

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER...

Cocoa & Crafts with Santa was a record breaking year! More info on page 2.

THV Staff updates! Join us as we welcome Kevin as our Community Development Director! More info on page 2.

The Tuesday Crew have been Tuesday Crewin'! Find out what they've been up to on page 4.

Scarecrow Row was taken down in November, and all are now resting at their winter retreat. More info on page 3.

Our Year End Appeal exceeded our goal! More info on page 2.

The Troy Garden Club provided the festive greens for the Village again this year. A beautifully decorated tree along with masterfully crafted wreaths tied it all together!

Victorian Christmas was held the second weekend in December, and our amazing volunteers guided guests through the program. More info on page 4.



Maple Syrup Days is almost here! More info on page 3.

Mid-Winter Break Open House is the second week of February! More info on page 5.

Spring Egg Hunt is early this year! More info on page 6.

Field Trips are coming! An estimated 5,300 students will be attending field trips at the Village this spring and we need your help! More info on page 3.

Civil War Days will be here before we know it, and we already have the dates and times so you can prepare! More info on page 5.

Monthly volunteer meetings are held be on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30am inside the Niles-Barnard House. Any changes 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.

COCOA & CRAFTS WITH SANTA

Troy Historic Village has been hosting Cocoa & Crafts with Santa for many years, and 2025 was our best year yet! Over the first Saturday and Sunday in December, 448 of our neighbors joined us for the program to make magical holiday memories with their families. 40 volunteers, adults and high school students, donated their valuable time to help us facilitate this annual tradition. Wow! What a way to spread holiday cheer!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped prepare craft supplies, set up the event, and spent a few hours of your time to make sure each guest had a holly-jolly time! Our community events really highlight what an amazing resource the Village is, and we could not create such a wonderful experience without your efforts!

- 1) Cathy smiles and takes a breather from a very busy check-in.
- 2) Debra S. smiles while waiting for guests.
- 3) Chris R. and student volunteers smile in between reindeer games.
- 4) Pete H. commands attention of eager children while they wait for Santa.
- 5) Entry archway leading to Santa.
- 6) Troy Garden Club members smile while serving hot cocoa to guests.
- 7) Volunteer Coordinator, Barbara, sits in between the stars of the show, Mrs. Claus and Santa!



THV STAFFING UPDATE



Please join us in welcoming Kevin as our Community Development Director! Kevin has a background in fund development, theater, and is an opera singer! We're so excited to have him join the team, and we can't wait for you to meet him!

ANNUAL YEAR END APPEAL

At the end of each year, we mail out over 500 letters requesting donations from our supporters. Thank you Debra, Colete, and Susan for mailing the letters! As of January 7, we have raised over \$8,000 to add to our general fund for operations. Thank you so much to those who have donated! Your dollars make a big impact every day at the Village!

SCARECROW ROW TAKE DOWN

At the beginning of November, adult and student volunteers, and THV staff, banded together in the chilly fall air to take down the 88 scarecrows from Scarecrow Row. Our adult volunteers took apart and disassembled the scarecrows, while our student volunteers helped keep the workspace clear and functional. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and for everyone who brought a friend to help! Many hands make light work and we could not do this amazing highly-anticipated fundraiser without all of our amazing volunteers!



1) Left - Volunteer Karol works on disassembling a scarecrow . Right - Staff Lydia and Volunteer Ahmed watch as volunteer Jeff shows how to remove staples from the frames. 2) Volunteers Bob and JoAnn make a great demolition team. 3) Volunteers Debra and Chris save scarecrow accessories. In the background volunteer Terry works with staff Jolie on taking a part a 'crow. 5) A bucket of heads. 6) The whole scarecrow take down team hard at work!

MAPLE SYRUP TIME IS ALMOST HERE

On the first three Saturdays in March, the Village hosts a pop-up shop at the Stage Nature Center during their Maple Syrup Time 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.

FIELD TRIP SEASON IS COMING

Our field trip books are BOOKED starting in March through the end of the school year! Thank you to everyone who has helped continuously prepare supplies! We will need extra help with dipping candles and preparing other school craft supplies to help get us through the school year. One field trip day is about 75 individual students - that's 75 candles or taped tins gone to loving homes super quick! You can pick up items to work on at home, or join us on the second Tuesday of each month to work on items here at the Village! Contact Barbara for more information, or sign up for 2nd Tuesdays on the Shift Calendar!

TUESDAY CREW

The Tuesday Crew hung lights on our main sign on Wattles starting the festive season off right. They also braved the cold and build a solid lean-to cover for our historic bread oven! AND they built a magical holder for all of our Scarecrow Row signs to make it easier to store them and flip through them quickly! We are so thankful for their imaginative and ingenious craftsmanship and that they choose to use their skills to help the Village operations run more smoothly, safely, and efficiently. Make sure to check out their handiwork behind the Caswell House next time you're at the Village!



