

# Sauder Village Moving into the 1920s



While activities in the Historic Village will soon be winding down for the season, Sauder Village will continue to be buzzing with excitement as work begins on the next phase of the Walk Through Time Experience. This new project will allow the replication of a portion of a 1920s Main Street typical to Northwest Ohio. Structures already located at Sauder Village will be incorporated into this new area and other key buildings representative of businesses typical to the 1920s will be constructed. The first steps to install the necessary infrastructure for the expanding community will begin yet this fall and we will plan to have the next phase of this project open during the 2018 season.

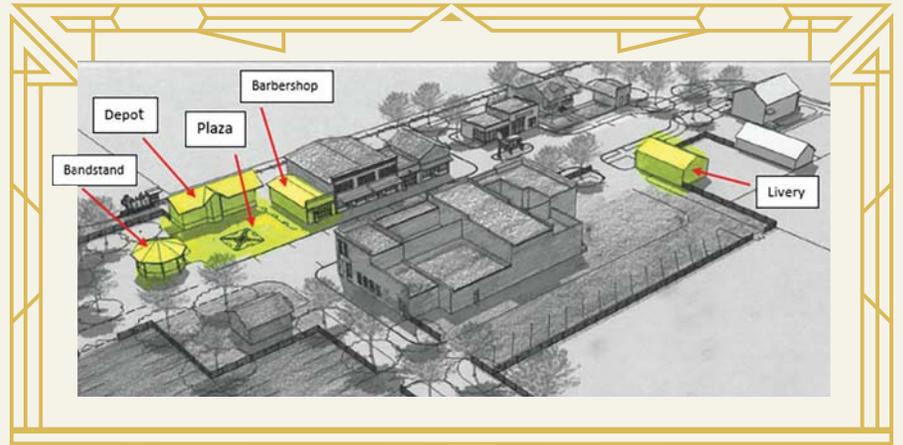
“My grandpa built this living history village to honor the past and inspire the future,” shared Debbie Sauder David, President and CEO. “As part of our Master Plan we continue to look for new ways to immerse guests in authentic experiences that make history relevant to our lives today. With our Walk Through Time Experience we have been able to preserve and share the cultural heritage of the Black Swamp from 1803 through the 1920s. We are excited to take the next step in this plan by beginning to create a 1920s Main Street Community.”

Over the past 15 years staff, volunteers, donors and contractors have worked diligently to develop the Walk Through Time Experience at Sauder Village. At Natives and Newcomers you enjoy experiencing the lives of the Native Americans and traders who lived in this area from 1803-1830. While exploring the Pioneer Settlement Area we hear stories of the journey and struggle for survival of the first European immigrants. At the renovated Grime Homestead you move into the 1920s while exploring the home of a rural family living with new technology like a radio and telephone.

“We continue to receive such positive feedback from families, school teachers, and other guests who have experienced Ohio history on our Walk Through Time,” Debbie added. “Thanks to the availability of the State Capital Appropriation funds and other designated gifts for this project we continue the 1920s story and share even more unique demonstrations and hands-on experiences with our guests next season!”



In November work will begin on the Main Street infrastructure. The Main Street road will be constructed with the necessary water, gas, sewer and electric lines in place for the expansion project. The plan also involves the relocation and building of new structures. From a Depot and Bandstand to Barbershop and Livery... we're looking forward to sharing the 1920s story in new and exciting ways! Plans for this next phase include:



**Elmira Train Depot** – The impact of the railroad on rural daily life was significant in the 1920s, bringing rural communities in contact with the world through travel, commerce, and communication. The next phase of the Main Street project will involve relocating and opening the Elmira Depot. The Elmira Depot was originally located just two miles north of Sauder Village along an extension of the Wabash Railroad. The Depot will serve as a physical stop for the Erie Express Train to transport guests throughout the entire historic timeline. The building includes a waiting room for passengers, an office for the stationmaster, and a freight room for storage. It will also feature a telegraphy exhibit to share these vital communication tools used by the railroads.



**Community Plaza and Bandstand** – A Community Plaza and Bandstand will be constructed near the Depot to accommodate events and special programs. Original bricks used to pave the streets in downtown Archbold in 1897 and salvaged during a reconstruction project in 2005, will be used to create the plaza area near the Depot.



**Barbershop** – Businesses that catered to train passengers, like the barbershop, were some of the first to locate near the train depot. The barbershop was not only a place to spruce up from your travels or to have your hair cut, it was also a hub of communications in a small town. Locals and visitors alike could stop by and find out what was happening with others in the areas and across the country. As part of the Main Street Project, a new Barbershop will be constructed and will include the complete collection of artifacts from the Okuley Barbershop in Continental, Ohio.



*Art Okuley & Barbershop Exhibit*

**Livery** – Finally, a Livery will be built to tell even more about changes in transportation in the 1920s. The livery was another essential business, serving as a “parking garage and gas station” for farmer’s horses when coming into town. It also provided a place to rent a buggy and had a blacksmith for necessary repair work and horse shoeing. While many families still used horses for transportation in the 1920s, a growing trend in affordable motorized vehicles would change the need for the traditional livery business within the decade.

“From doing research, gathering artifacts and fundraising to collecting parts of facades from historic buildings being torn down in local towns... a lot of behind the scenes work has already taken place,” Debbie added. “We’re excited to preserve a new area of authentic experience to benefit generations to come.”

*Be sure to watch our website for updates on the 1920s Main Street Project.*

As construction begins we’ll be posting photos of the progress and sharing interesting facts about the 1920s.