

where history lives



Annual Report Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Board of Trustees of the Troy Historical Society (THS) and staff of the Troy Historic Village (Village) present this Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30th, 2024 (FYE2024). We are pleased to report that **25,086 people visited the Troy Historic Village or attended Troy Historic Village programs this past fiscal year!** Though lower than the previous fiscal year, that number reflects a smaller turnout for the rainy 2023 Troy Traffic Jam but includes nearly identical numbers for school field trips and other public programs at the Village in FYE2023. With life back in full swing, our biggest challenge is distinguishing our quality programming to potential visitors in a sea of options.

STAFF AND BOARD SUPPORT

Owned by the City of Troy and operated by the Troy Historical Society, the Troy Historic Village employed 3 full-time and 13 part-time staff members representing 9 full-time equivalents in FYE 2024. In the past year, two longer-serving staff members moved on to other positions giving us the opportunity to bring in new employees with new ideas and a fresh set of eyes. Hours were added to the education staff and administrative assistant positions as the demands of the extensive programming continued to increase. The Troy Historic Village continued to contract regularly with a Graphic Designer, Blacksmith, and Watercolor Artist for operational and programmatic support and continues to seek out additional partnerships to expand programing.

During FYE2024, THS looked inward to revise, update, and improve

policies and procedures. The Village Growth and Direction Committee created work groups to review and update Village safety procedures, investigate and improve staff benefits, and update THS By-Laws. As these groups wrap up, we are looking forward to revising our Employee Manual and Volunteer Handbooks next. The Finance Committee and Fund Development Committee continued to meet regularly to offer financial oversite and support to the Village. The Community Engagement Committee and Preservation, Innovation, and Education committees met as needed to coordinate events, programs, and projects.

Troy Historical Society Board as of September 24, 2024

Ken Heck,
President
Kevin Enright,
Vice President
Ken Meskin,
Treasurer
John Lavender,
Assistant Treasurer
Kris Rose,
Secretary

Howard Adams
Garrick Allison
Barbara Chambers
Kristi Hudson
Jagdish Karira
Padma Kuppa
Sue Lavander
Kevin Lindsey
Michael Nowosatko
JoAnn Preston
Beena Nagappala
Cindy Stewart



AROUND THE VILLAGE

SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

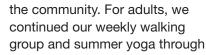
Field Trips continue to be the core of what we do! The Village hosted 9,465 students, 1,934 chaperones, and 474 teachers during the 2023-2024 school year. With the support of grant funding and the experience of our 2022 pilot program, we held a full-day Indigenous Voices program for all Troy 5th graders in October of 2023. Students experienced six different topics presented by eight partner presenters from tribes across the state. This was a culmination of years of planning and partnering and to see the final programming and hear the positive feedback from students, teacher, and presenters was deeply satisfying!



PUBLIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Since Covid, Village staff have used the summer months to explore different topics and add an extra layer of interest in the buildings through temporary exhibits. In the summer of 2023, the exhibit Pets: A History of Companionship brought in some fun facts and fuzzy companions. All guests were encouraged to make a pet rock, and additional programs included a pet adoption day, an unusual pet's day, and a day to meet the Leader Dogs for the Blind. Staff created a new scavenger hunt for stuffed animals in all buildings to better engage non-readers throughout the Village.

Other programming aimed at our youngest visitors included a monthly Cheddar's Preschool Story Hour and our Trick or Treat, Cocoa and Crafts with Santa, and Spring Egg Hunt community events. Our Story Hour introduces kids to the Village and to artifacts as part of a program that encourages reading, hands on activities and fine motor skills, and cooperative play. While our community events don't often touch on the historic, they are an excellent use of the Village facilities for safe and fun activities that build up



FYE2024 and participated in the Great Michigan Read with Firekeeper's Daughter book discussions and related programming. These programs are adjacent to traditional history programs and build communities by

reaching a range of interests In addition to the monthly Thursday Tea programs with history topics,

