



MILL RACE QUARTERLY

57
Years

Vol. LVII No. 3

A Publication of the Northville Historical Society

Summer/Fall 2021



Dr. Paul Lovewell standing by the fire truck after the historic fire of April 3, 1925.

Northville's First Motorized Fire Truck Arrives by Hugh Jordan

The Village of Northville, Michigan purchased its first motorized fire truck in April of 1923 to replace the horse drawn cart firemen had pulled to fires since 1890 when the Department was first organized.

The truck was delivered the end of July in 1923. On July 30, 1923, the truck was revealed Saturday evening at the weekly dance held by the village in the intersection of Main and Center Streets. It was officially dedicated with the christening motto "May this fire engine be like all old maids of our village, always ready but never called for."

The truck was purchased from the C.H. Sutphen Company of Columbus, Ohio for \$3,950.00, the model was an EB Prospect Pumper and it came on a Ford Chassis. It was equipped with an electric siren, a 30-gallon chemical tank, 400ft of fire hose, ladders, buckets, a pike pole, and an axe.

The truck was in service from July 30, 1923 to 1946.

(The politically dicey christening can be found in the July 30, 1953 Northville Record.)

Editor's Note:

Hugh H. Jordan III is a fourth-generation firefighter having served the Northville community for thirty-one years as a firefighter, the last 19 years as a fulltime firefighter-paramedic. His family has continually served the Community of Northville on the Police or Fire departments since 1960 with a combined total of 204 years of service. He is a published author, "The History of the Northville Police Department", and local historian on Northville's Police and Fire Departments.

Martha's Musings by Martha Michalak, NHS President

Well, this summer is flying by! And now we find ourselves looking forward to fun fall events and cooler weather.

But first, a look back:

Our Wines of the World wine tasting event, held in conjunction with The Detroit Wine Organization and Miracle League of Plymouth, was a resounding success. We had wines from all over the world to taste and food from all over Northville to enjoy. And we had a beautiful June evening to savor the pleasure of being outside among friends again. This year, necessity limited our ticket sales; next year, we hope to open it up to many more wine enthusiasts.

And what's going on right now?

Open Summer Sundays are back! We missed them last year and were pleased to be able to bring them back starting in July. The Village buildings are open every Sunday (except when there is a previously scheduled event) from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to get out and walk around, and view some history while you are at it. We have blacksmiths working in the Hirsch Blacksmith shop, weavers working in the Weavers' Cottage and the JM Mead Store is open for business.

We would love to see you on any of our Open Summer Sundays, which actually run through October 10th. Or, at any of our upcoming events – Victorian Sunday on Sunday, September 19th (including the famous annual Duck Race), Halloween Hysteria on Sunday, October 10th (tickets will be available soon!), and the annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 21st (look for an informational email later this month).

VICTORIAN SUNDAY

AT MILL RACE VILLAGE
215 Griswold St. - Northville, MI

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19

12 PM - 3 PM

Building Tours ~ Family Activities ~ Refreshments
Children's Games & Crafts ~ Live Music
Vintage Baseball ~ Duck Race Ticket Sales ~ And more...

3 PM

Duck Race Opening Ceremony
3:30 PM

The Duck Race!

Presented by The Northville Historical Society
Part of the Northville Heritage Festival

MILLRACENORTHVILLE.ORG

The History of Ford Field – Part 3

by Ellen Elliott

This is the third and concluding article in the series relating the colorful history of Ford Field. Researched in an effort to evaluate the Field's value as an historic place, this report ultimately became part of the evidence that helped to designate Ford Field as a contributing property to the City's Historic District, its final paragraphs making that argument.

By 1990 the question of ownership of the land came up yet again as the city sought to gain control of the site. The city of Northville finally took official ownership of the property four years later when the parcel was donated by Ford Motor Company. The summer clean up in 1994 was especially meaningful now that the community was sprucing up property which was legally their own. The Friends of the Northville Parks and Recreation group, founded in 1992, was instrumental in coordinating the cleanup process and later would participate in the community wide fundraising efforts for improvements like the Fort Griswold playscape. The playscape was a picture-perfect example of what can happen when a community dedicates itself to a shared goal. A team of over 900 volunteers descended upon Ford Field for the massive multiple day undertaking of constructing the \$90,000 playscape thus further enhancing the site's desirability for family outings and community gatherings.

