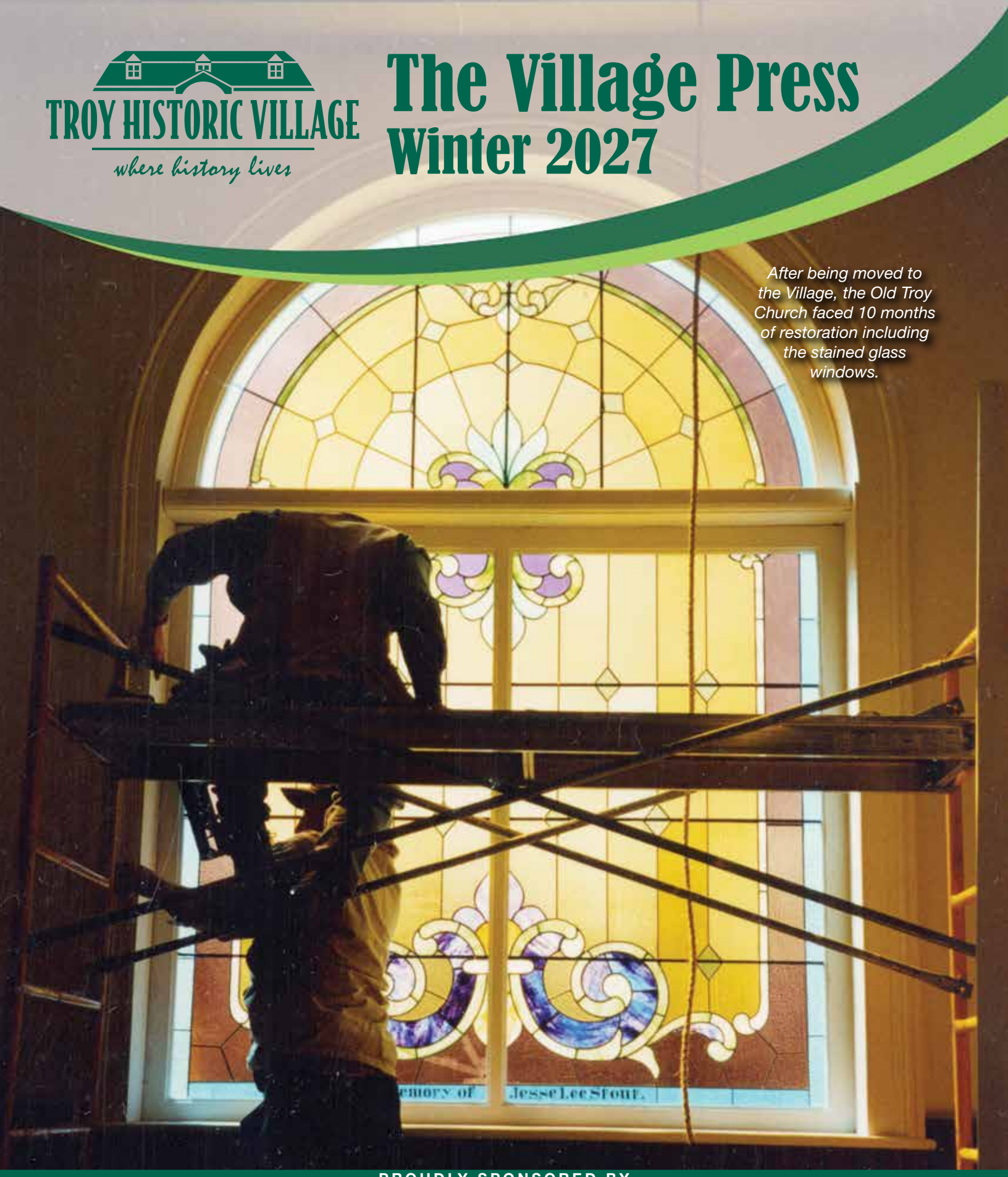
TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE
where history lives

The Village Press
Winter 2027



After being moved to the Village, the Old Troy Church faced 10 months of restoration including the stained glass windows.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov
THE KRESGE FOUNDATION
MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL
TROY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
AMERICA250 MICHIGAN

THS News

Board Officers

Ken Heck
President

Kevin Enright
Vice President

Ken Meskin
Treasurer

Phyllis Jeden
Secretary

Board Members

Howard Adams
Jeni Carino
Kelly Jones
Jagdish Karira
Rosmary Kornacki
Kevin Lindsey
JoAnn Preston
Brian Goul

Advisory

Barbara Chambers
Padma Kuppa
Sue Lavender
John Lavender
Michael Nowosatko
Cindy Steward

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!

Board of Trustees Updates

During the Annual Members' Meeting in September, Ken Heck was re-elected for a 3-year term, and Kelly Jones, Phyllis Jeden, and Rosemary Kornacki were elected to their first 3-year terms on the Board of Trustees. We want to thank all our Board Members for another year of service to the Troy Historical Society and Troy Historic Village!



