

## CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP

# Boy Scouts spruce up Chesterfield Historic Village for summer



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY VOSBURG

On April 23, Boy Scout Troop 1490 of St. Clair Shores spruced up buildings in the Chesterfield Township Historical Village.

## Troop 1490 of St. Clair Shores replaces wood, paints some structures

**By Nicole Tuttle**  
*MediaNews Group*

Boy Scout Troop 1490 added a chapter to the storied history of the Trinity Buildings in the Chesterfield Township Historical Village on April 23.

The troop, based in St. Clair Shores, consists of 16 active roster troops between the ages of 12 and 18. However, alumni scouts

who are now over 18 often return to support troop efforts, according to Scoutmaster John Dell.

The Chesterfield Township Historical Village is located next to township municipal offices, which are at 47275 Sugarbush Road in Chesterfield. Dell said it was at the request of Shawn Marlar and the Chesterfield Township Historical Society that his troop participated in a service

project to spruce up the Trinity Buildings of the blacksmith shop and general store in the village. Marlar said he is a committee member with the scout troop as well as a lifetime member of the society, serving as the village blacksmith. Kathy Vosburg, a Chesterfield Township trustee and the president of the historical society, said that the society

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approved the troop project in March.

"We were looking for a service project and Shawn suggested we inquire as he is an active member of the society committee," Dell said. "After speaking with them, the idea of repainting and restoring these two buildings is what we all agreed to undertake. The historical society offered to purchase the paint and building materials, the troop provided the tools, manpower and 'expertise' needed to get through the project."

The actual service date for the troop was April 23, but the Chesterfield Township Historical Society permitted the troop to tent camp in the village for the weekend. Dell said that the troop arrived at the village on the evening of April 22 and departed on April 24. Twelve youth under age 21 and 13 adults participated in refurbishing historic buildings, Dell said.

"Our primary task was

to remove and replace as much rotted and destroyed wood on the blacksmith shop as possible, along with giving everything a nice fresh coat of paint to protect the historic buildings from the elements a while longer," Dell said.

Vosburg said that the troop also planted grass seed in a few patchy areas on village grounds. The building refurbishment came at an ideal time for the village, as the society is beginning to plan its summer event schedule.

"We were aware that the paint was peeling and the buildings were becoming unsightly, and we wanted to get it done this year. We were very pleased when they volunteered to do it, and then when they arrived they saw we needed to replace some boards and they did that. I was thinking they were just going to do the painting, they went above and beyond. I am pleased with the contentious effort they made to do a good job," Vosburg said.

Vosburg said that the society usually hosts about

four or five events from June through September in the village. A reenactment event called Ste. Claire Voyageurs and History Alive will be held in the village June 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and June 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event will feature reenactments and historical displays by Lac Ste. Claire Voyageurs and the Michigan Military Technical and Historical Society in Eastpointe. Through period clothing, encampments and displays, reenactors will illustrate history from 1750 era French fur trade through more recent history. Suggested donations are \$1 per person or \$2 per family to support historical society programming and additional building repairs in the village.

The Trinity Buildings which are now in the historic village were once part of an expansion of Trinity Library. Historical society information indicates that in 1955, Bernard and Ceola Trinity opened a library on their property near the intersection of Cotton and Sugarbush roads. The Bernard T. Trinity Neighbor-



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY VOSBURG

Some buildings in the Chesterfield Township Historical Village recently received a facelift courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 1490.

hood Library grew to over 7,500 books and operated for over 36 years. In 1964, the Trinitys expanded to include a museum of local artifacts and memorabilia. The Trinity Historical Museum was designed to represent a general store like

the general stores of Chesterfield Township from the period of 1880 to 1930.

Historical society information indicates that the Trinitys continued with expansion in 1967, creating Heritage Acres to depict 1890s life, which in-

cluded a blacksmith shop. This blacksmith shop was added in 1970. The library and museum closed in 1991, historical society information indicates.

*Nicole Tuttle is a freelance reporter for The Voice.*