Ford Field experienced a monumental overhaul in 2001. The project cost \$600,000 and was slated to include a parking lot, pavilion, gazebo, new pathways, a walking bridge connecting to Mill Race Village, as well as relocation of the baseball and soccer fields. Mayor Chris Johnson commented that "the renovation project is an exciting thing for the community of Northville... once completed residents and visitors will have the opportunity to fully enjoy this historical field and all it has to offer."

The years following the improvement project were bustling with activity. The Suburban Kids Rockin' Under Ford Field (SKRUFF) concerts debuted in 2003 as a way to engage the youth of the community. The Northville Eclipse Baseball Club was also formed that year brought vintage baseball to Ford Field. The American Cancer Society's fundraiser, Relay for Life found a home at Ford Field in 2003 as well.

Memories shared by generations have been formed at Ford Field. In June 2004 when Dean Hubbert took to the field for his pre-tee ball game, he was the third generation of his family to play there. Later in 2004, the Howl-O-Ween Pet Festival and Parade provided residents an opportunity to come to Ford Field and showcase their pets, reminiscent of similar events that took place during the 1950s.

The 22nd Annual Victorian Festival in 2010 brought a tethered hot air balloon, vintage baseball, and the world-famous Flying Wallendas to Ford Field.

The stairway was once again refreshed in 2012 when Jared Myers chose it as the focus of his Eagle Scout project. The rails and deck were repaired and stained. There were more than 25 volunteers present to assist and an excess of 50 gallons of stain were used to complete the project.

Continued on page 3

Executive Director's Message

by Leanie Bayly

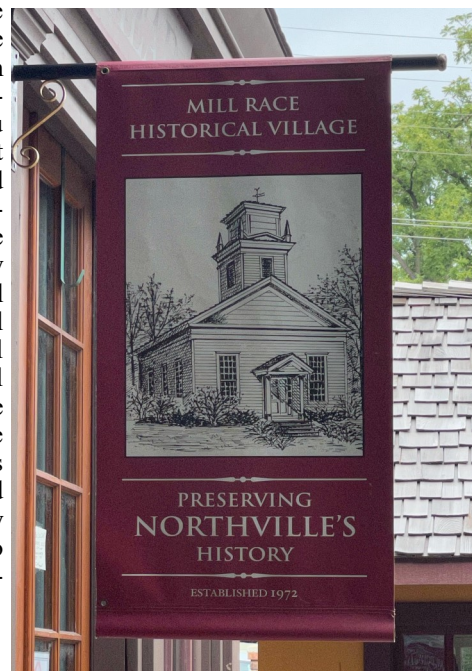
Greetings fellow history lovers! As summer swiftly winds down, rest assured that we continue to prepare for the annual slew of late season events here at Mill Race Historical Village. Fall kicks off with the return of the popular NHS Victorian Heritage Sunday at Mill Race Historical Village on September 19th. There will be several activities for young and old leading up to the festival's Grand Finale with the 32nd Annual Duck Race. To sponsor a duck please visit our website for more information, www.millracenorthville.org.

Halloween Hysteria leads our October festivities on Sunday the 10th. The Village will be festive with wonderful things for children and families to enjoy. This is a ticketed event, scheduled from 1-5 PM. Ticket prices are \$10 per member & \$12 per nonmember. Memberships are always available... The NHS annual membership meeting is planned for October 21st. As of this writing it is undetermined if the event will be live or virtual. Please stay tuned.

November launches a tasty new event; on November 2nd we will host our inaugural Marie Antoinette "Let them eat cake!" fundraiser. It may be her 266th birthday but we will debut our cake sale to celebrate. Please contact Paul Snyder at: psnyder@millracenorthville.org for more information.

