

## SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

**We have five new volunteers!** Mike, Greg, Vincent, Angel, and Deb! Please join me in welcoming them to our amazing Villager team!

**Our certified Tour Guides** led groups of guests through the Village on Fridays this summer. Lots of fun questions & experiences!

School was out for the summer, but not for the **Tuesday Crew!** Find out what they've been up to on page 3.

**We participated in community events** like the Farmers Market, & the Oakland County Pioneer Association Ice Cream Social. These are great ways to talk to lots of folks about the Village. Info on page 5.

**Gail & Ken painted the Parsonage, and Gail painted the Town Hall.** Both of the buildings were recently cleaned by Janet, Carolynn, and Gail, and now with their fresh coat of paint they look stunning! Thanks, everyone!

Our 2nd **Pedal Car Race** took place at Troy Parks & Rec's Midsummer Bash. We had 4 racers total, lots of volunteer help, and tons of fun was had on the super-hot day!

**Troy Traffic Jam** was the best it has ever been. More info on page 2.

We had (& are going to) say **some bittersweet "see you later"s.** More info on page 2.



**Our annual Summer Raffle raised \$3,595!** Thank you, Sheryl, for putting our prize baskets together and making them beautiful! Thank you to all our volunteers who helped sell raffle tickets!

**Scarecrow Row is now standing!** We have over 80 scarecrows, and 31 of them are brand-new sponsors! More info on page 4.

Our scarecrows took a field trip to **Troy Family Daze** and hung out with us next to our info tent. We also participated in the Troy Family Daze parade, and brought Poppleton outside to the streets! More info on page 3.

During our 2023 - 2024 fiscal year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), **over 200 Village Volunteers logged over 4,760 hours!** That is the equivalent of 198 days straight! WOW! Thank you thank you thank you!

The **Pioneer Garden** is on her last few legs now that we are entering fall, but she has had a bountiful summer. More info on page 5

Monthly volunteer meetings will be on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30am inside the Niles-Barnard House. Any variance from the plan will be communicated in advance! No need to RSVP - just stop on by! You can sign up on our calendar for a reminder if you would like.



*Left: Overview of cars parked and folks walking around the Troy Traffic Jam! Right: Our check in and registration team was very busy first thing in the morning! Rich, Janet, & Karen are smiling at the camera in-between check-ins. Greg and Rhonda are in the back handling business!*

## TROY TRAFFIC JAM

On August 4, 2024, the Troy Historic Village hosted their 16th annual Troy Traffic Jam! This year was our best year yet - by a long shot! We had over 6,000 guests join us and walk around the show. Over 350 cars registered for the event, and we had over 100 volunteers join us to put on this fantastic community event! We raised over \$50,000 and the money goes directly to funding educational programs at the Village!

This year we saw the return of Tech Talks, Pedal Car Races, and well-loved food vendors. We had lots of really cool cars join us, and we even had live music this year! Planning, executing, and following up after this event is a huge undertaking, and we could not be as successful without folks like you who dedicate their time and energy to help us provide meaningful and engaging experiences for our community. Thank you, thank you thank you!

Make sure to save the date for Sunday August 3, 2025 - we're going to have another great year and we look forward to having your help again!

## SEE-YOU-LATERS

Janet, one of our long time volunteers, is moving to Dexter with her husband! Janet spent lots of time with us from helping our curator do research as well as clean up artifacts and buildings in the Village, checked in thousands of guests during many of our events, prepped tens of thousands school craft supplies, helped build dozens of scarecrows, guided hundreds of students and guests on tours through the Village - just to name a few ways she lived our mission. We will miss Janet, her passion for the Village, and of course, her laugh! Dexter is lucky to have you!

**Stephanie**, our Adult Programs Director, is moving on from the Village in mid-October! She accepted a job with the State of Michigan, and we are so proud of her (even though we are super sad she is leaving the Village). Stephanie has held a few different roles while at the Village over the last 15 years. Her impact is immeasurable! We will be having a gathering for Stephanie on **October 10, 7:30pm - 8:30pm** at the Niles-Barnard House here at the Village. Please stop by and give her well wishes!



Left: Volunteer Jim looks up as volunteers Lynn and Jeff install new shingles on the wood stack lean-to behind the cabin. Right: Our new audio-visual set up sits on top of our beautifully built AV cabinet!

