



The Village Press

"Preserving the Light for Future Generations" Spring 2009

2009 Antiques and Collectibles Appraisal Fair

by Ward Randol

Sunday afternoon, May 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M., is the date and time of our Fifth Annual Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fair fundraiser for moving the Niles-Barnard House to the Museum's Historic Village. It will again be held at the First United Methodist Church of Troy, 6363 Livernois, between Square Lake and South Blvd.

We will have at least six appraisers at this year's event: Paul Haig (jewelry and Asian art), Joe Kuechle (clocks and watches), Bob Krug (glass, china/porcelain, lamps, pottery, art, silver, toys, and furniture), Bill Lynch (books), Zola Webster (samplers and needlework), and Kris Williams (musical instruments). You may bring detailed photos of large pieces for appraisal. No weapons or coins, please.

Admission is free. Verbal appraisals are \$5.00 each, and an informal written appraisal is \$20.00 if the appraiser is willing and able to render it. At their discretion the appraisers may waive the appraisal fee for items that are worth less than the fee, and they may charge only one fee for pieces that constitute a set. Although no buying and selling is to take place at the fair, appraisers can make individual appointments for later to discuss appraised pieces further with their owners.

There have been a number of noteworthy appraisals at our previous antiques and collectibles appraisal fairs. Two years ago, a Troy resident brought in, in a paper bag, a set of three large books with color plates that Bill Lynch appraised at \$30,000. Last year was a big year for oil paintings. One of them was appraised by LaVere Webster at \$650,000 subject to authentication of the artist's signature. Its owner had bought it at a garage sale in Baltimore 40 years ago – for \$1.00!

Please come to our fair on May 17 (the Sunday after Mothers' Day) and enjoy the experience. Remember, all proceeds will go toward moving the Niles-Barnard house to the Museum. Our expert appraisers are helping us by volunteering their time and expertise without charge, so please maximize their fees by deluging them with items to appraise!

Troy Museum and Lean Economic Times

By Loraine Campbell

I am certain that all Troy Historical Society members have followed news reports about efforts by City staff and Council to cut \$5.3 million from the City's Operations Budget for July 1, 2009– June 31, 2010. In recent months many members and volunteers have also questioned me about the proposal to close the Troy Nature Center as a cost-saving measure and how this action might affect the Troy Museum. While the proposed budget has not yet been formally approved by City Council, I would like to provide a progress report on the Museum's budget:

- The Nature Center and the Museum will remain open and continue to provide outstanding services to our community. However, both facilities will be required to generate significant new revenues in 2009-10.
- During the present fiscal year (2008-09) The Museum will raise approximately \$50,000 through field trip revenues from 11,000 student visitors and \$7,500 from facilities rentals (weddings, meetings and filming contracts). We were also awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation for general operations. That grant was issued in two installments: \$20,000 in November 2008, which was credited to the current fiscal, and \$20,000 in July 2009, which will be credited to the new fiscal year.
- Because the current Museum budget is already extremely lean, we must generate \$50,000 in new or additional revenues for \$2009/10. The second \$20,000 from the Kresge Foundation will be applied to the \$50,000 goal. The remaining \$30,000 will be produced through the following:
 - Chaperones, who have always attended school field trips free of charge, will pay the same fee as students starting in September 2009. This change will represent approximately \$7,800.
 - The general public will be charged admission to the museum. The proposed fee schedule is \$3/ adult and \$2/ Child grades K-12. There is no Senior Rate. Children under 5 are admitted free. We have also proposed a variety of Annual Pass Rates. For details, please read Museum Admissions article in this issue of the Village Press. Admissions will provide approximately \$15,000.
 - The Museum will charge admission (\$3/ Adult and \$2/ Child grades K-12) to our three special events: Fall Farm Festival, Trick or Treating on the Green and Hanging of the Greens. These fees will add approximately \$3,000 to the goal.
 - The Museum will generate \$4,200 in new facilities rentals.
- Museum Public Programs offered on weekends and during the summer will continue to be sponsored by the THS. The museum staff will incorporate the cost of admission into each public program fee. A report filed at the conclusion of each program will break out the admissions fees due to the City and the program costs and net revenue for the Society's Museum Public Programs Account.

I know that these changes will prompt lots of questions and some concerns. Please know that these revenue proposals were made following a great deal of thought and deliberation. It is not my intent to place additional financial strain on anyone in our community, or to disregard the hard work and financial support already provided by Troy Historical Society members. That is why individuals with valid 2009 THS memberships will not be charged Museum admission during the 2009-10-transition year. (See details in Museum Admissions article.)

