Hello Friends,

Old Sturbridge Village experienced an historic summer all because of our Village staff, volunteers and supporters who worked tirelessly to ensure we had a season full of new and reimagined events and programs.

In this, our second issue of The Village Common, I am excited to share with you news and updates on the many projects and opportunities the Village is currently pursuing.

Among those projects is our renewed focus on the museum’s commitment to youth education. In May, the Village brought into its ranks Emily Dunnack, our new Director of Education, who is spearheading the modernization of the Village’s educational programming – including field trips, homeschool and scout days, and our summer program, Discovery Adventures.

Along with this transformation comes the prospect of Old Sturbridge Village opening a public charter school on our campus, as well as an immersive agriculture-focused program for homeschooled children. And, of course, our summer all because of our Village staff, volunteers and supporters who worked tirelessly to ensure we had a season full of new and reimagined events and programs.

This year’s 8th Annual Gala began with much excitement, anticipation and widespread. Jim’s vision is a school where children of differing learning styles and abilities can find academic success while modeling the values of Old Sturbridge Village: authenticity, integrity, quality, compassion and kindness. Most importantly, it will be a school where children at-risk for learning due to poverty, language or learning differences will thrive.

In October 2014, Old Sturbridge Village’s Board of Trustees voted to go forward with the charter school concept, initiating the next leading innovation in education at Old Sturbridge Village.

Phase one of the charter school project was to submit a prospectus for the Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School, which was filed with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in July 2015. This was the first formal step in realizing Jim’s vision “to further the educational mission of Old Sturbridge Village while at the same time creating an unique learning opportunity for local children that will allow them to utilize the entire museum campus and all that it has to offer as an extension of their classroom.” Continued on page 4

Sincerely,

Jim Donahue, President and CEO
Many key projects are in the works or coming to completion at Old Sturbridge Village this fall. Each project undertaken is necessary for the maintenance and preservation of our historic buildings, and cannot be accomplished without the continued generosity of our donors. A few of these projects include:

**Rebuilding the Carding Mill Foundation**

When in operation, Old Sturbridge Village’s Carding Mill is the only one of its type left in the United States. Recently, however, the Carding Mill foundation has been in urgent need of repair due to the natural forces of erosion and tree growth. The mill’s foundation has been stable for general visitor foot traffic due to remediation actions taken in 2013. However, the Carding Mill foundation has not been operational as a result of the building not being able to withstand the vibration caused by the machinery when in use.

As the centerpiece of events such as *Wool Days* and *Textile Weekend*, it was crucial that the museum take on the work of repairing the foundation at an estimated cost of $10,000. Old Sturbridge Village’s Operations Department has been hard at work repairing the Carding Mill foundation since August 2015, and the work is nearing completion. Recently, the Village secured a pledge of funding from an anonymous foundation to underwrite this work. Soon the Carding Mill will again be a working feature of Old Sturbridge Village.

**Painting Exterior Walls of Freeman Farmhouse and Bixby House**

After filming for a new HBO pilot took place at the museum in March 2014, the Village received a grant from HBO to restore and repaint the exteriors of both the Bixby House and Freeman Farmhouse, which had both been on the museum’s deferred maintenance list for more than a decade. With the help of the grant from HBO, repainting the Freeman Farmhouse was completed in July and work on the Bixby House is nearing completion.

While the repainting of the exterior walls of the Freeman Farmhouse was in progress, the Village’s Operations Department discovered that the structure’s roof was in urgent need of replacement. An effort to raise the $20,000 for the roof replacement is currently underway.

**Restoring the Allen Piggery and Heritage Farming**

Last winter the historic Allen Piggery building was given to Old Sturbridge Village in an effort to bolster the Village’s agriculture and heritage farming programs. Built in Sturbridge, Massachusetts between 1837 and 1838, the piggery is a rare surviving example of New England antebellum agriculture. Once erected at Old Sturbridge Village it will be the first historic building added to the museum since the 1980s.

Detailed drawings and meticulous documentation of the structure was completed by Village staff, experts in the field of historic architecture, and a Village intern from Tantasqua Regional High School throughout 2014. The piggery was then dismantled and stored with other Old Sturbridge Village collections in anticipation of reconstructing the building as a part of the historic agriculture program. Once reconstructed, the piggery will host its first litter of piglets in 2017, and begin to showcase the accurate representation of 19th-century rural New England pork production.

