

CHESTERFIELD TWP.

Historic village lights up for winter

Society raising funds to replace school bell tower

Area residents looking for ways to stay active this winter can take a stroll through the decorated Chesterfield Township Historical Village.

The village, located adjacent to the township municipal offices on Sugarbush Road, features several historic buildings that have been decorated for the winter season. Citizens can walk through the decorated

historical village through Jan. 31.

The self-guided winter walk allows the historical society to offer an event that does not require in-person contact amid the COVID-19 crisis.

With many people looking for outdoor walking routes throughout the pandemic, the historical village has become a popular spot for those looking

to stay active.

There is no admission charge to walk through the village, but donations for the historical society are accepted on a donation box by the bridge. Proceeds from sponsorships and donations will help repair and replace the bell tower of the historic Weller one-room schoolhouse, which dates back to the 1860s.

The society has been fundraising for repairs to the Weller one-room schoolhouse for the past few years. The schoolhouse was donated to the historical society by the Odrobina family in 1996, when the school building and outhouse were moved to the historical village from its previous location at Gratiot Avenue and 22 Mile Road.

Roof repairs have been needed on both the interior and the exterior, particularly the bell tower, which has been removed from the building. The bell tower has rotted and needs to be rebuilt. Funds were raised for roof repairs, but the bell tower requires additional funds.

The log cabin located at the historical village was



KATELYN LARESE — MEDIANEWS GROUP

The Weller one-room schoolhouse was decorated for the holidays. The Chesterfield Township Historical Society is asking those who stop by the historical village to make a donation to help repair and replace the bell tower.

moved in 2005. The cabin was originally located at 29 Mile and Campground roads in Washington Township. The Neilsen family first poured the foundation for the made-to-order home from Pioneer Log Cabin Co. of Roscommon in 1939.

Village buildings will not be open during the walk-throughs. On Christmas Eve, however, the society opened up the front door

of the historic Kolping chapel to give visitors a glimpse inside.

Driving through the village is not permitted for safety reasons, but parking is available at the township municipal offices.

The Chesterfield Township Historical Society was founded in 1993 for the purpose of preserving the history of Chesterfield Township. The society's members

are devoted to the discovery, collection and preservation of historic materials, buildings, monuments, markers, sites, artifacts and publications.

The Chesterfield Township Historical Village is located at 47275 Sugarbush Road in Chesterfield Township. For more information, go to chesterfieldhistorical-society.org.

— MediaNews Group staff



Vintage sleds are displayed at the Chesterfield Township Historical Village.



Holiday lights are affixed to the historic Kolping chapel.



Winter decorations offer a festive walk through the Chesterfield Township Historical Village.