



History Matters!

**Newsletter of the Effingham County Cultural Center and
Museum**

Effingham, Illinois

Volume 8, Issue 1

January - March, 2021

Hours of Operation 2020-2021

The Museum opened as scheduled at the start of March 2020.

The first Covid-19 closure was triggered on March 16, 2020.



The Museum reopened June 30, 2020.

A second Covid-19 Closure was initiated Nov 9, 2020.



The Museum remained closed through the end of Year 2020.

We anticipate the Museum will reopen in March, 2021.

Unless something changes, we will follow Phase 4 Restore Illinois Guidelines.

**We will post on our Web site and FB page,
as well as issue a press release
when the time is right.**

MISSION STATEMENT

The **Mission** of the Effingham County Museum is to preserve our Historic Register structure, to collect artifacts from county history, and to use them to educate our local and external communities, while immersed in the broader context of American history. Our **Vision** is that the 1872 Effingham County Courthouse remains as an architectural gem that instills a sense of community pride and provides a venue to educate and showcase the history, art, and transportation of Effingham County. The parent organization for the Effingham County Museum is the Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc, which is a 501(c) 3 organization.

Usual hours March-December: Tuesday & Saturday: 10 AM - 2 PM
Other hours by special arrangement
Closed to the general public January-February, except for special programming
or by appointment.

The Museum is closed as of January, but we anticipate reopening in March.

Accessibility

The museum is wheelchair accessible from the east side entrance just off the parking lot. Toilet facilities that are wheelchair accessible can be found in the Gallery 1 of the first level and in the Northwest corner of Level 2.

Collection Building

The scope of the Museum's collection is directed by its Mission Statement. Donations are accepted of objects that relate directly to the Museum's mission of collecting materials and artifacts of cultural and/or historical interest.

Board and Officers

President	Delaine Donaldson
Vice President	Jane Ries
Secretary	LoElla Baker
Treasurer	Allen Westendorf
Members at Large	Jerry Katz
	Amy Gillespie
	Linda Ruholl
	Phil Lewis
	Dr. Ruben Boyajian, Emeritus

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Visit us on Facebook @:	Effingham County Courthouse Effingham Ill

Have you acquired your slice of local history?

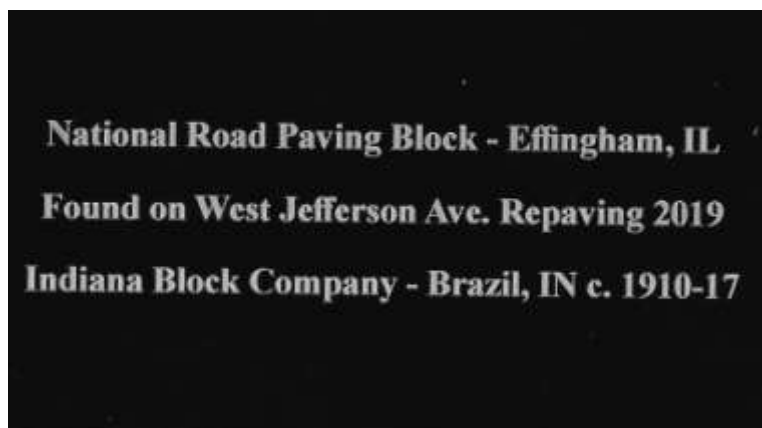
It's waiting for You!

Claim your
Remnant of the Old National Road



\$25.00

Each paver contains this plaque, establishing its provenance:



4th quarter 2020

Great American Shakeout

The Effingham County Museum was one of just two Effingham County non-profit agencies to participate in the Great American Shakeout, a central United States earthquake drill on October 21, 2020.



Our volunteers determined that the recommended Drop - Cover - Hold On was more difficult for senior citizens. General stiffness, painful hips and sore knees are a challenge. They concluded alternative measures are needed for those over 65. They also assessed the stability of display cases. The conclusion was that free-standing cases with glass sides and doors are at the highest risk.

A ***Seniors' Guide to Earthquakes*** can be downloaded from:

https://www.earthquakecountry.org/library/ShakeOut_Earthquake_Guide_Disabilities_AFN.pdf

Effingham County Museum's Annual Elevator Certification

Each year the museum receives notification from the state that the certificate of operation for the elevator is due to expire on January 23. The elevator safety division of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's office is responsible for implementing the Elevator Safety and Regulation Act through the registration, inspection, and certification of conveyances, and the licensing of contractors, mechanics, inspectors, inspection companies and apprentices. The Division assures that conveyances are correctly and safely installed and operated within the State of Illinois.

The elevator, of course, is vital to the operation of the museum. Located where it is, immediately inside the east door of the museum, it provides easy access for visitors who might have trouble negotiating the stairs.

