



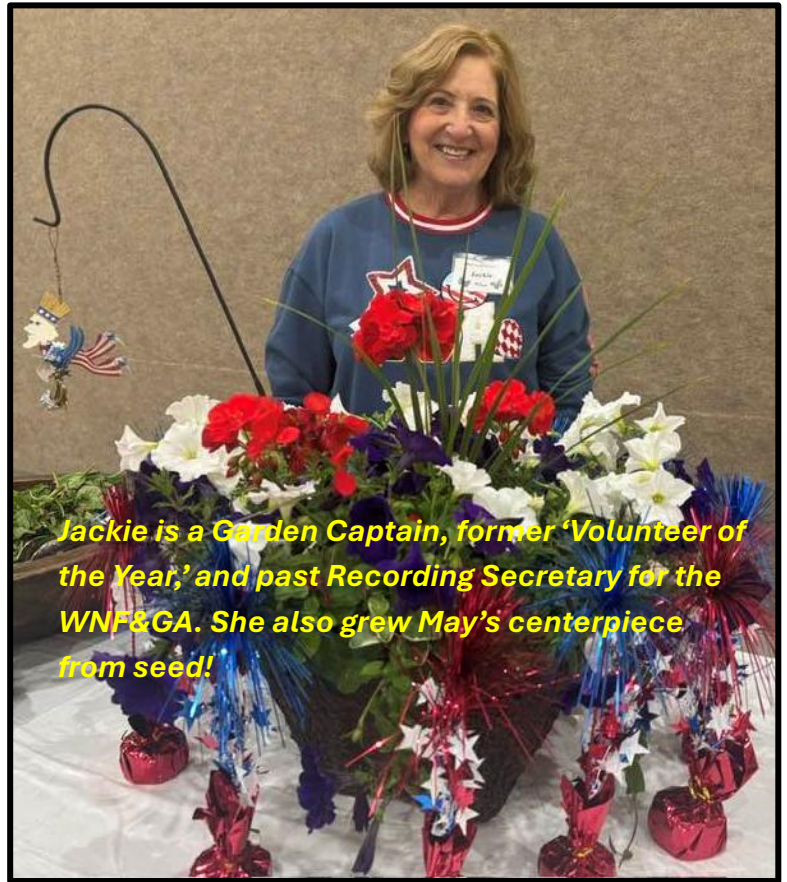
June 2026 Newsletter

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."

Janet Kilburn Phillips

MEMBER PROFILE: Jackie Wilson

Member since 2021, "I joined the garden club after retiring and jumped right in as hospitality chair. My husband and I transferred to Michigan from Ohio (Ohio State Buckeye fans) 41 years ago and live in Troy where we raised our twin boys. We recently became grandparents and are now traveling quite often to Texas to see our son, daughter-in-law and super cute grandson but have no plans to move to Texas as one son still lives in the area. My favorite part of the garden club is the garden walk where I have been a home hostess several times and now took on the challenge of head home hostess this year. I love gardening and learning new techniques which is why I finally took the Master Gardener program through MSU. I really thought I knew a lot about gardening but boy was I wrong and learned so much from the program. I'm also slowly transforming our back yard into more gardens which my husband loves since he won't have so much lawn to cut. The back yard consists mostly of perennial native plants with 10 climbing clematis plants which is one of my all-time favorites."



Jackie is a Garden Captain, former 'Volunteer of the Year,' and past Recording Secretary for the WNF&GA. She also grew May's centerpiece from seed!



President's Message by Karol Carter

Our Principal Annual Fundraiser

We are 5 weeks from our 51st Garden Walk. Ticket holders will enjoy exploring six unique gardens; each a reflection of the homeowner's gardening style. Three of the stops are at the homes of Troy Garden Club members: **Dave and Mary Becker, Becky Crocker** and **Becky Thornton (husband Mike)**. Each homeowner has invested many hours planning, shopping, planting, watering, weeding and deadheading to prepare their gardens for public display. They have also taken on the additional expense that comes with being a featured garden.

The homeowners have done their part! It now becomes the membership's responsibility to promote our walk. We have 5,000 postcards and several dozen posters to be distributed. Postcards are bundled in packets of 25. Take as many packets as you would like. Distribute them to places you frequent and ask permission to leave a generous stack. After July 8th, please revisit to remove them. Hopefully those who attended the May 13th meeting left with postcards. They will also be available at the June 10th meeting. If you need additional postcards/posters, **Barbara Lepri** will have them bundled in a container on her front porch.