As Museum Manager my goal is to continue the efforts begun by the Troy Historical Society in 1968 when Morris Wattles and Norman Barnard asked the City for the use of two rooms in the Old Township Hall for local history exhibits. That request began a 40 year partnership to develop the Troy Museum & Historic Village. With your continued dedication we will weather the current economic challenges and succeed in our efforts to complete this museum as the finest facility of its kind in our region.

Museum Admissions

By: Loraine Campbell

Beginning June 29, 2009 visitors to the Troy Museum & Historic Village will be charged admission to tour the buildings. The daily admission will be \$3/ Adult and \$2/ Child grades K-12. Children under 5 will be admitted free. There is no "Seniors" Rate. The following visitors will be admitted free:

- Volunteers working in the Village on service projects or assisting with a scheduled program
- THS members attending evening lectures
- Visitors who have a valid 2009/10 THS membership through expiration of that membership. Please note that when your membership expires you must renew at an annual pass rate to retain the free admission benefit.

To recognize the continued support of THS members and to encourage those who visit the Museum frequently, the following Museum passes will also be offered during 2009/10:

- Annual Family Pass for the Museum valid July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 for \$30 that entitles the immediate family to unlimited admission to the museum, and includes a THS Family Membership with all member benefits. (THS receives \$25 and City receives \$5)
- Annual Individual Pass to the Museum valid July 1, 2009-June 30, 2010 for \$20 that entitles that individual to unlimited admission to the museum, and includes a THS Individual Membership with all member benefits. (THS receives \$15 and City receives \$5)
- Annual Family Passes (\$25) and Individual Passes (\$15) will also be offered by the city. These passes do not include THS member benefits. (The City of Troy receives total fee.)

CALENDAR NOT INCLUDE IN THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING EVERYDAY AT THE MUSEUM: Details for 12 weeks of activities can be found in Troy Today, on the THS website www.troyhistory.org or at www.troymi.gov/museum.

Troy Historical Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name(s): _____
E-Mail: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Telephone #: _____ Birthday (D/M): _____

Enclose payment for membership in the following categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Single membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family (children under 21) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Couple | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Non-profit Institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Individual Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business |

Please check if you would like Newsletters via E-mail:

Memorial contributions and bequests are welcome.

Your interests or personal collections/Your history in Troy: _____

Help preserve Troy's history. Send this form and your payment to:
Troy Historical Society, P.O. Box 6, Troy, MI 48099

We care about our members and would like to keep updated on any cares or concerns. Please feel free to call Gerry Young at 586-802-1225.

How do you like our new look?

Any questions or comments please send to:

The Village Press

Attn: Alison Iceman

P.O. Box 6

Troy MI, 48099

Or e-mail us at:

thevillagepress@troyhistory.org

We welcome any members' articles for the newsletter, subject to content and space limits.

Weeks of Summer Fun at the Museum

This summer the Troy Museum feature special themed weeks jam-packed with special guests, great activities, crafts and prizes. Staff and volunteers have worked hard to provide lots of fun and learning that is free with the price of admission or with a minimal materials charge. Details for 12 weeks of activities can be found in *Troy Today*, on the THS website www.troyhistory.org or at www.troymi.gov/museum.

Three summer teas will be have a special focus on flowers. Tea with Lavender on June 25 will be presented by Judy Cornellier from the Troy Garden Club. Linda Swanson will demonstrate Edible Flowers on July 24 and Loraine Campbell will talk about the history of roses on August 27. Tickets for each tea are \$5. These events fill quickly so buy your tickets early. Also, please plan on attending the Troy Garden Walk on Wednesday, July 8. The event also features the Garden Club Boutique at the Troy Museum. The Boutique will be open from 9:00 am–7:30 pm.

Music will fill the air during our fourth season of summer concerts. This year's series includes three wonderful music genres performed by three excellent groups: Jazz with the Shelia Landis Trio on July 26, Celtic Tunes with Blackthorn on August 2, and Bluegrass with Lare Williams & New Direction. Tickets are \$5 for adults. Youth 17 and under admitted free.

Finally, please note that the Museum will be open on Sundays from 1-5 pm from June 1–September 30, and closed July 3-5 for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Museum Expansion Update

While many non-profit organizations and museums are cutting hours and services, the Troy Heritage Campaign Committee has decided that it is important to move forward. The Committee is continuing their fundraising efforts through direct solicitation to potential donors and foundations, and through fundraising events including the second annual Troy Traffic Jam. This terrific car show will be held on Sunday, August 9, at the Columbia Center on Big Beaver Road. To date they have raised over \$700,000 towards our total goal of \$7.7 million.

There has been excellent progress on the plans for the expansion that include the relocation of the Niles- Barnard House, acquisition and relocation of a historic barn and the development of a new visitors' center. During the winter, our architect team, Gene Hopkins, Tamara Burns and Neal Billetdeaux, developed a new site plan and the elevations and floor plans for the structures to be added to the expanded Village. The team will now seek city approval for these plans through the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Commission and City Council.