## TROY FAMILY DAZE

This was our third year participating in the Troy Family Daze event in mid-September. We took 30 scarecrows to stand guard outside of our Troy Historic Village tent, and they were enjoyed by the thousands of guests that attend the event!

This year, Troy Family Daze brought back (for the first time in along time) a parade! We were so excited to participate. Staff members built the parade float (pictured below). Volunteer Craig trailered the float, and volunteer Lori and THV staff Jen passed out candy and post cards to spectators.

## TUESDAY CREW

Our maintenance mavericks have been hard at work this summer! They finished up the AV cabinet for our new audio-visual system in the Church. They did such a good job - the cabinet looks like it's been there the whole time! They also spent the summer helping refinish the desks in the Poppleton School. They removed the tops of the desks, sanded the underside, nailed them back on, added new finish, strengthened the frame, and made repairs when necessary. Lynn also helped design where the desks would be positioned when reinstalled so they would be more accessible!

During this time, we hired contractors to redo the floors in the Poppleton School. Now, both the floors and desks look brand new and are ready for the thousands of school kids that will be coming to the Village for field trips! Thank you, Tuesday Crew!



Top left: Volunteer Lori passes out candy to spectators. Top right: A close up photo of the treats we passed out. Bottom left: Ms. Post (in scarecrow form) stands in front of a blackboard. Next to her is a student (in scarecrow form) writing "ABC" on the chalkboard. Bottom Right: The parade float with Ms. Post and the student at the front, and two Poppleton School desks.



Left: While refinishing the desks, our team made sure to alter a desk to better accommodate a student using a wheelchair. Right: Lynn's spacing worked out perfectly as you can see! The wheelchair (and strollers) fit with lots of room.

We interact with over 500 guests throughout our time at Troy Family Daze, and we are so thankful to Lori P and Sheryl for spending their time with us inside our info tent!



## SCARECROW ROW

We have over 80 scarecrows this year on Scarecrow Row, and 31 of them are brand-new sponsors! This is a testament to the hard-work that goes into putting Scarecrow Row together each year, and the beautiful works of art that our build team makes!

For a quick recap: there are two ways a sponsor can participate in Scarecrow Row. They can choose to build their own, or they can pay a little extra to have our amazing build team build their scarecrow for them. Over 80 scarecrows, and 50 of them were built by our build team. Our build team also helps prepare the Build-You-Own scarecrows to last outside during the entire month of October.

We are so thankful for them, and this fundraiser / public art exhibition would not exist without the passion and dedication of our Build Team! Thank you!



Top Left: Volunteers Sheryl & Karol smile as they build a scarecrow. Bottom Left: Beautifully built scarecrows take a break after a long week at Troy Family Daze. Right: Volunteers Debe, Sheryl, Gail, and Karla representing our amazing Build Team at the Troy Family Daze Scarecrow Row set up.

We set up all the scarecrows the last week of September. We had 20 student volunteers carry the scarecrows to the 8 adult volunteers to fasten them to posts! It took around an hour to get the entire row standing, and it looks fantastic! Thank you!



Left: Volunteers Kevin, Ken, and Sienna fasten one of the scarecrows to the fence. Right: Volunteers Robin and Jay fasten a pink-pony scarecrow to the fence.

**\*New this year\*** Fan-favorite voting for scarecrows is available! Stop by Scarecrow Row at the Village and look for the QR codes along the row to scan and vote for your favorite. You can also vote for your fave on our website by clicking [here](#).

We will be taking down the scarecrows on November 5, 3:30pm - 5pm, and will need lots of help! Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar.



## PIONEER GARDEN



*Left: Our rustic Pioneer Garden on a sunny day in mid-September. We were still harvesting tomatoes, jalepenos, and greens!*

*Middle: An Early-Girl tomato harvest - Thank you, Carolynn, for donating the plants! Right: We planted over 56 onion starts earlier this spring, and harvested just as many onions in August.*

Didn't you hear? Since our Pioneer Garden was so successful at feeding rabbits, deer, groundhogs, and who knows what else, the Troy Historic Village is not only a historical museum – we're a wildlife conservation organization! I'm joking, of course... Even though I'm ready to fist fight the deer who have reigned terror on our beautiful garden, I do understand that everyone (including those pesky deer) have to eat!