A personal invitation is even better! When chatting about our walk with neighbors and friends, don't forget to mention the garden walk activities at the Troy Historic Village on July 8th; a Plant Sale + the Midsummer Arts & Crafts Boutique.

Admission to the THV is FREE on that date.

Calendar/June

June 3/9:30 a.m.: Gardening/Troy Historic Village

June 10, Wednesday/11:30 a.m.: General Meeting/Luncheon

June 17, Wednesday: Herb Study Group

June 24, Wednesday/11:00 a.m.: Garden Walk Meeting/Niles-Barnard House. **ALL WELCOME**

June 24, Wednesday/12:30 p.m.: Board Meeting/Niles-Barnard House, THV. **ALL WELCOME**

Newsletter articles may be submitted from the beginning of the month until the 26th.



Hospitality

Jackie Wilson & Cindi O'Neil



June: Pizza Pizza

June is a club-sponsored lunch! TGC members have signed up as indicated below for dessert and clean-up. Please arrive by 11:45 a.m. with your dessert and be sure to provide a serving utensil. *(Note: The meeting will begin promptly at 12:00)*

Dessert: Denise Karry, Kimberlee Urwiller, Marianne Stout, Ann Britton, Cyndi Yosin, Diane Iglesias

Cleanup: Cyndi Yosin, Tina Battle

At the conclusion of the meeting, be sure to police your table and toss items and arrange chairs at the table.

We will be splitting up in groups according to the garden you have signed up for or the plant sale. We will keep table décor to a minimum.

Keep Smiling!

Herb Study

with Kay Betke



For our May meeting the Herb Group went to the **Pink Lady Tea Room** in New Baltimore. The Pink Lady is a Victorian home that is also a bed and breakfast. They didn't have an herb garden so I brought a thyme plant to start one! Upcoming trips: the **Franklin Garden Walk** in June; and later in August we will attend the **Ankley Farms** tour along with other members of the club. Our group has some gardening dates for the log cabin at THV: Wednesday, May 27th at 9:30 a.m. and again on Wednesday, June 3rd. We will be cleaning up the Herb Gardens. *(The THV will not be moving the log cabin until 2027.)*



Joanie Ugelow
6/2



Nancy Schleicher
6/3



Joan Burcar
6/8



Kathy Bruggeman
6/14



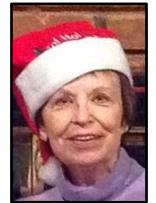
JoAnn Preston
6/18



Rebecca Jaye
6/20



Kay Betke
6/21



Patricia Piejak
6/21

Garden Walk Series

with Dave Becker



The Continuing Saga...

As my garden continues to awaken from its slumber after the winter of 2025-26, I am discovering several fatalities throughout the beds and borders. So far I have lost three hydrangeas, three weigelas, a fifteen-foot flowering plum tree, and numerous perennial flowers. Oh, well, no use crying over spilled milk. Gardening has always been an exercise in optimism, resilience, and renewal.

As I write this on the 14th of May, I pray the threat of frost is behind us and that the soil has warmed enough to welcome the numerous bulbs, tubers, and annuals waiting patiently to be planted. I know Mary will be happy to see the trays of annuals currently occupying our kitchen counters finally making their way into the garden where they belong.

My biggest concern, of course, is ensuring that my garden contributes to the success of the TGC Garden Walk and lives up to the expectations of my fellow gardeners! Still every season presents its own challenges and surprises, and part of the joy lies in transforming setbacks into new opportunities for beauty.

Well...time to get out there and create some magic.

Community Outreach

with JoAnn Preston



(On April 11th, we received an email from Stephanie Roberts of Learning Grove Academy asking if we could do a presentation for their pre-schoolers.)