THANK YOU, Barbara, Sue, Michael, and Cindy!

Sue Lavender, Barbara Chambers, Michael Nowosatko, and Cindy Stewart recently retired after serving a combined 63 years on the Board! Sue joined the Board while the Village was still managed by the City and helped in the transition of operations. Barbara, Michael, and Cindy all joined in 2011 just after the Board signed their first operating agreement. They all helped navigate all sorts of changes from logo and branding to human resources and thinking like a business more than a typical historical society. All four of our board retirees have agreed to a 2-year advisory term.



THANK YOU, Scarecrow Row Sponsors!

You can see the full list of Scarecrow Row sponsors online at www.TroyScarecrowRow.com. With 91 scarecrows, this was our biggest year yet! Please consider supporting those amazing businesses across the Troy area that support the Village through this FUNdraiser!

Congratulations!

Alex Konieczny and Shelby Nelsen received Michigan Museum Association (MMA) Colleague Champion Awards at the 2026 MMA Conference. Alex was recognized for being a great mentor and teacher to his fellow colleagues. Shelby was recognized for being a team player and elevating Village operations. We are so thankful for their contributions and dedication to the Village!





Executive Director...

Jen Peters

Funding the Future

As we wrapped up this summer's popular *Telling Troy's Story* exhibit at the Village, we immediately started looking towards next summer. As possible topics were considered, we looked at all the things we have coming up in 2027. We are working with the City of Troy right now to schedule the next steps of the West End Expansion Project which will include moving the Log Cabin in the spring. We are scheduling restoration work on the Old Troy Church's stained-glass windows to begin in the summer. We also have some landmark dates to celebrate - the Main Building will turn 100-years-old, and the Niles-Barnard House will turn 200-years-old! 2027 is full of exciting things around the Village that remind us of the past and push us into the future.

All of that has us reflecting on how the Village was built. How did the historic preservation movement, a group of concerned citizens, and a city experiencing growth all come together? What buildings were moved and why? What was the early vision and how does that compare with how we think about and use the Village today? How do you move and preserve a building? Over the next issues of the Village Press we'll dive deep into some of these questions, then next summer you will have the chance to explore our research with an exhibit called *Building a Village*.

A key part of the Village's story has always been funding. In 1966, when they were forming the Troy Historical Society, the federal government passed the National Historic Preservation Act. Public sentiment to preserve history was finally matched by federal policy and it had an impact on local decisions. When the City of Troy outgrew the first City Hall, now our Main Building, they recognized the importance of the building and invested in making it a museum rather than selling the land or tearing it down. Shortly after, the Troy Historical Society raised funds to preserve the Caswell House and move it to the City owned property. The partnership formed 60 years ago continues today as we work with the City of Troy to continue building the Village.

I'm excited about what 2027 is going to bring, but I'm not stopping there! Yes, we do history which often has us looking back at the past, but we also do education which is all about building for the future. A few weeks ago, former Village Executive Director Loraine Campbell made a generous $10,000 donation to the Village. After 20 years at the helm, she knows firsthand how every penny counts. More than that, she knows how every penny builds the future by investing in the Village and the staff who use this space to connect and inspire students of all ages.



Niles-Barnard House Ribbon Cutting in 2021. Left to Right: Fred Barnard, Jen Peters, Ethan Baker, Padma Kuppa, and Loraine Campbell.

Loraine and I talked about the best use for her donation, and we decided we wanted to challenge all of you to look towards the future as well! First, through your year-end gift that will support the ongoing programs at the Village. Our goal is for all of you to MATCH that $10,000 gift. Then, think about what is next. Maybe it's a donation to the Village Endowment, maybe it's putting the Village in your will or trust, or maybe it's rolling up your sleeves and adding a little sweat equity to a place that will connect and inspire students for generations to come. Whatever you decide, we hope we'll see you at the Village soon!

TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE

where history lives

Address:
60 W. Wattles Rd.
Troy, MI 48098

Phone:
248-524-3570

Website:
www.troyhistoricvillage.org

Facebook:
/troyhistvillage

Village Critter Corner:
(Private Group on Facebook)
/groups/thvcrittercorner

Instagram:
@troyhistvillage

Winter Hours:
Monday – Friday, 10am – 3pm
Select Saturdays & Sundays for special events and rentals
Closed: Dec 4, Dec 11, Dec 24-Jan1

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.

60 Years with the National Historic Preservation Act

by Jen Peters, Troy Historic Village Executive Director

On October 15, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which established a new federal era of leadership in the preservation of historic properties. Prior to the NHPA, preservation was a patchwork of local beloved sites, scattered national sites, and a smattering of national laws and acts. The NHPA brought many of these pieces together in a comprehensive partnership between the federal government and states, tribal, and local governments that was supported by federal funding for preservation activities. 60 years later, pieces of the NHPA have recently made headlines as they are under pressure from multiple sides.



President Johnson signing the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966.

