



Quarterly Newsletter



Member Meeting: Tuesday, October 14 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Members are invited to join us at Podunk School for the next Member Meeting. Michigan One-Room Schoolhouse Association (MORSA) president, Rochelle Balkam, will present "Primers, Chalk and Bells". Come to receive your new WTHS Membership and local business discount card! Light refreshments will be served. Please park in the Webster Townhall lot north of the Village.

A MESSAGE FROM WTHS

Our Community Survey will be arriving at your home this month. Please take about 5 minutes to complete this short survey. Your valuable feedback will help guide and shape future WTHS programs and events held at Crossroads Community Center and Historic Webster Village. As a thank you, you'll be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a WTHS annual family membership for 2026!

AMERICA250MI DIGITIZING GRANT



WTHS was awarded a grant from the America250MI Program in June. The program, funded by the Michigan Legislature, joins others nationwide in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the US. The \$5000 grant provides funds to purchase equipment and software to digitize WTHS historical documents, audio files, archives, catalog our artifacts and museum displays.



This new access will help us bring out more stories and facts telling how the pioneering spirit, courage and resourcefulness of our area's settlers and farmers allowed them to survive, thrive and fuel the future.

We'll be starting the digitizing process soon. We're looking for volunteers to join in these efforts. Interested in digging into history or would just like to help? Computer skills are good but not necessary.

Please contact Eric Albert at 734-929-8555 or Eric@webstervillage.org.

WEBSTER FALL FESTIVAL

42nd Annual Webster Fall Festival
Saturday, September 27, 2025
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
 5583 Webster Church Road

Free Parking! Free Admission!

We hope to see you at the 42nd Webster Fall Festival at the end of the month! For the day's schedule and more information, please visit www.websterfallfestival.org

Donations for the rummage sale and silent auction are being accepted now.

Rummage sale items please contact Anne Lask. 810-599-0864 or laskanne@gmail.com

Silent Auction items (\$75 value and above) contact Jerry Champine at 734-678-2981

Taste of Webster drop off: Sept 26, 9am-6pm

Eagle Scout Project

WTHS has a long history of working with local Boy Scouts of America troops. Troop 447 has played a major role in the moving and restoration of our Village buildings. It's amazing what they've done for us!



We are now working with Ty Cottrell of Troop 448 of Dexter on an Eagle Scout Service Project: restoring the historic 3-hole privy near the Podunk School, which has started to fall victim to the elements. After talking with WTHS representatives, he has delivered impressively detailed planning documents telling how he and his Troop 448 team will replace the cedar roof and restore and repair the siding, using historic period-type materials, and clean and paint the interior. Ty plans to start work this fall and complete it before the snow falls.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND DISCOUNTS



In our efforts to add some fun and perks to your WTHS membership, we have reached out to local businesses to procure discounts for our active members. WTHS members will be receiving an official laminated membership card, good for one year. On the back of the card there will be a list of participating businesses in this discount program. We are grateful for the companies which have joined the program in support of our organization. The membership perks program is still evolving so the list may grow over time. Stay tuned!



Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

For good. For ever. For all.

Lighting the Village

With the help of the AAACF Grant we are continuing the process of installing exterior lights on all of the buildings. This will greatly improve safety and accessibility for all visitors to Historic Webster Village. Illuminating our historic buildings and the walkway is the first step in fully lighting our walkways. We are excited that this will allow us to expand activities and programs into the evening hours.



Community Well Installation at the Village



The AAACF funding also makes it possible for us to install a community well in the village. This fall we will be breaking ground to add a new potable water well and frost-free hand pump. This accessible well will serve the entire community and will be especially useful to those who may need access to fresh water during a power failure. We also look forward to using the well for educational purposes.

LOOKING BACK...

Flea and Craft Market

On a gorgeous day in early June we held our 3rd Annual Flea and Craft Market. This year we added even more vendors with some coming from mid-Michigan and Ohio. Vendors and visitors alike expressed that it was a great success and look forward to returning next year. We all enjoyed the art, antiques, collectibles, live music, food and a special visit from State Representative Jennifer Conlin.



Pilot Field Trip Program Success!



Local Girl Scouts attended our pilot youth field trip program at the Village in mid-July. The day included historical lessons and activities that allowed the girls to experience what life was like in Webster Township's early days of settlement.

Activities focused on geography, economics, community problem solving, identifying museum artifacts, making wooden wheels, the roles of children at the turn of the 19th century, blacksmithing, a typical day at school in 1920, and the fight for women's rights. The girls also had the opportunity to try some old time games and homesteading skills on the Village Green.



This field trip program will be fine tuned and offered to local school groups beginning this fall and again in the spring. Special thanks go to Debi Bailey who was instrumental in developing the program along with Kris DeAngelo. Funding to create and launch our School Field Trips at Historic Webster Village was provided by a Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation Grant.



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ANN ARBOR

3rd Annual Bluegrass Jamboree



Over 400 people gathered in Historic Webster Village to enjoy bluegrass music on August 2. The Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, the New Memphis Express, Cedar Creek Bluegrass, and Wilson Thicket all performed on Dieterle Stage.



Our historic buildings were open and staffed by volunteer docents and our resident blacksmith. Several jam circles popped up around the village, and the Instrument Petting Zoo gave young and old alike an opportunity to try out the bluegrass instruments.