The final 2021 events of the season take place during December. Beginning Friday & Saturday, December 3rd & 4th with the annual Christmas in the Village and Festival of Trees, from 5 pm until 8 pm. Coinciding with the annual beloved Children's Christmas Workshop returning at the New School Church on Saturday, December 4th. Two sessions are available, tickets go on sale Friday, November 5th at 218 W Dunlap Street. Mark your calendars. A grand finale of sorts closes out 2021 with high tea at the annual Christmas Themed Tea and Lecture planned for Saturday, December 11th. Ticket sales to be announced.

As always, we take the safety of our patrons, members, and staff very seriously. As of this writing we have begun to encourage the use of masks indoors once again and in larger groups outside even for people who have been double vaccinated. Like all of you we'd hoped that the pandemic and the attendant restrictions would be behind us by now. Here at Mill Race Historical Village, we will continue to do all we can to provide services to the community in ways that are safe and beneficial. Stay healthy and hope to see you in the village soon!



The History of Ford Field – Part 3 (cont'd)

by Ellen Elliott

The Northville Chamber of Commerce hosted the fourth annual Ford Field Festival in 2016. This celebration of “food, beer, and fun” included live music performances and further exemplified the necessity of this open space for the continued development of community recreation and culture.

According to the Local Historic Districts Act 169 of 1970, (399.201a) an historic resource is defined as “a publicly or privately-owned building, structure, site, object, feature, or open space that is significant in the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of this state or a community within this state, or of the United States.”

The property is an open space that is a significant historic resource under National Register Criterion A for its contribution to the culture of the community and its role in the development of Northville’s recreation department. It is also significant in a broader sense to the state and the nation due to the connection to world-renowned industrialist Henry Ford and thus should be included as a contributing resource in the Northville Historic District.

This parcel of land honors the memory of Henry Ford and all of the citizens who worked tirelessly to develop and maintain Ford Field as a hub for cultural activity and a vibrant recreation department.



JOIN US FOR A CARRY OUT CREAM TEA

CADY RASPBERRY ICED TEA AND A BOX OF HISTORIC SWEET TREATS

ENJOY ON THE GROUNDS OF MILL RACE VILLAGE

During the Victorian Events at Mill Race Village Sunday, September 19, 2021 Begins at Noon at the Cady Inn and continues until we're sold out! No pre-orders. Drop in only. \$10 for a box of sweets and an Iced Tea





THE 32ND ANNUAL NORTHVILLE DUCK RACE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19

MILL RACE VILLAGE • 215 GRISWOLD ST • NORTHVILLE

Ticket Sales 12 pm - 3 pm
Opening Ceremony 3 pm
Race Begins 3:30 pm

1 DUCK \$5 • 5 DUCKS \$20

WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS AT MILLRACE.ORG

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MILL RACE VILLAGE




YOU CAN BE A SPONSOR OF THE 32ND ANNUAL NORTHVILLE DUCK RACE

3 PM SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 19 AT MILL RACE VILLAGE

- For only \$50 you can add a themed duck to the race
- Go to millrace.org
- Choose a Rubber Duck that matches your business or organization
- Or tell us what you're looking for and we'll do our best to find it!

Tickets for Race Ducks for sale on day of the race
 *Sponsored ducks not eligible for race prizes.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT MILL RACE VILLAGE





Wines of the World: A Premiere Wine Tasting Experience

by Martha Michalak

On June 4th, we hosted our most adventurous event since the start of the pandemic. Figuring out how to do it safely and still make it a fun and successful event was a daily challenge. Protocols kept changing, and we had to adapt to them. Ultimately, we decided that we could sell 175 tickets for this completely outdoor event. With the number of volunteers needed to serve food and pour wine and empty trash cans, we knew we could still stay under the 300-person guidance for outdoor events. Wines of the World sold out quickly and we got to work on making it the kind of event we had all been missing for months.

