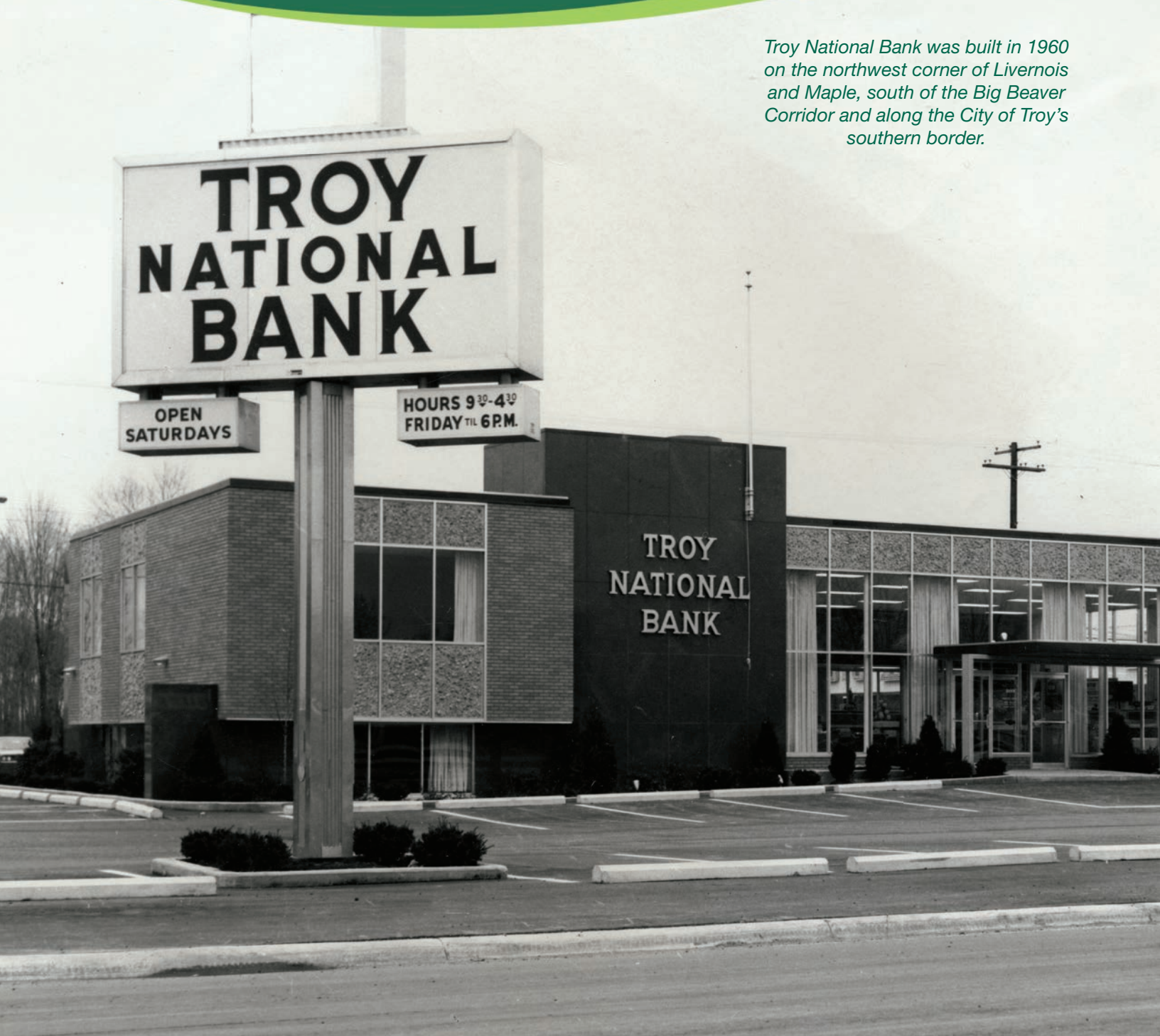
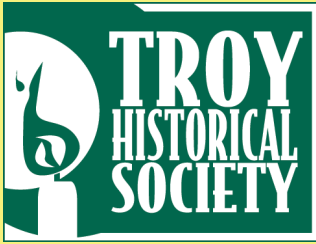


Troy National Bank was built in 1960 on the northwest corner of Livernois and Maple, south of the Big Beaver Corridor and along the City of Troy's southern border.



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THIS News

Board Officers

Ken Heck
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Jagdish Karira

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Kevin Lindsey

Michael Nowosatko

JoAnn Preston

Advisory

John Lavender

Padma Kuppa

Ex Officio

Jen Peters

Executive Director

Publishing Schedule

Spring: March - May

Summer: June - August

Fall: September -
November

Winter: December -
February

*Enjoy your seasonal
Village Press!*

Searching for New Board Members!

The Troy Historical Society is seeking a community-minded individual to serve on its Board of Trustees as Assistant Treasurer. In this vital volunteer role, you will support the Treasurer and Finance Committee to ensure the responsible financial stewardship of our organization. An Assistant Treasurer will serve on the Finance Committee and assist with weekly Village banking activity.

Other general Board of Trustees positions are also available. All board members attend 6 board meetings a year, serve a 3-year term (renewable if desired), and actively participate in committee work, fundraising initiatives, and the ongoing promotion of Troy Historic Village.

Board applications are accepted year-round, with elections taking place at the September Annual Members' Meeting. Potential Board Members are encouraged to join a committee at any time. Reach out to Executive Director, Jen Peters, at jpeters@thvmail.org if you are interested!



THANK YOU, Oakland County Commissioners!

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners approved an additional \$5,000 to support our Civil War Days and Indigenous Voices programs. This funding enables us to continue our partnerships with the reenactors, educators, and culture bearers who make these programs outstanding experiences for our 5th and 8th grade students.

A special thank you to Commissioner Penny Luebs and Commissioner Ann Erickson Gault who represent and support the Troy Community!