1) The bread oven lean-to shelter. 2) The festive tree out front set the tone for all who drove by and visited!

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Our fourth annual Victorian Christmas was our best year yet! Lots of our costumed reenactors joined us again for the second weekend in December, and our amazing Village volunteers guided guests through the stops of the program. We also had a pop-up gift shop in the General Store and lots of guests bought gifts for the holidays. This program is a favorite of our guests, and one of the only chances to experience the Village at night - and with costumed reenactors! Volunteers are crucial to the success of the program, and we are so thankful our Villagers braved the 6 degree weather (really, it was 6 degrees!) to help our guests navigate the Village, and for their valuable feedback about how to improve the program with it's continued success! We're looking forward to Victorian Christmas 2026, but we'll take some warm weather and sunshine before then.





DECORATING THE VILLAGE

The Village was all dressed up and festive for the entire month of December for all of our programs! Thank you to Pete, Colete, Sheryl, Chris R, Gail, Debe, and Denise for helping decorate and undecorate the Village. We are so thankful for your time and dedication to making the Village a warm and welcoming place for the holiday season! Please enjoy a glimpse of their handiwork in the photos to the left.

MID-WINTER BREAK OPEN HOUSE

February 16 and February 17 the Village is FREE for everyone to visit for our Mid-Winter Break Open House! We would love your help! Trained guides are welcome to pick a building to present to guests in, and we can use some help checking in and greeting guests, and at our info table sharing information about our upcoming programs. Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar.

HISTORY TEA TOUR

On May 16 we are hosting our second History tea Tour! We need volunteer help presenting and serving the teas during the stops. Anyone can sign up, and we will have a mini-training before the event (May 13, 4pm). Shifts on Sign Up Calendar!

CIVIL WAR DAYS

Hard to believe it, but it's almost time for Civil War Days! Shifts are already on the Sign Up Calendar. Look for May 6, 7, 8, 11 - 15.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

We are collaborating with the City of Troy to put on Troy's first Volunteer Fair! The event will be held on April 4, 12pm - 4pm, and will feature local non-profits in Troy that are looking for volunteers. We will need some help from our amazing volunteers at this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Barbara!

SPRING EGG HUNT

Our annual Spring Egg Hunt has an early date this year - March 27 & March 28. Last year was a record breaking year, and we are expecting a ton of our neighbors to join us again this year! We need lots of help from our volunteers. Shifts are on the Sign Up Calendar! We are also seeking donations of treats and prizes to pass out to the kids. Please refer to the volunteer email for the link, or ask Barbara and she can send it to you directly!

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

monthly SCHOOL CRAFT PREP FEBRUARY 10, 10:30AM - 12PM MARCH 10, 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.

CANDLE DIPPING SHIFTS

Look on the Shift Calendar for these dates:
February 10, 12, 13, 19, 20, 23, 24, 27
March 2, 3, 11

EGG HUNT MARCH 27 & MARCH 28 VARIOUS TIMES

HOP on over to the Village to help put on our annual Spring Egg Hunt! We need help checking in and greeting guests, leading group activities, and making sure each kid has their own turn looking for eggs! Shifts on Sign Up Calendar!

HISTORY TEA TOUR MAY 16, VARIOUS TIMES

Guests can explore the Village while learning about the history of teas. We need volunteer help to present and pour the teas! We will have a training on May 13. We will also need help cleaning up after the event. Shifts on Sign Up Calendar!

monthly MARKETING MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION, ONGOING

Next sign up February 18.

weekly PRESERVATION ASSISTANTS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Join our Curator every Wednesday for one hour 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! Shifts on Sign Up Calendar!

weekly CLEANING WINDOWS EVERY TUESDAY*, 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Assist our Curator every Tuesday (except the first Tuesday of the month) for one hour to help us clean and polish all the windows on our property! No experience is needed, we'll train you! Shifts on Sign Up Calendar.

monthly CHECK-IN HELPERS

Help us welcome and greet guests for our programs! Stay for the program, or take off after checking guests in. We need help at the following:

- Thursday Teas (2/26, 3/19, 4/16)
- Preservation Conversations (2/9, 3/9, 4/20)

MAPLE SYRUP TIME MARCH 7, 14, 21, VARIOUS TIMES

Help us run our pop-up shop at Stage Nature Center! No experience required, we'll teach you all you need to know! Shifts are on Sign Up Calendar.

OTHER SAVE THE DATES:

- **Volunteer Fair:** April 4, 12pm - 4pm
- **Civil War Days:** May 6 - 8, 11 - 15