

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

From July 1, 2022 - June 31, 2023, Troy Historical Society volunteers volunteered around 4,600 hours! Thank you! This number is compiled from adults, groups, and student volunteers. More info on page 3.

Scarecrow Row had a record-breaking 87 scarecrows! WOW! More information on page 2 - 3.

For the first two weeks of October, all 5th graders from Troy Public Schools attended our brand-new program **Indigenous Voices**. More information on page 4.

Ken Heck, Carolynn Teufner, Debra Sayen-Merte, and Gail Peedle graciously donated their time to share lots of information about the Village and meet lots of new faces at the Troy Fire Department Open House.

The Tuesday Crew helped build the entry way to our Trick-or-Treat program, started putting up holiday lights, and helped renovate part of the Village store.



Our first ever **Campfire Stories** was held on Friday the 13th (of October). Thank you, Cathy and Chris, for preparing the s'mores materials, and thank you, Janet and Carolynn, for being our guests' guides!

Fairy Tales and Folklore Trick-or-Treat was a great success! Over 500 individuals joined us, and many for the first time ever, to play games, make crafts, and collect treats. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this event so successful, and for those who also volunteered to help prep for and set up the event. We could not create these magical family memories for our neighbors without you!

We have three new board members! Please welcome to the team: Garrick Allison, Beena Nagappala, and Kristi Hudson!

Fall programming is finishing up and we just mailed our **Winter 2023 Village Press!** Find out more on page 3.



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: Scarecrows line the sidewalk in front of the parking lot closest to Niles-Barnard House.

SCARECROW ROW

For the last 10 years Scarecrow Row has been a massive volunteer undertaking, and 2023 was no exception. JoAnn Preston and Aleta Meskin started contacting returning sponsors for this year's Row early this spring, and spent the next few months contacting past sponsors, and reaching out to new sponsors. We are so thankful for their hard work bringing in 87 scarecrows representing 87 different businesses, organizations, and individuals. Some folks might just see beautifully and masterfully built scarecrows, but we see so much more. Over 87 different and unique people believe in the Troy Historic Village's mission to make history and learning more accessible to more folks. What an outstanding accomplishment. Thank you, JoAnn and Aleta, for making this happen!

After being sponsored by one of our generous sponsors, there are two ways that scarecrows are created for Scarecrow Row: 1) sponsors built the scarecrow themselves (we provide the frame and put it on the post outside), OR 2) our sponsors have their scarecrows built by our amazingly creative Scarecrow Row Building Team!

The creative and dedicated individuals that make up our Scarecrow Row building team are all volunteers. Yep, you read that right! Scarecrow Row would not exist without you, our volunteers. You donate your valuable time, skills, and passion to help us create Scarecrow Row year after year.

This year, 9 volunteers got together for 2 days a week for 4 weeks in August to build and prepare Scarecrow Row. Much of this crew also spends many hours throughout the year looking for clothing and accessories to add to our 'crow closet (lots and lots of tubs). Once the scarecrows are up, some builders visit weekly (or daily depending on the weather) to keep the scarecrows looking their best while they stand guard outside the Village for the entire month of October.

The Build Team also transports the scarecrows to Troy Daze and back, help set up and take down Scarecrow Row, and deliver the 'crows to storage each year. They also do a really good job at recruiting other non-Scarecrow Row Building Team volunteers to help carry and fasten the 'crows on their posts for their display!



Top left: JoAnn and Sheryl fastening a 'crow at Troy Daze.. Top right: Kevin poses with a 'crow he help set up and take down.

Bottom Left: Scarecrow Row surgery area at take down.

Bottom right: Gail smiles while gathering trash at Scarecrow Row at Troy Daze.

SCARECROW ROW, CONT.

Thank you also to Philippe who took this year's scarecrow portraits for us! If you would like some scarecrow puns and to see the portraits up close, you can take a look at our Facebook page from the month of October!

We tried a new way of setting up and taking down the scarecrows this year, and can you believe it only took an hour to put them up and an hour to take them down / take them apart? We had 10 adults and 15 students help set up Scarecrow Row, and 12 adults and 18 students help take down the row. Thank you all for donating your time to help us secure sponsors, build, set up, take down, and store our scarecrows. We could not do this without you! Congratulations for an OUTSTANDING year!