Learning Grove Academy was so fun and so crazy. After 45 years since I taught preschool, I had forgotten how much energy and enthusiasm there is in sixteen 4- and 5-year olds. They were great. They "collected" dandelions and presented each flower as a treasure and were thrilled to try on my gardening gloves. Most knew they had violets in their yard as well, and two little boys were thrilled to use my pinch clothes pins to take down the garden photos I posted on the chain link fence (a gardening calendar had beautiful photos which I gifted them for their classroom). As we were cleaning up (and putting their mini benches back), another class was "released " into the playground and these 5-year olds had another million questions. I scheduled for ½ hour; arrived ½ hour early to set up and get the lay of the land; and left ½ hour later than scheduled! I also gifted their library with my "bug" books which my grands have far outgrown. Debe's banner got lots of attention for having letters and words. I had fun.
Thanks for thinking of me!!!

Monthly Meeting Clean Up Help Needed

Karol Carter

Thank you to those who volunteer to help clean up after our meetings. There is **NO** formal clean up committee. We rely on members to leave the room how we found it. That means extra tables stored, table tops free of food debris, the floors swept and extra trash bags taken out. And yes, occasionally we leave the floors cleaner than we found them! Thank you for your patience with the May coffee pot malfunctions.

We are very fortunate to have Patrick and Dave willing to do most of the heavy lifting part for us. And they do this every month. But we need members to do the "lighter" tasks: The 4 push brooms are easy to maneuver; it's not difficult to pull out the chairs from the table and replace them once the floors are swept. Why is all this necessary? Because we have been given the "church member" room rental fee discount...and it's a big one. Please contact **Jackie Wilson** and let her know you are willing to be part of the solution for our June meeting.

Speaker Series by Rebecca Jaye



John Blair delighted us as his ***Making a Butterfly Garden*** story unfolded. “Not only are you planting a garden you’re making a habitat.” As a young child he helped his father plant the vegetable garden and his mother plant the border. He wandered the woods and meadows pursuing his childhood interest collecting butterflies and these childhood experiences blossomed into a passion and appreciation of nature. John’s three reasons why you should have a butterfly garden: First, the garden is good for your mind, body, and spirit. Second, you can choose a boring yard with grass and shrubs or an exciting yard with butterflies and hummingbirds. And third, you can create a habitat for nature and help keep invasive species out, stressing native plants that evolved with native wildlife are best used for your gardens. He wrapped up the presentation with his own stunning photos of sunsets, butterflies, hummingbirds, and flowers set to his daughter's beautiful musical score. As the music ended John received a well-deserved standing ovation, the first in memory. **Moving on to September:** Mary Gerstenberger presents *Backyard Composting*.



Horticulture Corner



Jennifer Goldstein

Building Soil Instead of Fighting It

Like many gardeners, David and I have learned a lot through trial and error. We’ve made choices that weren’t always the most environmentally friendly — I will probably always make winter sowing in plastic milk jugs, and make seed rolls with plastic strips, and yes, desperately depend on the convenience of single-use coffee pods every morning! Gardening and horticulture teach humility and valuable lessons of wisdom. But over the past few seasons, one practice has completely changed our garden: building soil naturally and disturbing it as little as possible. By using the “chop and drop” method — leaving spent plant material right where it grew — along with generous layers of grass clippings and shredded leaves, our garden soil has steadily transformed. Instead of hauling organic matter away, we now return it to the earth where it belongs. Combined with a mostly no-till approach, the results have been remarkable. After a soaking rain this week, I was able to pull deep tap-root weeds easily by hand — something that once felt impossible. Even more encouraging, our worm population is thriving. Those earthworms are doing the quiet work of aerating and enriching the soil far better than any machine could. Perhaps the biggest sign of improvement came after two days of heavy downpours. Rather than flooding or pooling, the water slowly soaked into the ground. Healthy soil acts like a sponge, and organic matter is the key ingredient. Ironically, much of this success came from a generous neighbor who shares his grass clippings and leaf mulch with us — materials he does not use in his own garden. An old-school farmer at heart, he still deeply tills his plot several times before planting. Unfortunately, repeated cultivation breaks down soil structure, reduces organic matter, and leaves the ground vulnerable to crusting, compaction, and muddy runoff after heavy rains. It’s a powerful reminder that the “waste” we rake, bag, and haul away is often the very thing our soil desperately needs. Nature is constantly trying to cover and feed the soil. As gardeners, sometimes the best thing we can do is step back, disturb less, and let the organic matter do the work.