Preservation Conversations focusing on historic preservation, and Constitution Cafés with lively discussion, the Village offered a range of hands-on learning and historic programming geared for adults in FYE2024. Blacksmithing continued to draw people as one of the few programs of its kind in the state, and our Metalsmith created a new

project this summer for a special coppersmithing class. Watercolor is now offered year-round, and this past summer we celebrated all the trades with a new annual Handcrafted and Traditional Trades program. The Radio Show brings back crowds each summer with a different theme, and Victorian Christmas and the Civil War Saturday program gave visitors a chance to engage with knowledgeable reenactors throughout the Village. In total, 13,213 people of all ages joined us for this wide range of programs, activities, and events in the FYE 2024.



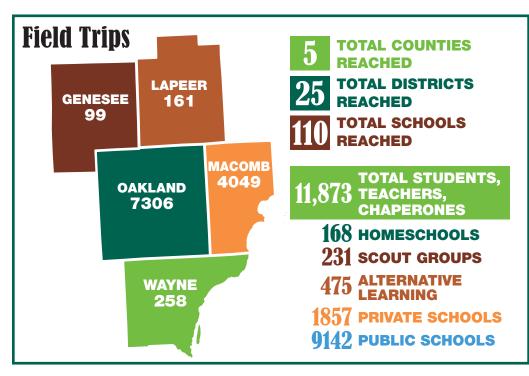
CONTINUED GROWTH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

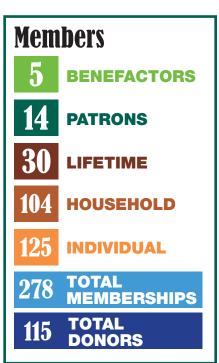
2024

July 2023-June 2024

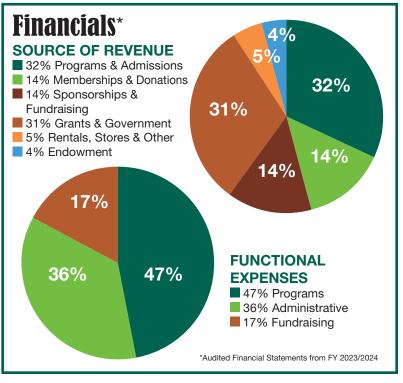
"We continue to look for ways to reach more students of all ages, abilities, and interests!"

~Jen Peters, Executive Director









FINANCIALS

FINANCE

THS successfully completed its thirteenth year operating the Village through a renewable management agreement with the City of Troy. The current agreement will end in 2026. We had a strong 2023-2024 budget that was supported by a full return to field trip programming, continued additional programs and rentals, and continued grant and donor support. **THS ended the year in a strong financial position with total Net Assets of \$570,437.** After four years of pushing a range of programs and bringing in higher than budgeted numbers, cultivating donors, and working to secure grants whenever possible, THS now has a small amount of cash reserves. This puts THS in a much better financial position overall in two ways: continued cash flow throughout the year when the limited programming in January and February had historically made those months financially difficult, and a cash reserve that could be tapped in the event of another work stoppage or other financial disruption.

ENDOWMENTS

The THS managed endowment benefitted from a strong stock market in the past year. The endowment's value was higher at the end of the fiscal year even with \$22,000 in disbursements to the general fund and no additional donations. With a strong performance, the Finance Committee offered an additional \$5,000 from the endowment to cover the cost of starting a staff benefits program in the future. The goal is to work towards increasing benefits as part of the Village's overall growth. Competitive staff salaries including benefits continue to be a fiscal priority and remain so with the continued operational support from the City of Troy.

As of June 30, 2024, the THS endowment fund value was \$432,146; \$22,000 was disbursed to Village operations during the fiscal year.

As the Troy Community Foundation moves forward with growth and marketing, THS has become more active in promoting and utilizing these endowment funds for the benefit of the Village. Staff members apply for grants to support programs while a small annual distribution supports Village maintenance and improvement projects.

As of June 30, 2024, the Troy Historic Village endowment fund managed by the Troy Community Foundation was valued at \$34,920.44.