Prior to the 1960s, historic preservation was, according to a 2015 column in The Washington Post, "neither a public policy issue nor part of America's architectural, planning and real estate development culture. Historic-preservation laws didn't exist." Europe came to terms with preservation following the mass destruction of cities during World War II. With so many buildings lost, there was an effort to protect the history wrapped within the buildings that remained. Here in America, we were experiencing an economic boom and often new was simply considered better.



New York's Penn Station before demolition.



New York's Penn Station during demolition.

Growth and development in the 1950s and 1960s included federally funded initiatives. The Housing Act of 1949 provided federal funds to local governments for slum clearance and redevelopment. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 authorized $25 billion in funding for the construction of 41,000 miles of Interstate Highways. While both initiatives were needed, they supported development and growth with very little regard for history or culture. This sentiment of favoring growth over preservation led directly to the loss of buildings like New York's Penn Station, a grand 1910 Beaux-Arts railroad station, despite public outcry.

Change took the right political climate. Following his narrow election win in 1960, President John F. Kennedy tried to move forward with his "New Frontier" vision. His focus was forcibly turned in other directions like the Cuban Missile Crisis, increasing tensions in Asia, and the Civil Rights Movement. Following President Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson championed Civil Rights and a series of anti-poverty programs collectively known as the Great Society. Using public sentiment (Johnson was reelected with 61% of the popular vote), he sought to use the power of the federal government to address economic inequality, improve education and healthcare, and promote Civil Rights.

Great Society legislation and programs included everything from the Voting Rights and Civil Rights Acts to Medicare and Medicaid to the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Endangered Species Acts. Programs like the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities created funding that supported projects at the state and national levels. Two Great Society conferences resulted in "With Heritage so Rich", a report that remains one of the most evocative and powerful statements for historic preservation and formed the basis for the NHPA.

With those pieces in place, the NHPA had the support to get passed in 1966. The NHPA identified the importance of historic preservation to the nation, created the National Register of Historic Places, established State Historic Preservation Offices, created the 106 Review Process to protect historic and cultural sites, created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and established funding and support for preservation efforts through federal funding, grants, and tax incentives. For 60 years, these tools have been used to protect and promote historic and cultural sites including Troy Historic Village.

The Road to the National Historic Preservation Act

1825 Congress appropriates funds for a monument at Bunker Hill, site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle. At the time, it was the only federally funded monument on a historic site.

1853 Ann Pamela Cunningham founds the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to preserve and restore Mount Vernon, the site of President George Washington's mansion and plantation.

1863 David McConaughy forms the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association to start collecting funds for the purpose of purchasing land for preservation of the battlefield.

1872 Congress establishes Yellowstone National Park "as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" and places it "under exclusive control of the Secretary of the Interior" within the Federal Government.

1876 During the nation's centennial and following the devastating Civil War, Congress funds monuments on eight Revolutionary War battlefields in an effort to bring the nation together.

1895 Gettysburg officially becomes a National Military Park administered by the War Department. Four more Civil War battlefield sites were preserved in the 1890s.

1906 President Theodore Roosevelt signs the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities to preserve and protect Federal Lands that included historic and cultural sites.

1916 President Woodrow Wilson created the National Park Service, a new federal bureau in the Department of the Interior responsible for protecting the 35 national parks and monuments then managed by the Department and those yet to be established.

1933 The Historic American Buildings Survey puts unemployed architects to work during the Great Depression recording historic and endangered sites as part of the New Deal.

1935 Congress passes the Historic Sites Act to organize the myriad of federally owned parks, monuments, and historic sites under the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior. It declared for the first time "...that it is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance..."

1949 Congress charters the National Trust for Historic Preservation to advance the policies established by the Historic Sites Act and "provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities."

Troy Historic Village's Greatest Hits

by Amelia Walker, Troy Historic Village Historic Interpreter & Communications Intern

The Troy Historical Society turned 60 in 2026! As part of our celebration, we are looking back on our history and the makings of Troy Historic Village.

On February 17, 1966, the Troy Historical Committee met, with Morris Wattles as its Chairman, to form the Troy Historical Society. During that meeting, the group established the Troy Historical Society and set the Society's purpose to preserve and teach Troy's history.

A 1966 City Ordinance gave the Society the ability to collect and catalog items of historical significance for the City of Troy. This ordinance came a few months before the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law on October 15, 1966. The Act established the National Register of Historic Places, designated National Landmarks, and created State Historic Preservation Offices to oversee historic preservation programs in every state. Through this Act, the federal government became a full partner and steward of historic preservation in the United States.

With both local and federal support, the Troy Historical Society held its first official meeting on March 29, 1966, where the members discussed the Society's mission and vision. The Troy Historical Society was incorporated as a non-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation shortly after. In 1967, what we now call the Pioneer Room was restored to its original purpose as a tribute to the pioneers of Troy with an archive for Troy-related artifacts. Today, we use the Pioneer Room as a classroom where field trip students dip candles and adults learn traditional crafts.