2022 - 2023 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Our fiscal year is from July 1 - June 30 of each year. This is also when we calculate our total volunteer hours for the year. This past year our volunteers donated over 4,600 hours to the Troy Historic Village! THANK YOU SO MUCH! We could not do all the wonderful things we do at the Village without your help!

Thank you, Nancy, for helping Barbara digitize last year's hours!

We will be reviewing the way we log our volunteer hours and will have an updated plan of action before the end of the calendar year. The goal is to create a spot on our website that you can enter in your volunteers digitally and to hopefully have a way to enter digitally while at the Village, too. This will help us log hours more effectively and accurately. Stay tuned!



Carolynn and Janet are all smiles as they pass out s'mores fixings during Campfire Stories!

VILLAGE PRESS

Did you know that each quarter we distribute a publication full of Troy history as well as details of our upcoming programming? The publication is called the Village Press and we get so excited to share what we've been working on each season change. If you're a member of the Troy Historical Society, you get the Village Press mailed to you in advance before the public sees it. Being a Member is also the first step in supporting our mission here at the Village. To find out more about membership, you can visit our website: www.troyhistoricvillage.org/membership/ or stop in the store to chat with any staff!

The theme for our Winter 2024 Village Press is books! Inside you'll find history of our own Print Shop and the Troy Public Library, and some staff recommendations for your next book. There will be a link to the Village Press in the Volunteer Email!



Collection of our last few Village Press covers.

THANK YOU SCARECROW ROW SPONSORS

100 Women Who
Care - Troy

*Sponsored by C. Lewandowski,
Karen Greenwood, JoAnn Preston*

86 Plastic

Alexander J. Bongiorno

Alliance Mobile Health

Sponsored by Karol Carter

Allison Family

Foundation

American House Elmwood

Ann Percy - State Farm

Insurance

Anthology of Troy

BB's of Troy

Benito's Pizza Troy

Big Beaver United

Methodist Church

Billings Lawn Equipment

Bright Behavioral

Therapy-Troy

Buffalo Wild Wing Arena

C & G Newspapers

Community Choice Credit

Union

Como Pediatric

Communication Center

ConnectPay

Dean Sellers Ford

Erin O'Donnell Real Estate

-Goman Real Estate

Collective

Explore Yoga

Fogo de Chão

Fox & Hounds Pastry Den

Genisys Credit Union

Green Lantern Pizza

HealthMarkets - Troy

Hindu Community

Relations Council

Hindu Swayamsevak

Sangh Balgokulam

Honeybaked Ham

Inman Audiology

Irma's Family Farm Fresh

Vegetables

Jonny Cakes Cafe

J-RO School of Music

Karen Greenwood

-Coldwell Banker Weir

Manuel

La Botana

Lake Michigan Credit

Union

Lardner the Gardener

Lederman Kwartowitz

Orthopedics

Lillybrook Counseling

Services

Lincoln of Troy

Loraine Campbell in honor

of Joe Killewald

Madany Dental

Manpower

Michi Design

Mr Kabob Xpress

MSU Management

Education Center

Neil King Physical Therapy

New Century Realtors

Oakland Press

Oakmont Senior

Communities

Office Evolution Troy

OUR Credit Union

Papa Romano's

Rexpointe Kennels Inc.

Ridley's Bakery Cafe

San Marino Club

Signs & More

Stage Nature Center

Sponsored by Ward Randall

Stifel

Sunrise of Troy

Susheilla Mehta -

Berkshire Hathaway

Home Services, Kee

Realty

T & I Credit Union

Telly's Greenhouse and

Garden Center

Tevarrow Ace Hardware

The Choice Group

The Cook Group - Merrill

Lynch

The Piano Place

The Quell Group

The Reserve at Red Run

Tri-County Equipment

Troy Chamber of

Commerce

Troy Dental Studio

Troy Fire Department

*Sponsored by Padma Kuppa
St. Anastasia Knights of Columbus*

Troy Garden Club

Troy Historical Society

Sponsored by Kris Rose

Troy Jewelers

Troy Kickboxing Outfit

Troy Police Department

*Sponsored by A.J. Desmond & Sons
Funeral Directors*

Troy Public Library

Troy Racquet Club

Troy Recreation

Department

Troy Rotary Club

Troy Veterinary Hospital

Troy Youth Soccer League

Troy-Metro Agency

Vigilante Security

2023

Please Thank These Businesses for Sponsoring Their Scarecrow!