Focus on Fund Development

Estate Planning 101 -

Building a Legacy of Protection

May 14, 2026, 6:30-7:30pm

Troy Community Center

Are you prepared for the "what-ifs"? Most people know they need a plan, but many don't know where to start. Join us for a FREE educational seminar to learn how to take care of and provide for your loved ones and leave a legacy. Dessert and coffee will be served. You will learn about wills, trusts, power of attorney, and charitable giving. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to get your questions answered!

Presented by: Attorney Kara S. Ferrara, Giamarco, Mullins & Hortman, P.C.

Co-Hosted by: Troy Historical Society, Troy Nature Society, Troy Community Foundation, and Troy Public Library

There is no cost to attend, but please let us know you're planning to join us by registering.





Executive Director...

Jen Peters

Advocating for the Things that Matter

This spring I was honored and humbled to accept the Michigan Museum Association's Peninsulas Prize for Advocacy. Coworkers and colleagues were incredibly kind in writing and gathering letters of support to put my name forward. They were also sneaky! I was surprised to receive the notice and luckily, I was busy at another event otherwise I would have been overwhelmed with emotion. It's hard for me to even write this because my response to everyone has been, "Thank you, I do what I can do." And really advocacy is that simple. It's speaking up when you can for the things that matter to you.



The Lunch Counter exhibit at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

after chapter of American history doesn't help either! I recently visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, and considered so many stories that took immense courage. What did it take for students to sit in at lunch counters? For protestors to march from Selma to Montgomery only to get beaten? And as a mother myself, I always ask myself how Mamie Till had the courage to stand next to the open casket containing the broken body of her son Emmett, and then speak out against the system that protected those who murdered him. These advocates for Civil Rights are heroes! But sometimes they can make advocacy feel too big.

This past year has been jam-packed with history, and I think it's easy to look around and feel overwhelmed. Looking back through chapter

Since becoming the Executive Director of Troy Historic Village, I've been a part of the amazing educational programs and community events that we do here at the Village. I love our vision to connect people to history and to each other. I love telling people about how we do that through our programs and how they are memorable AND meaningful experiences. My advocacy began just like that: telling others about the great things we do at the Village. Over the last few years, I've just expanded who I tell.

In February, I was able to go to Washington DC to share stories about the Village's impact. In March, Shelby Nelsen and I went to Lansing to do the same thing. As funding from the state and federal government that supports this work is threatened, I will continue to do what I can to speak up for the Village and other museums across the state because the work we do matters.

I encourage you to become an advocate too! You can start by simply talking to others about the things that matter to you. I also encourage you to reach out to your representatives to let them know what is important to you. You can find contact information online for the Michigan House of Representatives (House.Mi.gov), Michigan Senate (Senate.Michigan.gov), United States House of Representatives (House.gov), and United States Senate (Senate.gov). Start where you are and do what you can.



Jen and Shelby in Lansing meeting with House Representatives Sharon MacDonell and Tom Kuhn (left photo), and State Senator Michael Webber (right photo).



Address:

60 W. Wattles Rd.
Troy, MI 48098

Phone:

248-524-3570

Website:

www.troyhistoricvillage.org

Facebook:

[/troyhistvillage](https://www.facebook.com/troyhistvillage)

Village Critter Corner:

(Private Group on Facebook)

[/groups/thvcrittercorner](https://www.facebook.com/groups/thvcrittercorner)

Instagram:

[@troyhistvillage](https://www.instagram.com/troyhistvillage)

Summer Hours:

Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm

Select Saturdays & Sundays for special events and rentals

Closed: July 31, August 3

Admission:

Adults \$7, Seniors \$5,

Children 6-17 \$5

Children under 6 FREE

Troy Historical Society

Members FREE

The Troy Historical Society engages the community and enables life-long exploration of history by sharing and preserving our stories, artifacts, and buildings through creative, meaningful experiences.

The Village offers accessible parking spaces and building entry. Visit TroyHistoricVillage.org/About/Accessibility for details about accessibility at our site.

The Path from Township to City

by Loraine Campbell, Former Troy Historic Village Executive Director

Between 1955 and 1980, Troy Township's farm fields were replaced by the corporate offices, upscale stores, and subdivisions that now make up the City of Troy. Our community's transition is one example of American suburban expansion. Troy Township's incorporation as a home rule city was brought forth by significant historical, financial, and political factors.

Pioneers from eastern states settled in Troy during the 1800s. While their farms prospered, a robust business district never emerged. Therefore, in the 1830s the Grand Trunk Railroad selected Royal Oak for a stop rather than tiny Troy Corners, which further limited commercial development in Troy. The Township continued to develop slowly for the following decades and into the following century.



In the top right corner of this photo looking east into Troy is the intersection of Long Lake Road and Beach Road. The top right corner shows the mausoleum of White Chapel Cemetery (c. 1955).

Following World War II and the Korean War in 1950s, Oakland County's population increased by nearly 300,000 people as Detroiters and veterans eligible for Federal Housing Administration mortgages migrated north or west to escape racial tensions and limited housing in Detroit. The influx of people meant that the Troy Township Board of Commissioners were tasked to approve proposed subdivisions on land that had once been farmed. Concurrent with these requests were complaints and concerns regarding Troy's inadequate supply of good water or proper sewage disposal. In addition, the soil did not drain well. This limited septic systems and increased the possibility of contaminated wells in new, densely built subdivisions.

At the same time, Detroit's automotive industry and large-scale manufacturers also abandoned their outdated, multi-storied factories. They sought large tracts of undeveloped land for new single-story plants to streamline production and increase profits. The lower land prices and taxes in Troy Township, located only twenty miles north of Detroit, offered ideal cost-effective sites for sprawling facilities.

The influx of people and businesses posed a public safety issue. In 1954, Troy relied on a volunteer fire department and a four-man police department with one squad car to service 30 square miles. While adequate for the rural community, the police and fire protection were grossly inadequate if the proposed developments were completed. Funding these needs and infrastructure improvements was a fiscal challenge as the Township did not qualify for the State revenue sharing that cities received.



Chief Gratopp stands outside the only car the Troy police owned. Two other officers are inside the car, so the entire police force of the Township (c. 1950s).