Both staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to cultivate a beautiful garden and I'm so proud of all of us. We successfully grew corn, pole beans, broccoli, kohlrabi, potatoes, collards, tomatoes, spicy greens, bush beans, sunflowers, jalepenos, borage, nasturtium, cabbage, onions, dill, gourds, marigolds, calendulas, and lemon balm. We will be putting the garden to bed for the winter soon, and will need many hands to make light work. Thank you to everyone who has helped create a bountiful ecosystem in our little Village!

## NEW WEBSITE

As a reminder, we have a completely new website for the Village! It still is [www.TroyHistoricVillage.org](http://www.TroyHistoricVillage.org), but things look a little different on our new domain. To quickly access our Villager Volunteer page on the website, click [HERE](#).

**Please remember to keep track of your volunteer hours.** I can print you a paper log for you to maintain at home, or you can log onto our website and log them there. As a reminder, I will log the hours I know about (the ones on the Shift Calendar), but if you are doing additional things not on the calendar, please let me know what those hours are so we can count them!

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Do you like people? Do you like sharing information about Village programs? We'd love you to join our Community Engagement Committee to volunteer at THV info tables at various community events. This is a great way to experience other events throughout Troy, and get to share your passion for our mission! We will teach you everything you need to know, and make sure you're as prepared as you can be. We have various sign ups on the Shift Calendar!

# CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## **TRICK-OR-TREAT OCTOBER 25, VARIOUS TIMES OCTOBER 26, VARIOUS TIMES**

It's time for our biggest youth event of the year! Our trick-or-treat program is super special as we have 8 or 9 activities for kids to participate in which means we need lots of help to make this a wonderful and memorable experience! Shifts are on the Shift Calendar!

## **TRICK-OR-TREAT: EVENT SET UP OCTOBER 25, 12PM - 3PM**

Help us transform our Village for Trick-or-Treat before the program begins. We might need help sorting prizes, carrying items out to the Village, setting up tables, etc. Shifts are on the Shift Calendar!

## **MONTHLY SCHOOL CRAFT PREP OCTOBER 8, 10:30AM - 12PM NOVEMBER 12, 10:30AM - 12PM**

Our ongoing & continuous need for school craft prep supplies! It's also a wonderful time to catch up with other volunteers, and get to know new ones. Outside of our scheduled monthly gathering, you're welcome to grab supplies to take to work on at home. Shifts on the Shift Calendar.

## **MARKETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION ONGOING**

Next sign up October 16, 2024. See Barbara with additional questions!

## **SCARECROW ROW TAKE DOWN NOVEMBER 5, 3PM - 5PM**

Help us take apart the scarecrows for Scarecrow Row! More info and Shifts are on Sign Up!

## **TAKE SCARECROWS TO THEIR WINTER RETREAT NOVEMBER 8, 10AM - 11AM**

Help us load, shuttle, and unload the scarecrows we are saving over winter to the storage facility. We will need vehicles to help us transfer the 'crows! Shifts are on Sign Up.

## **TRICK-OR-TREAT: BAG STUFFING OCTOBER 23, 10AM - 11AM**

Meet in the main building conference room. Stuff goody bags for guests with flyers and other materials! This position is probably mostly sitting, but can accommodate standing. Shift is on Sign Up Calendar.

## **PRESERVATION ASSISTANTS THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, 11AM - 1PM**

We are seeking energetic and compassionate people who enjoy cleaning to help us maintain some of our collections! Some duties may include dusting, sweeping / mopping, cleaning baseboards / walls, and other general housekeeping duties inside of our historic structures. We will provide all the supplies and have some training for handling artifacts! This position will work closely with our curator, Elizabeth! Shifts are on Shift Calendar.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE ONGOING**

We have current needs for help this weekend, October 5 & October 6. Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar.

## **SEEKING VILLAGE TOUR GUIDES!**

We are looking to add to our exceptional ranks of volunteer tour guides at the Village! This position requires three days of training spaced out over a few weeks for approximately 6 - 8 hours total. Our next batch of training will begin in late January. If you're interested, please let Barbara know so she can contact you as soon as classes are being scheduled!

## **CANDLE DIPPING**

Dates on Shift Calendar: October 10, October 31, November 27, December 16 - December 20

## **OTHER SAVE THE DATES:**

- Decorating the Village (Nov 22, 10:30am - 2:30pm)
- Cocoa & Crafts with Santa (December 7 & 8)
- Victorian Christmas Guides (December 13 & 14)
- Breakfast with Victorians (December 15)