

An Apology by Loraine Campbell, Museum Manager

The Troy Historical Society Board of Trustees has been remiss in publishing *The Village Press* this year. Much of the onus rests with Ward Randol and me. Generally, he and I write most of the copy that the Editor, Alison Iceman, formats and distributes. From November through February, Ward focused much of his time and effort on supporting the operations millage that was then soundly defeated by Troy voters. Following the election, our collective focus shifted to the fate of the Museum when City Manager John Szerlag, following City Council's direction, implemented "Option One" to balance the City budget. Additionally, Ward and the other members of the Troy Heritage Campaign Committee wrestled with decisions regarding the Society's plan to move the Niles-Barnard House to the Museum and proceed with the proposed Museum expansion in the face of its scheduled closing on July 1, 2011 under Option 1.

This *Village Press* includes updates on each of these issues and a complete *Report to Donors* that details contributions and expenditures to date to the Troy Heritage Campaign. While we are behind in communicating to you, our supporters, volunteers and donors, we have not been idle. We hope you find the information in this issue positive, pragmatic and carefully reasoned. If you have questions or concerns, please E-mail the THS Board of Trustees at info@troyhistory.org or Loraine Campbell at lm.campbell@troymi.gov. Thank you for your patience and continued support.

The Move Is ON!

Troy Heritage Campaign co-chairpersons, Ward Randol and John Lavender met with Museum and City administrators in June to discuss the pros and cons of proceeding with the planned relocation of the Niles Barnard house this year. The reasons to move the house far outweigh concerns rooted in the unsettled future of the Museum. First, the gift agreement between the City and Harriet Barnard's estate will expire on December 31, 2010. If the house is not relocated as part of a gift agreement, it will likely be torn down when the property is sold. This important piece of Troy's heritage will be lost. Second, the THS has already raised and spent over \$500,000 to purchase land, and retain architects who developed a site plan and construction drawings. Most important, as Ward Randol noted, "We have a contract with our donors. They have made donations expressly for the relocation of the house. We cannot use that money for another purpose. To do so would violate their trust. We cannot return the money to them as they have already claimed the donations on their tax returns."

The City agreed to proceed with the project with the THS assuming complete financial and administrative control of the house relocation. In August the Heritage Campaign Committee issued RFPs to a pre-selected list of general contractors to relocate the house to the site on the new property immediately west of the Museum's main parking lot. The house will be placed on a full basement and provided with electric service and natural gas for temporary heat. Only essential exterior repairs will be completed. Interior renovations will be completed later, when additional funds are available. Continued on Page 2

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The committee selected Frank Rewold and Sons, Inc. of Rochester, MI as the contractor. They anticipate moving the house at the end of October. Weather and coordination of the utilities owning overhead wires along the route are the critical variables that can affect the target date. Please watch the THS website and local newspapers for additional information about the move date.

City Restructuring Impacts the Troy Museum & Historic Village

Each year City administration submits a new fiscal budget to City Council in April. Following two budget hearings and any revisions to the document, the budget is approved by Council in May and implemented on July 1. The FY2010/11 Budget was approved on a 4 to 3 vote and implemented what City Manager John Szerlag refers to as Option 1. The provisions in this plan balanced the budget through the elimination of 43 full time and about 60 part time employees, and through deep cuts in quality of life services (Library, Museum and Nature Center). These cuts affected the Museum as follows:

- The annual Museum operations budget of \$480,000 was cut to \$190,000.
- The Museum's full time archivist and 7 part time employees were laid off. One part time employee was retained at reduced hours and reduced wages.
- The Museum's public hours of operation were reduced from 7 days a week to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm. These days were selected following an analysis of 5 years of attendance data that indicated these days saw the heaviest volume of Museum visitors.
- Because the general supply budget used to support all programs at the Museum was nearly eliminated no weekend public events, including the Fall Farm Festival, Trick or Treating on the Green and Hanging of the Greens, were scheduled this year.