However, the annexation of portions of Troy Township by neighboring cities became the critical concern of the Township's officials. Michigan cities can annex adjacent township land, but one city cannot annex another city's land. In 1953 and 1954, the cities of Birmingham and Clawson each attempted to annex portions of Troy Township. Local officials fought the annexations because it increased fragmentation of their community and eroded its tax base.

Then in 1955 Vickers, Inc., a division of the Sperry-Rand Corporation, proposed to build a \$2,000,000 facility on a 76-acre parcel in Troy. The development guaranteed the Township \$20,000 per year in new tax revenues. But Vickers, Inc. entered into a secret agreement with the City of Royal Oak to annex the land and then provide Vickers with its police and fire protection plus City of Detroit water and sewers. When annexation petitions were circulated, Troy's officials took action. Township Supervisor Norman Barnard chronicled the plan devised by local leadership:

Troy citizens and officials of both political parties met on a Thursday evening in March, 1955, and agreed to move forward with the idea of incorporation...The big problem was the density of population. The Township was sparsely settled in some areas, which made it impossible to meet the average 500 people/square mile required under the City Home Rule Act in Michigan...It was decided to omit some of the less populated areas within the interior of the boundaries of Troy. These areas would remain a Township, to be annexed to the city [of Troy] later. A map was prepared by an engineer, and an attorney prepared the petition. A group of about 60 citizens met on a Friday evening, made their plans to circulate the petitions on Saturday, at the same time asking and pledging to keep the plan secret until the petitions were...filed on the next Monday morning...The petitions were guarded over the weekend, and early Monday morning [March 7, 1955] two groups left Troy at 6 a.m. to be certain to be in line first at the County Clerk's office in Pontiac. This precaution was taken in the event Royal Oak might learn of the incorporation movement...and be first at the Clerk's office to file their petitions for annexation. Such a move would have given their petitions priority for consideration [in] an election by the County Board of Supervisors.

The swiftly executed plan succeeded. Royal Oak learned of Troy's petition after it was filed. In an election scheduled for June 7, 1955, Troy voters had to approve incorporation as home rule city and elect residents to serve on a Charter Commission.

Vickers, Inc. challenged the validity of Troy's petitions in Oakland County Circuit Court, maintaining the Township lacked the minimal population the State required for incorporation. Troy officials had estimated a population of 13,750 was necessary. However, on May 26, the initial census survey reported 13,217 residents. Mr. Barnard stated, "Since the census is not officially completed...we must go ahead with the vote."



Charter Commission elected by Troy Township residents on June 7, 1955. Left to Right: (front row) Fred Hildebrandt, Norman Barnard, Frank Costello, and Clifton Truesdell; (back row) Roy Duncan, George Ford, Ernest Gray, Elmer Lowe, and Wesley Smith. (Image donated by Mrs. George Ford.)

Circuit Judge H. Russell Holland allowed the election but did not dismiss the suit. Troy's leadership made sure residents knew they could vote. Men with bullhorns cruised the Township urging citizens to cast their ballots. On June 7, the people responded with an emphatic, 9-1 vote in favor of incorporation. The ballot tally was 2,111 to 254 votes. A nine-member Charter Commission was also elected.

That summer, the Charter Commission drafted a document that defined the new city, its purposes and functions. Following heated discussions about zoning and taxes and the choice of a strong city manager form of government, Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams endorsed the Charter in September. On December 12, 1955, the same registered voters who favored incorporation approved the Charter by only an 86 vote margin. The first actions of the newly elected City Council were to annex the islands of Troy Township that still existed within the City limits.

The Big Beaver Corridor

by Jen Peters, Troy Historic Village Executive Director

Troy Township was a rural community until post-World War II suburban growth – aided by the rise of the automobile – made roads and freeways the connector between home and work. Being a mostly flat area with few waterways, the 1817 survey cut a grid of section lines through Troy Township. Those section lines became the first roads in the Township, gradually improving from dirt tracks to gravel and then the paved roads we still use today. When Troy became a city in 1955, the growth of businesses continued along the mile roads while homes and subdivisions filled in forests and farmland.

In 1950, the population of Troy Township was 10,087. By 1960, the new City of Troy had a population of 19,058—nearly doubled the size over just 10 years! Factors like urban crowding and Federal Housing Administration funding that favored new building created an exodus from Detroit to the suburbs that benefitted cities like Troy. Incidents like the Uprising of 1967 pushed even more people from Detroit, and by 1970, Troy's population climbed to 39,419 residents.

With a city facing such fast growth, zoning and planning decisions were often contentious. Troy was a blank slate for development with 33 square miles and no historic central business district. The City of Troy engaged Vilican Lehman Associates to complete a series of studies and create a master plan for development. Light industry was restricted to the area south of Big Beaver Road (16 Mile Road). The rest of the City was divided into Residential Planning Areas that contained a centrally located school, playgrounds, and parks (ideally adjacent to schools) in addition to homes. Rochester Road and Stephenson Highway were identified as the major north-south thoroughfare, and Big Beaver Road was designated the major east-west thoroughfare.



Oakland Mall and the Somerset Collection were Troy's two modern shopping centers.



Minoru Yamasaki with his family at their house in Troy in 1967. Original Photo by Balthazar Korab.

The City of Troy also intentionally chose to not create a downtown. They found through the studies that older downtowns were suffering as people used cars to travel to desirable shopping. They also disliked the endless development of retail along some thoroughfares in neighboring cities because they caused congestion. Instead, they focused on two modern malls for Troy's main retail and smaller clusters of stores at select interstices. Recognizing the increased need for office space, they chose the Big Beaver Corridor for mixed-use office, commercial, and retail space, a relatively new concept for cities in the 1950s and 60s.

Among the Troy residents living through all these changes was architect Minoru Yamasaki. Minoru was a Japanese American born on the west coast to Japanese immigrants in 1912. He studied architecture and moved to New York City during the Great Depression where he worked his way up through several architectural firms despite the poor economy. He moved to Detroit in 1945 and then purchased an old farmhouse on 7.5 acres in Troy for his growing family in 1947. Having faced prejudice his whole life, purchasing a home was yet another trial for Minoru.