The state requires a detailed inspection of the elevator consisting of seven major areas of operation. The seven areas along with the number of separate items to be inspected are these: 1. ELEVATOR INSIDE OF CAR—19 items; 2. ELEVATOR MACHINE ROOM—23 items ; 3. ELEVATOR TOP OF CAR—33 items; 4. ELEVATOR OUTSIDE HOISTWAY—13 items; 5. ELEVATOR PIT—14 items; 6. ELEVATOR FIRE SERVICE—2 items; 7. ELEVATOR TACTILE IDENTIFICATION—1 item.

In order to accomplish this task, the museum must hire a consulting firm who in turn works with a state approved inspector to perform the tasks. The total cost to the museum is over \$700.

When all work is completed, the state issues a Certificate of Operation which the museum then posts in the elevator so the public might know that the conveyance is safe.

Membership Report

The Museum Association had 257 paid up members as of mid-January. The majority of our membership lives in Effingham (70%), but we also have members from other towns in Effingham County, other areas of Illinois, and in other states.

Other towns in the county:

Altamont
 Beecher City
 Dieterich
 Edgewood
 Mason
 Montrose
 Strasburg
 Shumway
 Teutopolis
 Watson


In Illinois, outside the county:

Bushnell
 Cary
 Lake Bluff
 Peoria
 Pesotum
 Springfield
 Villa Park

Other states:

Arizona	California
Colorado	Florida
Florida	Idaho
Massachusetts	Maryland
Minnesota	Tennessee
Texas	

If you misplaced your membership mailing, or didn't receive one, here is the form:



Friends of the Courthouse

Annual Membership

BUSINESS - \$ _____
 INDIVIDUAL - \$25.00
 FAMILY - \$50.00

DATE _____ FOR CALENDAR YEAR _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ CELL _____

E-MAIL _____

Payment method: CASH CHECK # _____ Payable to ECCCMA

Would you like information on becoming a donor? Yes No

The group is a 501(C) 3, not-for-profit organization which exists exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. As such, donations are tax deductible.

Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc. P.O. Box 324, Effingham, IL 62401-www.effinghamcountymuseum.org

Illinois State Historical Society Award

The Effingham County Museum received an award from the State Historical Society toward the end of 2020. The award was originally supposed to be presented at the annual meeting in April. Because of Covid-19, the ceremony was cancelled and the certificate was mailed to Delaine Donaldson.

The 70th Year anniversary commemoration of the St. Anthony Hospital Fire was partially supported by a grant from Illinois Humanities.



Emergency Operations and Artifact Salvage

We are continuing to refine our plan to deal with emergencies. One of the concerns we have is what would happen if artifacts were in danger of damage because of environmental factors, such as a tornado or an earthquake. Collaboration with agencies like the Effingham Fire Department is part of the plan.

Right now, we have eight artifact salvage tubs on hand. They are large Steri-lite tubs with translucent sides, which would allow an observer to see if they contained objects, and to estimate whether full, half-full, etc. They are large enough to hold a considerable number of objects, but small enough that one or two people could move them.

Along with the tubs, we have a supply of Nitrile gloves and masks for workers, paper towels and blotting paper to absorb water, bubble wrap and bubble corners for padding, buckets and rags for cleaning, bulldog clips and bungee straps for stabilizing. Our intent is to protect objects being moved, while also safeguarding our volunteers from dangers like broken glass or mold. The tubs and supplies were donated by members of the museum board.



The tub sides and lids are numbered 1 through 8. A supply of index cards and pencils for recording is part of each tub's contents. Pencil are used because ink may dissolve or disappear if wet.

This equipment would allow us to remove high priority objects from the museum and to store them elsewhere until it is safe to return.



The Effingham County Museum was recently awarded a Capacity Building Micro-grant from the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation.

These funds are being used to pay for tuition and books for Jane Reis and Linda Ruholl to attend an 8-week online course, *Collections Management*. The class is one of many continuing education offerings for museum staff and volunteers sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History.

Students in the class learn to improve their collection handling practices and to develop or update their museum's collections management policies. The instructor is Dr. Erin Richardson. She has over 20 years of experience with the Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmers' Museum in the Niagara Falls area.

There are approximately 30 students in the group. They are associated with small museums from all parts of the country, which allows for networking from "sea to sea." Some of these facilities are with all-volunteer staff like the Effingham County Museum.



AASLH

American Association
for State and Local History

After successfully completing the class, the Effingham County Museum's attendees will have produced an updated collections policy to present to the museum board.

Jane and Linda want to say THANK YOU to the SEICF for facilitating this online class.