In 1969, what was then known as the Old Troy City Hall, opened as a public museum for three days each week thanks to volunteers. The City of Troy owned and operated the new museum with the oversight of two groups of volunteers, the Troy Historic Commission and Troy Historic District Commission. The Old Troy City Hall was originally built in 1927 as the Troy Township Hall and is now our Main Building where staff offices are located and where visitors first step into the Village.

From 1968 to 2005, the Troy Historical Society and the City of Troy raised funds to move buildings to the then empty site. The first building to be relocated was the Caswell House, built by Soloman Caswell, which was originally located on Adams Road, slightly north of Big Beaver Road. The Caswell family was the only family to live in the house, so when there were no future generations to inherit the house, the House and the valuable land it sat on was sold to the North Hills Christian Reform Church. Instead of demolishing the House, it was donated to the Troy Historical Society who worked with the City of Troy to move it to its current location at the Village. Caswell House was restored and opened as a museum space in 1973 as a lone figure with no green space.



The Caswell House crossing the Wattles Road overpass of I-75 in 1968.

In the early 1970s, Poppleton School faced demolition. The one-room schoolhouse was built in 1877 and was originally located on the northwest corner of Big Beaver Road and Crooks Road. Over the years, more classroom spaces were added on, and the building served as the school for hundreds of young Troy students. In 1976, the community came together for the bicentennial to move Poppleton next to the Caswell House. In 1980, Poppleton School was dismantled to be transported to what was then the Troy Historical Museum as it was too heavy to travel on I-75. After the building was reassembled, field trips to the one-room schoolhouse began and have continued ever since.

The relocation and restoration of the Caswell House and Poppleton School brought an influx of donations of historic artifacts and monetary support. In 1978, the Troy Historical Society decided to renovate the water testing station and transform it into a print shop thanks to the donation of a large printing collection including a proof press, several sizes of printing presses, and type cases. Though we are not sure what presses were originally used in Troy, the impressive collection was too good to pass up, and the Troy Historical Society saw the benefits of sharing it with their community. Shortly after the Print Shop opened, the

Gazebo was also constructed in the center of the four buildings, and a fence was put around the perimeter of the grounds. This is where we see a village start to take shape. Today, the proof press in the Print Shop is used on a regular basis for field trips and public programs. The Gazebo is now the center of the Village Green complimented by the beautiful gardens cared for by the Troy Garden Club.



The Log Cabin being rebuilt at the Village in 1982.

During the 1980s, three more buildings were brough to the site. In 1982, Monroe County donated an 1840s log cabin to the Troy Historical Society, and the Troy Historical Society raised funds to have the cabin dismantled, moved, and rebuilt at the Troy Historical Museum as the Log Cabin. Today, you can find students making butter in the Log Cabin, reenactors using the fireplace to bake cookies, and History Interpreters tending to vegetables in the Pioneer Garden right outside.

In 1987, Troy Union School was relocated to the Troy Historical Museum where community members including local Boy Scouts helped renovate the school into Troy Township's original Town Hall. Today, the Town Hall is a multi-use space for activities like tin punching for field trips, and artists during events like Handcrafted: A Traditional Trades and Crafts Fair.

In 1989, construction began on a replica of the General Store at Troy Corners that had been destroyed. The General Store was also a stop for the Detroit United Railway and was the Township's Post Office from 1898 to 1931. The replica building houses a recreation of the original General Store on the first floor, and the second floor houses part of the archive. Today, the General Store is used during field trips to talk about toys of the past and becomes a real store during Victorian Christmas in December.

In 1997, the City of Troy and the Troy Historical Society purchased a church and parsonage located at the intersection of Square Lake and Livernois Roads. The Troy Historical Society wanted to move the buildings to the Village; however, legal action stopped the project for five years until 2002. The structures were then moved to their current spots at the Village in 2003. The Old Troy Church and Parsonage are now interpreted as sister-buildings to showcase their historical relationship.

In 2005, Harriet Barnard donated the Niles-Barnard House to Troy Historic Village. Johnson Niles, one of the first settlers of Troy, built the house which was later purchased by Norman and Harriet Barnard. It was inside this house that the plan to incorporate Troy into a city was hatched. The home moved to the Village in 2010, was renovated, and officially opened for use in 2021. Today, we use the Niles-Barnard House as a rental venue, and for a variety of programs from Cheddar's Preschool Story Time to Watercolor Classes.



Front signage being changed from "Troy Museum & Historic Village" to "Troy Historic Village."

Due to the 2008 recession, the City of Troy planned to close the Troy Historic Village and Museum by 2011. Civic leaders met to discuss alternatives, and in December 2010 the Troy Historical Society submitted a proposal to take over the operational management of the museum. The City of Troy and the Troy Historical Society then worked together to create an operations agreement, which was approved in March of 2011. The City of Troy and the Troy Historical Society have since updated and renewed the agreement in 2016 and 2026. The City of Troy still owns the property, buildings, and collections, while the Troy Historical Society operates Troy Historic Village.

