



TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE
where history lives



Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Board of Trustees of the Troy Historical Society (THS) and staff of the Troy Historic Village (Village) present this Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30th, 2023 (FYE2023). We are pleased to report that **27,484 people visited the Troy Historic Village or attended Troy Historic Village programs this past fiscal year!** That number resembles our pre-Covid FYE2019 total attendance of 28,005 and represents a return to regular programming at the Village. Our biggest challenge moving forward is capacity: how much can we offer with the resources we have?

STAFF AND BOARD SUPPORT

Owned by the City of Troy and operated by the Troy Historical Society, the Troy Historic Village employs 3 full-time and 14 part-time staff members representing 8.5 full-time equivalents. In the past year, we hired a new business manager and increased our cleaning services to match our pre-Covid capacity. We added another flexible teaching staff position to scale up during our busy field trip season and for large community events; this staff person was also able to fill in for others on parental leave. The Troy Historic Village contracts regularly with a Graphic Designer, Webmaster, Blacksmith, and Watercolor Artist for operational and programmatic support.

During FYE2023, the Troy Historical Society worked to realign its committee structure to match the recently adopted Strategic Plan. Committees vary in composition, sometimes including staff or community members where appropriate:

- Village Growth and Direction Committee focuses on board and staff support and improvement.
- Finance Committee oversees the finances of THS and the Village.
- Fund Development Committee manages memberships, fundraisers, donors, and grants.
- Community Engagement Committee works to understand and partner with community organizations.
- Preservation, Innovation, and Education Committee works to utilize the Village buildings, grounds, and collections in the best possible way.



Troy Historical Society Board as of November 1, 2023

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AROUND THE VILLAGE

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Field Trips were back in full force! The Troy Historic Village was busy in the fall and booked solid from March to June hosting **9,660 students, 1,870 chaperones, and 476 teachers during the 2022-2023 school year.** In December 2022 with grant funding, we were able to pilot an Indigenous Voices program for Troy 5th grade students. With the help of Wayne Hardwick, a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and respected elder, we brought on other Indigenous partners to share their culture and heritage with three elementary schools. Using feedback from teachers, students, and presenters we hosted all Troy 5th graders in 2023.

PUBLIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Public programs for our youngest visitors included Summer Half-Day History programs with hands-on activities like cooking, punching tin, and exploring a soldier's life. Digger the Village Groundhog encouraged kids to explore the past using their senses and experience the Village after dark with a nighttime scavenger hunt. We spent time rebuilding our preschool audience this year