Financial Snapshot Revenue Field Trips, Programs, & Admissions \$182,854 Memberships & Private Donations \$70,002 Rentals, Village Store, & Other \$30,150 Fundraising & Sponsorships \$90,255 Grants \$56,724 Assets Released from Restrictions \$7,703 City of Troy Operations Support \$106,000 **Endowment Distribution** \$22,000 **Expenses** Salaries and Related Fees \$393,416 Artists and Professional Fees \$69,382 Program Expenses \$25,962 **Fundraising Expenses** \$35,628 \$37,654 Administrative & Overhead Expenses

FINANCIALS

GRANTS

The following grants were received in FYE2024:

- The Michigan Arts and Culture Council awarded \$16,500 Operations Grant in the second of three years of guaranteed grants; THS scored high enough in the fall of 2022 to secure this grant for 3 fiscal years though funding may change from year to year. They also awarded \$6,500 for a Community Partners Grant towards the 2023 Indigenous Voices program.
- ✓ The Michigan Non-Profit Association awarded a one-time \$25,000 Non-Profit Relief Fund Grant for general operations.
- ✓ The Michigan Humanities Council supplied 35 books for its semi-annual Great Michigan Read program.
- Kresge Foundation allocated \$5,000 from a three-year grant of \$15,000 to support programs at the Village that contribute to the Troy community's quality of life.
- ✓ The Oakland County Commissioners awarded a \$10,000 grant to support the 2023 Civil War Days and 2024 Indigenous Voices educational programs.
- ✓ The Michigan Humanities Council awarded a \$12,000 Spring Humanities Grant to support the 2024 Indigenous Voices Program (this is a highly competitive grant cycle each year).
- ✓ *The Filmer Foundation* awarded \$9,000 to support the Preservation Conversations program. This funding will enable us to provide quarterly programs at the Troy Public Library in addition to the monthly program at the Village.
- ✓ The Troy Community Foundation awarded \$750 towards our Healthy Initiatives programs which include summer yoga and a weekly walking group.
- ✓ The City of Troy appropriated \$100,000 to support general operations in the Village and \$6,000 to support Preservation
 Conversations which promotes historic preservation in Troy and deepens our community's understanding of the field.
 This is in addition to work completed through the Facilities & Grounds department to maintain and upgrade Village
 buildings and grounds.



























COLLECTIONS

Staff Curator, Elizabeth Thornburg, and volunteers worked on the following projects during FYE2024:

- Researching Parsonage ministers and their families, researching the Parsonage building, and updating the interpretation in the Parsonage.
- Researching the history of properties at Troy Corners (6074-6170 Livernois) as well as other former structures at Troy Corners including the Jennings Home/Gow's Little Acre.
- Identifying historic houses and making note of next steps in recognizing Troy's historic past in 2026.
- Researching Troy's previous historic properties that were not included in the Historic District.
- Digitizing the collection of existing photographs of historic district structures from previous photograph loans and roadside surveys.
- Researching Troy's Agricultural History and Commerce from 1850-1880.
- Providing research and artifacts for the Victorian Christmas mini exhibit.
- Digitizing and indexing Troy Roadside Survey from the Dorothy Scott Collection.
- Cataloging slides from the Troy Community Center Collection from 1970s and 1980s.
- Providing research and images for Throwback Thursdays social media posts.
- Researching Johnson Niles land ownership records.
- Researching Indigenous inhabitants of Oakland County surrounding the area that became Troy.
- Researching Sylvan Glen Golf Course/ Sylvan Glen Park/ affiliated land from Land Grant to present.
- Providing research and images for the Village Press.
- Providing research and artifacts for How Does Your Garden Grow? exhibit.
- Additional digitizing and cataloguing in the Archives.
 - The following items were accessioned into the Collection:
 - ✓ 1905 Methodist Hymnal – Purchase ✓ 1910 Methodist Hymnal – Cheryl Gawn ✓ Late 19th early 20th century shadowbox of taxidermized Troy area birds – Sandra Clark ✓ 1964 framed newspaper photograph and accompanying

newspaper article

regarding Sir James Pittman visiting Poppleton School from the Daily Tribune – Martin Jakiela

