



DATE: March 5, 2015

TO: Brian Kischnick, City Manager

FROM: Mark Miller, Director of Economic & Community Development
Sehrish Salah-Ud-Din, Assistant to the City Manager
Cindy Stewart, Community Affairs Director
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.

In 1927, Township Supervisor Morris Wattles oversaw the construction of the Township Hall on the northwest corner of Wattles Road at Livernois. The building, designed by Birmingham architect J. Bissel, was modeled after a Dutch Colonial Tavern in Troy, New York. In 1955 Township Hall became City Hall. By the early 60s there were nearly 50 people working there. One employee remarked that it was so crowded that he had to step into the hall to change his mind.

Frank Costello, a successful businessman and noted public servant, served as Troy's Mayor from 1955-1959. Prior to that, he served on the Troy Board of Education from 1949-1956, was a charter member/volunteer firefighter of Fire Station 2, and the first elected mayor. According to a friend, Mayor Costello donated every penny he received as a public servant to the schools and churches.

Anniversary Events for 2015

The Troy Recreation Department hosted the Community Center's 13th Birthday Celebration this past Saturday and the Troy Library has hosted a number of events celebrating things "born" in the 1950s to celebrate Troy's birthday including Playdoh Play Day, Crossroads Family Band, Family Friendly Drive-In Movie and Beat Poetry with ML Liebler.

The upcoming 60th Anniversary events scheduled include:

March 18 – August 19: House of Worship Tours, sponsored by the Troy Historic Village.

March 28: Happy Birthday Barbie, Library, 1-3 pm. Come celebrate Barbie's Birthday! Bring your favorite Barbie and come dressed in your best party attire. The party includes a Barbie fashion show, Barbie birthday crafts, and tasty birthday cake.

April 9: Shall We Dance Community Dinner Dance, Community Center, 6-10pm. A special community-wide dinner dance will commemorate the City of Troy's 60th birthday. Dinner from Kosch Catering and music by the Tommy James Band. Gather up a group of friends and fill a table for this fun filled evening. Sponsored by: American House Troy, Oakmont Senior Communities, Friends of Troy Seniors and Troy Recreation Department.

April 18: Feathered Friends Festival, Nature Center, 12-4:30pm. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon featuring Live Hawks & Owls as well as information about the bluebird nesting box trail at the Nature Center. There will also be hikes, children's activities and crafts.

April 21: An Evening to Embrace Excellence: Celebrating Troy's 60th anniversary and the growth of the Big Beaver corridor, Huntington Bank Headquarters, 5:30-7:30pm. Tickets: \$35 per person, \$50 per couple includes food, cash bar and membership to Troy Historical Society. Sponsored by Huntington Bank.

April 25 – August 12: Troy Stroll & Roll, various locations around Troy. Walk, ride your bike, rollerblade, skate board or walk your dog at one or all of the events. Enter to win great prizes at each location.

May 1: 1950s themed Middle School Murder Mystery Night, Library, 6:30-8pm. A body has been found, and it is clear that something fishy is going on. In this special 1950s version of the ever popular Middle School Murder Mystery Night, students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to bring their sleuthing skills and get down to the bottom of this baffling mystery.

May 16: Nature & History of Firefighters Park, Nature Center, 2-3:30pm Nature Center staff will lead a hike at the park discussing the history and the nature found there.

May 21: Spring Concert, Nature Center, 7-8pm. Enjoy Larson Middle School's Jazz Band.

June 28: Many Stories: One Heritage, Troy Historic Village, 1-5pm. Celebrate the contributions of Asian Americans who have added so much to Troy's multicultural community that has grown and flourished since 1955. Ethnic foods, music, and art will be featured.

The Historic Village is also presenting 365 stories about Troy's history on their website, and one per week is printed in the Somerset Gazette. The daily posts from the Historic Village have more than 3,900 viewers and THV Facebook engagement is growing steadily. Public Service announcements related to Troy's history and Troy's movers and shakers over its 60 year history will be on the City's website and on WTRY later this spring.

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. Bounce house and maze will be available for the children, plus additional activities for all. Troy resident Carl Cafagna & Soundlove, will be playing popular favorites from 1955 to the present from 7-9pm with a drive-in movie afterwards.