

## CRISIS UPDATE

by Ward Randol

December 8, 2009

A lot has happened since our last Village Press issue (two months ago) to give us hope that our Museum will survive the City of Troy's financial crisis and remain open. However, to fully realize that hope, we as Troy Historical Society members must continue to (1) educate ourselves about the City's fiscal issues, and (2) let our Mayor, our City Council members, and our friends and neighbors know how important our Museum – a full-time Museum – and its staff are to the quality of life in Troy.

Here are some highlights of the last two months.

- November 3 – Two new members were elected to Troy's City Council. During their campaign they voiced support for asking Troy's voters to approve new revenues to keep Troy's "quality of life" institutions open, including our Museum.
- November 9 – Troy's City Council voted to place a proposal for up to 1.9 mills, to be added to the City's operating millage for the next five years, on the ballot at an election to be held on February 23, 2010.
- November 23 – Council voted to approve ballot language specifying that if passed by the voters, the new millage will be used for "public safety and quality of life purposes."
- December 7 – Council voted to approve a factual brochure explaining the new millage ballot proposal, to be mailed to every household in Troy in early January. Council members also spoke to what would happen if the new millage does not pass, and the majority of them affirmed that in this event, the permanent closures of the Museum, the Library, the Nature Center and the Community Center, as well as layoffs of about one-third of Troy's Police Officers, will be required to balance Troy's 2010-2011 budget.

What will be the impact of the new 1.9 mills on Troy's homeowners? Remember that millage is a tax **rate**, not tax **dollars**. The millage **rate** is multiplied by a home's taxable value to produce tax **dollars**. Troy's City Assessor and Oakland County are projecting that the taxable value of an average Troy home in the Troy School District, which is \$120,014 this year (2009), will drop every year for the next five years, to a taxable value of \$103,000 in the year 2010, then all the way to a projected \$77,816 in the year 2014.

This year's total tax **dollars** from that \$120,014 average Troy home in the Troy School District are \$4,118. In 2010, its total tax dollars will be \$3,535 without the new 1.9 millage **rate**, or \$3,731 with the new 1.9 mills. In other words, even with the increased millage **rate**, the tax bill in 2010 for that home in **dollars** will be \$387 less than its tax bill was in 2009.      Continued on page 2

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In the year 2014 it is projected to be \$1,300 less than it was in 2009, assuming no increase in school, county, etc. millages.

The purpose of the 1.9 mills to be voted on in February is to **restore** general operating fund taxes that will otherwise be lost to Troy because of declining property values, not to increase our total tax bills. It should also help our Troy property values from declining further, by keeping Troy a “best place to live”, with its safest city and cultural amenities, in relation to neighboring communities.

Let’s do what it takes to save Troy and our Museum as we know them, for our children and grandchildren as well as for ourselves. We are the beneficiaries of a great bargain in City of Troy taxes. Let’s not lose our competitive advantage.

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## **THE TROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **AND THE TROY MUSEUM**

### **ARE NOT THE SAME**

by Ward Randol

December 8, 2009

At a recent Troy City Council meeting, a Troy resident who has been a member of the Troy Historical Society addressed Council on the subject of the proposed millage to keep the Museum open. Referring to the October issue of the Village Press, he said that he did not appreciate his tax dollars being used to advocate support for the millage in the Village Press.

In fact, no Troy tax dollars are ever used to support the Troy Historical Society or the Village Press. It’s the other way around. The Troy Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and it raises money that it gives to the City of Troy to support and improve the Troy Museum & Historic Village. The costs of producing and distributing the Village Press are paid solely from Troy Historical Society’s dues and other funds that it raises.

Of course the Troy Historical Society is vitally concerned with what will happen to the Museum. It’s our primary beneficiary, of both our money and our volunteer hours. However, the Troy Museum & Historic Village is a City museum, owned and operated by the City of Troy from its general operating tax revenues. It is separate from the Troy Historical Society, which raises and spends its funds separately, through its Board of Trustees.

We hope that this will help to clear up any confusion between the two. Comments about the Village Press should be directed to the Board of the Troy Historical Society, not to City Council.

Now, as to what Troy’s “Historical Commission” and “Historic District Commission” are, we’ll save those for a future issue of the Village Press. Stay tuned.

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## *In memory of Don Anderlie*

On November 22, 2009 the Troy Historical Society lost a long-time member and friend, Donald Anderlie, who passed away following a long illness. Don was deeply interested in history and especially proud of his military service during WWII, when he served as a gunner on a PT boat in the Pacific. His wife Gloria and daughter Kinda Hupman serve on the THS Board of Trustees and assist at many public events at the museum. We will miss Don’s gentle nature, his warm smile and helpful hands. We wish his family our deepest sympathy and our support in the coming days.

# Gift Agreement Extended

In January 2005, the City of Troy and the Barnard family signed a gift agreement in which the 1837 Niles-Barnard House was donated to the city under the condition that it be moved to the museum within five years. The Society's Heritage Campaign has worked diligently to raise funds for this project. To date contributions have been used to purchase property for the expanded museum and to pay for architectural and site plan development fees. Funds to move the Niles-Barnard House and place it on a new foundation are in the bank. The Campaign Committee is now raising money to restore the house after it is moved.

In September 2009 City Manager John Szerlag announced plans to close the Troy Museum, library and community center, nature center and to eliminate other city services because of declining revenues. In response to this financial crisis, voters will have the opportunity on February 23, 2010 to support a five-year city millage that will off-set declining revenues and maintain operational support for services including the museum.