by marketing the depth of the Preschool Story

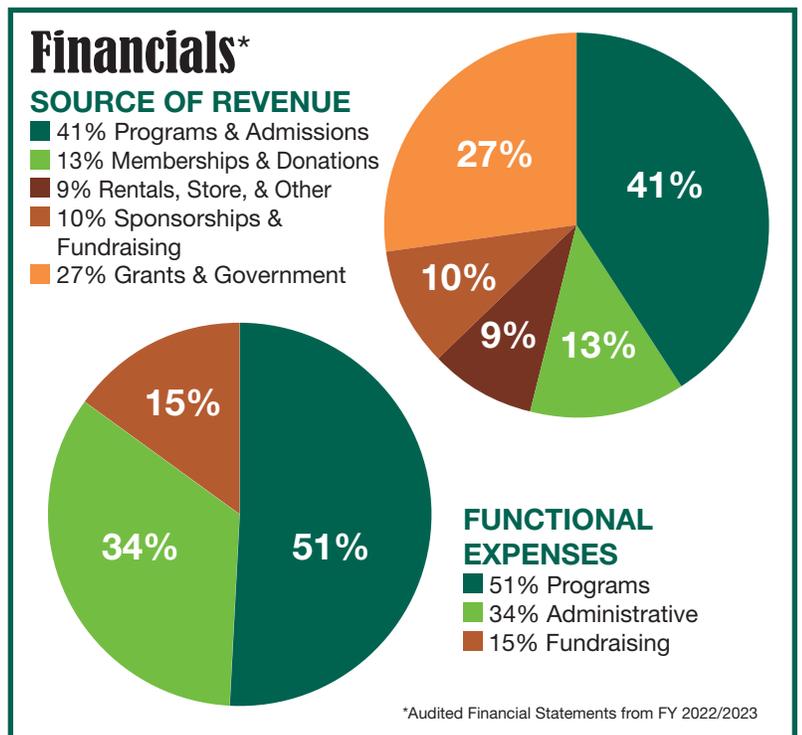
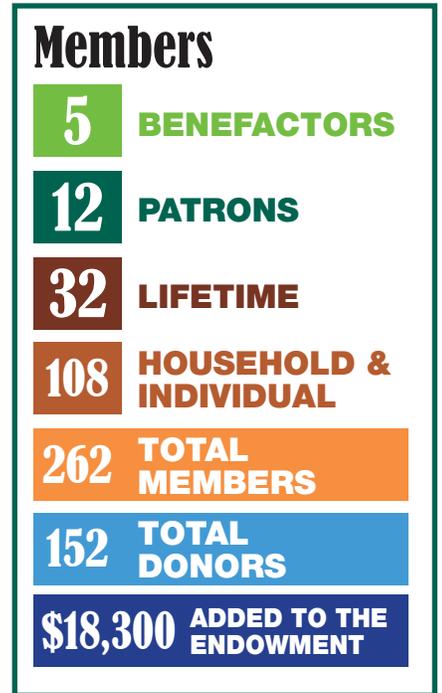
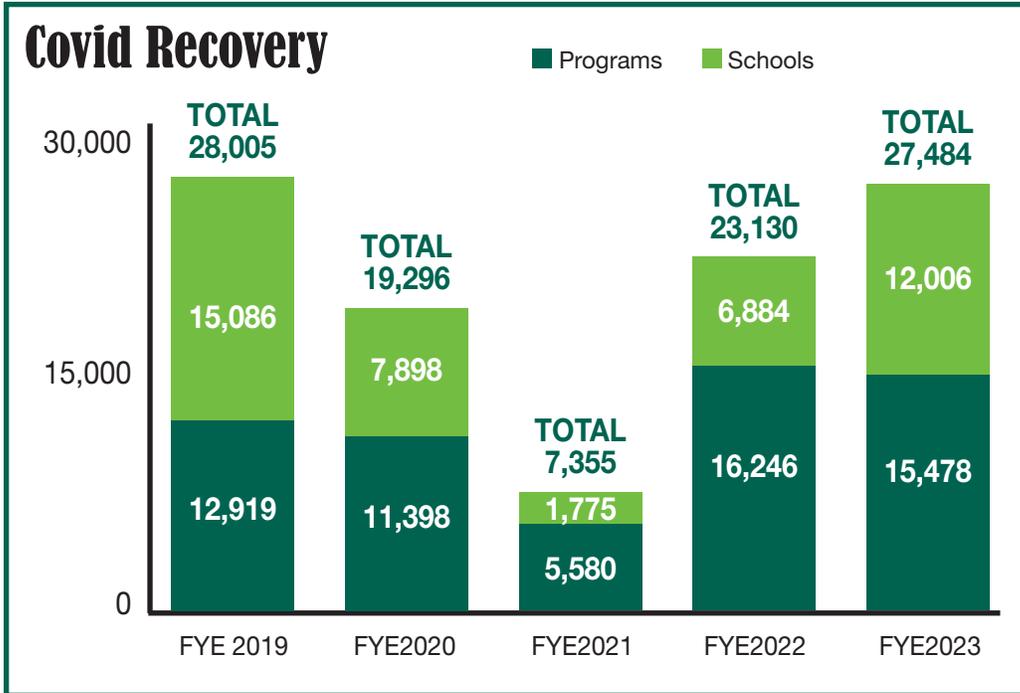
Time program, highlighting the fact that each session includes more than just a story. Our young participants color, count, practice fine motor skills, and explore the Village each time they visit Cheddar the Village Mouse.

Adults explored everything from a History of Museums to the Underground Railroad at the monthly Thursday Tea program; they even listened their way through a History of Jazz with a local duet! Constitution Café participants continued to explore and debate the merits and difficulties of the Constitutional Amendments while Preservation Conversations covered Independence Hall to Troy architect Minoru Yamasaki and his Twin Towers in New York City. Villagers read *Isaac's Storm: A Man, A Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History*, and then went "beyond the book" with programs on climate change and disaster tourism.