INDIGENOUS VOICES

During the first two weeks of October, the Troy Historic Village hosted Troy Public School's 5th graders for a special brand-new program called Indigenous Voices.

Members of Michigan's Native American communities shared their clothing, traditions, music, language, and more. Students learned how to drum, dance, and make cornhusk dolls to take home. Staff and presenters enjoyed listening to the kids singing as they learned while walking around. We especially loved hearing them say "baamaapii" (until later, see you again) as they got on the bus.

The sharing hasn't just been one way, either. Students shared their cultures and made connections and comparisons with our Indigenous guests, making this a really special experience for everyone (any by special, we mean REALLY cool - like we're freaking out about how amazing this program is and how lucky we are to host it).

Miigwech (thank you) to our volunteers who also answered the super-late call to help our cornhusk doll presenter teach students how to make cornhusk dolls. Next year, we promise to make sure the teachers teach the students how to tie knots first!

This is one example of the type of programming your contribution of volunteer hours helps us facilitate. As we have said before, our mission is to make history and learning more accessible to more folks, and your volunteer hours help offset the cost required for these programs which means we can offer it to more people. We are so proud of this program. We hope you are, too!

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 troysthistoricvillage.org/volunteer or grabbing a paper copy from the Village main office. After they complete their application, I'll bring them in for a brief orientation where I'll share all the amazing things our volunteers do at the Village! And, we'll spend some time talking about what they're interested in doing to help them find a good fit.

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>



Scenes from Indigenous Voices. These photos were taken by one of our visiting parents, Anna Kelly.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DECORATING THE VILLAGE NOVEMBER 29, 10AM - 1PM

It's almost time to decorate for the holidays! We need lots of help decorating different buildings inside the Village. More info on the volunteer shift calendar!

MONTHLY SCHOOL CRAFT PREP DECEMBER 12, 10:30AM - 12PM JANUARY 9, 10:30AM - 12PM FEBRUARY 13, 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. We also have lots of candle dipping shifts (this can only be done at the Village) on the shift board!

COCOA & CRAFTS DECEMBER 2 & DECEMBER 3

Ho-ho-hold the date! Santa will be here before we know it! Both event days are from 10am - 2pm, with two volunteer shifts each day. We need adult volunteers to help check folks in, monitor the crafts section, and help pass out treats. We'd love to have you join us for this super fun event!

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS DECEMBER 15, DECEMBER 16, DECEMBER 17

We need volunteer guides again this year for our Victorian Christmas program! Volunteers will also get to experience the Victorian Christmas program as they are guiding groups of guests through the timed sessions. Guides will need to attend training on Wednesday December 13 from 5pm - 6pm in person or on Zoom. More information to follow!

UNDECORATING THE VILLAGE JANUARY 5, 10AM - 1PM

Just as quickly as we set up the Village, we will also need help taking everything down and putting it away for the season. More info on sign up!

SERVING CREW AT BRUNCH WITH THE VICTORIANS DECEMBER 17, 9AM - 11:30AM

Brunch with Victorians is a brand new program this year. Guests will get a chance to eat breakfast with the reenactors and enjoy period entertainment! We need volunteer help set up the food to be served family style. No cooking is required. We will need help with serving food, cleaning off tables, doing dishes, emptying trash. You'll also get a bite to eat for helping! If you can only help for part of the shift, please let Barbara know.

PRESERVATION ASSISTANTS SELECT THURSDAYS, 10AM - 12PM

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! Please let Barbara know you're interested!

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 **November 21**, then on the first Wednesday of each month for which libraries we would like our materials to go to.