In light of the economic challenges the community faces, and the pending the February election, the city, Barnard family, and THS Board of Trustees agreed to postpone moving the Niles-Barnard House. The city and Barnard family attorneys developed an extension for the gift agreement that was reviewed by the Society's attorney and was unanimously approved by City Council on December 7, 2009. Under this agreement the THS must move the house by December 31, 2010. Please email any questions regarding the Campaign to [info@troyhistory.org](mailto:info@troyhistory.org).

## 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"/> \$20 Individual       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family/Couple           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Non-profit Institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Individual Life |   |

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, 60 W.Wattles Rd, Troy, MI 48098

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  
60 W. Wattles  
Troy MI 48098  
Or e-mail us at:

[thevillagepress@troyhistory.org](mailto:thevillagepress@troyhistory.org)

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

# Museum Facts

By Loraine Campbell

Much of this Village Press is devoted to clarifying issues and providing factual information regarding the City's current financial crisis. The Troy Historical Society has always supported the Troy Museum & Historic Village with volunteer service and the funds to acquire, relocate, and restore historic buildings in the village. However the general operations budget of the museum, staff salaries and administration have been provided by the City of Troy. Below is a summary of that support.

- The Troy Museum is administered through the Library Department of the City of Troy. The Museum Manager reports to the Library Director who reports to Assistant City Manager John Lamerato.
- Museum staff currently includes two full-time employees (the Manager and Archivist), seven part-time Museum Aide-Interpreters and one part-time Museum Aide Administrative Assistant. The library has also assigned one part-time librarian to work at the museum in the Genealogy Center. Her salary is paid through the Library's budget. In September 2009 one additional part-time interpreter left the museum. That vacant position will not be filled.
- The museum is open 338 days per year (seven days/ week June-September and six days for the balance of the year). Total attendance for the last two years was: 25,281 in FY2007/08; and 26,019 in FY2008/09. In those two years 11,035 and 12,252 students and chaperones respectively participated in educational fieldtrips at the museum. Their numbers are included in the total attendance figures.
- The Museum has approximately 50 volunteers who provided over 4,000 hours of service in FY2008/09. They work on major event days, tend the gardens and flower beds, prepare program materials, do research and clerical work, and since 2004, worked on plans for the museum expansion and fundraising. Forty percent of the volunteers are THS members.
- The actual annual operation budgets provided by the City of Troy for the museum for the last two years were: \$497,335 in FY2007/08 and \$478,027 in FY2008/09.
- Revenues generated by the museum include fees from field trips, facilities rentals and grants. Total revenues in the last two years were \$45,433 in FY2007/08 and \$86,616 in FY 2008/09. The museum received a \$40,000 general operations grant from the Kresge Foundation in 2008. Half of the grant award was applied to FY2008/09 and half to the current fiscal year.
- All evening, weekend and summer public programs and concerts are funded by the Troy Historical Society through their Public Programs account. All revenues from these programs are credited to this account. The THS also financially supports the three annual special event days at the museum.

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## **Update on the Holdburgs**

Thelma and Al Holdburg are arguably the Troy Historical Society's most senior members and self-styled "recycled teenagers". Unfortunately Thelma fell and fractured her hip in September. Following her surgery at Troy Beaumont Hospital and physical therapy at the Heartland Health Care Center, Thelma and Al have moved to American House Troy. Their address is 2300 Grand Haven, Apt. 116, Troy MI 48083. We look forward to their return to THS meetings and museum events and wish them a very Merry Christmas and happy and HEALTHY New Year.

# ***Fire Calls & Station Stories A Wonderful Read for***

## **Troy Historical Society Members and Friends**



**An illustrated history of the Volunteer Troy Fire Department, this new 100 page, hardcover book features:**

- **The history of each station and the dedicated service and community spirit of the volunteers**
- **Stories of “feather bingos,” the “Livernois Debating Society,” significant fires, trainings, the Special Response Unit (SRU), and the names and faces of many of Troy’s firefighters**
- **More than 100 photos of volunteers, equipment, trainings, emergency responses and events**
- **“Generations Chart” listing families with up to four generations of volunteers**

### **How to Order Your Books:**

- **Shop at the Troy Museum Gift Shop at 60 W. Wattles Road (northwest corner of Wattles Road at Livernois) Monday-Saturday from 9 am-4:30 pm**
- **Buy copies at the Community Affairs office at Troy City Hall**
- **Call 248-524-3570 and order copies using VISA or MasterCard**
- **Complete order form below and mail it with your check or credit card information**

**All proceeds from book sales support the Troy Historical Society’s Heritage Campaign and efforts to restore the Niles-Barnard House at the Troy Museum.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

# Copies: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$28/ book = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Checks are payable to: ***Troy Museum Guild-THS***

Shipping \$2.00/ book = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ VISA/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Order = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail completed order to: Troy Museum Book Orders, 60 W. Wattles Rd., Troy MI 48098***

## 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 2005, you can extend your membership to September 2006.

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](http://www.ci.troy.mi.us/parks/museum)

### **Society Board Officers:**

President: Cheryl Barnard

Vice President: Judy Iceman

Treasurer: Fred Rounds

Deputy Treasurer: Ward Randol

Secretary: Catharine OGawa

### **Board members:**

Gloria Anderlie, Richard Barnard,

Ron Bernard, Kinda Hupman,

Alison Iceman, Judy Iceman,

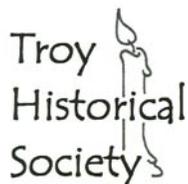
Sherrill Jackson, John Lavender,

Sue Lavender, Judy Siess, and

Gerry Young.

### **Village Press:**

Alison Iceman, Layout Editor



Troy Historical Society  
60 W. Wattles Road  
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[www.troyhistory.org](http://www.troyhistory.org)