Local food and coffee trucks offered a variety of delicious selections for purchase. Our good friends from the Dexter Senior Center also had a booth where they sold ice cream provided to them by the Dexter Creamery. Games, bubbles and a mini straw maze kept children busy on the village green.



This event was organized by WTHS in partnership with Chris and Stephanie Sorenson, owners of local business Companion Custom Banjos. We are grateful for all of the community participation!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

WTHS benefits from the kindness, time, effort and support from our beloved volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without you!

- Firstly, thank you to our Webster Fire Department for coming out at the end of May to put up the big tent in front of Dieterle Corncrib. We are always happy to see the trucks pull up for this annual tent raising day. The men made quick work of such a big task and the tent has provided much needed shade for our summer events.



- Thank you to Shawn Spitz, our resident blacksmith. His generous nature and expertise bring something new to our visitors with each event. We are grateful for the hook he created to hold the bell rope in Podunk School.

- Once again, kudos to the National Honors Society students from Dexter High School, who reliably show up to help out with our events and work bees. They were especially helpful with setting up for the Jamboree in early August.

- We also want to give a warm welcome to our newest docent, Ann Schmoekel. You may have seen her in costume behind the counter in the General Store at the Bluegrass Jamboree! She brings a wealth of experience from past volunteer work with Troy Historic Village and Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

- One last shout out goes to the folks who attended the August Work Bee as they took care of several gardening and clean up needs in the Village. Special thanks to Mark Amsdill who came a day ahead of time to trim the fence line of overgrown shrubs and tree branches. Also thanks to Rick Kleinschmidt and Brad Clark for installing bird deterrent wires in the barn.

RECIPE CORNER

Great Grandma Fielder's Soft Sour Cream Sugar Cookies

This old fashioned soft sugar cookie recipe comes from the great grandmother of WTHS Admin. Assistant Debi Bailey. Great Grandma always kept fresh cookies in a crock at the bottom of the bakery cabinet so the little ones could help themselves. The secret ingredient here is a generous portion of freshly ground nutmeg! So good with a cup of coffee!

Soft Sour Cream Sugar Cookies

Combine together in a large bowl:

1 cup heavy cream
1 cup sour cream
1 tsp baking soda

Add and stir in sugar and eggs:

1 ½ cups sugar
2 eggs

Combine dry ingredients in a separate bowl and add flour mixture to the wet ingredients in two parts.

4 cups flour
2 tsp baking powder
¾ tsp salt
1 tsp grated nutmeg

Chill dough for at least two hours. Roll out on lightly floured towel to ¼" thick. Sprinkle with granulated sugar and lightly roll once more to press sugar into the dough. Cut rounds and bake on a greased cookie sheet.

350° oven, 10-15 minutes until edges are lightly browned and center springs to touch.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We recently accepted several items from Sara Cummings of Chelsea on behalf of her mother, **Barbara Ullman**: a 19th century-type 4-foot Walking Spinning Wheel; a 19th century handmade chair with needlework seat done by her grandmother and a Canadian WW1 Certificate that came from Canada when they immigrated to the US; and a selection of tatting.



It is planned that the Walking Wheel, now in the homemaker section of the Farm Museum, will be used to demonstrate thread and yarn spinning.

Janet Stanfield has donated a number of items from the Mast family barn: an old hand sickle for the garden display in the Old Town Hall, a pitchfork, Funk Corn seed sign for the Farm Museum, a wooden keg and washtub for the Homestead section of the Farm Museum.

Daryl Wright has donated two large stone grinding wheels. While provenance is unclear, the configuration is consistent with 19th century small mill wheels used in agricultural products processing. These will be displayed as part of the Farm Museum.

If you are interested in donating any artifacts from the early days in Webster Township, you can contact us by calling the WTHS office 734-726-5058 or send an email to wths@webstervillage.org



Upcoming Events

NEED A RIDE? RIDE THE WAVE!



The WAVE (Western Washtenaw Area Value Express) bus system provides safe, affordable rides to **anyone** in the WAVE Coverage Area to **anywhere** in Washtenaw County for **any** reason with fixed routes and door-to-door service.

Consider giving them a call if you need transportation to any of our events. Fares are \$1 each way for Seniors!

Click the bus for more info. <https://ridethewavebus.org/> (734) 475-9494

We are adding new programs and events throughout the year.
Keep an eye on our [website](#) for additional dates and information.

Next Member Meeting

Tuesday, October 14 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Men's Mondays

Recurring
every Monday
throughout
the year

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

42nd Annual Webster Fall Festival

Saturday, September 27 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Hallowe'en on the Village Green

Saturday, October 25 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Holiday Craft Sale

Saturday, December 6 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 7 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Webster Women's Social Group Lunch Meeting

Last Tuesday
of each month

12:00-1:30 pm

Christmas in the Village*

Saturday, December 13 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Euchre Nights!

Euchre returns!
Hearty refreshments
will be served.
\$5 suggested
donation.

Oct 23, Dec 11, Jan
21, Feb 26, Mar 26
& Apr 23

Check in begins at
6:30 pm



WEBSTER TOWNSHIP
MICHIGAN

Visit the link below to learn more
information about Webster Township's
proposals, agendas and upcoming meeting .

<https://twp.webster.mi.us/>

Jammers Open Jam Sessions

Join in to play
old time and
bluegrass music at
Crossroads on the
second Wednesday
of the month.

Oct 8, Nov 12, & Dec 10
6:30 - 8:30 pm