Immersive experiences included a retelling of the Edmund Fitzgerald's final journey, a trip through Victorian Christmas at the Village, and Supper with a Soldier (and several other 1860s reenactors). Village staff enjoyed creating themed tours as new ways to explore the Village and Troy history. This past year we walked through history at the Union Corners and White Chapel cemeteries and dug deep into our collections for our Curious and Macabre Lantern Tour and Objects of Our Affection Tour. In total, **15,478 people of all ages** joined us for this wide range of programs, activities, and events in the FYE 2023.



“As our school numbers return, we are simply faced with the question of how big can we grow? And that is a great place to be!” ~Jen Peters, Executive Director



FINANCIALS

FINANCE

THS successfully completed its twelfth year operating the Village through a renewable management agreement with the City of Troy. The current agreement will end in 2026. In 2022-2023 we felt comfortable returning to a full budget after two full years of budgeting in 6-month increments. While expenses exceeded income, that was expected and covered by remaining Covid support funds. THS ended the year in a strong financial position with total gross receipts of \$526,619. We now have a self-managed Village Programs and Operations Endowment that will improve the long-term sustainability of Village operations, and for the first time we can work towards creating a reserve to alleviate cash flow fluctuations. Challenges will include keeping up with inflation and providing staff fair and competitive wages while working to expand programming capacity.

ENDOWMENTS

THS finalized an endowment structure and has partnered with The Cook Group to self-manage a Village Programs and Operations Endowment. The goal is to supplement the cost of general operations of the Village with a fixed annual disbursement as determined by THS. As of June 30, 2023, the endowment fund value was \$418,311; \$22,000 was disbursed to Village operations during the fiscal year.

The Troy Historic Village endowment fund managed by the Troy Community Foundation was valued at \$32,767.48 as of June 30, 2023.

GRANTS

The following grants were received in FYE2023:

- ✓ The **Michigan Arts and Culture Council** awarded a \$22,500 Operations Grant; THS scored high enough to secure this grant for 3 fiscal years though funding may change from year to year.
- ✓ **The Filmer Foundation** awarded \$4,000 to support the launch of the 5th grade Indigenous Voices program for Troy Schools.
- ✓ **Michigan Humanities Council** awarded a \$2,500 Bridging Michigan Grant to support the Indigenous Voices program. Combined with Filmer we were finally able to provide a pilot program in December 2022.
- ✓ **Kresge Foundation** allocated \$5,000 from a three-year grant of \$15,000 to support programs at the Village that contribute to the Troy community's quality of life.
- ✓ **The Troy Community Foundation** awarded \$1,000 towards rebuilding our Village website. As we redesign the site, we will be working to improve accessibility and make it easy for staff to maintain.
- ✓ The **City of Troy** appropriated \$100,000 to support general operations in the Village and \$6,000 to support a dendroarchaeological study of our oldest buildings. This is in addition to work completed through the Facilities & Grounds department to maintain and upgrade Village buildings and grounds.

Financial Snapshot

Revenue

Field Trips, Programs, & Admissions	\$207,340
Memberships & Private Donations	\$65,656
Donations to the Endowment	\$18,300
Rentals, Village Store, & Other	\$44,053
Sponsorships & Fundraising	\$51,639
Grants	\$29,481
Assets Released from Restrictions	\$4,150
City of Troy Operations Support	\$106,000

Expenses

Salaries and Related Fees	\$399,523
Artists and Professional Fees	\$61,684
Program Expenses	\$27,397
Fundraising Expenses	\$38,991
Administrative & Overhead Expenses	\$36,718



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



MICHIGAN
ARTS &
CULTURE
COUNCIL



MI
Humanities

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION



Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial
Charitable Trust



OAKLAND COUNTY
BAR FOUNDATION

COLLECTIONS

Staff Curator, Elizabeth Thornburg, and volunteers worked on the following projects during FYE2023:

- ✓ Identifying and pulling artifacts for the *Curious and Macabre Lantern Tour*, the *Victorian Christmas Mini-Exhibit*, *Objects of Our Affection Tour*, and *Pets: A History of Companionship* summer exhibit; researching various cemetery tours.
- ✓ Digitizing and adding materials from 1995, 1996, 1997, and 2005 backlog to the Past Perfect database.
- ✓ Digitizing small collections related to Troy Schools including photographs from the Poppleton School collection and adding those items to Past Perfect.
- ✓ Digitizing the Caswell Family photo album, Register of Women Voters 1919-1924, Teacher's Daily Register from Stone School, Rochester Era Troy news columns 1945-1949, the Renshaw collection as well as several other small collections of Troy Historical Society materials.
- ✓ Digitizing photos on loan from the Stevens Family.
- ✓ Digitizing a Barnard Family 8mm film with the assistance of Troy Video.
- ✓ Removing the remainder of collection items from the Lange Street House storage.
- ✓ Organizing the Gloria Anderlie collection (a unique collection of mid-20th century Troy photographs, news clippings and scrapbooks as well as cassettes and VHS tapes of Big Beaver High School Reunions)
- ✓ Providing photographs for a new Longhorn Steakhouse in Troy. They will be displayed with credit to the Troy Historical Society.
- ✓ Highlighting several newly acquired artifacts as part of Troy's Citizens Academy.
- ✓ Researching the Methodist Parsonage to update the interpretation to 1923-1926. Collaborating with the current Troy United Methodist Church, retired Methodist Clergy and ephemera expert LaVere Webster, and the Michigan United Methodist Archivist to identify a family and artifacts to focus on.
- ✓ Surveying the Caswell House contents and archive to update Past Perfect records; refining the collection to prepare to remove items found outside the scope of the collections.

The following items were accessioned into the Collection:

- ✓ Big Beaver High School scrapbook – Kinda Hupman
- ✓ Early 20th century birdcage, early 20th century ice cream maker, 1920s Floor lamp, 19th Century Desktop – Jen Peters
- ✓ Small silver locket with photographs of pets – Debbie Hancock
- ✓ 1864 Bound volume of *The American Agriculturist for the Farm, Garden, and Household*, (Volume 23) – Thomas Hayes
- ✓ 1916 Edison Mimeograph machine – THS Purchase (from NSCDA funds)
- ✓ Two different bronze concept pieces for the “Reflective Head”, one appx 24” tall and one appx 8” – City of Troy
- ✓ Two boxes of slides and a bag of Troy Specific Fire Department VHS Tapes – Troy Fire Department
- ✓ Several mid-20th century toys and games including a bowling game, ez-bake type oven, paper dolls, toy pots and pans, a toy doll chair, and 2 mismatched handmade crutches – Rhonda Morris

- ✓ 19th Century Step-back Hutch, two early 19th Century Framed Samplers, large Johnston's hot chocolate dispenser/ advertising piece – Charles Stenback
- ✓ Framed watercolor of Poppleton School by Jo Chiapelli given to Donor's late husband on his retirement from Troy School District – Donna Morse
- ✓ Jane Hadden's 1900s reference book from Stiles Elementary School (in poor condition, but the only artifact from this Troy family in the collection) – Adrienne Crawford
- ✓ Troy Farmer's Club program from 1913 – David Doss
- ✓ Newspaper clippings pertaining to Troy and one Troy Farmer's Club program from 1913 – David Doss
- ✓ Steeple clock, two pairs of mesh gloves, an electric vaporizer, two mouth harps, and an electric toaster – Heather Marsoupien
- ✓ Fourteen 19th-century books pertaining to the Methodist Church including several books of hymns – LaVere Webster



The following items were accepted into the THS Education collection:

- ✓ A chair and multiple lamps to be used in historic spaces – Wayne Plets
- ✓ Coffee Mill or pepper grinder for Education collection – Claudette Rusing
- ✓ Peter Wright Anvil 1-0-19 for programming use – Mark Mazorowicz
- ✓ Butter paddle, ice cream scoop, a stereoscope holder and 30 stereoscope slides, two pairs of wire-rimmed glasses, and assorted sewing tools – Heather Marsoupien
- ✓ Newspaper clippings to add to our clipping files from the collection of Tamara Renshaw – Bob Renshaw

Deaccessions:

- ✓ No items were deaccessioned during FYE2023.

