

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

We have two new volunteers! Maryam & Gail K! Please join me in welcoming them to our Villager team!

Welcome Shelby Nelsen, our new Adult Programs Director! More info on page 2.

Trick-or-Treat Superheroes was a super fun event. More info on page 3.

Volunteers have been helping with school craft-prep, and getting ready for our super busy spring season.

Gail P & Debe have begun painting and doing much needed TLC in the Caswell House.

The **Preservation Assistant** team has been maintaining our buildings by helping keep things beautiful and clean!

The **Tuesday Crew** have been Tuesday Crewin'! Find out what they've been up to on page 2.

Scarecrow Row has come and gone. More info on page 4.

Volunteers decorated the Village and spread holiday cheer. Thank you to those who decorated and helped un-decorate!

Maple Syrup Days is coming. More info on page 2.



Victorian Christmas Guides time-traveled with guests as they explored the Village during our Victorian Christmas program. Thank you for leading the way!

Cocoa & Crafts with Santa was a record-breaking year! More info on page 3.

THV Staff, Barbara, Jen, & Alex represented the Village and presented at different conferences. More info on page 2.

Chris Runnette taped over 500 individual pieces of tin! WOW! Thank you, Chris!

The Troy Garden Club put the gardens to bed for winter, and decorated the outside of the buildings at the Village. Thank you!

After the Annual Members Meeting, THS Board Members met to elect officials and Ken Heck is now Board President!

We were featured on TV! Read all about it, page 4.

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.

WELCOME SHELBY!

Our new Adult Programs Director, Shelby Nelsen, started this past October! Originally from Iowa, Shelby has made a home in Michigan with her fiancé, dog, and two cats. She has worked at a few different museums; most recently at Sloan Museum & Longway Planetarium. Stop by the Village to say “hello,” or catch her at the next adult program!

TUESDAY CREW

Our maintenance crew, the Tuesday Crew, has been hard at work Tuesday crewin'!

In October, the team helped set up and take down our Trick-or-Treat entry way (pictured below). They also built a frame for the entry way that we can reuse over and over again to make it easier in the years to come. They leveled out the ground by where we normally position the entry way so it is more even and less of a tripping hazard. A few Tuesday Crew members helped take down Scarecrow Row, too!

In the winter months they helped hang (and take down) holiday lights to illuminate the Village. They've been working on creating a sign for Niles-Barnard that will incorporate a bell from our collections. They've also assembled shelves for our Scarecrow Row builders in the Niles-Barnard Basement. Thank you so much, Tuesday Crew!

MAPLE SYRUP DAYS IS COMING

On the first three Saturdays in March, the Village hosts a pop-up shop at the Stage Nature Center during their Maple Syrup Days program. The Nature Center staff guide their guests through the program ending at our pop-up shop where we sell Michigan made maple syrup and maple syrup-infused products. We'll need volunteer help these days to help sell items and talk about Village programs! Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar.

REPRESENTING THV

In October, THV Staff Jen and Barbara both represented the Village and presented on different topics at the Michigan Museum Conference. The conference theme for 2024 was Navigating Changing Landscapes in Museums. Jen partnered with Eric Dugal (Eric works for a company that insures museums across Michigan) and discussed the rewards and risks of hosting rentals at museums.

Barbara partnered with Shelby Nelsen (yes, now *our* Shelby Nelsen) from Sloan Museum & Longway Planetarium to discuss creating a community of volunteers after Covid.

Both presentations led to lively and productive discussions, and were a great way to share the amazing things we do at the Village.

In January, THV Staff Alex traveled to New Orleans, LA and represented the Village by presenting about innovative career paths for students of archeology. Alex partnered with one of his former Oakland University professors for the conference, and both represented our area well!

While THV staff has presented at conferences before, this is the first time that we had FOUR staff members within four months represent the Village and all the hard work we do here. Plus, Barbara got to brag about our wonderful volunteers and the community we've created. Thank you so much for making talking about you so easy!



The Trick-or-Treat Superheroes entry way built by our amazing Tuesday Crew!

TRICK-OR-TREAT SUPERHEROES

My favorite superheroes are the Troy Historic Village volunteers! Adults, high school students, and staff's family members answered the call for help, and we are so thankful for their efforts!