Even as a successful architect, he was red lined (uninsured and thus prevented) from purchasing a home in several of the communities for which he had designed homes and buildings. A sympathetic realtor was finally able to secure the property in Troy Township and the Yamasaki's became the first recorded Asian family to move to Troy, according to 1950 Census Records.

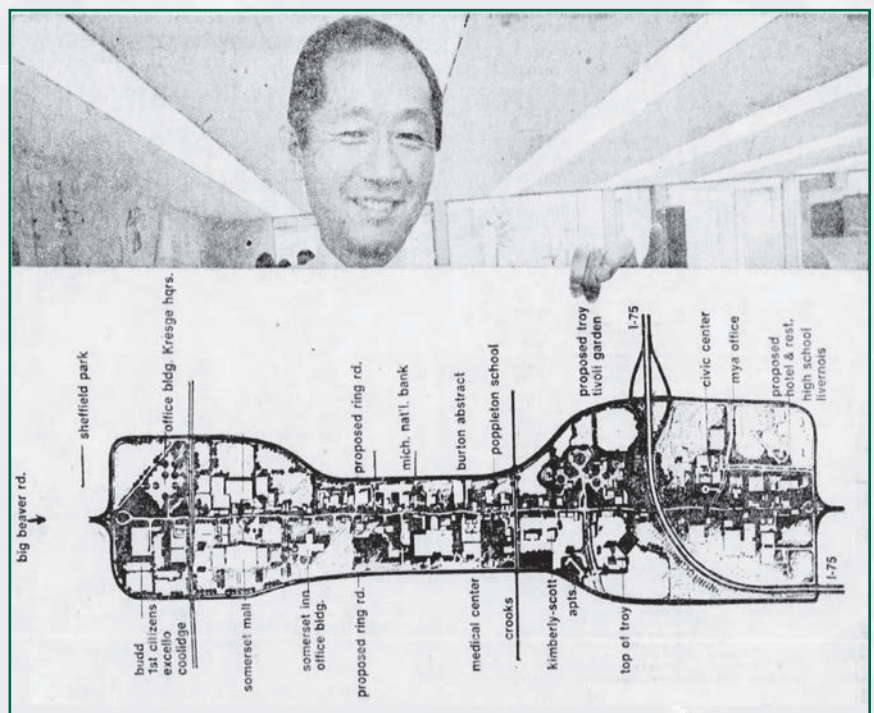
The family renovated the old 1824 farmhouse and enjoyed the large property with mature trees in the small community. Living near the corner of Livernois and Big Beaver Roads, all three children attended Poppleton Elementary School and later Baker Middle School. Minoru's wife, Teruko, taught local children piano lessons from their home. In 1949, Minoru opened an architectural office with a partner in Detroit. Later he established his own firm and office in Royal Oak then Birmingham. Minoru's career and the City of Troy continued to grow, and in 1969, he rezoned the westernmost 4.6 acres of his property along Big Beaver Road for a new 16,000 square foot architectural office, conveniently located next to the new Civic Center.

As the City of Troy focused on commercial and office development along Big Beaver Road to create a "Golden Corridor," property values skyrocketed. The Yamasaki's rezoned their remaining property and sold their home and lot for a large profit in 1972. Minoru designed a new home in Bloomfield Hills, a city that had essentially barred the family 25 years earlier. As businesses filled the new Big Beaver Corridor, so did traffic. By 1977, the City of Troy needed to expand the two-lane road to accomodate traffic on their east-west thoroughfare.

Seeing that four lanes would quickly become eight, Minoru set aside a \$2 billion Saudi Arabian airport project to help his hometown. He proposed transforming the stretch of Big Beaver from Coolidge to Livernois into a pedestrianized business and commecial mall complete with trees, fountains, restaurants, shops, and even a park with a ferris wheel and merry-go-round. A minibus would take shoppers up and down the mall while automobile traffic would be diverted to a 5.5-mile loop around the district. Minoru had already designed both national and international buildings and complexes including the McGregor Memorial Conference Center at Wayne State, Dhahran International Airport in Saudi Arabia, and the World Trade Center. His proposal brought together that expertise with inspiration from his travel around the world.

In a March 14, 1977, Detroit Free Press Article, Minoru said, "This could make shopping a fun experience. There is nothing like this in all of Michigan. People from all over would come here. It would become the new downtown." Prior to this plan for Troy, Minoru had proposed a similar pedestrianization of Woodward Avenue in Downtown Detroit to bring back shoppers. Both times he gained support of some businesses and citizens but fell short of gaining support from the city.

Many City of Troy officials appreciated the effort but found that it was too little too late; the larger master plan that had been in motion since becoming a city in 1955. The City was already developing along the section line roads and there was concern that the new ring road would impact too many residential areas. Ultimately, the City turned down the plan. Today, as the City and Troy Downtown Development Authority work to improve the Big Beaver Corridor and make it more walkable, they still work within the idea that the automobile will continue to be our main form of transportation along the busy east-west thoroughfare.



From a Detroit Free Press Article: Minoru Yamasaki displays his Big Beaver Ring Road Plan.



A Houseful of History

by *Shelby Nelsen, Troy Historic Village Adult Programs Director*

The past few issues of the Village Press featured reasons people began living in Troy, as well as original farm landscape of the area. At just under 200 years old, the Niles-Barnard House was a well-known home in Troy until it was moved to where it now rests as a prominent figure on the western end of Troy Historic Village. As the oldest building on our grounds, and one of the oldest in the Troy area, the Niles-Barnard House not only witnessed centuries of change in Troy, but also played a role in the rapid developments throughout the 1950s and 60s as Troy became an official city.

