



CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

On Saturday, December 16 the WTHS began a new holiday tradition with their Christmas in the Village event. The event kicked off with a tree-lighting next to the Dieterle Corncrib.

Visitors to the Historic Webster Village were treated to the sight of beautiful lantern light and the sounds of music by The Arbor Consort. Singers were dressed in period costumes and sang carols to the delight of visitors.

Our historic buildings, each with a unique Christmas tree, greenery and candles were open for all to enjoy. Children were entertained by a reading of *The Night Before Christmas* in Podunk School and a visit with Santa in the Old Town Hall. When it was time to warm up, visitors were invited to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and cookies and search our gift shop for a special toy or gift to take home. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

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

MEMBER CORNER

December Holiday Potluck Dinner. We had a nice turnout for our annual member Holiday Potluck Dinner. As always, there was lots of delicious food to eat. Everyone enjoyed the

music provided by the duo "Take Note" and the program provided by Jacob Donner on Northfield Township history, focusing on Whitmore Lake, was fascinating.

Member Meetings. Our February Member Meeting was held Tuesday, February 13, at Crossroads at 7:00 PM. Malaika Whitney and Matthew Haarklou provided the program on "The Journey of Building Our Timber-Frame, Straw-Bale House, Start to Finish on the Whitney Farm." Twenty-five people enjoyed the PowerPoint presentation showing the construction of their home. There were lots of questions and much conversation while members enjoyed cake and ice cream.

Our April Member Meeting will be on Tuesday, **April 9**, at Crossroads at 7:00 PM. Darryl Wright, water quality specialist and historian, will present on his new project, a mode of transportation designed for the railroad industry - back in the day.

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!**
Jennifer and Dave Starrs
Lynette Korzin

GRANT ACTIVITY

Men's Monday Drop-in. This event continues every Monday at 10:00 AM at Crossroads Community Center. Men in the Webster Township area are welcome to attend this gathering to enjoy coffee, snacks, and conversation.

Ladies Event. To kick off organizing an event for women in the Webster Township area, we held a "Ladies Box Lunch Social" on January 16. Twenty-one women gathered at Crossroads Community Center for a free lunch (supported by an award from the 100 Women Who Care) and conversation about when to meet, how often to meet, and activities that would be enjoyed. It was a very enthusiastic group! Each person filled out a brief questionnaire to help event leader Anne Lask plan the next meeting. Thank you to all who attended! Please contact Anne (laskanne@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to participate in future gatherings/events/meet ups.



A Medical Marijuana Panel Discussion. On Saturday, **April 27**, 2:00 – 4:00 PM, at Crossroads Community Center, three experts on medical marijuana will provide information about using CBD oil and medical marijuana: Dr. Betty Chaffee, a pharmacologist; Adrienna Spence, who uses CBD oil for her chronic illness; and Dr. Evan Litinas, MD, a specialist on this topic. With so many dispensaries and a growing facility in our midst, it's good to be properly informed.

Signage. Historic Webster Village needs signs. We received a \$5,000 grant from the Dexter Community Fund to purchase large signs for the two main entrances. A committee identified

the precise location and is working on appropriate designs for these signs. We would like to have them in place this spring.

The Village also needs informative signs in front of each building so visitors know why these buildings are being preserved. The WTHS Board is looking for funds to purchase these additional signs that will be the final piece of informative materials needed to complete our historic Village. We are working toward not only having school children visit to learn about pioneer days in Webster but also inviting other groups - senior centers, historical societies, etc. - to tour our Village and have a picnic lunch.

Lighting Project. At the Christmas in the Village event, it became apparent that we need more light for activities after sunset. WTHS is developing a plan for installing lights on buildings that do not currently have one. We also are considering adding period lamp posts around the green in the future. Not a light but still electrical, we would like to add a couple of fans to May's Barn ceiling for air circulation.