Today, Troy Historic Village offers a multitude of programs and classes for people of all ages and backgrounds. Over 28,000 guests visit us each year. We are grateful for the support we have received over the last 60 years and are excited to continue preserving and sharing Troy's history.

The Show Must Go On: Meadow Brook Theatre's 60-Year History

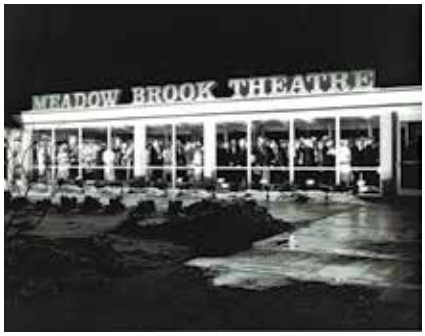
by Dahjuanna Jones, Administrative Assistant at Meadow Brook Theatre

Founded in June of 1966, Meadow Brook Theatre stands today as a testament to artistic resilience, community devotion, and an enduring love for the performing arts. Celebrating its 60th anniversary milestone this year, "Michigan's Answer to Broadway"—a title bestowed upon the theatre by a patron—boasts a storied past deeply intertwined with the growth of higher education and cultural enrichment in Southeast Michigan. What began as an ambitious university project has evolved into a thriving, independent nonprofit institution that has weathered financial crises, management overhauls, and a major institutional divorce, all while keeping the curtains open for generations of theatregoers.

The Foundation and the British Invasion (1957–1970)

The roots of Meadow Brook Theatre reach back to 1957, when Alfred G. and Matilda Wilson donated their 1,600-acre estate and $2 million to establish Michigan State University at Oakland, which is now Oakland University. The first chancellor, Durward B. Varner, envisioned the campus as a premier cultural hub for Southeast Michigan. He firmly believed that a professional, resident theatre company would secure that reputation.

University leadership recognized that success required combining world-class creative expertise with dedicated community backing. Provost Donald O'Dowd was tasked with securing artistic leadership. He successfully recruited John Fernald, the internationally acclaimed director and head of the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, to aid this massive undertaking. Though original campus plans omitted a physical theatre space, the university quickly modified the blueprints of Wilson Hall—which was already under construction as a large lecture hall—to accommodate a proper stage.



View from outside Meadow Brook Theatre during the opening of The Caucasian Chalk Circle on January 3, 1967 (courtesy of Meadow Brook Theatre).

In 1966, the John Fernald Company arrived, and its troupe of former Royal Academy of Dramatic Art actors and instructors moved into 14 trailers parked on campus. Under Fernald's ambitious direction, Meadow Brook Theatre opened for its inaugural season on January 3, 1967, with Bertolt Brecht's The Caucasian Chalk Circle. Later that autumn, Fernald helped establish the Academy of Dramatic Arts. Operating independently of University credit, the Academy of Dramatic Arts functioned as a bridge connecting aspiring young actors with veteran mentors.

The Kilburn Era and Artistic Expansion (1970–2003)

While Fernald's productions were artistic triumphs, they were also financially unsustainable. His preference for grand, large-cast European masterpieces left the theatre in debt by the spring of 1970. A budget disagreement triggered a management shift, and by July, Academy of Dramatic Arts instructor and Meadow Brook Theatre actor-director Terence Kilburn was named interim artistic director.

Kilburn completely transformed the theatre's trajectory. He skillfully scaled down Fernald's costly upcoming season into an affordable lineup without sacrificing production value. Under his steady guidance, the theatre flourished. Meadow Brook Theatre balanced classic masterpieces by Shakespeare and Molière with fresh, contemporary scripts, maximizing its appeal across demographic lines. Subscription rates skyrocketed, making regular tickets an elusive commodity for non-subscribers.

A cornerstone of Kilburn's decades-long tenure was his recruitment of director Charles Nolte. Nolte directed several of Meadow Brook Theatre's most celebrated productions, including The Andersonville Trial by Saul Levitt, Inherit the Wind by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, and Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller, alongside the world premieres of his own original plays, A Summer Remembered and The Last Days of Mr. Lincoln. Most notably, in the winter of 1982, Nolte adapted and directed Meadow Brook Theatre's very first production of A Christmas Carol. This holiday tradition has run for 44 consecutive years, utilizing Nolte's original staging and adaptation to anchor family traditions across Michigan.



Program from Meadow Brook Theatre's production of Tartuffe by Molière from the 1970/1971 season (courtesy of Meadow Brook Theatre).

Separation, Survival, and the Modern Era (2003–Present)

Though born out of institutional synergy, the structural ties between Oakland University and Meadow Brook Theatre dissolved in 2003. Facing the threat of permanent closure, a dedicated collective of staff members and patrons stepped forward. Thus, the Theatre Ensemble was established as an independent 501.c.3 nonprofit organization. Operating under a facility lease contract with Oakland University, the new entity preserved the theatre's physical home and historic name.