We had 530 guests visit the Village during our annual Trick-or-Treat event - many for the first time. The number of guests is lower than we had hoped for, but there are a lot of free trick-or-treat options out there and it's hard to compete with free! However, we know that everyone who came realized the wonderful value of our Trick-or-Treat program, and made sure to tell us what a memorable time they had!

Save the date for 2025 trick-or-treat (and tell everyone you know!): October 24 & October 25, 2025!



Top Left: Volunteers Karen & Jim smile as they wait for the groups they will guide during Victorian Christmas. Top Right: Volunteers Chris and Gail decorate the tree inside the General Store. Middle: Volunteers Debe, Maryam, and Terry prepare decorations for inside Niles-Barnard. Bottom: Santa & Mrs. Claus listen intently to one of our guests during Cocoa & Crafts with Santa.

COCOA & CRAFTS WITH SANTA

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus returned to the Village during our annual Cocoa & Crafts with Santa program the first weekend of December! This event is a staff, guest, and volunteer favorite because watching our Santa interact with our guests is magical.

We had over 400 people come to the Village for Cocoa & Crafts with Santa in 2024 - that's almost 80 more people than in 2023! We know many of our guests come to visit Santa, but our volunteers leading activities really make the event special. Thank you so much for volunteering your time to help create such a special and memorable experience for so many families!

Save the date for 2025 Cocoa & Crafts with Santa: December 6 & December 7, 2025.



Top left: Volunteer Sheryl (aka Captain Candy Corn) smiles in between greeting guests. Top right: Volunteer Pam & Mike facilitate an x-ray activity with Cheddar the Village Mouse. Bottom: Volunteer Karla, dressed as a pirate, checks in guests for the program!

SCARECROW ROW

Scarecrow Row 2024 brought in over \$22,000 in donations! Wow! Our annual Scarecrow Row fundraising event is an integral part of the Village's identity - many of our current regular volunteers started volunteering with us during Scarecrow Row building!

Thousands of people come to visit the Village to see Scarecrow Row in October, and tens of thousands drive by each day that it is standing. So many guests tell us how much they look forward to it each year, and we are so thankful to have created such an anticipated annual fundraising event.

This year, we had over 85 individuals, businesses, and organizations sponsor a scarecrow - many of which are small local businesses! This program's success is crucial to the success of the Village as it provides a hefty amount to our overall Village operations budget. It is our second largest fundraiser (first is Troy Traffic Jam), and helps us keep field trips affordable.

Thank you so much to our 2024 building team: Debe, Gail, Karol, Karla, Sheryl, and JoAnn! Extra thanks to Karol for walking the Row every few days during a very windy month and keeping everyone's scarecrow looking great. Thank you to all of our other volunteers who helped set up/take down scarecrows at Troy Family Daze, and for those who helped set up/take down scarecrows at the Village. We couldn't do this project without volunteers like you, and we truly are STUFFED with gratitude!



Top left: Volunteers Sheryl and Debe prepare to disassemble scarecrows. Top right: Volunteers Lynn and Kevin help remove staples and other items from the frames. Bottom: Volunteers Terry and Ivana work on removing the hat from a scarecrow.

DID YOU CATCH US ON CHANNEL 4?

In November, the Troy Historic Village was featured on Channel 4 during the In Your Neighborhood segment! Ty Steele and his camera crew came to the Village and visited Jen and some of our education staff as they were doing chores around the Log Cabin.

History Interpreter Sarah shared with Ty how pioneers would use their own urine to bleach their clothes. She shared some other info, but I won't ruin the fun here! Make sure to ask her about it next time you see her!

We had so many guests visit us at the Village in the weeks following the segment. We're so thankful to have been featured, and hope that you're proud of us, too!

Watch the segment on youtube by [clicking here](#).



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN RECEPTION

The Historical Society of Michigan is hosting their annual Local History Conference on March 28 - March 29, and the Friday night (March 28) reception will be at the Troy Historic Village from 5pm - 7pm!

We're expecting hundreds of folks to visit the Village during the reception, and we need your help to make their experience as memorable and special as possible! We're asking volunteers to greet folks inside our buildings and tell them some history and share some info about our programs. Don't worry - we'll train you and give you all the material you'll need to be successful! All that's needed is a willing spirit and passion to share all about the amazing things we do at the Village.