FUNDRAISERS

Brick Walkway Project is Coming to a Close. Today is the day to support the Brick Walkway Project! Do you want to be remembered as part of the history of Webster Township? You can own a small piece of Historic Webster Village when you purchase a 4" x 8" engraved brick! Purchasing an engraved brick is the perfect opportunity to honor something or someone close to your heart.

For example, WTHS President Thelma Tucker purchased bricks for May's Memorial Garden to honor her parents and grandparents. She plans to purchase a brick for her husband and herself for the Old Town Hall path. The Wheeler family has been in Webster since 1829. Victor Jean of the Wheeler Wheelwright & Blacksmith Shop was Thelma's second great-uncle. However, even people new to the community have purchased a brick to make their mark in Webster! Engraved bricks purchased now will be installed between the base of the porch steps of the Old Town Hall and the existing concrete path. Installation is scheduled



for July 2024 - we need you to support this effort now! We need a commitment for 80 more bricks to complete the last phase of this project. Bricks must be ordered by May 15, 2024 so please don't delay, as no late orders will be accepted and there are no more brick paths planned. See pages 7-8 for the order form. For an example of how your brick will be displayed, see the photo above of a section of the path through May's Memorial Garden. Questions? Contact Thelma (734-368-0887).



LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

The goal for 2024 is to have Historic Webster Village open on a regular basis. To accomplish this, a Living History Project is in the planning stages for the Village. Materials are being prepared for a docent training program as part of this project. This will include the history of WTHS and Historic Webster Village as well as the history of each of our seven buildings.

These histories will be combined into a Docent Training Manual which will provide information for people who would like to be docents in our buildings during scheduled open hours and for visitor tours of the Village. We hope to have at least a dozen docents prepared and ready to talk with Village visitors based on the knowledge they gain from this manual. If you would like to participate in this program as a docent or have questions, please contact Peggy Harless (peggy.harless1@gmail.com).

DEXTER BICENTENNIAL

WTHS is proud and excited to celebrate our heritage by joining the Dexter Bicentennial project! Currently, we plan for the Village to be open on **July 13th** with various activities and demonstrations in and around our buildings. We invite the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, FFA, 4-H clubs, and any other interested groups or individuals to join in the planning for this event. Please contact Beth Sibray (bsibray@gmail.com) if you or your group would like to be part of our celebration.

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. A Facilities Usage Agreement is available on our website.

EUCHRE NIGHTS

We resumed Euchre Nights on November 30. A survey of members and previous participants showed that Thursday nights were preferable. So, Euchre Nights through April will be the 4th Thursday of each month: **February 22, March 28, and April 25**. A small prize is offered to the person with the highest score and the one with the lowest score. This event is for fun—get to know your neighbors and enjoy a night out!



ST VALENTINE'S TEA

The second annual St. Valentine's Tea, held on Saturday, February 10, was an event not to be missed. "High Tea" service included a variety of finger sandwiches and sweets to accompany the tea. There was also a Vintage Item Silent Action after a presentation by speaker Charlie Haas. You can see pictures from the event on page 6.

HISTORY CORNER

Native Americans in Webster Township

The term “Indian” was first used by Columbus to describe the red-skinned natives of the new World that he believed to be “Indios” as he thought he had reached Asia. Various tribes/nations spoke different dialects that were similar in speech. Algonquian is a family of languages spoken now or formerly by North American Indians.

Settled south of Lake Michigan, the friendly Potawatomi Indians composed the majority of the indigenous people in this area, but their numbers never reached 3,000 in Washtenaw County. The Potawatomi tribe/nation was of the Algonquian stock or league. They had a reputation for being honest, peaceful, and frugal. Other Native American tribes of this area were Ojibwa, Ottawa and Huron. The Iroquois came to Michigan just before the white man. These two leagues - Potawatomi and Iroquois - were enemies. The Iroquois were the most organized and the most cunning and shrewd.