It was beautiful, warm evening and the Village looked fantastic. We had tables set up all along the lane to keep the flow of attendees moving. Along with our charity partners, The Detroit Wine Organization and Miracle League of Plymouth, we secured wonderful wines from all of the world, delicious food from all over Northville and beyond, beautiful decorations and great musical entertainment. Many guests commented on how nice it was to be able to spend time with people again. There was so much gratitude for the opportunity to spend time with friends in the unique environment that is the Village.

Our 3rd Wines of the World event is scheduled for June 3rd, 2021. Tickets will go on sale in April.

We expect to be able to sell many more tickets next year for this event.



Northville Lecturer Takes His Show on the Road by Paul Snyder

On September 2, lecturer and baseball enthusiast Paul Hinz presented his lecture: A Colorful History of American Baseball League Parks hosted by the Rochester-Avon Historical Society.

The well attended event lasted well past the formal lecture with audience questions and contributions. Paul had originally given this talk in May as part of the Northville Historical Society's Virtual Lecture Series for 2021. Originally from Chicago (hence the Chicago White Sox jersey) Paul is also a Board member of the Northville Historical Society, Board



Double Pi Day by Paul Snyder

On June 25, four days into summer and four hours into one of the rainiest days of the season the Cady Inn opened for business. The much-anticipated Double Pi day (so named was taking place nearly double the original date of 3/14 ~ Pi Day) had arrived as well as customers anxious to either retrieve their online orders, or to sit and enjoy a slice with a beverage. As they set up, volunteers chatted amongst themselves, concerned that the rain might keep people at home. Within the first few minutes after opening at 3:00 pm there was little time for chat as they bustled around filling orders, pouring lemonade, and serving generous wedges of home-made pie.

Notable visitors included Chirstopher G. Darrow, an attorney who purchased seven pies for his office. Others were the Cesario family in town from Chicago to visit relatives. They left a comment card saying, "It was an unexpected surprise that it was Pi Day in June on a rainy day. What a blessing! The best Boston Crème Pie."

As the day wore on, the pie began to give out, but the rain never did. Near closing time, the remaining volunteers bargained with each other divvying up sections of the last pie. The hard bargaining behind them, faces happy with anticipation fell as ten minutes before closing the door creaked open a final time admitting the last soggy customer who purchased all the remaining pie for her family's dessert.

Recovering quickly, the volunteers resolved to buy their pies early next year. The resulting fundraiser exceeded expectations and the rain failed to dampen enthusiasm for next years event.



Membership Update: 50th Anniversary Membership Drive Kick-off

By Maria Simonte

2022 marks the 50th Anniversary of Mill Race Village. Please help us celebrate by continuing your involvement with the Northville Historical Society and Mill Race Village.

The NHS and Mill Race Village rely on memberships, donations, events and grants for 100% of our funding. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, we are fully self supporting. Your generous gifts enable the NHS and Mill Race Village to preserve Northville's history and provide valuable community programming.

Please renew your membership by using the 2021 Membership Form on this page, or by going online to www.millracenorthville.org/join-give and submitting the form and paying online with PayPal.

Member benefits include the Mill Race Quarterly newsletter, member-only events and a 10% discount at the Village store.

Annual Memberships are the same as 2021:

- \$25 for Individuals
- \$35 for Families (2 or more people)
- \$75 for Organizations/Businesses

Thank you to all of our Northville Historical Society Members for your wonderful support during the past year and we look forward to your participation in our 50th Anniversary year.



NOTE: Due to COVID, the Board of Directors has not determined if the Annual Meeting on October 21st will be online or in person. We will email our Members and let you know the details!

2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out and detach this panel and mail to:
Northville Historical Society
215 Griswold St.
Northville, MI 48167-1664

First Name(s): _____

Last Name(s): _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

If you wish to receive A PAPER COPY of the Mill Race Quarterly, initial here: _____

2022 Membership Dues: (Circle One)
\$25 Individual / \$35 Family / \$75 Organization

Unrestricted Gift Amount: _____

Restricted Gift Amount: _____

Restricted Gift Instructions: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Check here if you do not wish to have your gift posted in our communications _____

Payment Method
(Circle One)

Cash

Check (Payable to Northville Historical Society)

Online (via PayPal) www.millracenorthville.org

Visa / MasterCard / Discover

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: (MM/YYYY) _____

Security Code: (located on reverse of card) _____

Signature: _____

Gifts to the Northville Historical Society are tax deductible to the greatest extent of the law. EIN 36-4092509.