Troy Historic Village Gardening

Mulch, Mulch, Mulch, Mulch

Karol Carter & Patrick Hardy



The tension was palpable. Would the weather hold? If not, when could 13 yards of mulch possibly be spread? It was a nailbiter right up to that chilly, overcast Saturday morning but all systems were a go at the Troy Historic Village on the 18th of April. The second date, Tuesday the 22nd, was less suspenseful if just as cloudy. The “Mulchers” included TGC members, two energetic husbands, plus eager volunteers recruited from a volunteer fair staked out by President Carter. Both tasks were completed in record time. So thanks to all who donated their time and muscle.



Ditika, Miao, JoAnn Preston and Debbie



Dave, Tina, Patrick and Dennis



The TGC was well represented at April's **Daffodils4Detroit** on Belle Isle. Seated left to right: **Bev Hydo, Karol Carter, Gail Kobal, Kimberlee Urwiller, Barb Lepri and Tina Battle.**

WHAT'S ON

THURSDAY JUNE 25th

Linda Forrester

It's Pre-Walk Day again!

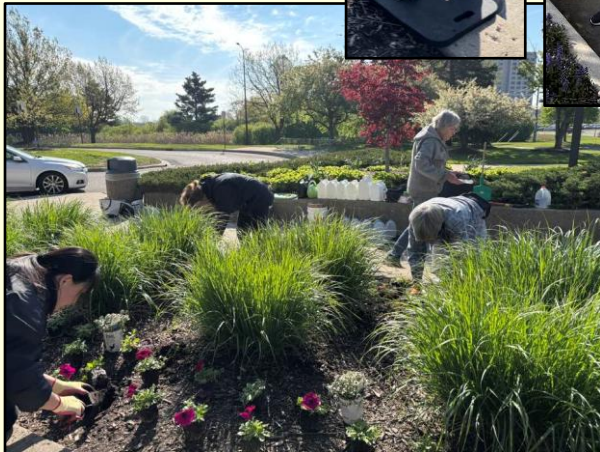
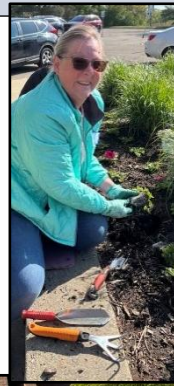
For all members who signed up for two shifts, that means you! I will be sending out an email with more detailed instructions and what to expect for those who are new. We leave precisely at 10:00 a.m. But from where you ask? That will be revealed in my email that I will send out on June 8th. If you haven't heard from me, please check your spam first and then email linozfor@att.net to let me know.

Pat Dodge has been no slouch in creating her front gardens this year despite a full schedule of travel. This photo was taken (*by me...she lives across the street from my brother!-Ed.*) on Mother's Day and the color and texture were already so arresting one can only begin to imagine what it will look like come summer! **Feel free to submit a photo of your own garden(s) for future featuring in this newsletter. Text or email me with your pride and joy photos for upcoming issues!**



Troy Public Library Planting

If you were an annual plant, early May was frightful as temperatures were unusually cold. Our first planting date was cancelled because of frost warnings. After several days of waiting, seven members and 2 volunteers planted 10 flats of WAVE purple petunias and 14 Proven Winners Snow Princess Lobularia. This was followed by more temperature drama, plant survival anxiety and frost cloths. *Karol Carter*



POTS NEEDED

Karol Carter

Members may be in need of pots for their plant sale donations. Four-inch (4") pots or larger are acceptable. **One gallon or larger are the most useful.** Please deliver them to the **June 10th** general meeting. Stack them on or by the covered picnic table by the outside back door of the church. **Please do not take them into the meeting room.**



Sunshine/Rain

by Pat Dodge



It has been a typical spring here in Michigan, living up to the quote "if you don't like the weather, just wait five minutes and it will change". We have had extremes, but our patience is finally paying off, and I think it is finally safe to plant annuals. So enjoy your gardening! Regarding our members, this month **Onita Fitz** had a little rain, or should I say sprinkle, as she had a heart scare and spent a day in the hospital. Fortunately, she had a good book and it was only minor and is now under control with medication. And a bright spot of sunshine is **Judi Milidrag's** 18-month old granddaughter Freya, already a gardener and loving the dirt in grama's garden.



Correction: In the May issue we unfortunately misspelled last years' raffle winner's last name. It is *Laura McDonnell*, not McDonald. We obviously had fast food on our mind at the time.