 AMT model kit from Troy, MI; Emdee leather medicine bag – Douglas Thornburg

- 2 Busts of historic Methodist figures; teapot, cup and saucer from Wesley Wedgewood set; 2 engraving prints; 32 books; minister's robe and clerical collar; toby jug; communion chalice; clay jug – LaVere Webster
- ✓ Antique copper pitcher; dough proofing bucket Kevin Enright
- ✓ 1979 image of Hilly Acres Farm Mary Louise Porter
- ✓ 1960s 1970s Troy Jaycee's scrapbook – JoAnn Preston
- Newspaper clippings; City of Troy street sign c. 2000; lowresolution photographs of Perrin Cemetery; concept drawing of Solar house (address unknown); Troy Community Center plans – City of Troy



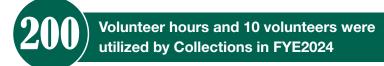
The following items were accepted into the THS Education collection:

- Tools, wooden boxes, board games, frames, bottles, and reproduction toys – Ken Barrett
- ✓ Box of rocks and minerals Sandra Clark
- ✓ Ice tongs and a shoe tack hammer Pat Guibord
- Mason jars, pulley, metal pail Estate of Judy Cornelier
- ✓ Salt cellars and spoons Scott Powell

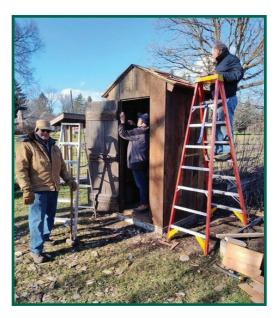
Deaccessions:

✓ No items were deaccessioned during FYE2024.





BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



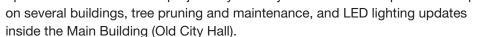
Village staff and volunteers continued to make improvements to interpretation and accessibility around the Village in FYE 2024. A volunteer group finished building and installing a non-functioning outhouse and period appropriate chicken coup to improve the Cabin's interpretive landscape. Spurred by a donation from the Metamora Colonial Dames, the Parsonage interpretation has been moved from a generic 1910s to a more focused 1923 and the Bennett family who lived there at the time. Volunteers painted the second floor, and artifacts more specific to the experience of a



young Methodist minister from Cornwall England and his family were acquired

through purchase and donations. Volunteers worked with metalsmith Rose Weiss to replace a cracked firebox in the forge to keep classes running smoothly. In the spring, the Village updated the Audio-Visual system in the Old Troy Church to now include a loop hearing system and improved visual definition.

Following back-to-back rainstorms in August 2023, the Old Troy Church basement filled with 17 inches of water. The City, Village staff, and Village volunteers worked to clear and clean the space. The City reassessed neighborhood drains, sump pumps, and church mechanical systems to maximize existing drainage and protections to the building and equipment. There hasn't been flooding following this work despite similar storms. Other projects by the City included exterior paint touch ups





A rotted beam in the Wagon Shop created an opportunity for a unique collaboration. Instead of simply replacing the 150+ year old hand-hewn beam with modern materials, the City and Village worked together to replace it with a new hand-hewn beam. The City Grounds department cut and moved a failing oak tree onsite; staff member Alex Konieczny hewed the beam to the needed size

using traditional tools and sharing what he learned with other staff and in a newsletter article, and then City Facilities installed the new beam.



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Rentals including Weddings, Graduations, Family Celebrations, and Business Meetings

COLLABORATIONS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS





Throughout FYE 2024, THS continued to collaborate with community partners and use the Village as a resource for the community including local non-profits. Staff members presented and participated in partner organizations as leaders among the history, museum, and historic preservation communities. Staff, board, and volunteers also enjoyed being active in community events!