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Volunteer hours were utilized by Collections in FYE2023

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The City of Troy worked with THS to update the Troy Historic Village Master Plan in FYE2023. The Master Plan Steering Committee sought input from Village staff, visitors, community partners, and neighbors as they worked to better utilize the Village and fully incorporate the Niles-Barnard House and adjacent land. Rather than a detailed list of projects, the plan outlines and prioritizes several project areas with rough funding estimates. The final plan was approved by the THS Board in July, by the Historic District Commission in September, and is available on the Village website. THS looks forward to working with the City to identify possible funding and complete projects that will improve the usability and visibility of the Village for years to come.



The City completed a number of projects around the Village this year. HVAC systems in the General Store, Parsonage, and Church were updated, as was the overall Village security system. The Lange Street House, purchased by THS in 2007 to expand the Village property, was demolished and the land was regraded. As work moves forward on the Master Plan, this northwest corner of the Village has been identified as an ideal location for seasonal green parking. The City also replaced the Church entrance ramp which had become uneven and difficult to maneuver due to settling over time.



The Village completed phone and internet upgrades, improving the Wi-Fi reception within the Main Building and across some of the grounds. A new point of sale system was implemented, enabling better remote transactions for our community events. Village volunteers converted the tin display wagon into a functional puppet wagon that has been used for our preschool story time. Unused store furnishings from the Stage Nature Center were refitted to update the Village store, improving visibility, accessibility, and flow. Volunteers also continue to touch up small paint jobs around the Village.



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

COLLABORATIONS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



THS continued to develop relationships and collaborate with community partners through FYE2023. To facilitate this work and better understand the needs of our community, THS has created and continues to develop a Community Engagement Committee comprised of board members, staff members, and community partners.

Village staff and volunteers handed out treats at Troy Recreation and Troy Public Library events, shared old-time toys at Troy Family Daze, and brought a bit of history to the Troy Farmers Market and Troy Fire Department Open Houses. We've collaborated on programs as well, working with the Troy Chamber to put on Fire and Flannel and hosting the Troy Kiwanis annual fundraiser. We again provided a pop-up Maple Syrup shop for Stage Nature Center's Maple Syrup Days. One of our biggest partnerships continues to be with the Troy Garden Club. They develop and maintain beautiful gardens and decorate the Village buildings for the winter holidays and we host the "home base" of their Garden Walk each July.



Metalsmith Rose Weiss and Watercolor Artist Megan Swoyer provided hundreds of hours of combined instruction during FYE2023. Through blacksmithing and watercolor classes, students of all ages find a new way to experience the Village as they learn new skills and explore their creativity. Again this year we welcomed the reenacting troupe, Bonnets and Crooked Hats, with other knowledgeable and skilled reenactors to present a Victorian Christmas and Supper with a Soldier events at the Village. These programs squarely hit the mission of enabling life-long exploration of history through creative, meaningful experiences.



In the spring of 2023, we began working with Zach Merrill, a dendroarchaeologist from Michigan Tech, to better understand our three oldest buildings. Zach took core samples from the timbers in Caswell, the Church, and Niles-Barnard to identify and date the trees. Initial results show that the Troy area was much more of a microclimate than we anticipated; the frequently flooded spaces affected both the type of trees found in the 1820s and 30s, and tree ring growth. With more analysis, we hope to better understand when the Niles-Barnard house was built and expanded and confirm the build dates on the Church and Caswell House. We will invite Zach back to present his findings and offer this presentation to Oakland University and Eastern Michigan University students for free.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

EDUCATION SPONSORS

Kirco
Columbia Center

PROGRAM SPONSOR

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Troy Women's Association
State Farm Insurance – Ann Percy

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Community Choice Credit Union
Troy Garden Club

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HOLIDAY EVENTS SPONSORS

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Troy Community Foundation

TROY TRAFFIC JAM

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City of Troy
Troy Downtown Development Authority

Silver Sponsor

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Meadowbrook Insurance Agency
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Creative Jeweler
The Reserve at Red Run
OHM Advisors
The Somerset Collection
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The Cook Group at Merrill Lynch