After Johnson Niles' death, his youngest son, George Niles, lived in the house until it was sold to Joseph Jennings in 1874. The home remained in the Jennings and Hadden families until 1940 when the Hadden's decided to move to their farm in Oakland Township. Johnson Niles' granddaughter, Rhobie Niles, grew up in the home and later in life ended up living across the street from her childhood home. After Norman Barnard moved to Troy, he picked up a paper route which included Rhobie's home. She would tell Norman tales about her grandfather, the house she grew up in, and the early days of Troy. Norman became fascinated with the house and its history. He resolved at a very young age to purchase the home if he ever got the chance.

In 1940, Norman bought the house for \$1,000 at a tax auction using borrowed money from his parents, grandmother, and future mother-in-law. His future father-in-law helped him fix the roof and helped with some other repairs, but there was still more work to be done. The following January, Norman married Harriet Kyser in the living room. Sheets covered unfinished portions of the home and there was no running water. The condition of the home didn't stop the young couple from having their wedding reception in the house with live music.



Norman and Harriet at their wedding.

Harriet and Norman must have been in love to marry each other and in love with history to commit to the old Niles house. They set about getting a new roof, a pump to bring water into the house, restoring the furnace, patching plaster, and repairing electrical wiring. For years they didn't have indoor plumbing. The water that pumped in from a well was not drinkable and had to be heated for bathing and household chores. Harriet and Norman had to bring potable water from Norman's parents on Square Lake Road. They even acquired the old outhouse from the Methodist Church "at no cost" when they first moved in,

building a crude septic system a few years later. As the Barnards needed more space, they would repair or modify a portion of the house, changing the layout over the years.

The Barnard's home was, in many ways, the center of the community. Harriet always made more food than the family could eat because there was a good chance an extra person would take a seat at the dinner table. Norman, who was a licensed attorney, would frequently have visitors in his downstairs office asking legal advice. When a volunteer fire station was built across the street, Harriet was the one to receive calls and ring the bell to alert the locals. She would then wait at the station, or later at the end of the drive, to relay the message about where the fire was. Between their six children and the non-stop visitors, there was always something going on at the Barnard's house.



Norman Barnard, 1947

Aside from counseling neighbors in his home, Norman was a leader and active citizen. Even at a young age his enthusiasm for community service showed through his involvement with boy scouts and his church's young adult group called the Epworth League. Norman went on to attend the University of Detroit as an undergraduate student before continuing on to law school. While in law school in 1938, he became Justice of the Peace in Troy at 24 years old. Once Norman finished his law degree, he began running for various political offices. He became the Troy Township Clerk in 1947, and then Troy Township Supervisor in 1951 when murmurs of Troy becoming a city started.

You can read the articles in this issue to get the full story on how and why Troy went from a township to a city, and the Barnard house played a key role. The first meetings to organize the township into a city happened in the Barnard house in 1955. It was from those meetings in Norman's home office that plans were developed including maps to satisfy the population density minimums, a way to get enough signatures on their petition, and how to submit them all before

Royal Oak had the chance to submit their petition. When the court approved that the citizens of Troy Township could hold a valid vote on becoming a city on June 7, 1955, Norman sent out trucks around the township with the news, and to tell people to get out to vote with about 24 hours to spare. The vote passed and led to Troy becoming a city on December 14, 1955.

But how did the house end up at the Village? Johnson Niles built the house around 1827 in what became Troy Corners on the southwest corner of Livernois and Square Lake Road. Norman bought the house more than a century later in 1940, and passed away inside the home in 1998 surrounded by his family. Harriet continued to live in the home until the early 2000s when she moved in with her daughter. It should come as no surprise that as community leaders, Norman and Harriet Barnard were both former presidents of the Troy Historical Society (THS). Harriet would have been involved with moving the Caswell House and other building to the Village during her time with THS. According to her children, Harriet watched the Old Troy Church and the Parsonage move from Troy Corners to the Village in 2003 and began to wonder if her old home should also be relocated. The following year, a formal letter donating the house to the City for the Village was written and eventually accepted in 2005. It took an additional five years to prepare the site and coordinate moving the building, then another ten years before the home was rehabilitated to its current state.



The Niles-Barnard House moving down Livernois to the Village in 2010.

Norman and Harriet Barnard are important figures in Troy's history regardless of the home they owned. But what are the odds that they would end up living in the house built by one of Troy's first settlers who also had a vision for community? The Niles-Barnard House symbolizes Troy Township from start to finish, and the hyphen represents everything between the two stories and both of their visions for the Troy community.

Donor Impact Report

by Barbara Hubbard, Troy Historic Village Volunteer Coordinator

Troy Historic Village had a successful first quarter of 2026. We always joke that winter is our “slow season,” but not this time! By donating, becoming a member, attending programs, or sponsoring events during the first quarter of the year, your gifts made so much happen! Thank you for supporting Troy Historic Village!

You helped families make memories

In February, our free Mid-Winter Break Open House welcomed 462 guests to the Village, many for the first time! In March, over 800 guests joined us for our affordable Spring Egg Hunt, and giggles and smiles were heard all throughout the Village. Your gifts help keep the cost for these events low so that the Village remains a welcoming environment for all.

You helped connect students to the past and to each other

Over 2,800 students have attended a field trip at the Village so far learning about what makes a pioneer, the “three R’s,” how to shop in 1914, and so much more. Your gifts help employ the experts in our Education Department that engage our guests each day.

You helped build community in Troy and beyond

In April, we hosted our inaugural free Volunteer Fair wherein 23 local organizations set up tables to recruit volunteers! Over 150 people came to find ways to make a difference in their community here in Troy, and beyond. Your gifts help us live our mission to provide opportunities like the free Volunteer Fair for community development, social interaction, and open dialogue on issues of importance.

Images: 1) Staff member Amelia (pink jacket) welcomes guests to their egg hunt lane during Spring Egg Hunt; 2) Student volunteers Raahi, Sahasara, and Ojal lead the craft activity during Spring Egg Hunt; 3) JoAnn (right) shares how exciting it is to volunteer with 100 Women Who Care – Troy; 4) Karol from Troy Garden Club shares opportunities with prospective volunteers; 5) This photo shows half of the organization tables during the Volunteer Fair.



