

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

Stephanie and Tom welcomed baby Ben on August 31! Everyone is happy, healthy, and very tired.

Volunteer Tour Guides completed their training and gave very lucky guests special tours on Fridays in July and August.

Lots of guests were given superstar treatment and lots of information about the Village at Community Outreach events at the Library and the Farmer's Market.

The Tuesday Crew has been hard at work building and putting the final touches on an Outhouse for outside of the Cabin.

Scarecrow Row is up to 85 Scarecrows - many of which are brand new sponsors this year! More info on page 3.

Craft Prep continued throughout the summer. We had adult and student volunteers working hard at preparing for fall field trips.

Summer programming was lots of fun! Lots of learning, pets, and connections were made.



Nancy has been helping log Volunteer Hours, and we should have an update of how many volunteer hours we put in by next meeting.

Many new Village upgrades including a new alarm system, phones, and register in the store.

Our 15th Annual Troy Traffic Jam went really well - even with all the rain! TTJ raised over \$50,000 and that money goes directly into making educational programs more accessible for more people. We broke a record and had over 240 cars preregistered before the event date, and if we didn't have rain we have no doubt we would have surpassed 300 cars! We ended up having 150 cars show up on the day of despite the rain, and over 3,000 people. More info on page 2.

Six new adult volunteers joining our crew! I can't wait for you all to meet each other!



The next Volunteer Meeting will be **October 3 at 10:30am - 11:30am** in the Niles-Barnard House.
All monthly meetings will be on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30am!
No need to RSVP - just stop on by!



Top: a fancy blue car is parked in front of the Columbia Center during Troy Traffic Jam.

TROY TRAFFIC JAM

On August 6, we held our 15th annual Troy Traffic Jam at the Columbia Center on Big Beaver. We spend more than six months each year preparing for this event, and this year we added two new major attractions: the first ever kid's pedal car race and Tech Talks - we invited big name engineers as guests speakers. And both went really well!

The biggest and best attraction of the day were our AMAZING volunteers who showed up and remained positive even though it didn't just rain - it poured! I am so proud of all of our volunteers. Everyone was so cheerful, welcoming, and just absolutely outstanding overall. Thank you so much for remaining positive and making sure to embody our mission!

It's no secret that I think you're all amazing, but don't just take it from me - here's some words from some of the captains:

I can't thank all of you enough! The weather was less than desirable, & you all stuck it out WITH a smile! You made things work & all things considered we had a great day!! - Jen Peters

The Ambassadors Team was fantastic! Thank you for braving the elements and helping us have a great day. - Sarah Faist Siira

Hey Parking Crew! Thank you so much for your hard work and positive attitudes. Everyone did a great job! - Alex Konieczny

Pedal Car Volunteers! I want to thank each and everyone of you in helping make the 1st Annual Pedal Car 200 a wonderful experience for our young drivers, parents and race audience. The event's success is directly attributed to your passion, kindness and caring community engagement. - Ken Heck

Thank you to each of you for the amazing amount of planning, organizing, muscle power, true professionalism and positive attitudes that went into the 2023 Troy Traffic Jam, despite the rain!! Mother Nature owes us a beautiful sunny day in 2024. - Kris Rose

To those who worked the merchandise tent thank you for braving the elements to set up and keep things things running smoothly throughout the day. Your smiles & helpfulness were greatly appreciated. - Aleta Meskin



Top left: registration volunteers await arrivals. Top right: Terry greets our Pedal Car racers. Bottom Left: Colete & Marcie smiling and selling goods at the Merch Tent. Bottom right: Karen & Jim pause for smiles in between 50/50 ticket sales.

SCARECROW ROW

2023 is the 10th anniversary of Scarecrow Row AND this year we have over 85 scarecrows! Our Scarecrow Row team is really OUTSTANDING in their field (no, this joke will never get old).

So what is Scarecrow Row? Scarecrow Row is a fundraiser for the Troy Historic Village. Local businesses, organizations or individuals can choose to sponsor a scarecrow and build it themselves OR sponsor a scarecrow that is built by our amazing building team. Starting in 2022 and continuing this year, sponsors could pay an additional amount to have their scarecrow take a field trip to Troy Daze where we have a mini-scarecrow row (not too mini - we still take 30 'crows).

Scarecrow Row takes place on the perimeter of the Troy Historic Village along Wattles Rd and Livernois. Anyone can come and see the 'crows at anytime - AND without fail, before we finish setting up the row, we'll already have guests who have been waiting patiently to see what our crew does this year.

Scarecrow Row will be on display the entire month of October. We will be enlisting the help of our trusted high school volunteers to help us move the 'crows to their posts on September 28. When you visit, take a selfie with the Fogo de Chao scarecrow to get 25% off your next dinner by the end of October. Don't forget to take your photo with you to the restaurant!