Welcome New Members!

Keith Brandt, Brandt Real Estate
 Laura Budweg
 Jennifer Graham
 Meghan Lang
 Susan Lepri
 Cynthia McCullough
 Allison Rhoades
 Kate and Steve Rundell

THE NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



HALLOWEEN HYSTERIA



JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF HALLOWEEN FUN

- Trick or Treating - Halloween Craft -
- Legend of Sleepy Hollow - Fortune Teller -
- Refreshments - And more...

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH

MILL RACE VILLAGE

WATCH FOR TICKET INFORMATION AT MILLRACENORTHVILLE.ORG




GROUPS OPEN FOR OUR PERMITTED PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THEIR CLIENTS ONLY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 9 AM TO NOON
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3 9 AM TO NOON

CONTACT THE VENDORS LISTED BELOW TO BOOK YOUR PHOTO SESSION
 These are the only photographers permitted to shoot at Mill Race Village

ALL OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS MUST PURCHASE A ONE DAY PHOTO PERMIT



PAMELA MCCORMICK PHOTOGRAPHY pmccormickphotography.com	MELISSA SAMLUK PHOTOGRAPHY melissasamlukphotography.com
TREND KNEZEK, 6 LITTLE FEET 6littlefeet.com	KRISTI FITZGERALD PHOTOGRAPHY kristifitzgeraldphotography.shootproof.com
ANGELA BOWERS PHOTOGRAPHY angelaowersphoto.com	SAMANTHA DOMINGUE PHOTOGRAPHY www.samanthadominguephotography.com
KATE STEFANELLI PHOTOGRAPHY katestefanelliphotography.com	IMAGES BY MARIE MOORE https://www.imagesbymarie.moore.com/
PRESTIGE PORTRAITS PrestigeporRaits.com	

THE NORTHVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS



Come enjoy a slice (or pre-order an entire cake!) to celebrate the famed "Madame Deficit" and support our ongoing work to maintain and improve Mill Race Village



MARIE ANTOINETTE'S 266TH BIRTHDAY & CAKE SALE

Tuesday, November 2, 2-5 pm
 The Cady Inn at Mill Race Village

TO ORDER OR FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.MILLRACENORTHVILLE.ORG

Thank You to our Donors!

\$100 & Above

Ronald & Marilyn Breuhan
 John Roby

Up to \$100

Janet Evans
 Tim & Jennifer Luikart
 Paul & Tricia Snyder
 Corinne Vincent

Thomas Hess Memorial Donations

Etta Conen
 Betty Dilbeck
 George and Adela Fomin
 Thomas & Linda Freeman
 Marie Goedtel
 Terence Griffin
 Barbara Moroski-Browne
 Mary Stapleton
 Janice & Johnny Wynn



Northville Historical Society
215 Griswold St.
Northville, MI 48167

Calendar of Events

September 19—Victorian Heritage Festival Activities & Carry-out Tea. 12 to 3 PM.
Duck Race at 3 pm

October 10—Halloween Hysteria, Four one hour sessions beginning at 1PM. Online Ticket Sales Only.

October 21—Annual Meeting of the Northville Historical Society Membership, 6:30 PM

November 2—"Let Them Eat Cake", cake sale 2-5PM

November 5—Children's Christmas Workshop Registration, 218 W. Dunlap. 6PM for members, 6:30 non-members

December 3 & 4—Christmas in the Village and Festival of Trees. 5-8PM

December 4—Children's Christmas Workshop, Two sessions: 10AM-noon and 1-3PM

December 11—Christmas Tea & Lecture



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