JUNE 2026

- June 1-Aug 31 **Summer Exhibit: Tellings Troy's Stories**
During Open Hours
- June 1-Aug 31 **Great Michigan Read - Borrow a Book**
During Open Hours
- June 1-Aug 31 **Why Troy Oral Histories (Every Tuesday)**
By Appointment
- June 2 **THS Summer Raffle Ticket Sales Open!** 10am
- June 2 **Summer Kick-Off Open House** 5pm-8pm
- June 3 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- June 3 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- June 3-July 8 **Basic Blacksmithing Level 1 (Wednesdays)**
6:30pm-9pm
- June 4 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- June 6-July 18 **Basic Blacksmithing Level 1 (Saturdays)**
10am-12:30pm
- June 8 **Preservation Conversations: On the Road!** 3pm
- June 10 **Watercolor Class** 4:30pm
- June 11 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- June 14 **Village Crafting Circle** 10am-2pm
- June 14 **Constitution Café** 2pm
- June 17 **Watercolor Art Journaling, Part 1** 5:30pm
- June 18 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- June 23 **Live the Story** 4:30pm-6pm
- June 25 **Thursday Talks** 2pm
- June 25 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- June 25 **Museum Yoga** 6pm
- June 30 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm

AUGUST 2026

- Aug 2 **Troy Traffic Jam (Columbia Center)** 9am-3pm
- Aug 2 **Kids Pedal Car Race (Columbia Center)** 1:30pm
- Aug 3 **Village CLOSED**
- Aug 3-Aug 7 **Introductory Copper & Iron Workshop**
6pm-8:30pm
- Aug 5 **Historic Bread Making Class** 10:30am-5pm
- Aug 5 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
- Aug 6 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- Aug 9 **Village Crafting Circle** 10am-2pm
- Aug 9 **Constitution Café** 2pm
- Aug 10 **Preservation Conversations: On the Road!**
3pm
- Aug 10-Aug 14 **Intermediate Copper & Iron Workshop**
6pm-8:30pm
- Aug 12 **Hey, Teachers! School Field Trip booking**
begins today! Starts at 10am
- Aug 13 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- Aug 15 & Aug 16 **Iron Jewelry Weekend Intensive** 10am-4pm
- Aug 20 **Thursday Talks** 2pm
- Aug 20 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- Aug 22 **Old-Time Radio Show** 7pm
- Aug 23 **Old-Time Radio Show** 2pm
- Aug 27 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- Aug 27 **Museum Yoga** 6pm

- Kids & Families
- Artisan-led Class
- Adults & Seniors
- Health & Wellness
- Community Events

JULY 2026

- July 1 **Celebrating America's 250th (Jeanne Stine Park)** 5:30pm
- July 2 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- July 8 **Troy Garden Walk** 9am-6pm
- July 8 **THS Summer Raffle Winners Drawn and Notified!** After 6pm
- July 9 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- July 11 **Kids Pedal Car Race (Jeanne Stine Park)**
1:30pm
- July 12 **Village Crafting Circle** 10am-2pm
- July 12 **Constitution Café** 2pm
- July 14 **Preservation Conversations: On the Road!**
3pm
- July 15 **Collecting Your Memories** 5:30pm-7pm
- July 16 **Thursday Talks** 2pm
- July 16 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- July 18 **Historic Bread Making Class** 9am-3:30pm
- July 22 **Partner Project: Ice Cream Spade** 6pm-9pm
- July 23 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- July 23 **Museum Yoga** 6pm
- July 25 **Blacksmithing Sampler** 10am-11:30am
- July 28 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm
- July 30 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
- July 30 **Classics Book Club** 5:30pm-7pm
- July 31 **Village CLOSED**

Troy Garden Club's 51st Garden Walk: "Garden Styles 2026"

Wednesday, July 8, 9am-6pm
Village open for FREE | Rain or Shine!

Enjoy free General Admission to the Troy Historic Village while you shop at the Troy Garden Club's Plant Sale and outdoor Midsummer Arts & Crafts Boutique. To learn more about the garden walk and how to purchase your tickets to see the six private gardens, visit www.TroyGardenClubMI.com or call the Troy Garden Club at 248-321-8291.





Summer Kick-Off Open House

Tuesday June 2, 5-8pm | FREE

Grab dinner, listen to some live music, and enjoy an evening at the Village! Get your tickets for the Troy Historical Society's Summer Raffle. We'll have games, food and treats for purchase, and information about all sorts of great summer activities around Troy. *Music is generously sponsored by the Cook family.*

Kids Pedal Car Races

July 11, 1:30pm & August 2, 1:30pm | \$15 per car/racer

Two Pedal Car races will be held around Troy this summer and are open to racers ages 3-8 with a pedal powered car. Race in one or race in both! Collect a medal and sweet treat for each race you participate in. Registration is required and closes for each race one hour before race start time. Test drive a pedal car during specific Village Open Lates. Find out what pedal cars are accepted, and where each race takes place on our website.

Old-Time Radio Shows

Saturday August 22, 7pm &

Sunday August 23, 2pm

THS Members: \$15

Non-members: \$17

Use your imagination to travel with us back-in-time for a mock radio show.

Actors will perform scripts from "Our Miss Brooks" and "My Friend Irma!" with commercials, live piano music, and sound effects! Desserts and coffee/tea will be served at intermission. Tune in and sign up as soon as possible because space is limited. Recommended for ages 12 & older.



Cheddar's Preschool Story Time

Select Days | 10:30-11:30am

Ages 2-5 accompanied by an adult

THS Members: \$5/child, \$3/adult

Non-members: \$7/child, \$5/adult

Join Cheddar the Village Mouse and Mrs. Laura for story time! This monthly program for preschool-aged kids features stories, games, activities, songs, crafts, and snacks that connect with each month's theme. Themes, stories, and activities are carefully chosen to be age-appropriate and help kids have fun while they develop skills and learn about the world around them. *Sponsored by Troy Women's Association.*



- **June 3: Colors Colors Everywhere**

We will be practicing scissor skills and making a mosaic craft, sorting and making patterns with jumbo buttons, and drawing with chalk. Snack will be colorful fruit, veggies and crackers. Wear bright colors!