It is also important to note that City Council approved a three-year rolling budget in May. The budget for FY2011/12 further reduces the Museum operations budget to \$77,000. Under Option 1 and effective July 1, 2011 the Museum Manager and the part time employee will be laid off and the Museum will be completely closed to the public. The budget, as currently approved, covers utilities, required insurance, minimal maintenance and security to mothball the facility.

Fundraiser Update

The Report to Donors included in this newsletter will update members on the Troy Heritage Campaign fund raising activities through June 30, 2010. These dollars are dedicated to Phase 1 of the proposed Museum expansion: moving the Niles-Barnard House to the Museum. A significant revenue-generating project was the volunteer effort to research, write and publish *Fire Calls and Station Stories: A History of the Volunteer Troy Fire Department*. To date, net proceeds from the book are \$7,745. Final accounting is still incomplete for the annual Traffic Jam Car Show held in August. Nearly 170 vehicles registered for this year's show which attracted a larger crowd than any of the previous shows.

Memorials

This summer the Troy Historical Society said goodbye to three wonderful friends. On June 8, 2010 long-time THS member and benefactor, Bill Price died at the age of 79 following a very long illness. Bill supported the Museum as a member of the Troy Historical Commission and advocated strongly to bring a historic barn to the Village. He was delighted to know that a barn was included in the new site plan for the Museum.

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On July 19th, Bill Siess, husband of THS Board member Judy Siess passed away unexpectedly. Bill was a Vietnam veteran and an enthusiastic “car guy” who loved racing and automotive events. We extend our deepest condolences to Judy.

Finally, on September 7, 2010, Al Holdburg, one of the Society’s oldest and most devoted members died at the age of 98. Al and his wife Thelma were charter members of the THS. They were at the Museum the day the Caswell house was moved to the vacant land behind the 1927 Township Hall, and actively participated in every THS and Museum event until very recently. Al’s dedication, engaging personality, and his vision for the Society will be remembered and cherished for years to come.

A Sustainable Solution

By Loraine Campbell

Many THS members, Museum visitors and members of the general public expressed disbelief that City administration and City Council would follow through with published plans to eliminate funding and close the Museum as part of their plan to balance the City Budget. I continue to hear these remarks every day. However, the cutbacks instituted on July 1 of this year, and the actions of City management reaffirm that they will continue to implement Option 1. Many of you have offered your suggestions for fund raising and other solutions to avert the planned Museum closure on July 1, 2011. The following is a response to some of those ideas and a brief summary of our plan to provide a new sustainable operational model for the Museum.

First, the Troy Museum cannot be the recipient of any funds raised if one of the November ballot initiatives to levy a millage for a district library is approved. State law regarding district libraries is very specific. Those funds may only be used to support libraries. If a district library is established, the Troy Public Library will no longer receive operational support from the City’s general fund and the Troy Museum will no longer be part of the Library Department. Eliminating the Library from the City budget does not “free up” monies that can be redirected to the Museum or another purpose. The cut only reduces the overall budget shortfall created because property tax revenues continue to fall.

Fundraisers are great tools to rally support for specific projects and to supplement other sources of funding. While some organizations have well-organized annual events, most of these generate only 20-40% of the groups’ operations budgets. Additionally, these events require an incredible expenditure of time and effort to plan and execute at the expense of time allocated for mission-focused activities. The THS has held fundraisers to support the Museum and will continue to host these events. (See Fundraiser Update in this issue.) However, the Board recognizes that even highly successful events will not completely support even a reduced Museum operation.

This summer, with the support of City administration, THS Trustees and I assembled a very skilled and forward-thinking transition team to develop a new operational plan and financially sustainable business model for the Museum. Our team received paid technical support through the Michigan Nonprofit Assn. and the Cultural Alliance of Southeastern Michigan (the Troy Museum is a member organization of the Alliance).