The initial transitional period brought immense financial and operational volatility. The theatre's survival during this vulnerable time is widely credited to Cheryl L. Marshall, whose deep working knowledge of the facility and fierce commitment stabilized operations as she stepped into the role of Managing Director—a leadership position she proudly holds to this day. Alongside Marshall, preserving a seasoned technical core proved vital to rebuilding the brand. Several staff members from both backstage and front of house remained loyal to the venue, ensuring production continuity.



The final scene from Meadow Brook Theatre's 2024 production of A Christmas Carol (courtesy of Sean Carter Photography).

Artistic leadership saw its own changing of the guard when Oakland University alumnus and longtime Meadow Brook Theatre actor Travis W. Walter was named interim artistic director before earning the official title at the close of the 2009/2010 season. Walter and Marshall dynamically modernized the theatre's repertoire. High-profile, star-studded productions provided crucial box-office boosts during the transition, notably Dan Goggin's Nunsense starring Cindy Williams and Sister Amnesia's Country Western Nunsense Jamboree starring Lee Meriwether. At the same time, the theatre embarked on its longstanding commitment to producing one-of-a-kind Michigan premieres.

Over its six decades, Meadow Brook Theatre has served as a launchpad and home for exceptional performance talent. The early days showcased actors like Curtis Armstrong, Robert Englund, and William Hurt. The theatre's artistic excellence has continued with many of its performers having made appearances on Broadway like Jackie Raye, Gary-Kayi Fletcher, David Damane, and Angela Birchett. Others like Jayne Houdyshell, Raul Esparza, and Chris Blisset have been recognized for their talent with awards and nominations from the Tony Awards and Drama Desk.

Today, Meadow Brook Theatre steadfastly pursues its core mission "to create a season of innovative, Broadway-quality theatre productions that make audiences smile, laugh and cry, enriching the cultural experience of the community in Southeast Michigan." Six decades of survival prove that its historic legacy rests securely on a bedrock of community love, technical excellence, and an unyielding commitment to the stage.

Thank You to Our 2026 Volunteers!

by Barbara Hubbard, Troy Historic Village Volunteer Coordinator & Administrative Assistant

Each year, Village volunteers donate over four-thousand hours of their own time to help us bring our mission to life. 2026 was another year of excellent volunteer contributions at anticipated annual events, brand new programs, and record-breaking fundraisers. Our volunteers helped distribute flyers and post cards at events and around town, greeted you and your family at a program, shared information about our historic homes during a Village Open Late, led a super fun activity during a community event, and so much more.



This past year, we welcomed over 28,000 guests to the Village and a lot of teamwork happened behind the scenes to bring everything together. Our volunteers dipped thousands of candles and applied tens of thousands of pieces of tape to tin and popsicle sticks for field trips, built and maintained 91 scarecrows, helped us host the inaugural city-wide Volunteer Fair, helped park over 300 cars at Troy Traffic Jam, recruited sponsorships for our Summer Raffle baskets, and sold lots of tickets for our 50/50 Raffle.



Preserving and maintaining our resources is another task our volunteers are passionate about. Volunteers donated their craftsmanship and attention to detail to build a dollhouse for us to display in the Parsonage, installed shelves in the basement for better storage, scanned documents into our digital collection, cleaned up archival spaces, managed our Pioneer Garden, and helped us preserve and restore our 99-year-old Main Building.





It's impossible to list all the ways that our volunteers make a difference at Troy Historic Village because they accomplish so much in so many ways. It's true what they say – it really does take a Village! Please join us in thanking and appreciating all of our Village volunteers as we enter 2027!



















DECEMBER 2026

Dec 2 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
Dec 2 **Watercolor Ornaments & Old Fashioneds** 5:30-8pm
Dec 4 **Village CLOSED**
Dec 5 **Cocoa & Crafts with Santa** 11am-2pm
Dec 6 **Cocoa & Crafts with Santa** 11am-2pm
Dec 7 **Chunky Kint Blankets Class** 5:30-7:30pm
Dec 11 **Village CLOSED**
Dec 11 **Victorian Christmas** 6pm-8:30pm
Dec 12 **Victorian Christmas** 10am-1:30pm & 6pm-8:30pm
Dec 13 **Village Crafting Circle** 10am-2pm
Dec 13 **Constitution Café** 2pm
Dec 15 **Watercolor Class** 5:30-7:30pm
Dec 17 **Thursday Talks** 2pm
Dec 21 **Longest Nights in the Village** 4pm-7pm
Dec 22 **Longest Nights in the Village** 4pm-7pm
Dec 23 **Longest Nights in the Village** 4pm-7pm
Dec 24-Jan 1 **Village CLOSED**