- **August 5: 1, 2, 3, ABCs**

This month's book: *Apple Pie ABCs* by JAlison Murray

We will be making words with magnetic letters and making our favorite numbers or letters out of playdough. We will be making pretend slices of pie for our craft. Snack will be ABC cookies.

Live the Story

Tuesday June 23 | 4:30-6pm

THS Member \$8/person Non-member: \$10/person

Bring your reading to life by putting yourself in the shoes of some of your favorite characters from historical books. This first program in the series will focus on the story of the American Girl Doll Kirsten who was a pioneer in Minnesota in 1854. Participants will learn about transportation of the era, help with chores around the Log Cabin, and make a rag doll to take home.



Appropriate for ages 7 to 12. Troy Historic Village is in no way affiliated with American Girl Doll or Mattel. Visit our website for more details.

Open Late Every Thursday!

Every Thursday in June, July, & August | 10am-7pm

General Admission Rate Apply

Visit our website for more details on each program listed below.

- **Every Thursday:** Enjoy a self-guided tour that last about 1 hour. Complete a scavenger hunt for a prize! All included with General Admission
- **1st Thursday:** Guided Tours of the Village will begin at 5:30pm. Included with General Admission.
- **2nd Thursday:** Games will be available on the Green and pedal cars to test drive from 4pm-7pm. Included with General Admission.
- **3rd Thursday:** History Interpreters will be out and about from 4pm-7pm. Included with General Admission.
- **4th Thursday:** Join us for 30-minute presentation at 5:30pm in the Old Troy Church on those that settled Troy into the City it is today. Included with General Admission.



Partner Project: Ice Cream Spade

Wednesday July 22 | 6-9pm

THS Member: \$175/pair | Non-member: \$210/pair

Come forge an “ice cream spade” as you discover the world of traditional blacksmithing! The two of you will learn 5 hand forging techniques while making this fun serving utensil together. There will be a 30 minute break in this 3 hour class. One partner must be 18 years or older. A child partner must be age 10 years or older. No prerequisite.

Blacksmithing Sampler

Saturday July 25 | 10-11:30am

THS Member: \$48 | Non-member: \$58

Step alongside the Village forge and discover what it's like to “make the anvil ring!” Learn 4 basic hand forging techniques while making your own square tapered nail as it was done centuries ago. Ages 10 and older. No prerequisite.



School Bookings Open: August 12 at 10am!

Attention teachers! The Village will begin taking school bookings for the 2026-27 school year on Wednesday August 12! Those interested in booking a field trip should get their request in as soon as possible as the calendar fills up very quickly – especially for spring. Call the Village Education line at (248) 524-3598 to get your field trip booked. Visit TroyHistoricVillage.org for more information.





TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE

where history lives

SUMMER ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE

Troy Traffic Jam

Sunday August 2,
9am-3pm
FREE to the Public,
\$5 donation for Parking
Appreciated!
Car Participants: \$30



per Vehicle Pre-registration, \$35 per Vehicle Day Of
The 18th annual Troy Traffic Jam will display 300+ cars ranging from antiques to high performance vehicles. This year we are celebrating AMERICA'S ANNIVERSARY by featuring a museum selection of iconic American cars, cars with patriotic themes, and historic military vehicles.

Summer Exhibit: Telling Troy's Stories

June – August
Included with General Admission
Monday – Friday, 10am-3pm &
Thursday, 10am-7pm



How has Troy become the largest and most diverse city in Oakland County? Explore the Village and the stories across two hundred years of settling Troy. Alongside historic buildings and stories of pioneers you will find stories from your own neighbors as students and adults across Troy contribute to this exhibit celebrating America's Anniversary.

Why Troy Oral Histories

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00pm | And by appointment
FREE Reservation Required | All Ages

Come tell us about your family's story! In conjunction with America250, the Village is looking to record the stories of Troy today. Share about why your family moved to Troy, your favorite memory of living in Troy, and more by giving an oral history. *Telling Troy's Story and related programs are made possible with support from America250MI.*



Troy Historical Society Summer Raffle

Tickets available June 2 – July 8
Tickets: \$5 each or \$20 for 5 tickets

Our annual Summer Raffle is back with ten baskets valued at over \$300 each! Enter to win fabulous prizes while supporting Troy Historic Village. Prize details will be posted online, at the Village, and on social media. Winners will be drawn and notified on July 8. Need not be present to win.

Constitution Cafés

Select Sundays, 2pm | FREE



Utilizing the Socratic Method of inquiry, engage in civil discourse to explore different aspects of the Constitution each month. *Sponsored by the Oakland County Bar Foundation.*

- **June 14: The Right to Natural Resources**
- **July 12: The Right to Bargain Collectively?**
- **August 9: A Michigan Constitutional Convention**

Thursday Talks

Select Thursdays, 2pm

THS Member: \$10 | Non-member: \$15
Join us each month for history talks led by guest presenters or Village staff on various topics.



- **June 25: Northwest Detroit** Jewish Historical Society of Michigan
- **July 16: Michigan in 1776** THV Staff
- **August 20: Vernor's Ginger Ale** Author Keith Wunderlich

Preservation Conversations on the Road!

Select Day, 3pm | THS Members \$10 | Non-members \$15

Preservation Conversations on the Road will meet up at various locations around Metro Detroit for a tour that considers an aspect of historic preservation. Maps and information about where to meet will be sent out via email prior to the tour.

- **Monday June 8: The Kit Houses of Clawson**
- **Tuesday July 14: Historic & Modern Pewabic Pottery**
- **Monday August 10: An Insider's Tour of Albert Kahn's Fisher Building**

Museum Yoga

Thursdays: June 25, July 23, & August 27 | 6-7pm

THS Members: \$10/class | Non-member: \$12/class

Instructors from Troy-based Explore Yoga studio will lead students through yoga postures and breathwork in classes appropriate for all levels of experience, from beginner to advanced. You must bring your own mat.

Members-Only Meetup: Refreshments on the Green

Friday May 29, 4-6pm | Free for THS Members

We invite members to take the first look at our summer exhibit: "Telling Troy's Stories." Hosted by our Troy Historical society Board of Trustees, enjoy a cold drink and light snack while you mingle with other folks passionate about history.

Classics Book Club

Thursday July 30, 5:30-7pm

FREE | Registration Required with Troy Public Library

Join us for a vibrant, immersive discussion of the American classic, "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne! Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston, Massachusetts, during the years 1642 to 1649, the book tells the story of Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an affair and will not reveal her lover's identity.



Watercolor Classes

Select Days, Times Vary

Ages 16 & older

THS Member: \$40/class

Non-member: \$48/class

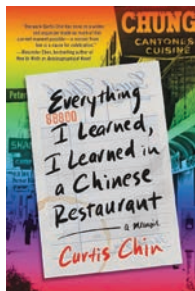
Watercolor teacher and artist Megan Swoyer guides students in using watercolor techniques to create colorful scenes. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.

- Wednesday June 3, 4:30-6:30pm: Tulip Mania
- Wednesday June 10, 4:30-6:30pm: Summers Bounty
- Tuesday June 30, 5:30-7:30pm: Watercolor Basics for Beginners
- Tuesday July 28, 5:30-7:30pm: Wading Egret

Great Michigan Read

Select Dates | FREE

Free copies of "Curtis Chin's Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant" are available at the Village until August on a first come, first served basis.



Upcoming Related Programs:

Watercolor Art Journaling, Part 1

Wednesday June 17, 5:30-8:30pm

THS Member: \$60 | Non-member: \$68

This mindful class is sure to relax you and put you in the moment as you observe your relationship with life through pen and paint. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided including a journal and pen.

Collecting Your Memories

Wednesday July 15, 5:30-7pm | FREE | Registration Requested

You might not see your day-to-day life particularly noteworthy, but we promise that it is historic! Come see pieces from our archive that tell the story of someone's daily life and help paint a picture of what life was like 100 or even 200 years ago. Come get inspired to preserve your story!



The 2025-2026 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including: The Meijer Foundation, Library of Michigan, and MSU Federal Credit Union.

Basic Blacksmithing Level 1

Choose Between:

- Wednesdays, June 3-July 8
6:30-9pm
- Saturdays, June 6-July 18
(No class on July 4)
10am-12:30pm



THS Member: \$310 | Non-member: \$360

Learn 12 basic hand-forging techniques as you make your own trowel. Ages 12 & older. No prerequisite. Classes for Basic Blacksmithing Levels 2-4 are forming now! Visit TroyHistoricVillage.org to add your name to the scheduling list.

Iron Jewelry Weekend Intensive

August 15 & 16 | 10am - 4pm

THS Member: \$310 | Non-member: \$360

Nearly every metal when first discovered, including iron, found its earliest function in decorating the human body. Learn ancient jewelry techniques while creating your own modern day piece with a nod to the past. Ages 16 & older. Prerequisite: Basic Blacksmithing Level 1.

Introductory Copper & Iron Workshop

Monday, August 3 - Friday, August 7 | 6pm-8:30pm

THS Member: \$260 | Non-member: \$310

Learn the traditional arts of coppersmithing and blacksmithing as you make a unique bird feeder mobile. Ages: 15 & older. No prerequisite.

Intermediate Copper & Iron Workshop

Monday, August 10 - Friday, August 14 | 6pm-8:30pm

THS Member: \$260 | Non-member: \$310

Returning students will further develop their raising skills and other coppersmithing techniques as they design and embellish a vessel of their choice. Ages 16 & older. Prerequisite: Introductory Copper & Iron Workshop.

Village Crafting Circle

Sundays: June 14, July 12, & August 9 | 10am-2pm

FREE | Registration Requested

Do you have a craft you enjoy? The Village will open to crafters to bring in their own supplies and socialize with other crafters. Stay for the entire time or come for an hour!

Historic Bread Making Class

Choose Between:

- Saturday July 18, 9am-3:30pm
 - Wednesday August 5, 10:30am-5pm
- THS Member \$100 | Non-member: \$120

You'll learn the basics of using a clay oven and explore early American bread-making techniques. The workshop will be led by professional baker and historian Jeff Pavlik. No experience is necessary and all supplies will be provided. Ages 14 & older.

Become a Villager Today!

Support quality, engaging education for all ages and enjoy:

- FREE Admission to the Village
- Discounts on Village programs
- 10% discount on your Village Gift Shop purchases
- "Members Only" Tours for new and existing members
- The option to purchase a discounted two-year membership
- Quarterly Village Press and regular news updates
- An invitation to the Annual Members Meeting and Ice Cream Social

YES! I want to be a Villager. Please process my Troy Historical Society membership at the following level:

- \$35/one year \$60/two years Individual Membership**
One adult 18 or older
- \$55/one year \$90/two years Household Membership**
Up to 6 adults and/or children
- \$150/one year \$250/two years Patron Membership**
Up to 6 adults and/or children
Additional benefits include:
- 4 tickets to the Annual Barnard Bash Donor Event
 - North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Membership
- \$350/one year \$600/two years Barnard Benefactor**
Up to 10 adults and/or children
Additional benefits include Patron-level plus:
- 20% discount on the base rate of any Village Rental
- \$1000 one year Business Membership**
Call us today for more information!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

The quarterly Village Press Newsletter will be emailed to you unless you check this box

Already a Villager?

I would like to make an additional donation to the Troy Historic Village. Please put \$ _____ towards the general fund to support preservation and programs at the Village.

Payment Options:

- Enclosed Check / Check # _____
- Call the Village at 248-524-3570 or visit www.troyhistoricvillage.org/membership to pay by credit card

Return completed form & payment to:
60 W. Wattles Road, Troy, MI 48098
Make checks payable to: Troy Historical Society

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