

40th ANNUAL WEBSTER FALL FESTIVAL

On Saturday, September 23 we celebrated 40 years of the Webster Fall Festival. The weather was perfect, which helped draw hundreds of people to our beautiful Historic Village for a day of good, old-fashioned family fun!

Festival goers enjoyed a rummage sale, demonstrations and displays, old-time baseball games between the Chelsea Monitors Baseball Club and the Union Baseball Club of Dexter, antique vehicles and farm equipment, hay rides, a one-room school experience, and face painting.

This year's festival was dedicated to Gloria Brigham, co-founder of the Webster Fall Festival and charter member of WTHS. She and her husband, the late Boy Scoutmaster Jack, dedicated countless hours to WTHS and the festival. We owe a big thank you to Brian Braun of Braun and Helmer Auction Services for kicking off the day with a live auction of antiques and collectibles. Thank you to WTHS member Dave Polley who chaired the Webster Fall Festival Committee this year. Great job!

The Festival Committee was pleased with the final outcome of the 2023 festival. Thank you to the village of volunteers who helped make this festival a success!

View pictures of this year's festival on Page 5.

MEMBER CORNER

Our next member gathering, the WTHS Holiday

Potluck Dinner, is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 12**. Bring a dish to share and join us for an evening of good food and conversation. Jacob Donner will give a brief presentation on the history of Northfield Township. If you have a history-related hobby, collection, or project you would like to share, please feel free to contact a Board member about doing a presentation at a future meeting.

WTHS is seeking donations to purchase lights for the tree lighting ceremony at Christmas in the Village on **December 16**. You can donate online or send a check to PO Box 253, Dexter, MI 48130.

Membership renewal notices will be sent out in December. To join WTHS for 2024, please visit our website: www.webstertownshiphistoricalsociety.org



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dianne & Raymond Singer



The WTHS Board decided to close the village after the "Christmas in the Village" event on December 18th until the end of March. We do not have the ability for snow/ice removal and do not want anyone to slip and fall. The Crossroads Community Center will remain open throughout the winter hosting various meetings, facility rentals, and events.

GRANT ACTIVITY

We recently received notifications that two grants we applied for were funded:

(1) Dexter Community Fund, through Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, awarded us \$5,000



toward our \$20,000 sign project. These funds will be used to purchase large signs in the village for the Webster Church Road and North entrances and for informative signs for each of our buildings.

(2) The Michigan Nonprofit Relief Fund awarded us \$25,000 in support of our operating budget. These funds are to recover lost revenue due to Covid19. We were unable to have fundraisers for 2 years and spent over \$90,000 on maintenance for our buildings.

(3) We received funds for Year 2 of our Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation 3-year grant. This year we will expand programming and activities, continue the most lucrative fundraisers from 2023, and hire a part-time Program Coordinator. This position will be posted on our website soon.

As with all grants, these funds may not be used for any other purpose than that specified by each grant. So, although it sounds like WTHS should have lots of money, we still struggle to keep the Society running on a day-to-day basis. We truly depend on the support of our members to keep us going! Dues and donations are our bread and butter.

Our Men's Monday Drop-In continues every Monday at 10:00 am at Crossroads Community Center with conversation, coffee and snacks.

We are planning to form a women's group in January 2024. We would like to begin with a box lunch to which women in the township are

invited to gather and share ideas about the development of this group. Please watch your email for an announcement about this event.

We will be developing more programs and activities for 2024, reaching out to everyone to come to Historic Webster Village and participate. We would like to involve people of all ages in our various activities and programs to better serve the community.

Early next year, a survey will be mailed to all township residences. This survey will be a follow-up to our 2022 survey, which asked what people would like WTHS to do to serve the community better. We need to measure the results of the changes we have made and make further inquiries about moving forward.

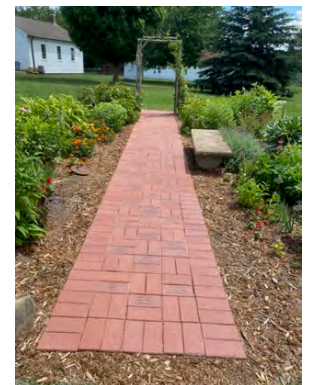
TOWNSHIP WINTER MAILING

Please watch your mailbox for the WTHS two-page insert that will be mailed to all taxpayers in the township. We are broadening our reach to all residents to inform them about upcoming WTHS events and activities.

BRICK FUNDRAISER

There is a defined space in front of the Old Town Hall at the base of the porch steps for our one remaining brick path that will connect with the new walking path. We plan to fill this space with your commemorative bricks next spring.

There are no plans to install any additional brick paths in the village, so this will be your last opportunity to purchase a brick to commemorate a family member, friend, pet, or event and be part of Webster history. Think Christmas or Hanukkah and what a unique gift this would make! Use the form on the last page of the newsletter to order a 4" x 8" brick. Forms are due **February 29, 2024.**



WTHS EVENTS

PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER

On November 4, Pampered Chef demonstrator Maureen Kimmel provided some goodies for attendees to sample while they learned about Pampered Chef products. I



purchased several items last year that my husband and I love having as part of our kitchen tool set, and I purchased several more items this year.

Maureen kindly offered to share profits with WTHS, 20 to 25% of sales. Last year we received a check for \$700! Online sales are open until **November 25**, so please take a look and see if there's anything you can use in your kitchen. The holidays are approaching quickly, and Pampered Chef products, known for their quality workmanship, make wonderful gifts.

www.pamperedchef.com/party/websterchurch

EUCHRE NIGHTS!

Our next Euchre Night is **Thursday, November 30**. Check-in begins at 6:30 pm to register and select a table; play begins at 7pm. Hearty refreshments are served mid-evening. The suggested



donation at the door is \$5/person. Donations are also appreciated for beverages and refreshments. At the suggestion of attendees, a small prize will be awarded to the person with the highest score and the lowest score.

Additional Euchre Nights are scheduled for the New Year. Games will be held on the 4th Thursday, January through April, 2024. We play for fun! Everyone is welcome regardless of skill level. It's a great way to hone your Euchre skills and meet new people!



CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

Join us on **December 16** from 5:00 - 7:30 PM for Christmas in the Village. There will be a tree-lighting ceremony at 5:30 PM. Spend an evening strolling the Historic Webster Village by lantern light, accompanied by the music of the Arbor Consort, dressed in period costumes, singing carols as you wander through the Village. Experience our historic buildings, each with a different Christmas tree, greenery and candles inside to bring alive the spirit of Christmas past.

Children will enjoy the reading of *The Night Before Christmas* in Podunk School. Drop by the Kleinschmidt General Store for a visit with Santa and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or mulled cider and cookies. Search our gift shop for a special toy or gift to take home. Wander outside to enjoy the warming fire. Have your family photo taken in front of an historic carriage, all decked out with greenery and bows. (Note that the Kleinschmidt General Store, Podunk School, and the Old Town Hall are heated.)

Make this event at the Historic Webster Village a new family tradition. No advance reservations or tickets required. Suggested Donation: \$10/person. Under 12 free.

CELTIC HARP CONCERT

On October 22, WTHS hosted a Celtic Harp Concert in the Old Town Hall. It was a sold-out event! Once again, beautiful harp music produced by Carol Kappus and the Ann Arbor Harpers (all 6 of them) filled the air. To hear a



sample of the music, please visit the Photo Gallery on our website.

HISTORY CORNER

The Establishment of WTHS

Webster Township Historical Society, or WTHS, an acronym by which the Society is also recognized today, was incorporated on December 29, 1980. Signers of the Articles of Incorporation on that date were: Heloise W. Dunstan, James B. Parker, May A. Mast, Marjorie E. Smyth, and Paul Kleinschmidt. The “initial resident agent” and Society secretary was Rev. John Gardner. These people, along with Robert Beaugrand, formed the first WTHS Board of Directors. The Articles stated the purpose for which the corporation is organized:

“To study the History of Webster Township, Washtenaw County, and to promote the preservation of this heritage through local community effort projects.”

“The Webster Township Historical Society is a non-profit organization of interested citizens of Webster Township, as well as citizens of other nearby communities in Washtenaw County, Michigan, who are interested in volunteering their joint efforts toward furthering the welfare of the Township and its citizens. This society is organized to promote interest in Township history, provide resources for research and preservation of historical records, documents, buildings and other significant sites, landmarks and structures, obtain oral and written histories of township residents, survey the historical, architectural and landscape significance of the entire township, obtain official recognition from County, State and National agencies for properties of historical importance, and to promote and stimulate community awareness through a variety of social activities for the benefit of the society and the citizens of the township.”

Our mission has changed over time, however, our primary goal is to remain a historical society. "The mission of the Webster Township Historical Society is to preserve, promote and bring to life the history of Webster Township through the preservation and sharing of its buildings, archives and artifacts, and to connect



to the community through programs and activities. WTHS maintains the Historic Webster Archives (HWA) composed of documents, photos, artifacts, etc. of importance to the history of Webster Township that have been donated to WTHS.

Another role that is developing for the Society due to grant support is as a center for the community offering multi-generational programs and activities with a focus on serving residents 65+. However, we are not a senior center and do not intend to become one. We are the Webster Township Historical Society.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have served as the WTHS President since March 2017. It is time for a change, both for me and for WTHS. I have a bucket list to attend to and WTHS would benefit from a new vision and leadership. Please consider taking care of this wonderful organization for at least two years. Terms for officers are two years and there is no requirement to run for re-election.

