars of Cowley County”, opened in February. It celebrates the rich history of transportation in Cowley County with special exhibits on loan and pictures from the archives. Programs and events throughout the year have celebrated this theme. The exhibit will remain in place through December.
- October was a busy month. The first “Historic Homes Porch Tour” was held. With the help of costumed reenactors, the story of the first families that occupied 6 of the historic homes of Winfield was shared. The “Voices from the Past” Cemetery Tour was also held at the end of October. The stories of some of the early founding fathers for whom streets are named were shared by the costumed reenactors and a walking tour of those gravesites was conducted.
- Our social media presence continued to grow with frequent FACEBOOK posts, and the website was continually updated with additional research links, museum news, a schedule of future events and past newsletters! Check it out!
- Research requests continue to come in from across the country and even the world! The archives continues to grow with wonderful donations throughout the year.
- The Fall Appreciation Gathering was held at Baden Square for Museum Members, Museum friends, and Volunteers. It was an opportunity for all the folks who support the museum in any way to visit and meet each other and to be thanked for all their help through the year. Another gathering is planned for this fall, November 7, at Baden Square.
- Many oral histories were collected. Museum Friends will be using pieces of past oral histories in some of the programs this next year. (Check out the calendar of events included in this packet)
- Special children’s events were planned throughout the year. “Bonnetts and Ball Caps”, an Easter event was held in April. Children created decorated hats and paraded down Main Street accompanied by the Easter Bunny A “Fairytale Tea” for moms, grandmothers, and grandchildren was held in June. A “Polar Express Party” is planned in December.
- The Museum continued to partner with and host several groups through the year—Chamber Coffee, Doc Walk, school field trips, SC Women’s Basketball, Winfield Public Library, Marquee, and Master Gardeners to name a few.
- “Celebrate Cowley County History Day” continued to be a popular event. CCHSM has those booklets for sale.

### So, what’s planned for next year? With your help these are a FEW of the exciting things planned:

“Historic Home Porch Tour” Oct 6, “Polar Express Party” Dec 8, new annual exhibit, “Gone but Not Forgotten—buildings, businesses, events, celebrations of Cowley County” opens in Feb. Farmyard Olympics—a free event for families, an Antique Road Show—Cowley County Style, and “Pickin’ and Pie at the Pub” at Ladybird Brewery are a few of the new events. WATCH OUR WEBPAGE [cchsm.com](http://cchsm.com)

and FACEBOOK for many more exciting events in the planning stages! Also check out the tentative Calendar of Events included in this packet. Some old—some new—always interesting and exciting!

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

1. **Annual fall gathering: Fall Gathering Appreciation Dinner**, Thursday, Nov 7, Baden Square, 6:00-- Social time, 6:30 Dinner. *This dinner will recognize our members, museum friends, and volunteers and celebrate the many successful events and programs the museum has been involved in this year. If you are in one of these groups watch for your invitation and respond by Wed., October 30. (Let us know if you don't receive yours)*

2. **Membership:** Our successes next year depend on you! Only 20% of our budget is funded by the county and the city. We appreciate that help BUT we depend on memberships and donations for the rest. Your support is vital! Be a part of the exciting things that are happening by completing and returning the enclosed membership card with your membership check. (Please include your email address. Oftentimes we send information to our members via email.) There is also a place to indicate your interest in the growing Museum Friends program. With your help, we will be able to continue our mission: "Sharing the Past with the Future". THANK YOU for your continued support.

**Life Members**—The CCHSM Board of Directors appreciate you and always want to keep you informed about the happenings at the museum. Although life members are no longer expected to pay membership dues, with our increased need, please consider making a further donation. If you donate at least \$100 we would like to send you a 2025 museum calendar as a thank you for your continued support of our museum.

**Museum Friends**—This organization was formed to serve as ambassadors of the museum, serve as museum volunteers, and share local history with the area through interesting programs. They meet at 4:30 on the third Monday of each month. Anyone interested in history, the museum, and/or doing volunteer work is eligible to join. No additional dues. (See membership card for details and ways to participate.)

**Individual Membership levels**—Membership levels and thank you gifts are listed below:

**Individual membership levels:** There are 5 membership levels. (Those are listed on the enclosed membership card.) All levels will receive the quarterly newsletter. Depending on the membership level, additional thank you gifts will range from a magnet picture of one of our special events to a copy of our 2025 collector edition calendar: "Past Celebrations in Cowley County". Those at the first 2 levels receive a magnet while those at the patron, benefactor, anchor, and heritage levels will receive the 2025 museum calendar in addition to the magnet. Those members at the anchor and heritage donor levels will have their name placed on a permanent plaque at the museum.

### **Business membership levels: A FREE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY**

**3 levels: Silver, Gold, and Platinum**—Each level will receive the quarterly newsletter, a certificate suitable for framing, a magnet picture, and special recognition by levels on the entrance bulletin board at the museum. You will also receive our new 2025 calendar with wonderful pictures of Past Celebrations in Cowley County.

**FREE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY!! ALL LEVELS will be listed on the quarterly newsletter mailed out to over 350 households across the nation! (4 times a year).** Those at the **GOLD level will also have the name of the business along with contact information** listed in each of the newsletters as proud supporters of CCHSM! The **PLATINUM level will also have their logo included.** What an easy way to receive free advertising! ***Want to help sponsor an event? Let us know!*** There are opportunities to help sponsor museum events! **(SEE THE SPECIAL BUSINESS INSERT INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET!)**

**Just a reminder that ALL donations and memberships are 100% tax deductible!**

**CCHSM is a 501 (c)3 organization**