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Oakmont Senior Communities
GR Auto Gallery
Troy ESCAPE
CBTS
Campanelli & Pear
Successful Marketing
Lake Michigan Credit Union

SCARECROW ROW

A.J. Desmond & Sons
Funeral Home
Alexander J Bongiorno
Creative Jeweler
Alliance Mobile Health
Alpha Delta Kappa, Alpha
Upsilon Chapter
Anthology of Troy Senior Living
BB's of Troy
Benito's Pizza of Troy
Berkshire Hathaway Home
Service – Susheilla Mehta
C & G Newspapers – Troy Times
Celebrity Catering
Community Choice Credit Union
Crispelli's Bakery & Pizzeria
Disability Law Group
Fogo de Chao
Genisys Credit Union
Gotta Dance Studios

Green Lantern Pizza Troy
Health Markets - Troy
HOF Law
Home Depot – Troy
International Diamond Importers
Irma's Family Farm Fresh
Vegetables
Inman Audiology
Jonny Cakes Café
J-RO School of Music
Kurtis Kitchen and Bath
K-Value
La Botana
Lake Michigan Credit Union
Lardner the Gardener
Lincoln of Troy
LKOrthopedics
Madany Dental
Manpower
Mondrian Properties

Mr Kabob Xpress
MSU - Management Education
Center
New Century Realtors
Oakland Press
Oakmont Sterling Enhanced
Senior Living
Oaxaca
OUR Credit Union
Papa Romanos
PARTNR HAUS
Peppy's Pizza
Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel –
Karen Greenwood
Rexpointe Kennels
Ridley's Bakery
Rotary Club of Troy
Royal Oak Heating, Cooling &
Electrical
Signs & More

Somerset Collection
Sparkle Network
Stage Nature Center (sponsored)
State Farm Insurance – Ann Percy
T&I Credit Union
Telly's Greenhouse & Garden
Center
The Choice Group
Trevarrow Ace Hardware
Tri County Equipment
Troy Chamber of Commerce
Troy Dental
Troy Fire Department (sponsored)
Troy Garden Club
Troy Law Center
Troy-Metro Agency
Troy Police Department (sponsored)
Troy Public Library
Troy Racquet Club
Troy Sports Center
Troy Youth Soccer

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

AAA Ice Cream
ALCO Printing
Culver's – Rochester Hills

Honey Baked Ham
Mr. Kabob Xpress
Mod Pizza

Nothing Bundt Cakes
Red Robin – Troy
Ridley's Bakery Café

Sedona Taphouse
Signs & More
Tim Horton's – Troy

The Great Greek
Trevarrow Hardware
Troy Garden Club

FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial
Charitable Trust

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Edna Abraham
Howard Adams
Mary Lou & Tom Alfes
Andrea Arends
Holly Arida
Paul & Brenda Balas
Dawn Beltowski
Molly Beste
Roopashree Bindiganavile
Dona Bonino
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Thomas Cook & Marie
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Richard Coon
Kendra Corman
Jim & Lois Cyruleski
Dennis & Carolyn Darch
Bill & Wendy Davy
Barbara Dawson
Andrea DeFrains
Smita Desai
Megan Dimmer
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Ivana & Kevin Enright
Aditya Ezhuthachan
Tracey Fenolio
Faith Fitzpatrick
Sue & David Ford
Traci Garnett
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Richard Golding
Danielle & Mathew Golling
Cheryl Gonda
Earl Gravlin & Julia
Sullivan

David Grocki
Sandy Gunderson
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Russell Harrington
Kristen Hartig
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Mary Hatala
Stephen Hatfield
Ken & Cindy Heck
Chris Herrick
Shirley Hull
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Dennis & Dianne Kramer
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Padma Kuppa & Sudhakar
Tadepalli
Florita Kurtenbach
Gerald Laber
Jeff Lambrecht
Margaret Langni
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Alyson Lauer
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Christal Lewandowski
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Jillian Mast

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Tim & Julie McGee
Harry McLean
Verna & James
Meinershagen
Shari & Bob Mertz
Ken & Aleta Meskin
Catherine Mishark
Rocco Mistretta
John & Robin Mitchell
Geri Musial
Paul & Tamara Myles
Katie Neal
Maryann Neimeister
Cathy & Andrew OGawa
Mary O'Neill
Shirley Page
Anne Partlan
Karen & Donald Patterson
John Paul
Jen & Jeremy Peters
Amanda Petz
Dina Poli
Diane Preslow
JoAnn & Bob Preston
Chloe Price
Candice Purgatori
John Ragan
Ward Randol
Eric Reno
Helen & David Rieland
Gail & Elmer Rinke
Kristine Rose
Ida Rubino

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Mary Schoenherr
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Robin & Robert Siegel
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Madeleine Tohme
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Nancie VanderBeke
Jane VanDyke
Barbara Virzi
Fred Wasserman
Zola & LaVere Webster
John Weisgerber
Joy & Frank Wong
Pat Yakubison
Sarah Yates
Mike Yocum
Gerry Young & Linda
Luedeman
Deborah Zupancic
Todd & Diane
Zygmontowicz



VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteers have been back in full force during FYE2023. Covid restrictions kept us from many of our regular volunteering activities and fully interacting with volunteers. We also went through a period without a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator which, while necessary for maintaining a budget during difficult times, had noticeable effects on our connection with volunteers. With our new coordinator in place for more than a year now, we have reintroduced regular volunteer meetings, improved communications with volunteers, and gotten to know the various skills and interests of those spending their valuable time with us.



Volunteers supported the Village and staff by engaging the public, supporting operations, and preserving our resources. In FYE2023 volunteers ran various activities at our Trick-or-Treat, Cocoa & Crafts, and Egg Hunt events, warmly welcomed and checked in guests, and even completed training to become tour guides. Volunteers prepped school supplies and craft projects, put together Village mailings, and helped sort through a backlog of Village files. Some volunteers offered their skills and expertise around the Village as they fixed small issues, built specialty items for programs, or maintained stunning gardens.



Volunteers are also active in our fundraising activities. It takes around 100 volunteers each year to pull off the Troy Traffic Jam. From setup and car registration to parking cars, guiding visitors, counting ballots, and welcoming guests, we couldn't pull off the show without our volunteers. Volunteers request prizes for the Summer Raffle from more than 30 businesses, then assemble them into themed baskets. And without volunteers, we couldn't make Scarecrow Row happen! They solicit business sponsors, build more than half of the scarecrows on the row, and assist in setting up and tearing down. Profits from these fundraisers were an important part of the successful FYE2023 budget.



287 Volunteers contributed a total of 4,652 hours of time to Village programs and operations support.

LOOKING FORWARD

Updating the Master Plan in FYE2023 was a crucial step in improving usage of the Village. We are grateful to the City for their financial support and insight during the process! To quote directly from the plan: “The Troy Historic Village Master Plan project places a strong emphasis on improving accessibility and enhancing the overall visitor experience. By strategically addressing signage, parking, circulation, and the placement of key facilities, the plan aims to create a more inviting and engaging environment for all visitors.” Key points include:

- Prominent Entrance Signage and Increased Visibility
- Enhanced Visitor Circulation and Connectivity
- Expanded Flexible Use of Outdoor Spaces
- Multi-Use Covered Outdoor Space at the Visitor Center
- Improved Parking and Visual Continuity
- Relocation of the Log Cabin and New Visitor Center
- Permanent Outdoor Space at Existing Buildings
- Enhancements to Wayfinding, Signage, and Exhibits

We are particularly excited about the possibility of our two biggest identified projects: a new Visitor Center and a redesigned and expanded parking lot. A new Visitor Center would enable us to have a central and clearly visible entry point for all visitors. School children could start their orientation in the Visitor Center and leave their lunches, exiting to their programs in various buildings, and returning to eat together in one space. Staff would have more control over Village access and a Visitor Center would offer additional flexible space for programs and events.

Moving most of the offices from our current Main Building would enable us to use the Old City Hall to tell the story of Troy from 1927 to today. This exciting time in Troy’s history includes the important story of immigration and modernization—it will help us explain how Troy looks the way it does today! The projected parking lot expansion will be limited by space but will improve visitor flow and safety while improving the visual impact of the Village. Both projects are projected to be more than one million dollars. THS looks forward to working with the City on creative funding ideas that would make them, and other Master Plan projects, attainable.