JANUARY 2027

Jan 6 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
Jan 12 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm-7:30pm
Jan 10 **Village Crafting Circle** 10am-2pm
Jan 10 **Constitution Café** 2pm
Jan 18 **Tea Towel Embroidery for Beginners** 5:30pm-7:30pm
Jan 20 **Watercolor Class** 5:30pm-7:30pm
Jan 21 **Thursday Talks** 2pm
Jan 21 **Village Open Late** until 7pm
Jan 25 **Preservation Conversations** 2pm
Jan 28 **Classics Book Club** 5:30-7pm

FEBRUARY 2027

Feb 1 **Soap Making for Beginners** 5:30-7:30pm
Feb 3 **Cheddar's Story Time** 10:30am
Feb 6 **Members-Only Meetup** 11am-12:30pm
Feb 10 **Watercolor Class** 4:30-6:30pm
Feb 14 **Village Crafting Circle** 10am-2pm
Feb 14 **Constitution Café** 2pm
Feb 15 **Free Mid-Winter Break Open House** 10am-3pm
Feb 16 **Free Mid-Winter Break Open House** 10am-3pm
Feb 16 **Pinot, Paint, & Pizza** 5:30-8pm
Feb 18 **Thursday Talks** 2pm
Feb 22 **Preservation Conversations** 2pm
Feb 23 **Live the Story** 4:30-6pm
Feb 25 **Village Open Late** until 7pm

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Come join us! Learn a new skill, find your people, and give back to your community. Fill out a volunteer application by scanning the QR or visit www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/support/volunteer You can also stop by the Village to pick one up!

GROWN-UP GROUP GATHERS

Explore history with your group! Schedule a presentation at your site for your next meeting, get-together, or resident activity. A variety of topics are available and can be combined with a visit to Troy Historic Village. For more information or to schedule a presentation, please contact APD@THVmail.org.

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

TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE

where history lives

WINTER KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE

Cocoa and Crafts with Santa



Sat. December 5, 11am–2pm &
Sun. December 6, 11am–2pm
In Advance:
THS Members: $7
Non-members: $9
(Advance Registration closes on Fri. December 4 at 12pm)
At The Door:
THS Members: $8
Non-members $10
All Children Under 2 Years Old: FREE

Start your season of family fun and holiday tradition at the Troy Historic Village! Spend time with Santa, make a simple holiday craft, play holiday games, and sample the sights and smells of the season. Warm up with hot cocoa, courtesy of Troy Garden Club. Register in advance at www.TroyHistoricVillage.org for reduced admission and early access to the Village! *Sponsored by Genisys Credit Union.*

GENISYS CREDIT UNION

Longest Nights in the Village



December 21, 22, & 23
4pm-7pm
General Admission Rates Apply | All Ages

Come visit the Village at night! Enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of a long winter night on the frontier. Admission includes a special Sources of Light scavenger hunt featuring historic lighting (great for kids and adults!) and a cup of warm cider or hot cocoa.

Free Mid-Winter Break Open House



Monday February 15 and Tuesday February 16, 10:00am – 3:00pm
FREE | All Ages

Visit the Village free of charge! Take a self-guide tour of our historic buildings including the Niles-Barnard House which is typically closed to visitors. People of all ages can complete one of our many scavenger hunts for a prize! *Sponsored by Savers Printing.*

SAVERS PRINTING

Live the Story



Tuesday February 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 program will focus on "I Survived the Children's Blizzard, 1888" by Lauren Tarshis. Participants will learn about the harsh conditions pioneers faced and make a craft to take home. Appropriate for ages 7 to 12. Troy Historic Village is in no way affiliated with Scholastic.





Village Open Late

January 21 & February 25 | 4pm-7pm
Included with General Admission
The Village will be Open Late, and the Villagers will be at work! History Interpreters will tend to chores around the cabin and work on seasonal activities. Come explore the Village and see what our pioneers are up to! Scavenger hunts will be available for kids. The Village will be open from 10am-7pm, and History Interpreters will be out in the Village from 4pm-7pm.



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.*

- **Wednesday December 2: Giving Gifts**
  This month's book: *The Elves and the Shoemaker*
  By Freya Littledale
  We will play matching games, work with fairytale sewing cards, look at tools shoemakers used long ago, make a craft, play with playdough and other holiday themed activities.
- **Wednesday January 6: Teddy Bear Invasion**
  This month's book: *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
  Bring your teddy bear or favorite stuffie! We will make teddy bear art, snack on Teddy Grahams and fruit, use playdough, and do other hands-on activities.
- **Wednesday February 3: Circles and Snowman**
  This month's book: *Snowmen at Night* by Caralyn Buehner
  We will sort circle shaped jumbo buttons, make a snowman craft, play a matching game with pretend doughnuts, and see what people wore in the cold long ago.

TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE

where history lives

WINTER ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS AT THE VILLAGE

Victorian Christmas



Friday December 11, 6:00pm-8:30pm
Saturday December 12, 10:00am–1:30pm & 6:00pm-8:30pm
In advance: THS Member: $10 Non-member: $12
At the door: THS Member: $12 Non-member $14
Experience Christmas during the Victorian Era! Wander the Village at your own pace and enjoy a variety of holiday activities including ornament-making, caroling music, and shopping. Costumed reenactors will be stationed inside a few buildings for timed presentations to share the Victorian Christmas experiences. Pasties will be available for purchase to enjoy with your complimentary hot cider and cocoa. Fun for all ages!