In order to reconstruct the piggery and begin the raising of heritage pigs at Old Sturbridge Village, the program will require approximately $75,000 in funding. We are currently seeking funding from corporate sponsors and foundations alike for this important program, and hope to begin reconstruction of the building in 2016.

**SUPPORT A PROJECT!**

Donors with an interest in making a gift to support these and other historic preservation projects should contact Old Sturbridge Village’s Development Office at development@osv.org or 508-347-0294.

**The Bake Shop Returns to the Village with Added Flavor**

As part of the improvements and changes associated with Old Sturbridge Village’s adoption of the Culinary Division, it was the vision of both museum President and CEO Jim Donahue and Culinary Director Bill Nemeroff, to reimagine and revitalize the Village’s beloved bake shop. Renamed *The Bake Shop and Village Scoop*, this redesign of a Village favorite was piloted during the summer. Offering ten rotating flavors of ice cream, two sorbet flavors, and an assortment of cookies including many old favorites, the new shop has been the toast of the season.

Once a staple of Old Sturbridge Village, Mrs. Allen’s Bake Shop operated seasonally selling cookies, coffee and milk to our contented visitors. Fond remembrances abound of warm cookies sold fresh in waxed paper bags by the single or half dozen. Sadly for many, Mrs. Allen’s Bake Shop closed in the 1990s and cookies began to be sold in the Miner Grant Store on the Village Common. While the Village’s signature cookies remained, the experience of Mrs. Allen’s has been remembered fondly by many a visitor since that time.

A partnership with SoCo Creamery, a handcrafted brand of natural ice cream made locally in the Berkshires, has helped to reinvent the Bake Shop to include quality, delicious ice cream. “It has been a pleasure to work with SoCo Creamery,” says Bill Nemeroff, “SoCo’s commitment to locally-sourced, fresh ingredients pairs perfectly with our vision for the Village’s culinary service. We could not be happier about the partnership, and the ice cream is delicious.”

Bill went on to say that SoCo Creamery’s ability to provide the Village with the coolers necessary to store and serve the ice cream made the pilot season of the new Bake Shop and Village Scoop possible.

Over the winter months the shop will undergo an interior renovation. We are excited to welcome back an old Village favorite with this delicious new twist!
As Old Sturbridge Village members of more than 40 years, Keith and Elaine Knowlton have many photo albums full of cherished memories visiting the Village with their daughter. The Knowltons’ deep involvement and volunteer work at their local historical society in Brooklyn, Connecticut, and long-time Old Sturbridge Village membership combined to motivate their involvement and commitment to education at the Village.

Keith and Elaine Knowlton support Old Sturbridge Village so that “this special place can give others some of the pleasure we have enjoyed.”

In 2013, the Knowltons generously established The Knowlton Challenge, a matching appeal which supports education programs for Connecticut students at Old Sturbridge Village, an effort they have graciously offered to support again this year. When asked why the challenge is important to them, they said, “It makes possible more school group visits to Old Sturbridge Village at a time when over-extended school budgets have decreased or curtailed field trips.”

In summing up why they support education and Old Sturbridge Village, Elaine said, “We are happy to be able to contribute to Old Sturbridge Village so that this very special place can give others some of the pleasure we have enjoyed in being so expertly conducted to the past.”

ATTENTION CONNECTICUT DONORS!

Once again, Keith and Elaine Knowlton have shown their support for the Village by sponsoring The Knowlton Challenge. Between now and the end of the year, the Knowltons will match Connecticut donor support of the Village’s Education Program up to $12,500. If you would like to participate in The Knowlton Challenge please contact the Development Department at development@osv.org or 508-347-0294.

Why Keith & Elaine Knowlton Support Old Sturbridge Village

Meet Emily Dunnack

Director of Education

Administration in 2014. The process of bringing together a passionate group of mid-career professionals to engage in discussion on issues facing the history/museums field made for an “exciting experience which challenged traditional models.”

Most Wanted Village Experience:
Cooking at the Freeman Farm. “It is important to know where your food comes from. Farm-to-table food is important to me, and nowhere can you experience that better than at the Village.”

Proudest Career Accomplishment:
Through her work at the Connecticut Historical Society, Emily led their education programs and fostered a team of strong, professional educators, which helped to grow the program's school visitation. “I hope to accomplish more of the same in my position here at the Village.”

In summing up what they support education and Old Sturbridge Village, Emily joined the Village in May 2015 as the new director and leader of our Education Department.

Interests: Powerful early experiences at the Village with her parents sparked Emily’s interest in museums. Coupled with a longtime love of education, the two came together through an internship with the Worcester Art Museum’s Education Department, generating her passion for museum education.

Hidden Talents: Self-identified as “a good cook,” Emily enjoys all aspects of food: reading about new culinary concepts, preparing all types of food, and planning vacations around exciting restaurants. Finding and making good food is Emily’s favorite “not-so-hidden” talent.

Best Professional Experience:
Attending the Seminar for Historical Best Professional Experience: Food, and planning vacations around the history of food: reading about new culinary passions for museum education. The Knowlton Challenge portrays a 19th-century agrarian society, our staff has connected agriculture’s past to its present for visitors for decades. Currently in its planning year thanks to an anonymous grant received in 2015, Journey Through Food, the Village’s new three-day immersive agriculture experience for students in grades 7-10, will not be bound by the constraints of the 19th century. Instead, students will have the opportunity to understand how the history of agriculture is relevant to its practice today, as well as for the future.

Experiencing the dirty and physical aspects of the labor it takes to successfully work a farm is a key component to a student’s immersion into agrarian life. Led by Senior Vice President Debra Friedman and Director of Interpretation Rhys Simmons, Journey Through Food educators will guide students through a series of hands-on tasks and discussions that will help youth participants gain a greater understanding of the resources that surround them on a daily basis. This three-day intensive course will allow students to take full advantage of the museum campus, including early morning and evening time in the Village, taking an active roll in daily meal preparation and overnight lodging at the Old Sturbridge Inn and Reeder Family Lodges.

Students will learn where their food comes from by working with the museum’s animals and throughout the Village’s gardens and fields to obtain many sustainable resources. By understanding the impact of modern practices utilized by farmers to feed consumers, students will gain an understanding of food sources and preservation. Throughout the course students will work directly with Old Sturbridge Village’s museum educators by participating in many different aspects of 19th-century agrarian life, including beekeeping, dairying, seed saving, plant identification, food preservation, animal husbandry, sustainability, 19th-century technology and more.

Each day will introduce new topics and activities to the students designed to both reinforce the previous day’s learning while at the same time building upon it. Students will have the opportunity to learn through hands-on participation, discussions, games and film screening. The goal of Journey Through Food is for students to have a greater understanding of the source and value of food as well as strategies which they can use to play an active role in a sustainable future for themselves and their communities.
Opportunity... Continued from page 1

In September 2015, Old Sturbridge Village’s prospectus for the Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School was approved. With this endorsement, the charter school project enters its second phase. An official application for the public charter school will be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in November 2015. If approved, Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School will be the first charter school operated by and on the site of a history museum in New England and second only to one other in the country.

Old Sturbridge Academy, as a kindergarten through eighth grade school located in a living history museum, will be uniquely positioned to provide enhanced and expanded educational opportunities. Not only will students learn to think like historians, but they will be able to utilize every resource of the museum to partake in enriched opportunities in science, mathematics, technology, arts, music, agriculture, sustainability and more.

Old Sturbridge Academy will partner with Expeditionary Learning, an innovative curriculum design organization founded in the tradition of Outward Bound. Expeditionary Learning’s philosophy is to connect students with what they are learning in the classrooms to real-world applications through high-quality learning experiences.

Imagine a learning environment in which geometry is taught by figuring the angles of the staves made by a cooper, chemistry involving saponification using ash and fat from the Freeman Farm, and physics using water wheels and spinning wheels to help conceptualize simple machines.

At Old Sturbridge Academy, kindergarteners studying Native Americans would experience preparing nasum, a thick and filling food made of corn by cooking it over a hearth and vessel with a curator to examine 18th-century native baskets.