We will also need help with directing parking in our parking lot, and helping clean up at the end of the night.

Everyone participating in the reception will need to attend an orientation before the event. Orientation will take place inside the Main Building at the Village, and I can provide a Zoom link if you cannot make it in person.

HSM Reception (March 28, 2025: 5pm - 7pm)

Volunteer Needs:

Parking Lot Help: 4:30pm - 5:30pm / 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Greeters in Buildings: 4:30pm - 7:30pm **listed on shift calendar by building**

End of Night Clean Up / Village Reset: 7:30pm - 8:30pm

Orientation date is Wednesday March 26, 4pm - 5pm, inside the Main Building Pioneer Room.

Check out the conference's itinerary by [clicking here](#).

JOIN OUR SCARECROW ROW BUILDING TEAM!

Have you ever wondered what it is like to build a scarecrow for Scarecrow Row? We are in the process of making plans for building for the year, and would love to invite new folks to come and try out building! No commitment required. [Fill out this form](#) to let us know you're interested and we will send dates when we will be having our orientation meeting.

SEEKING SUMMER RAFFLE HELP

Each year the Troy Historical Society hosts a Summer Raffle to benefit THS and the programs we provide at the Village. Last year, we had 10 total baskets each valued well over \$300.

We're seeking individuals who are interested in learning how to seek out sponsors for prizes, create prize baskets, and help us put on a successful Summer Raffle. Interested? [Fill out this form](#) to let us know and we will send more information!

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 Village Tour Guides will lead tours on Fridays in July and August and help fill in for special event tours. This is a great way to brush up presenting skills, or learn new ones! Sign up on [Shift Calendar](#)!

Below are dates for our next two rounds of training.

Batch #1 (all dates below):

- Day 1: Friday February 26: 10:30am - 1:30pm
- Day 2: Tuesday March 11: 1pm - 2pm
- Day 3: Tuesday April 1: 1pm - 2pm

Batch #2 (all dates below):

- Day 1: Friday May 2: 10:30am - 1:30pm
- Day 2: Tuesday May 20: 1pm - 2pm
- Day 3: Friday June 6: 1pm - 2pm

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MID-WINTER BREAK OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 17, VARIOUS TIMES FEBRUARY 18, VARIOUS TIMES

The Village is open for free on these days, and we'd love your help with welcoming guests inside the main building, greeting guests at the Caswell & Parsonage houses, and also telling folks about our upcoming programs at an info table. Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar!

MONTHLY SCHOOL CRAFT PREP FEBRUARY 11, 10:30AM - 12PM MARCH 11, 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 Sign Up Calendar.

MARKETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION ONGOING

Next sign up February 19. See Barbara with additional questions!

MAPLE SYRUP DAYS MARCH 1, VARIOUS TIMES MARCH 8 VARIOUS TIMES MARCH 15, VARIOUS TIMES

We need your help during our annual pop-up shop of Michigan made maple syrup products at the Stage Nature Center! No experience is necessary, and staff will be on site to handle all cash. Shifts on Sign Up Calendar!

CANDLE DIPPING

Dates on Sign Up Calendar: February 12, 20, 25. March 3, 5, 13, 17, 18. April 7.

OTHER SAVE THE DATES:

- Village Egg Hunt (April 11 & April 12)
- Civil War Days (May 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)
- Summer Kick-Off - will need help with guests and selling Raffle Tickets (June 3)
- Troy Traffic Jam (August 3)

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 Sign Up Calendar.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN CONFERENCE RECEPTION MARCH 28,

The Historical Society of Michigan is hosting their local history conference in our neighborhood this year, and they've chosen the Troy Historic Village as their site for the event reception! We need volunteers who are excited to talk about the Village, Troy History, and all about the things we do at the Village. Volunteers wishing to help with this event must attend an orientation on March 26 at 4pm. If you're interested in presenting in buildings, please sign up on the Shift Calendar on March 28 indicating your interest. Barbara will be in contact about assigning a shift!

SEEKING VILLAGE TOUR GUIDES!

More detailed info on page 3. Dates on Sign Up Calendar:

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