Classics Book Club



Thursday January 28, 5:30-7pm
FREE | Registration Required with Troy Public Library
Join us for a vibrant, immersive discussion of *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë! This 1847 novel tells the story of Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw—two characters driven by obsessive love, cruelty, and vengeance. Set in England's Yorkshire, the book explores themes of class and money, and how social status affects the decisions we make.

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.

- **December 17: Holidays in Hard Times** Shelby Nelsen, THV Adult Programs Director
- **January 21: Two Truths and a Rye** Amelia Walker, THV History Interpreter
- **February 18: The History of Braille and Seedlings Braille Books for Children** Amanda Hercula, Seedlings Executive Directorr

Members-Only Meetup: Coffee and Conversations

Saturday February 6 | 11am - 12:30pm
FREE for THS Members
Calling all members of the Troy Historical Society! Gather for an informal conversation about how to make the most of your membership and get to know others who enjoy and support the Troy Historic Village. Hosted by our Troy Historical Society Board of Trustees, this conversation is FREE to all members and includes a hot drink and a light snack. Not a member? Join today! Visit www.TroyHistoricVillage.org/Support/Membership for details.

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.*

OAKLAND COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

- **December 13: Legislative Powers!** Article I, Section 1 vests all legislative Powers are in Congress. But what are legislative powers? In this day and age, what can't Congress do?
- **January 10: Article I, Section 2, Choosing representatives!** To be a Representative, you have to have "qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature, 25 years old, and a citizen for seven years. Should these requirements be more... stringent?
- **February 14: Article I, Section 2: Taxes!** The first powers enumerated after qualifications for representatives is taxes and apportioning the number of representatives! We're supposed to have 1 representative for every 30,000 people. Why aren't we following that formula any longer?

Preservation Conversations

Select Mondays, 2pm | THS Member: FREE | Non-member: $7
Come join the conversation as we learn more about preserving and utilizing our historic assets! *Presented by the Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Charitable Trust.*

- **January 25: More than Queen Anne, Victorian Architecture in America** Jen Peters, THV Executive Director
- **February 22: Michigan Carnegie Libraries** Adam Oster, Library of Michigan

Chunky Knit Blankets Class

Monday December 7, 5:30-7:30pm | Ages 16 & older
THS Member: $60/class | Non-member: $68/class
In this class you'll learn the process for starting and completing a chunky knit lap blanket with the herringbone stitch pattern. At the end of the class, you'll take any remaining supplies home to finished blanket. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.

Tea Towel Embroidery for Beginner's

Monday January 18, 5:30-7:30pm | Ages 16 & older
THS Member: $40/class | Non-member: $48/class
In this class, you will learn about the tools, supplies, and three basic embroidery stitches. We will practice while learning the stitches. You'll take home your own embroidery hoop, needle, needle threader, and your choice of threads and pattern to continue using at home, plus a cute tea towel to embroider your design on. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.

Soap Making for Beginner's

Monday February 1, 5:30-7:30pm | Ages 16 & older
THS Member: $40/class | Non-member: $48/class
Join us for some good, clean fun! In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn the full cold process soap-making method to craft your own gentle, natural bar soap from scratch. You'll walk away with the tools to continue the craft at home. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.

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.

- **Tuesday December 15 @ 5:30-7:30pm** Holiday Berries & Pine
- **Tuesday January 12 @ 5:30-7:30pm** Nuthatch Nuances
- **Wednesday January 20 @ 4:30-6:30pm** Coneflower Delight
- **Wednesday February 10 @ 4:30-6:30pm** Snowy Barn

Watercolor Ornaments & Old Fashioneds



Wednesday December 2, 5:30-8:00pm
THS Member: $60 | Non-Member: $68 | Ages 21 & older
Enjoy creating clever holiday ornaments or gift tags while sipping on festive old fashioneds and indulging in a few sweet and savory treats! Watercolor teacher Megan Swoyer has a sleigh-full of ideas to make handcrafted beauties to decorate your home and holiday presents! No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.

Pinot, Paint, & Pizza

Tuesday February 16, 5:30-8:00pm
THS Member: $60 |Non-Member: $68 | Ages 21 & older
Grab a friend or treat yourself to a relaxing evening of painting lovely lavender and pretty roses as you sip delicious wine and enjoy a slice of pizza. No experience is necessary; all supplies will be provided.

Village Crafting Circle

Sundays: December 13, January 10, & February 14
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. Types of crafts include but are not limited to drawing, painting, all forms of needle work like crochet and knitting, whittling, and other hands-on crafts. Stay for the entire time or come for an hour!



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

Troy Historic Village
Troy Historical Society
60 W. Wattles Road
Troy MI 48098