Village Gala... Continued from page 1

than a decade on Old Sturbridge Village and our community. Mike currently serves as an Honorary Trustee of the museum, and Angela has served on the museum’s Human Resources Department for eight years; Angela also chaired the Gala Committee in 2013. Both Mike and Angela are tireless supporters of Old Sturbridge and notable community philanthropists and volunteers. It is obvious how much their family and community love and respect them for all they do, and it was with great esteem that the Village honored them with induction into the 1946 Circle.

If approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in February 2016, Old Sturbridge Academy Charter Public School will certainly be innovative, but it will not be the first school at the Village. In 1950-51 Old Sturbridge Village ran a school, directed by Alice Spinney – wife of curator Frank Spinney, for seven students housed on site in the Mashapaug House. The school’s curriculum was truly innovative for its time with experiences in the Village’s craft shops and households as part of the learning process. Now long forgotten, this early experiment in education provided the roots for 21st-century scholars to again have this opportunity to learn from the past to help create a better future.

As a surprise for Ann Marie, her peers and friends contributed the necessary funds for a gas fire pit to be installed at the Inn and Lodges. Village maintenance staff worked quickly and discreetly to install the fire pit before it was revealed to her at the Federalist Dinner in June. President and CEO Jim Donahue announced the new feature at the Inn and Lodges, saying “Ann Marie has been leading the Board’s focus on hospitality at the Village with particular focus on the Lodges. The fire pit is a great addition to the complex, and it was Lorraine Reeder who had the inspired idea for this fitting tribute to the person who lobby for the Board to reopen the Lodges for as long as I have known her.”

This surprise project is just one of the many ways in which the Village’s Trustees support the museum and each other. In making this project possible, they have not only honored a dedicated supporter of the Village, but demonstrated how working together can make all the difference. The fire pit has become a popular gathering place for guests at the Old Sturbridge Inn and Reeder Family Lodges.

First graders studying the use of natural materials ran a school, directed by Alice Spinney – wife of curator Frank Spinney, for seven students housed on site in the Mashapaug House. The school’s curriculum was truly innovative for its time with experiences in the Village’s craft shops and households as part of the learning process. Now long forgotten, this early experiment in education provided the roots for 21st-century scholars to again have this opportunity to learn from the past to help create a better future.

Village Gala... Continued from page 1

Dr. Governor Dannel Malloy congratulated the Gala honorees.

Santas, created exclusively for the Village from vintage European chocolate moulds. This year’s Santa features the Rufus Porter mural, which is original to the Oliver Wight House at the Old Sturbridge Inn and Reeder Family Lodges. The Santa, as always, was a shining feature of the Gala’s silent auction.

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More kudos...

Overseers Ron and Kathy Vairo once again chaired an amazing Old Sturbridge Village Gala, which took place September 19, 2015. Their dedication to finding auction items, corporate sponsors and more is not an easy task, and they have taken on it for a second year. Thank you Ron and Kathy for your leadership and dedication!

Overseer Josephine Sheldon and her husband Leslie volunteered on the busy Fourth of July weekend to help with the Village's Field of Flags campaign. Thank you Josephine and Leslie for supporting our Blue Star Museum commitment to our nation’s active duty and retired military and veterans.

Honorary Trustees Marilyn Kucharski and Anne Marie Argtin, Trustee Jane Nylander, Overseers Dorothy Fullam, Sarah Hardy, Joanne Dirlam, and Bennie Chambers were honored at this year's Federalist Dinner for their decades of dedicated support to the Village as Trustees, Overseers, donors and staff. These seven women have had an enormous impact on the Village, and we are deeply grateful.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors and Partners for investing in the Village’s new and expanded Calendar of Events: Southbridge Savings Bank’s Back to School Bash, Union Central and E.J. Stochaj’s Annual Gala, Harrington Hospital for partnering with us for Pound of Cure, Health New England for their sponsorship of Pound of Cure, Southbridge Credit Union for its sponsorship of Independence, Dexter Russell for its sponsorship of both Dig It and Beauty, and Fallon Community Health Plan and E.J. Stochaj Insurance Agency, Inc. for their co-sponsorship of both Christmas By Candlelight and Holiday Market. Our corporate partnerships help to make these events a success and enable the Village to provide additional programming and activities. Thank you.