WANTED: Plants and Stuff for Garden Walk Plant Sale

Karol Carter & Patrick Hardy

Our May newsletter provided detailed information regarding the plant sale portion of our garden walk. **WHAT SELLS:** “nice” looking, non-invasive perennial plants, hanging baskets with plants, decorative containers with plants, perennial grasses, interesting ground cover. **PROVIDE HEALTHY PLANTS** that you would be willing to buy. **POT UP** at least **14 DAYS prior** to the garden walk so they are attractive, not wilted. **FOR POTTING**, consider both light weight containers and soil. **OTHER STUFF:** Garden tools, trellises, garden art, statuary, ceramic pots, non-plant items you might find at a good garden supply store.

WHAT ELSE: Plants **MUST** be labeled. Include plant name, sun or shade requirements, bloom time if appropriate and color of flower. Mature size is helpful if known. **USE PERMANENT INK** on your labels as plants will be outside. You can place your plant info inside a plastic snack bag, seal it and attach to the container with a clothespin. **WE CAN USE** plastic bags and cardboard boxes to hold purchased plants for their journey home. If you would like to contribute, bring to our plant sale location during drop off time.

PLANT SALE DROP OFF:

When: Tuesday, July 7th, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: Troy Historic Village, 60 W. Wattles Road, Troy 48098

Main west parking lot – Members will be available to help.

2026 Board of Directors/Committee Heads

President: Karol Carter

Vice President: Rebecca Jaye

Treasurer: Jeanne Bolcer

Recording Secretary: Darcel Connors

Corresponding Secretary: Judi Milidrag

Advisor: David Becker

Community Outreach: Bill Waggoner/JoAnn Preston

Greeters: Nancy Witchy

Herb Study Group & Directory: Kay Betke/Kyla Remus

Horticulture: Jennifer Goldstein

Hospitality: Jackie Wilson & Cindi O’Neill

Membership: Beverly Hydo

Newsletter: Patrick Hardy

Sunshine & Rainy Days: Pat Dodge

THV Gardens: Karol Carter/Patrick Hardy



A few of May’s table settings.



Troy Garden Club – Founded in 1971

Website: www.TroyGardenClubMI.com

Mailing address: 2844 Livernois #833, Troy, MI 48099-0833

Monthly meetings at Big Beaver United Methodist Church: 3753 John R, Troy, MI 48083

Second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon, September through June

2026 Garden Walk Assignments

Tuesday, July 7 Plant Set-up		Wednesday, July 8 Plant Sale		
10:00 am - 12:30 pm	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm	8:30 am - 12:00 noon	12:00 noon - 3:15 pm	3:15 pm - 6:30 pm
Tina Battle Lisa Derderian Darcel Connors Joanie Ugelow Nancy Cardon Jennifer Goldstein Fran Stage Nancy Zambardi Meena Madhusudan	Cindi O'Neil Nancy Cardon Eileen Winkel Pat Hauer Sue Purcell Kay Betke Mary Stout	Darcel Connor Rebecca Jaye Diane Iglesias Stacy Wdowik Judy Francis Tina Battle	Kay Betke Sara Perron Jan Bancroft JoAnn Preston Judy Popyk Jennifer Goldstein Deb Hancock Pat Dodge	Pat Dodge Karen Grey Cindi O'Neil Meena Madhusudan