This spring we also identified a terrific barn for the village. While constructed in 1859, the timber framing is still very sound, with minimal cracking and no racked or twisted members. The owner and his family are excited about donating their building, foundation stones, milking stanchions and a wonderful clay tiled silo to the Troy Museum. A formal Gift Agreement has been completed and approved by the THS and City attorneys. When it is reviewed and approved by the donor's lawyer, the THS will work with the City Attorney to schedule approval of the gift by City Council.

It is still the Society's goal to relocate the Niles-Barnard House by autumn 2009 and to secure the building on a new foundation with temporary heat before winter. Full restoration will proceed as funds become available.

Volunteers Needed for Hands-On Historic Preservation

Most THS members are unaware that the City of Troy Ordinance for Historic Preservation requires that the Historic District Commission and the Historic District Study Committee each include members of the Troy Historical Society. The Historic District Study Committee is a very important work group that reviews applications to designate structures or sites as local historic resources or to delete structures or sites from that list, if appropriate or necessary. Currently there is no THS representative serving on the committee. If you are a Troy resident and THS member and are willing to donate the first Tuesday evening of each month to serve on this committee please call Loraine Campbell at 248-524-3301 or email her at campbelm@troymi.gov for more information. Thanks so much!

STIMULUS MONEY FOR THE HERITAGE CAMPAIGN

by Ward Randol

The City of Troy has submitted a "wish list" to the State of Michigan for its share of the federal Stimulus Money that will be coming to Michigan. Troy's wish list contains 24 separate projects, all but three of which are related to road construction or water management/drains. The building aspects of our Heritage Campaign are one of those three projects, to the tune of \$2.9 million which we estimate will create 169 new jobs for work on our buildings.

Early this year our Heritage Campaign Committee mailed a letter to each Troy Historical Society member asking for help in contacting our elected representatives to claim our fair share of the stimulus money. We appreciate all of your efforts in making our request known to State Senator John Pappageorge, State Representative Marty Knollenberg, and Congressman Gary Peters. We will be asking for your help again when the decision-making process for allocating Michigan's federal stimulus money for cities becomes better known.

In the meantime, if you run into Messrs. Pappageorge, Knollenberg or Peters, please re-emphasize with them the importance of our Museum building projects. They are shovel-ready and will create jobs!

PRESIDENT'S 2008 YEAR-END APPEAL

by Ward Randol

Thank you for responding so generously to Cheryl Barnard's year-end letter asking for contributions to our Heritage Campaign. Over \$2,000 came in specifically for Cheryl's appeal, mostly in donations of \$100 or less. That is a great response from our 250 Troy Historical Society members, especially considering the hard economic times we are currently experiencing. Our Museum is fortunate to have such a genuinely enthusiastic group of supporters.

Stone Soup Update

In this tough economic climate it is wonderful to know that there are so many caring people. To each one of you who added a stone to the soup pot, the Troy Historical Society says Thank You!! With your generous donations at the end of the year we have moved even closer to the moving of the Niles Barnard House as well as getting closer to acquiring a barn for the Village Green. Each and every donation whether large or small, like the donations to the stone soup pot help get the Heritage Campaign closer to our goal for completing the Green. Thank you all again for your donation to the stone soup pot.

Cheryl Barnard, President

E-mail Newsletters

We have now added the option for our members to receive their newsletters by E-mail. If you would like to switch to E-mail newsletters instead of receiving a hard copy in the mail please contact us at:

thevillagepress@troymuseum.org

We will add you to the E-mail list and you will no longer receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail.

Join the Historical Society Help Preserve the Light

The Troy Historical Society was organized in 1966 to promote the appreciation and awareness of the rich heritage of the citizens of Troy, to encourage preservation of records, pictures, structures, and other objects of local historical significance, and to sponsor programs to carry out these purposes.

You can become a member by mailing in the membership application on the back page of this newsletter.

Society board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except summer) at 7:30 p.m. at the Troy Historical Museum. All Society members are welcome to attend.

Please check the expiration date of your current membership which is on your address label. Those membership dates that are highlighted are in need of being renewed before our next newsletter. For example, if your expiration date is September 2009, you can extend your membership to September 2010.



Troy Historical Society
P.O. Box 6
Troy, MI 48099
(248)879-6305
www.troyhistory.org

Enjoy the past by visiting and taking advantage of the outstanding lectures, festivals, and displays at the:

Troy Museum & Historic Village

60 West Wattles Road
(248) 524-3570

Hours:

June through September:
Mon.–Sat. 9am-4:30 pm, Sun-
days 1-5 pm

October through May:
Mon.–Sat. 9 am-4:30 pm,
closed Sundays

www.ci.troy.mi.us/parks/museum

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