Indian tribes constantly changed their territories. The Algonquian probably were in Michigan for hundreds of years. Place names throughout Michigan were Indian words. In fact, both Washtenaw and Michigan are Indian names, however, few, if any, Indian names were used in Webster Township. Washtenaw County was beautiful when the white settlers arrived. An Indian practice of burning areas between large trees in the spring and fall leaving space for grasses and flowers helped the early white settlers. They used these areas to plant corn prior to the land being cleared and cultivated. The Indians also gave the settler beans and squash to plant. Indian trails were used to travel to and from various places in Michigan. Plymouth Trail came through the south part of Webster and became known as River Road and later as Joy Road. Another trail led from Ann Arbor to Dexter and became a major state highway.

The Old Sauk Trail from Detroit to Chicago became a military highway when Michigan evolved as a territory and later became a major highway running east and west across our state. This account is based on a document written by Norma McAlister of Dexter.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We are proud of our accomplishments as a Board of Directors and wish to see the WTHS continue to flourish. Over the past 6 years, WTHS Board of Directors has been a devoted group of people who believe WTHS has an important role to play in the Webster community.

Our efforts are supported by several grants, our programs are multiplying, our fundraisers are successful and will be repeated in 2024, and our membership grew from 26 in 2017 to 85 in 2023.

This year's WTHS election is a big one! It's time to bring in some fresh ideas and new energy. The Call for Nominations will be sent to all members in early April 2024.

- New officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be elected to a two-year term.
- Four two-year Director positions will be on the ballot. Karen Bright, Gloria Brigham, and Martha Zeeb will be the incumbents. However, we invite nominations for others to run for these positions as well. The fourth position is an unfilled opening that will bring our Board of Directors to 13 members, once again establishing an odd number, which is preferable. Meanwhile, we will be doing some strategic planning and restructuring to better align the growth of WTHS with the demands made on our volunteers' time. We hope that you will consider running for a Board position or nominating someone to help WTHS continue its successful growth.

Best regards, *Thelma Tucker*

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

Martha Zeeb

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 Christmas in the Village

Credit for the beautiful photos from Christmas in the Village goes to Craig Albert.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WTHS EVENTS

Mondays, weekly, 10:00 AM

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

22 February 2024, 6:30 – 10:00 PM

Euchre Night. 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.

28 March 2024, 6:30 – 10:00 PM

Euchre Night. 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.

25 April 2024, 6:30 – 10:00 PM

Euchre Night. 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.

27 April 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Medical Marijuana Panel Discussion. Free program - three experts on medical marijuana will provide information about using CBD oil and medical marijuana: Dr. Betty Chaffee, a pharmacologist; Adrienna Spence, who uses CBD oil for her chronic illness; and Dr. Evan Litinas, MD, a specialist on this topic.

8 June 2024, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WTHS Flea Market. \$25/Booth space. Contact Dita Albert (ditareal@gmail.com) to reserve your space.

SAVE THE DATES!



MOVIE NIGHT

June 1, 2024, 7:00 PM

FLEA MARKET

June 8, 2024, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

WTHS ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

June 11, 2024, 6:30 PM

BLUEGRASS JAMBOREE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

August 3, 2024

WEBSTER FALL FESTIVAL

September 28, 2024

CELTIC HARP CONCERT

October 20, 2024

HALLOWEEN ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

October 27, 2024

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

December 14, 2024

Snapshots from the St. Valentine's Tea



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 MAY 15, 2024

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			

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

Webster Township Historical Society Brick Campaign

Please use this page to order multiple bricks or pay by credit card.

4x8 Brick \$100
3 lines of text
20 characters per line
(this includes punctuation and spaces)



(Sample brick)

Paid by:

☐ Credit Card (complete information below)
☐ Check # _____
☐ Cash

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____ CVC Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Signature: _____

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

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			
Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			
Line 1																			
Line 2																			
Line 3																			

If you are purchasing multiple bricks and would like them placed together, please include instructions here: