

Museum Grounds Naturescaping



Several members of the Historical Society have started developing a plan that will transform parts of the museum grounds into a natural setting that contains historically correct plantings. The plans include woodland gardens similar to those that may have existed years ago.

Many master gardeners and other volunteers are working in cooperation with the SOCWA Healthy Lawns and Gardens Program, a landscape designer and other landscaping professionals to develop this project. The site will serve as an example to all Villagers of how native plants can be used to maintain Franklin's rural character.

The vision for the Woodland Garden is:

- A restored woodland ecosystem and woodland gardens with native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers, reflecting the oak-hickory woodland ecosystem originally found on the site.
- Removal of invasive species such as Common Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard which prevent the growth of native species.
- Plantings of native shrubs, trees and wildflowers with flowers, berries and fall color - for the purpose of enhanced habitat for birds and small mammals. A more diverse landscape featuring native shrubs and other plants will also help connect visitors and residents with nature, encouraging and demonstrating

naturalistic plantings suitable for Franklin Village homes.

- An accessible landscape with points of interest that unfold along a woodland path. Specific ideas include: "outdoor rooms" and spaces of horticultural interest; wildflowers which were used by native Americans and pioneers; natural landscape features that could be replicated in home gardens; demonstrations of composting and other sustainable landscape practices; and places for small groups to gather, pause, and reflect on the beauty of nature.
- A modest-sized garden (within the larger landscape) that preserves the memory of Jenny and Stanley Derwich and other leaders.
- Herb garden and/or other historic vegetable garden (near the house) - demonstrating the benefits of compost and natural mulches for low maintenance gardens.
- Environmental education programs for students and adults which build on the enhanced natural features of the landscape. Elementary school curriculum connections include: nutrient cycles, ecosystems and natural habitats, land-and-water connections, and the impact of people on the natural landscape.
- Community volunteer involvement in the planning, planting and

Franklin Mobile Watch Celebrates 25 Years

Mobile watch started in the early 1980's when Franklin home break-ins were getting out of control. In 1981, Franklin residents experienced 57 breaking and entering crimes. A group of residents (Ray Slesinski, Harry Clay and Ed Neill) worked with Police Chief Jerry Tobias to establish a formal network of concerned citizens who would be an extra set of eyes and ears for the police. They began patrols of the entire Village with a zero tolerance for crime. At that time, members would spend two hours patrolling all of the Village streets. Any activity that looked suspicious was reported immediately to the police. The results were dramatic. In 1982, the crime rate for breaking and entering dropped to 29 incidents. It continued to improve and, in 1999, there were no breaking and entering crimes in Franklin.

Many thanks to Ray Slesinski, Bill Williams, George & Madeline Haddad, Jim & Lorie Carswell, Dick & Rose Galley and Henry & Betty Potoczak for their leadership in getting Mobile Watch going and supporting its continued success.

Today's Mobile Watch is alive and well. Operating under the direction of the Franklin Police, as it was when established 25 years ago, it is funded by the generous support of the Franklin Community Association. All of the founding members, who currently live in Franklin, remain active to this very day. Members

Franklin Veteran Memorial

During the 1981 Memorial Day ceremony, a monument to honor war veterans buried in the Franklin Cemetery was unveiled. The memorial sculpture is in the form of an elm leaf. It was designed by artist and sculptress Michelle Oka Doner of Franklin. The sculpture was cast in bronze by the Fine Arts Sculpture Center of Clarkston, Michigan. The monument weighs 150 pounds, measures three feet wide and stands six feet tall.

It was dedicated to Arthur L. Kreger, a veteran of WW I and long time Franklin resident. At that time, Carmina Brooks Tuksal wrote the following article that captures the meaning of the annual Franklin Cemetery Memorial Day Service. "Annual Memorial Day ceremonies were initiated by Arthur L. Kreger in 1966. Kreger was devoted to the preservation of the cemetery and its operation. Ceremonies have traditionally featured the Franklin Village band, a presentation of the colors by the scouts of Franklin, addresses by spokesman of the village groups, a firing squad salute to the dead and taps. And, on each Memorial Day in the Franklin cemetery, there is a moment when the past shares the present, when time stands still, and those who have gone before touch the lives of the living."

You are invited to join other villagers in honoring veterans who served in the Armed Forces from the War of 1812 through the present time. The service will be held at 11 A.M. on Monday, May 29th at the Franklin cemetery flagpole.



Before Stone Oaks subdivision. . . There was Jonathan Worthing

On March 12th, the Franklin Historical Society sponsored the first neighborhood gathering to inform residents of the historic background of their land.

Residents living on North and South Greenbriar as well as those living on the east side of Franklin Road between Greenbriar and Thirteen Mile Road attended. Jonathan Worthing was the original land owner of this property.

In 1828, Worthing purchased 80 acres for \$1.25 per acre. Residents examined the patent land deed signed by President John Quincy Adams, the original subdivision plat map and original deed restrictions.

Not only did neighbors learn about the history of their property, but also had an opportunity to chat with one another over strawberry shortcake and tea.

Lace Up Your Shoes

And, join a 90 minute walking tour of historic Franklin Village on Saturday, May 13th. The tour will begin at 1 P.M. at the gazebo on the village green (rain or shine.)

Tickets are \$10. Please reserve your spot by sending a check to:
The Franklin Historical Society
P.O. Box 250007
Franklin, Mi. 48025

If you're interested in scheduling a group at a future date, you may contact Bill or Ann Lamott at 248-538-0273.



What's My Line?

In April, third graders from West Maple Elementary school visited the historical museum. Each child wore a name tag of an early Franklin villager. It was the responsibility of every child to discover the line of work or contribution that their individual made in the community.

Third graders learned that pioneer "homework" was difficult. They ground wheat into flour, made butter and washed clothes in an 1850's washing machine. There was a tinsmith project, blacksmith toys and early medical remedies to explore. They wrote with quill and ink, "mailed" a pioneer letter, played with 1800's toys and visited the general store. A visit to the museum was a trip in Franklin history through the eyes of people that lived here.



Kite & Key is a publication of the Franklin Historical Society. The Franklin Historical Society seeks to preserve such material, structures and artifacts that help to establish the history of the Village of Franklin and to provide for accessibility for those who wish to study it. The Society maintains a museum and archival area at the Derwich House, 26165 13 Mile Road (at Kirk). Volunteers and donations are most welcome.

The *Kite & Key* and the Society welcome mail at P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025. Our phone is 248-538-0565. Contributors: Bill & Ann Lamott, Rick Koslowski & Carmina Tuksal

maintenance of specific garden areas. Involvement of ecological gardening volunteers from neighboring communities is invited and needed to achieve project goals.

The time table calls for several more planning meetings in May with the objective of having an overall plan in place by the end of May. Actual work days will be scheduled throughout the year. There is also a need for \$1000 additional funding for the project.

On May 20th from 10:00 A.M. to Noon, a demonstration and walk through is planned for interested Villagers.

If you are interested in getting involved, please call Bill or Ann Lamott at 248-538-0273.



A Special Thanks to Key Contributors whose financial support exceeded normal Historic Society guidelines!

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
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| Fred Gallasch & Mary Hepler | Kathi & Rick Russell |
| Charles & Sharon Grant | Tin & Lonna Van Ast |
| Alan Harnisch | Bill & Shally Williams |
| Steve & Diana Howard | Questers |
| Whit and Anne Jones | |

**Franklin Historical Society Annual Meeting
June 8th - 7 P.M.**

The FHS annual meeting will be held at the museum at 26165 Thirteen Mile Road (at Kirk Lane.) Please join your fellow members for a short business meeting, presentation and refreshments.

What You Can Do

- Donate your web site technical expertise to update and maintain the Franklincivic.org web site
- Sponsor major museum facility upgrades including replacement of the roof and boiler and upgrading of the electrical service
- Sponsor the publication of the Historical Society walking tour book
- Have a family outing at the museum working on gardening or facility projects
- Sponsor new museum exhibits that have been planned by students from the College for Creative Studies
- Join FHS members working on museum related projects such as sorting and cataloging archives or writing grant requests
- Create museum exhibits such as Ben Franklin, archeological digs or the fire department
- Just join the Franklin Historical Society

Franklin Mobile Watch...continued

patrol one of six zones in Franklin. Dividing the Village into zones requires less patrol time which makes it less time consuming and enables those patrolling to focus on their immediate neighborhoods, where they are most familiar. Mobile Watch signs have been placed throughout the Village to make criminals aware that they are being watched. The group meets monthly – at 7:30 P.M. on the last Thursday at the Village Hall. A Mobile Watch article, which chronicles the events of the Mobile Watch, appears as a regular feature in the FCA’s “Franklin Villager”. It is not by accident that our village maintains a low level of crime. Citizens concerned about the quality of life in Franklin took action 25 years ago to make a difference. This difference continues today through the success of an outstanding police department and active participation of neighbors helping neighbors. All residents are urged to become active in this vital activity that is very beneficial to all of us.

Join Mobile Watch and other villagers at a reception to meet the new police chief, Pat Browne, and to thank Bill Castro for his Service as interim chief.

Monday May 15th from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. at the Police Station.

Cut Here -----

It’s not too late to be a 2006 Franklin Historical Society Member. My dues are enclosed.

() Family/Individual \$35 () Business \$50 () Life \$400

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail this form and your tax deductible contribution to the Franklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025. Thank You.

Plant Sale Order Form Is Enclosed

Mail by May 10



Save The Date!

Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social
Sunday, June 11th
3:00 - 5:00
On The Green
Ice Cream, Music & Games



Awhile Ago In Franklin . . .

One of the greatest immigrations in American history occurred in Michigan between 1820 and 1840. Dillucena Stoughton and Elijah Bullock, both New Yorkers, were the first to purchase property here in 1824 at the Detroit land office. Their patent deeds were signed by President John Quincy Adams. Subsequent landowner deeds were signed by Presidents James Monroe and Andrew Jackson. A map of the original landowners and copies of the patent deeds are at the museum.

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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