We will need help taking 'crows down, take them apart, and salvage what we can on Wednesday November 1 from 3pm - 5pm.

Thank you to our Scarecrow Row team - from those who solicit our sponsors, who follow up year after year, and our builders who make each one unique and memorable!



Gail and Janet put final dazzling touches on one of our scarecrows! Visit the row on October 1 to find out who it is!

VOLUNTEER PICNIC

At the end of August we held a volunteer picnic where lots of food was had. All ages of our volunteers joined us for the afternoon, and it was very nice to see lots of new and old volunteers. Should we host another Saturday afternoon gathering? Maybe in December? Everyone brings a dish to pass and we spend some time together?



Volunteers enjoying lunch, chatting, playing lawn games!

HAVE YOU JOINED A VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE YET?

We have many opportunities to join a Volunteer Committee! Some examples of the Committees are our **Tuesday Work Crew** (construction and maintenance around the Village), **Scarecrow Team** (building/creating scarecrows, talking to businesses as potential new sponsors), **Troy Traffic Jammers** (spread the word of our car show at other car shows in the area, help organize our largest event), **Crafting Crew** (prepare crafts for field trips and other kid activities).

We will be adding more Volunteer Committees in the future, and if you are interested in any of the above send Barbara an email for more information!



Volunteers (and some staff) enjoying time together outside.

SCHOOLS UPDATE

Last December we piloted our Indigenous Voices program. With positive feedback from both the schools and our Indigenous partners we are so excited to announce that this October we will see all Troy Public School 5th Graders for an Indigenous Voices program! We are hoping this program becomes as well known and well loved as Civil War Days.

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>

MASTER PLAN

For the last year we have been working on updating the Master Plan for the Troy Historic Village. We had implemented a Master Plan in 2009, but it needed to be updated. A New Master Plan allowed us to create a plan that worked more closely with the City of Troy, our Board, staff, volunteers, visitors and community members. The Master Plan was completed in the spring, and this summer it was passed by the Board and approved by the Historic District Commission. Now that the ball is rolling, we will begin to work with the City to implement projects for the next 5 - 10 years. The Master Plan will be presented to City Council and posted on our website soon.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick-or-Treat is quickly approaching! Our theme this year is Fairy Tales and Folk Lore. Trick-or-Treat is one of our biggest public programming events and we need lots of help.

- October 9 @ 11am - 1pm: Trick-or-Treat Craft Prep
- October 13 @ 3pm: Deadline for Trick-or-Treat donations
- October 18 @ 11am - 1pm: Trick-or-Treat Goody Bag stuffing
- October 20 @ 12:30pm - 3:30pm: Help set up the Trick-or-Treat program
- October 20 @ 3:15pm - 8:30pm: Trick-or-Treat program! We need lots of volunteers for various time slots to help run this super fun program!
- October 21 @ 11:15am - 4pm: Trick-or-Treat program! We need lots of volunteers for various time slots to help run this super fun program!

MONTHLY SCHOOL CRAFT PREP OCTOBER 10, 10:30AM - 12PM NOVEMBER 12, 10:30AM - 12PM DECEMBER 12, 10:30AM - 12PM

We have so many field trips coming up! We need lots of craft prep made including candles. 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!

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!

SCARECROW ROW: TAKE DOWN

Please save the dates & sign up to help us set up and take down our 2023 Scarecrow Row! Dates are on Sign Up, and included below.

- November 1 (Scarecrow Row @ Village Take Down): 2:30pm - 5pm

We will also have High School student volunteers helping us, so we mostly need adults as point persons!

CAMPFIRE STORIES OCTOBER 13, 3:30PM - 8:30PM

Our first ever Campfire Stories program needs volunteers to help guide our guests through three stops of story telling AND to help make sure s'mores are enjoyed! This is a great way to get to experience the program for free! There are two shifts and we need 2 volunteers for each group.

- October 11 @ 10:30am - 11:30am: We need help preparing the s'mores for the weekend
- October 13 @ 3:30pm - 8:30pm: Guides for the program! Two different shifts are needed - 6 volunteers for each shift.

DECORATING THE VILLAGE NOVEMBER 29, 10AM - 1PM

Can't believe I'm putting this on the newsletter already, but please save the date to help us decorate the Village and get ready for the holidays! We need lots of help; more info on the shift board.

COCOA & CRAFTS DECEMBER 2 & DECEMBER 3

Ho-ho-hold the date! Santa will be here before we know it! Times are still being finalized, but we have the dates planned! We will need adult volunteers to help check folks in, monitor the crafts section, and help pass out treats.