

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

Despite a winter weather advisory and over 4 inches of snow falling in Troy, over 450 guests joined us for the annual Village Egg Hunt in March! More information on page 2.

In February over the course of 8 days in 1 - 2 hour blocks (12 hours total), five of our volunteers **dipped over 8,000 candles** during our Candle Dipping Blitz! Thank you so much Janet, Cathy, Debra, Chris, and Gail!

The **Tuesday Crew** has been hard at work on a new chicken coop building project.

Troy Garden Club had their first gardening day of the year at the Village. Pretty soon the Village will be full of blooms!

Clean up of the **Pioneer Garden** in preparation for spring has begun. More information on page 3.

We now have a **Current Volunteers** page on the Troy Historic Village website! More info on page 5.

Brand new Civil War Saturday Fair is coming in May - More info on page 5.

Civil War Days is coming up! Thousands of 8th graders will join the Village for an all-day field trip and we need your help! More info on page 5.



Maple Syrup Days were the first three weekends in March, and our volunteers helped prepare items for sale, greeted guests, and helped raise lots of money for the Village. More info on page 2.

Almost 300 folks joined us for the Mid-Winter Break Open House - they were welcomed by volunteers and given some special tours of select buildings in the Village.

Registration for the Troy Traffic Jam is now open! We've already got a bunch of cars registered, so don't forget to save the date to help us during our biggest event of the year: August 4!

Our Preservation Assistants group has taken off! They've spent countless hours cleaning up the Caswell House and the Parsonage. More info on page 3.

We now have a **Current Volunteers** page on the Troy Historic Village website! 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.



Top Left: Snowman wearing bunny ears on the first night of the Egg Hunt. Top Right: Volunteers Sheryl and Chris pass out goodies to guests after they complete the Egg Hunt. Bottom Right: Staff member Laura smiles with Genisys volunteers Matt and Teri.

While it might have seemed daunting to feel so “short-staffed” due to cancellations, I am so unbelievably proud of the community we have built. I know many of you felt super tired by the end of the weekend, and we cannot thank you enough for your passion and dedication to the Village. Our guests, many who came to the Village for the first time, were raving about how amazing each interaction they had was. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Top left: Volunteers Cathy and Janet greet each other at a shift change-over during Maple Syrup Days. Bottom Left: Student Volunteer Sara spent all three Saturdays with us - here she is smiling while serving out product samples! Right: Volunteer Tom and Sponsor volunteer Brittany smile with the giant spring basket photo opportunity.

VILLAGE EGG HUNT

Over 450 guests joined us this year for our annual Egg Hunt program on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon! Guests were warmly welcomed by volunteers, searched for plastic eggs to exchange for goodies, played pin the tail on the bunny and other fun games, and got to meet a local author. All while a winter weather advisory brought four inches of snow to the Village on Friday!

Many factors aligned that left us with lots of volunteer positions open for the program. Our adult volunteers answered the call for help - many asked their family members to join them in volunteering, and many decided to come for both days. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Many thanks to our sponsor Genisys Credit Union for sending two of their own staff members to volunteer on Friday! We also had a volunteer join us from Texas Road House. The Troy Garden Club passed out seeds to guests again this year, and also stepped in to help run games and activities when our volunteers were super busy.

MAPLE SYRUP DAYS

The first three Saturdays in March, the Village hosted a pop-up shop at the Stage Nature Center during their Maple Syrup Days program. THV staff, as well as adult, and student volunteers spent their valuable time helping us raise money for the Village by selling deliciously sweet treats to guests.

Thank you to everyone who came and spent their Saturday with us, and an extra thank you to those that spent multiple days with us!

PRESERVATION ASSISTANTS

Under the direction of THV's Curator, Elizabeth, volunteers Gail, Carolynn, and Janet have been hard at work cleaning up some spaces that desperately needed it. They began in the Caswell House cleaning up spider webs, dusting, vacuuming, and wiping down surfaces and objects that hadn't been touched for quite a while. Next, they moved into the Parsonage, and spent a lot of time cleaning up the kitchen, the (not-an-actual) bathroom, and other areas in the buildings. There is a very noticeable difference, and we are SO THANKFUL for their efforts in making our buildings shine.

If you're interested in joining this volunteer crew or learning more about it to see if you are interested, you can sign up for the next intro-shift on the shift calendar (May 22).

PIONEER GARDEN

Next to the Log Cabin in the Village are twelve raised garden beds that we are redesigning this spring. In order to prepare for our reinterpretation of this space two Troy Garden Club members, two high schoolers, three staff members, and one staff member's nephew weeded the garden, moved dirt, and got us ready for the spring planting. Thank you!

Over the next few weeks, we will begin planting vegetables, herbs, and flowers in the beds. We'll also be maintaining the space around the beds like the walk ways, the compost pile, and the stacked wood along the fence. The goal is to create a more historically accurate reflection of a 1840's - 1860's Pioneer Garden in South East Michigan.

We are hoping to find a group of volunteers who are interested in helping maintain the garden by weeding, watering, or even harvesting the plants. Time commitment will be whatever you want it to be, but it will be super helpful to commit to at least one day a week (1 - 2 hours) for consistency. We're hoping to create a flourishing garden that will be bountiful as well as educational, and many hands will make light work!

We do have lots of garden supplies already (you are welcome to bring your own). THV Staff will direct the work plans for each day until the Garden Gang (you!) feels more comfortable with the expectations. No gardening experience is necessary, we will all learn from each other! We will be adding shifts on the swap board once the weather gets warmer, but until then, please contact Barbara and let her know if you are interested in the planning process!