Working with representatives from Oakland County and The Stage Nature Center, we developed an innovative Strategic Alliance Concept that, if implemented, can provide a sustainable structure to support Museum operations. The THS Board of Trustees agreed to serve as the fiduciary of our proposal, which was submitted to the Michigan Nonprofit Assn. to compete for 4-6 major implementation grants offered by the Kresge and Ford Foundations. Grant recipients will be notified in October. An implementation grant, if awarded, will not be a complete solution, but it will be a major step to transition the Museum to a new and sustainable era.

School Programs, Lectures and Teas

Thanks to the ongoing support of the THS, Troy Museum programs will continue this fall. In June, Loraine Campbell presented the Board of Trustees with a proposal to hire three part time interpreters to provide education programs to school groups on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the 2010-11 school year. Program fees will cover supplies and stipends for the consultants and provide earned revenue for the Society. Former museum employees Ginny Czerwinski and Frances Willuweit and volunteer Stephanie Suszek have been retained as interpretive consultants. THS will also pay a stipend to Anne Nagrant to maintain program and financial records.

This fall the THS monthly lecture series will continue. The following lectures are free for all THS members. Guests pay \$5 at the door. These lectures are held in the Church at the Museum at 7:30 p.m.

Oct 20: Sojourner Truth

Museum Manager Loraine Campbell will explore the life of Isabella Baumfree, an African-American [abolitionist](#) and [women's rights](#) activist who was born into [slavery](#) in [New York](#). Isabella later changed her name to Sojourner Truth and dictated a narrative of her life story.

Nov 17: Marines in the Great Lakes

Troy resident Don Burzynski, author of the upcoming book *The Leathernecks: From the Shores of Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma 1805-1847*, will present a slideshow about the US Marines and how they stopped the British from claiming the Michigan Territory.

Consider also enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of history at the monthly Teas at 2 p.m. Please call the Museum at 248-524-3570 to reserve your place today. Tickets are \$7.

September 30: Michigan Wildlife

The pioneers who settled this area arrived to find forests and swamps. Learn about the animals that were living here—including bears—from a Detroit Zoo docent.

October 28: Hidden Stories of Art

Is there more behind a work of art than what you see? A DIA docent will explore multiple interpretations and historical contexts to find what else lies beneath the surface.

November 18: Cranks & Charmers

The lovely Petticoat Ladies of Garden City are coming to present a show featuring extraordinary women who were all “extreme” in love, art, temperance, fame, or money.

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:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and
Thursday 10am to 3pm

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

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Troy Historical Society (THS) Heritage Campaign Report to Donors

September 2010

This is our fourth progress report to the donors to our THS Heritage Campaign to expand and enhance the Troy Museum & Historic Village. It includes updates on:

- Moving the 1837 Niles-Barnard House
- Status of Interpretive Master Plan, Barn and Site Plan
- Restructuring the Museum for the Future
- Current Financial Report

Moving the 1837 Niles-Barnard House

We are going to move this historic house to the Troy Museum & Historic Village in 2010! Our targeted time for the two-mile move of the house from its Livernois & Square Lake Road location to the Museum is near the end of October. Thanks to your generosity, the THS Heritage Campaign has previously been able to buy the land west of the Museum's parking lot as a new site for the house, and to have our architects prepare the plans and construction drawings for the move. Now the Campaign has accumulated funds sufficient to cover the estimated costs to prepare the new site with a foundation, move the house to it (facing Wattles Road), hook up the necessary utilities, button up the house for the winter and clean up the Livernois site, all with no outlay by the City of Troy. The 2006 Heritage Campaign Agreement between THS and the City has been amended so that THS can hire a contractor directly to accomplish this project which, as you may recall, is the first phase of our THS Heritage Campaign to expand and enhance the Troy Museum & Historic Village. The majority of our donors have asked that we use their contributions to save the Niles-Barnard House by moving it to the Museum. We are delighted that now we are able to honor their request.