Village grounds were used for a range of programs and rentals that benefited the community and community partners. Four Open House events throughout the year enabled the community to enjoy the Village for free. Though standard admission is nominal, it can still be a barrier for some. The Fall (September), Mid-Winter Break (February), and Summer Kickoff (June) Open Houses as well as the Garden Walk Day (July) enable hundreds of visitors to see and enjoy the Village grounds while learning about upcoming programs. The Village partnered with Troy Chamber of Commerce to jointly host a fall Fire and Flannel networking and social event, Troy Kiwanis and Homes for Autism used the Village for their annual fundraisers, and the Village was again the "home base" for Troy Garden Club's annual Garden Walk.

During FYE 2024, Troy Historic Village hosted the fall Michigan Museum Association mixer. Staff members also attended their annual conference in Flint and several virtual seminars and programs. Adult Program Director Stephanie Arwady served on the Oakland County Historical Commission, Youth Program Director

Alex Konieczny spoke to Oakland University

Anthropology Students, and Executive Director Jen Peters spoke to Eastern Michigan University Historic Preservation Graduate Students. Maintaining these connections in the field enables the Village to be a resource among peers. Staff also participated in the Michigan Historical Society History Day Competition, mentored Wayne State University students, provided demonstrations at the Oakland County Pioneer Association's Ice Cream Social, and spoke to the Metamora Chapter of the Colonial Dames. The Village continued to offer research support to the City of Troy and residents interested in local history.

THS increased its participation in the annual Troy Family Daze event in the fall of 2023 with a fun, interactive booth next to 30 scarecrows sponsored by local businesses. This was in addition to participating in Troy Recreation events, the Troy Famers Market, Stage Nature Center's Maple Syrup Time, Troy Fire Department, and Troy Public Library events throughout the year.



BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS 2023-2024

EDUCATION SPONSORS

Kirco Columbia Center City of Troy PROGRAM AND EXHIBIT SPONSORS

Oakmont Senior Communities Troy Women's Association State Farm Insurance – Ann Percy Genisys Credit Union Community Choice Credit Union Troy Garden Club Tim Hortons - Troy Corwell Health Troy Community Foundation Radiant Paws Pet Massage Rexpointe Kennels Leader Dogs for the Blind Colonial Dames

TROY TRAFFIC JAM 2023

Kirco "Presenting Sponsor" Columbia Center "Proud Host Venue"

Gold Sponsors

City of Troy Troy Downtown Development Authority

Silver Sponsors

Meadowbrook Insurance Agency Henry Ford Health **Copper Sponsors**

State Farm Insurance – Ann Percy DiLisio Contracting, Inc.
American House
Alexander J Bongiorno
Creative Jeweler
Horizon Bank
T&I Credit Union
OHM Advisors
Secure Door
Penske Corp
Nowicki Autosport
Nostalgic Motoring Ltd.

Chrome Sponsors

GR Auto Gallery
Morgan Stanley
The Choice Group
Butzel Long
The Westington Apartments
Stifel/Coastal Financial Strategies
Group
Lambrecht Realty & Lambrecht
Marina
Autumn Insurance
Hagerty

Fogo de Chão Sedona Taphouse Pasteiner's Auto Zone

Friends of Troy Traffic Jam B&B Collision Allison Family Foundation Cauley Ferrari of Detroit

SCARECROW ROW 2023

100 Women Who Care -Troy 86 Plastic A.J. Desmond & Sons **Funeral Directors** Alexander J. Bongiorno Alliance Mobile Health 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 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 Stifel Sunrise of Troy

Susheilla Mehta -Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Kee Realty

T & I Credit Union
Telly's Greenhouse and
Garden Center
Trevarrow 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) Troy Garden Club Troy Historical Society (sponsored) Troy Jewelers Troy Kickboxing Outfit Troy Public Library Troy Police Department (sponsored) Troy Racquet Club Troy Recreation Department Troy Rotary Club Troy Veterinary Hospital Troy Youth Soccer League Troy-Metro Agency

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS 2023-2024

AAA Ice Cream ALCO Printing Honey Baked Ham Red Robin - Troy Ridley's Bakery Café Signs and More Trevarrow Hardware Troy Garden Club