The Pioneer Beds waiting for some TLC! Consider this the "BEFORE" picture.

CIVIL WAR SATURDAY FAIR

The Civil War Saturday Fair takes place on Saturday May 11 from 11am - 6pm. We will have costumed reenactors in the Village and are super excited about this program!

We will need some volunteer help with check in, and may need other volunteers for other activities such as helping distribute food, babysitting auction materials, and some interpretation of the buildings. We have shifts on the Sign Up Calendar.

Also, we could love to invite you and three other folks (4 people total) to come to this program for free! We loved for our active volunteers to enjoy this program as well as bring others to experience the type of programming we do at the Village. Registration will be required, and the link to the registration will be included in the email.

Come volunteer for a little while, then have friends or family meet you to walk around and experience the event!

We also are looking for someone to help run the auction part of the program. Do you know any auctioneers? Or someone who may be interested in this? Please contact Barbara and let her know.



Costumed reenactors sing a song for the talent portion of one of our previous Victorian Era programs. You'll get to see things like this!

CIVIL WAR DAYS

For two weeks in May, we have thousands of 8th graders coming from local schools to participate in an all day field trip during our Civil War Days program!

We need adult volunteers to help guide the student groups through the program. No presenting is required as we have reenactors who will be presenting and engaging the students. Civil War Days is closed to the public, and volunteering for this program as a Company Guide is an excellent chance to experience the amazing things our Education Department does.

Dates: May 8, 9, 10 & May 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Time: 8:30am - 11:30am (or lunch time); OR more preferably, 8:30am - 1:45pm

Shifts are on the Shift Calendar! Sign up for as many as you would like!



Volunteer Company Guides smile with their Company Signs during Civil War Days. Top Left: Colete. Bottom Left: Terry. Right: Roger.

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS WEBSITE UPDATE

This was originally posted in the previous newsletter. No changes have been made; it is being included in case someone missed it last time!

Thank you all, volunteers, for coming along for the ride while we have figured out the best way to communicate with each other, sign up for shifts, and log hours over the last year and a half. Your patience and feedback have been invaluable, and I am so thankful for your passion and dedication to the Village!

I am happy to announce that we now have an active volunteer page on our Troy Historic Village website! I have also made a video on how to access the page. You can watch the tutorial video by clicking this link: [Click Here to Watch Volunteer Website Tutorial](#). You can also visit the page on the website yourself by visiting this link: <https://www.troyhistoricvillage.org/support/volunteer/current-volunteers/>

FEEDBACK FORM

Did you volunteer at an event or attend one as a guest? Do you have feedback for us? We want to hear from you! You can send us feedback anytime by visiting: <https://form.jotform.com/TroyHistoricVillage/general-feedback-form>

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

We are always looking to add to our volunteer ranks! If you know of a friend, colleague or neighbor who is interested in becoming a volunteer, please have them fill out our volunteer application at troyhistoricvillage.org/volunteer or grabbing a paper copy from the Village main office.

After filling out the application paperwork, they'll be invited to attend an hour-long orientation where they will get to learn about the Village and what volunteer opportunities are available. We'll also spend time getting to know them and what their interests are to find the best fit at the Village for them!

All new volunteers must attend orientation before volunteering with the Village. As an active volunteer, you are welcome to join us during an orientation to see what it's like as many of you were already volunteers before we started the orientation process! Please contact Barbara to let her know if you would like to join. Our next orientation is on **May 14 at 2pm**.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MULCHING THE VILLAGE APRIL 27, 11AM - 4PM

The Troy Garden Club needs our help spreading mulch in the Village Gardens! Come for an hour or two, help direct students where to spread the mulch, and celebrate SPRING at the Village! Shifts are on the Shift Calendar.

CIVIL WAR DAYS MAY 8 - 10 & MAY 13 - 17

Lead field trip groups from station to station during Civil War Days. Company Guides will do a brief orientation with their group, and make sure the group stays on schedule from station to station. Company Guides will not be presenting as we have reenactors during Civil War Days! Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar!

MONTHLY SCHOOL CRAFT PREP JUNE 11, 10:30AM - 12PM JULY 9, 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.

SUMMER KICK-OFF AT THV JUNE 4, 5PM-8PM

Please save the date for our Summer Kick-Off at the Village! We may need volunteers to help with set up, greet guests, and other extra hands during this free event.

PIONEER GARDEN PLANNING, PREP, AND MAINTAINING ONGOING

We are redesigning our Pioneer Garden by the Cabin in the Village and would love the help of some of our great volunteers. Once the weather starts to get warm, we'll need help clearing out the beds, planting, and maintaining the beds. If you're interested in helping garden, let Barbara know!

CIVIL WAR SATURDAY FAIR MAY 11, VARIOUS TIMES

Think "state fair," but old-timey and for a good cause. Learn how these fairs supported soldiers while they were away at war. Volunteers are needed to help with check in, and may be needed for helping pass out food, babysit artifacts, and interpret buildings. Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar!

PRESERVATION ASSISTANTS MAY 22, 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.

MARKETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION ONGOING

We do lots of fun programs here at the Village, and we would love your help making sure as many people know about them as possible. We are seeking volunteers who are interested and available to pick up materials from the Troy Historic Village and distribute them to local libraries under our direction. We will make sure you have all the information you need to complete this task! Please see the Sign Up Calendar on June 19.

OTHER SAVE THE DATES:

- **Early June:** Training begins for Summer Tour Guides (more info to follow)
- **July 10:** Troy Garden Club Garden Walk - we will need volunteers to help with parking (shifts on calendar)
- **August 4:** Troy Traffic Jam! Biggest event of the year.