Status of Interpretive Master Plan, Barn and Site Plan

To follow up on our last Report to you (March 2009):

- The Museum Manager and an advisory committee together with a Minneapolis consultant have prepared an Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) for the Museum that is ready to implemented, once the future of the Museum is secured (see below). The consultant's fee for developing the IMP was fully paid by a grant to the Museum from the Kresge Foundation.
- The acquisition of a barn by donation is on hold until the future of the Museum is secured.
- The THS Heritage Campaign's Museum site plan prepared by our architect, Hopkins-Burns Design Studio, has been approved by Troy's Planning Commission and City Council. We do not now have sufficient funds to proceed with the balance of the site plan after moving the Niles-Barnard house. We will resume fundraising for the Campaign once the future of the Museum has been secured.

Restructuring the Museum for the Future

The Museum Manager lost all but one of her staff of ten employees on June 30, 2010, due to City budget cuts directly resulting from the defeat by Troy's voters of a restorative millage at the February 23, 2010 millage election. Further, the three-year budget adopted by the City starting July 1, 2010 will close the Museum to the public on June 30, 2011. The Museum Manager is currently working with THS and others on a restructuring plan, and on grants to fund the restructuring, so that the Museum may remain open in future years on some basis, but without City tax support for permanent staff and programming. Stay tuned.

Current Financial Report

Receipts	Previous Results 1/1/05 – 12/31/08	1/1/09 thru 6/30/2010	Totals
Opening balance	\$21,500	\$-----	\$21,500
Donations other than sponsorships	500,620	21,806	522,426
Net bank interest and dividends	8,654	2,810	11,464
Heritage Campaign Fundraisers:			
Previously completed**	29,563	--	29,563
Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fair	4,724	1,395	6,119
Car Shows	67,544*	30,269*	97,813*
Music in the Air concerts	16,870	2,047	18,917
Troy, City from the Corners book sales and royalties	15,899	265	16,164
Fire Calls and Station Stories book sales	12,700*	5,096	17,796
Total Receipts	\$678,074	\$63,688	\$741,762

* Over 98% of these amounts were sponsorship donations. See list of major sponsors attached.

** Beaver Tales, Kona Grille benefit tickets, Cameo Quilt Guild raffle, Barnes & Noble book fair, the Museum Staff's tea/fundraiser, and pre-2009 receipts from shopformuseums.com and ornament sales.

Disbursements	Previous Results 1/1/05 – 12/31/08	1/1/09 thru 6/30/2010	Totals
Printing & promotion	\$21,523	\$ 0	\$21,523
Specific to fundraisers:			
Previously completed	2,660	--	2,660
Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Fair	3,639	1,123	4,762
Car Shows	10,683	2,274	12,957
Music in the Air concerts	21,395	3,710	25,105
Fire Calls and Station Stories book printing		10,051	10,051
Total Disbursements	\$59,900	\$17,158	\$77,058

Heritage Campaign Project Expenses

2005	Down payments on 109 Lange Avenue and 100 W. Wattles Road	\$ 61,500
2006	Balance paid for 109 Lange Avenue	151,436
2007	Balance paid for 100 W. Wattles Road	162,669
2008-10	Architectural services for site planning, construction drawings, et al.	123,615
Total Project Expenses Paid		\$499,220

Major Sponsors of THS Fundraisers

Kelly Services, Inc./Terry Adderley (Car Shows)

Kirco and affiliates/Alan Kiriluk (Car Shows)

Suburban Motors Company, Inc./Dave Fisher (Car Shows)

Troy Fire Stations Nos. 1-6 and Women's Auxiliary (*Fire Calls* book)

Hon. Norman & Harriet Barnard family (*Fire Calls* book)

We are most grateful for your contributions during this difficult economy. Like you, we know that cultural institutions like the Troy Museum are an important component of economic revitalization and of sustainable, desirable communities. We will continue to explore every opportunity to complete the vision of the Troy Heritage Campaign and deeply appreciate your continued support.

Further reports can be downloaded at www.troymi.gov/museum and www.troyhistory.org. Please feel free to contact any of the Heritage Campaign Committee members at any time through the Museum office of 248.524.3570 or through LM.Campbell@troymi.gov.

Ward Randol and John Lavender
Co-Chairs, THS Heritage Campaign
Fred Rounds
Treasurer

