



DATE: December 15, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Cindy Stewart, Community Affairs Director
Sehrish Salah-Ud-Din, Assistant to the City Manager
Loraine Campbell, Historic Village Executive Director

SUBJECT: Troy's 60th Anniversary – 1955 - 2015

History

2015 marks the 60th anniversary of Troy's incorporation as a City. Long before it was the site of shopping centers, corporate headquarters, colleges and universities, Troy was a humble pioneer settlement comprised of farms and small knots of buildings at simple crossroads known as Troy Corners, Big Beaver, and Halsey Corners.

Norman Barnard, the last Township Supervisor, helped orchestrate the plan for Troy to become a home rule city. Barnard and others were concerned about initiatives by neighboring cities to annex township land to their municipalities. In March of 1955, these men quietly circulated petitions supporting incorporation and filed them with the Oakland County Clerk before Royal Oak could file another annexation request.

On June 7, 1955, the Township residents overwhelmingly approved the proposal to incorporate and elected a Charter Commission which included Norman Barnard, Frank Costello, Roy Duncan, George Ford, Ernest Gray, Fred Hildebrandt, Elmer Lowe, Wesley Smith and Clifton Truesdell.

On December 12, 1955, Troy voters approved the charter by a slim margin of 86 votes. Also elected that day were Mayor Frank Costello, City Commissioners Roy Duncan, George Ford, Ernest Gray, Donald Lance, Elmer Lowe, and George Yeokum, Associate Judge Deville Mason, and Judge Charles Losey.

Troy rapidly changed since 1955. Hallmarks of the City of Troy's growth included its Infrastructure, the I-75 corridor and the Master Site Plan. Within 30 years, rural Troy Corners was transformed into the City of Troy, a modern suburban community strategically located along planned elbow curves in Interstate 75. Gleaming corporate headquarters, gracious homes, and elegant stores quickly replaced the clusters of clapboard structures.

Present & Future

Today, Troy is a distinctive city with unique attributes that make it one of the most sought after communities in southeast Michigan for business and residents alike. In order to keep Troy Michigan's premier address for business, retail and commerce as well as a destination for residents and visitors alike, the City has developed many new program initiatives to keep pace with the ever changing times and to remain attractive and viable to residents and businesses.

These programs include Creating an Environment for Investment, Move Across Troy, Fifteen for 15, the NEXT Professional Development Program, inTeraCTion Troy (every.one.counts), Vision Collision (a powerful exchange of ideas with Rochester Hills), the new Master Plan, Troy Roads Rock, One Stop Ready (Best Practices - 5 days for residential permits and 10 days for commercial permits).

The newly opened Troy Transit Center also increases our community's connectedness. As an important regional hub, it will strengthen existing transportation options in the metro Detroit area. With the opening of the Troy Transit Center there will be more connections to other transportation modes and a welcoming all-weather place for Amtrak passengers.

Looking ahead to Troy's future, we envision connecting businesses with an increase in the use of data, communicating a consistent brand identity, improving public facing technology, making City Hall more user-friendly.

We will be hosting a number of programs and activities for our residents throughout 2015 to celebrate Troy's 60th anniversary. These will take place at City hall, the Troy Community Center, Troy Public Library, Troy Historic Village, Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center, as well as in Troy's parks.

Mini exhibits are being created for City Hall, Library, Fire Department, Police Department, Community Center, Historic Village and Nature Center to tell their stories; along with 365 stories and weekly public service announcements related to Troy's history and Troy's movers and shakers over its 60 year history.

Our big 60th Birthday Party is scheduled for Saturday, June 20 at Boulan Park. The event will include food, birthday cake, games and activities for all ages, music representing all decades from 1955 to the present and a drive-in movie.

Please see the attached timeline of a series of events that will take place throughout the year celebrating Troy's 60th Birthday.

Troy's 60th Birthday

60th Birthday Party 6/20

Birthday Presentation
to Council
12/15

Welcome Back,
American Beaver
Nature Center
1/22

Troy Recreation
Birthday Party
3/7

Police Open House
5/16

Circus Comes
to Troy
Historic Village
8/8, 8/22

Family Night Out
Birthday Bash
Community Center
12/12

DEC. '14

JANUARY

MARCH

MAY

JUNE

AUGUST

OCTOBER

DECEMBER

Kickoff Dog
Park Fundraiser
January

Happy Birthday Barbie!
Library
3/28

Police Memorial Day
5/14

Vintage Baseball
Game
Community Center Fields
6/13

Fire Open House
10/28

City Incorporated
6/13/55

*City Charter
Adopted*
12/12/55