Garden #1 Hostess: Norma Frame, Marcia Meyer	Garden #2 Hostess: Carole Packla	Garden #3 Hostess: Lori Brubaker
8:45 am - 12:00 noon	8:45 am - 12:00 noon	8:45 am - 12:00 noon
Marilyn Frey Gail Kobal Barb Stuecheli	Ann Britton Karen Gray Kyla Remus	Mary Stout Wendy Chessin Jennifer Goldstein
11:45 am - 3:00 pm	11:45 am - 3:00 pm	11:45 am - 3:00 pm
Norma Frame Marcia Meyer Nancy Schleicher	Onita Fitz Deborah DePorre	Stacy Wdowik Diane Iglesias Kathy Bruggeman
Garden Guards: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Garden Guards: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Garden Guards: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Kathy Brunner Rozanne Oehring	Rosemary Kornacki	Jennie Gillespie Karen Cox
4:45 pm - 8:30 pm	4:45 pm - 8:30 pm	4:45 pm - 8:30 pm
Norma Frame Marcia Meyer Nancy Schleicher	Sara Merchawi Barb Stuecheli	Fran Stage Mary Stout
Garden #4 Hostess: Denise Karry	Garden #5 Hostess: Yolanda Tenorio Thomas	Garden #6 Hostess: Kimberlee Urwiller
8:45 am - 12:00 noon	8:45 am - 12:00 noon	8:45 am - 12:00 noon
Marianne Stout Judy Popyk Tina Downen	Nancy Zambardi Sally Bolle Jacquelyn Cutright	Cyndi Yosin Nancy Wietchy Cindy Idyle
11:45 am - 3:00 pm	11:45 am - 3:00 pm	11:45 am - 3:00 pm
Doreen Alpent Pat McDermitt	Joan Burcar Linda Chambers	Carol McWilliam Barb Rosko Pat Piejak
Garden Guards: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Garden Guards: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Garden Guards: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Suzanne Smith	Rebecca Jaye Tina Downen	Chuck Truza Margy Truza
4:45 pm - 8:30 pm	4:45 pm - 8:30 pm	4:45 pm - 8:30 pm
Karen Cox Jennie Gillespie	Bill Waggoner	Cathy Rohlman Ann Britton

Ticket Sales - All Day	Raffle/All Day	Sponsors/Vendors - All Day
Jeanne Bolcer Barb Lepri Bev Hydo Pat Brown	Judi Milidrag Pat Guibord	Linda Forrester

Perennial Plant Exchange 2026

by JoAnn Preston

We had dark skies and rain and hope for sunshine and warmth. We had Thunder and Lightning, and Trust we would be safe and successful. We had a slow start in heavy rain, but had at least 20 happy, trading gardeners who found new homes for their plants and new plants for their home. We had hybrid daylilies by the truckload, and kind, adventurous souls who took a chance on the color and style. We had master and experienced gardeners who reached out and shared their knowledge and love of plants with strangers. We had guests who brought cookies for the workers to share and beginning gardeners with phone apps and curious little girls. We had ecstatic prize winners from Orchard Lake and Troy get Garden Walk tickets and a Telly's gift card. Everyone got a Garden Walk postcard and an invitation to come July 8th. We had friendly shovelers who loaded up guests and helpers with compost donated from Advanced Landscaping, then cleaned up the lot, loaded up the signs and went home for dry clothes and a hot cup of coffee or hot cocoa. We had a crazy kind of fun.

Thank you to Dave, Patrick, Bob and Mike, Karol, Wendy, Diane, Becky T, and Becky C, Linda, Ann, Debe, Joanie, Tina, Norma, Jackie, Cindi, Darcel, Marcia, Nancy, Denise for making an almost impossible morning (with landscaper trucks dominating the parking lot) workable. And the sun came out in the afternoon so we could plant!!! (Apologies to those who didn't make it into the photos!)





Bring Cash for THV Raffle Tickets to June Meeting

JoAnn Preston

At the June general meeting, Karen Fabian will bring photos and listings of all the amazing prizes and tickets for the Troy Historic Village Raffle. Many of you will be working at homes on Garden Walk Day and not have time to run to the Village to see the prizes so this is to help you out. The winners will be drawn at the end of Garden Walk.

There are 10 fabulous baskets. One is \$500 cash. The other 9 range in goodies totaling over \$300 each and many are valued at \$400. There are so many good things, from 5 yards of compost delivered, play tickets, restaurants gift cards, beauty treatments, gardening tools, yummys etc. Ticket prices are **\$5 each** or **\$20 for 5 tickets**. You'll need your name and phone number on each ticket so bring address labels if you have them or a lucky pen.

This raffle benefits Troy Historic Village and helps keep programs running even when government funding is in jeopardy at state as well as national levels. Grant money has also gotten very tight. **This is NOT the free Troy Garden Club raffle.** Making tickets available for you at this June meeting has been done in the past and has been approved by the Troy Garden Club Board of Directors.

If you prefer to see the actual baskets, attend the free *Troy Historic Village Kick-Off* on **June 2nd, 5:00-8:00 p.m.**, with live music and a food truck as well as community groups sharing info. Or you may stop in at the main building any weekday between 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and buy your tickets.



(Photo items above are not actual raffle prizes)