This organization is growing and developing to be a valuable asset for the Webster Community. I hope you all appreciate how far this Board of Directors has brought WTHS. If you are interested in the role of President, or any other office, please contact me for more information and/or a copy of the by-laws (you can also find them on our website).

We're only beginning—there is so much more to do. We are planning to improve storage and access to the Archives in the future by getting grants to purchase equipment and build an addition on the Kleinschmidt General Store to better house the Archives. The addition would

have its own front and back or side doors, a large storage closet, and space for reading/ research. If you would like to support this building project, please contact Thelma (734-368-0887).

WTHS would like to have the village buildings open one Sunday afternoon each month during the late spring, summer, and fall seasons. If you would like to serve as a docent on a Sunday afternoon for 3-4 hours, please contact Peggy Harless (734-646-1458; peggy.harless1@gmail.com). You will be trained so that you know what to do in this role. We need your help to accomplish the goal of opening our buildings more often.

To help WTHS become more connected, please share our Facebook posts, visit our website and spread the word via Instagram and other social

media. Share your suggestions, questions, etc. by sending an email message to wthsmi@gmail.com.

Best regards,

Thelma Tucker

RENT OUR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS FOR YOUR EVENT!

Historic Webster Village has 7 buildings and a 20' x 40' tent (June – September) and our beautiful grounds available for your family reunion, graduation party, anniversary party, memorial gathering, baby or wedding shower, etc. We offer a unique, charming and affordable venue. In addition, members receive a 10% discount on the rental fees. Send an email to wthsmi@gmail.com for information and to reserve your favorite spot.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Thelma Tucker

Vice President

Karen Hertenstein

Secretary

Virginia Davis

Treasurer

Dita Albert

Directors

Karen Bright

Gloria Brigham

Peggy Harless

Rick Kleinschmidt

Anne Lask

Beth Sibray

Joanne Westman

COMMITTEES

Membership/Marketing

Beth Sibray

Volunteer Coordinator

Peggy Harless

Event Planning

Joanne Westman

Maintenance

Rick Kleinschmidt &

Martha Zeeb

Signs

Dita Albert

Preservation

Virginia Davis &

Karen Hertenstein



Snapshots from the 2023 Fall Festival



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WTHS EVENTS

Mondays, weekly, 10 AM

Our Men's Monday Drop-In continues at Crossroads Community Center with conversation, coffee and snacks.

30 November 2023, 7:00 PM

Euchre nights resume at Crossroads Community Center, Thursday, November 30, then the 4th Thursday, January through April 2024. Check-in at 6:30pm to register and select a table; play begins at 7pm. Suggested donation at the door is \$5/person. Donations are appreciated for beverages and refreshments.

2-3 December 2023, 10:00 – 5:00 PM

Huron Valley Wood Turners Annual Holiday Sale, Crossroads Community Center.

12 December 2023, 6:30 PM

WTHS Holiday Potluck Dinner. Bring a dish to share and prepare to have an amazing dinner prepared by Webster Township cooks. They're the best! Jacob Donner will give a brief presentation on the history of Northfield Township.

16 December 2023, 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Christmas in the Village. Join us for a tree-lighting ceremony at 5:30 PM. This evening of the sights and sounds of Christmas will enchant both young and old.

17 December

Historic Village closes until April 1.

SAVE THE DATES!



ST. VALENTINE'S TEA

February 10, 2024

FLEA MARKET

June 8, 2024

WTHS ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

June 11, 2024

BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

August 3, 2024

WEBSTER FALL FESTIVAL

September 28, 2024

CELTIC HARP CONCERT

October 20, 2024

More information will be available on these 2024 events on our website.



On Friday, November 3, South Lyon Square Dance caller David Smith rented May Mast's Barn for a Barn Dance that was open to the public. The barn was full of dancers having a wonderful time!

Webster Township Historical Society Brick Campaign



4x8 Brick \$100

3 lines of text

20 characters per line

(this includes punctuation and spaces)

HOW TO ORDER YOUR CUSTOM, COMMEMORATIVE BRICK FOR THE OLD TOWN HALL PATH

Complete order form below and return to the following address:

WTHS, PO Box 253, Dexter, MI 48130

Make Checks Payable to: WTHS

Please direct questions to Thelma Tucker at bafelma@gmail.com

Please note: there is no choice of brick color and it will be engraved exactly as entered on this form by you.

Brick Order Deadline FEBRUARY 29, 2024

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Line 1																				
Line 2																				
Line 3																				

Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity, order your engraved brick today!