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS

















Vigilante Security



VOLUNTEERS

In FYE 2024, volunteers continued to support THS and Village Staff by engaging the public, supporting operations, and preserving our resources. Volunteers were Activity Leaders for games and craft stations at our Trick-or-Treat, Cocoa & Crafts, and Egg Hunt events. They also warmly welcomed and checked-in guests for various events, provided Village tours, assisted staff with cleaning office spaces, and distributed marketing materials throughout the community. Volunteers offered their skills and expertise around the Village as they built specialty items for programs and interpretation like the non-functioning outhouse and historically authentic holiday ornaments and decorations, and maintained the Village's gardens.

Volunteers were critical to executing THS's annual fundraisers again this past year. For the Troy Traffic Jam, over 100 volunteers helped with marketing, car show registration, parking the car show participants, monitoring the Pedal Car racers cars, selling raffle tickets, engaging kids in the Kids Zone area, and so much more. For Scarecrow Row, a volunteer team helped with soliciting sponsors, built over half of the scarecrows, and monitored each and every scarecrow until the end of October. Volunteers also set up and took down Scarecrow Row at Troy Family Daze and at



fundraising opportunities included building prize baskets and selling raffle tickets for the Summer Raffle and selling maple syrup products during Maple Syrup Days at Stage Nature Center. These events not only raise funds for THS, but they are enjoyed by thousands in the Troy community each year.

Knowing volunteers are looking for community as well as a sense of accomplishment, the Village established reoccurring weekly or monthly

volunteer opportunities that included school craft prep, specialized artifact or building cleaning, and a maintenance work group. These opportunities offer volunteers a chance to work with others in a social setting while helping accomplish needed tasks at the Village. Tasks were also tailored to student schedules as much as possible to enable participation.

Monthly meetings and bi-monthly volunteer specific newsletters kept the volunteers connected and periodic surveys drew invaluable insight from volunteering at the largest community events to the smallest volunteering tasks. The Volunteer Coordinator was, and still is, the communication vehicle for staff and volunteers, working to meet the needs of both groups for the overall benefit of Village visitors and the Troy community.









LOOKING FORWARD

The work continues! THS and Village Staff are in constant pursuit of improvement on all fronts: internal functioning, quality programming, accessibility, and continued research for better understanding of our history and its applications.

In the upcoming fiscal year, we are looking at ways to improve the THS Board and Village Staff. Board members are currently reviewing By-Laws and other policies. The current By-Laws have only had minor revisions since 2013. This comprehensive review will consider current non-profit best practices as well as the changing function of the THS board from a working board to a support and oversight board. Village Staff also continue their education in best practices as they visit other sites and participate in conferences and seminars.



City funding supported a recent dendroarchaeology study of the three oldest Village buildings for educational purposes. The study confirmed that the Caswell House was built in 1832/33 and the Old Troy Church was built in 1836/37, but established the building date of the Niles-Barnard house as 1826/27—10 years earlier than previously thought and making it Troy's oldest building! With this new information, diving back into the written accounts and documents helps us better understand that Johnson Niles likely wrapped his family's home, mercantile business, and early tavern all into a single structure. Shedding light onto the early Euro-American settlement of the Troy area enables us to tell a more robust story.

We've also started an internal campaign to revisit the research and documentation of each Village building to improve the interpretation and experience in each of them. We've started in the Parsonage, and plan to move onto the Caswell House, Town Hall, and General Store in upcoming years. We see this as part of the overall goal of better utilizing Village resources set out in the 2023 Master Plan. We are also looking at accessibility in these individual buildings and overall Village as we consider each of these smaller projects.

Finally, we're already looking ahead to 2026 and the Semiquincentennial. Communities around the United States will find their own ways to celebrate the 250th birthday of the nation, and here in Troy the Village is planning to pose the question, "Why Troy?" We are looking at featuring pioneers and citizens through the years and explore why they may have chosen to live in Troy. We think this will be a great project for school children and current residents alike and we are looking forward to sharing posters and exhibits throughout the community as part of this celebration!





