



Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

August 2015 Issue #1

Hometown Pride



Actor Tim Allen will serve as Grand Marshal for this year's America's Thanksgiving Parade® presented by Art Van!

So Happy Together!

We are very excited to announce that Tim Allen will be the Grand Marshal of the 2015 America's Thanksgiving Parade® presented by Art Van. Tim is all about Detroit and represents our City and State in everything he does!!

Also Stephen Henderson, Pulitzer Prize winning writer for the Detroit Free Press will be our Honorary Grand Marshal. Stephen is a true Mr. Detroit supporting everything good in our City!!



Tony Michaels

Those two additions to The Parade would not be complete without a theme that ties together all of the good things happening in Detroit. The theme for this year's Parade is ...**So Happy Together!!** Today more than ever, people in our region are working together to make Detroit better every single day. This theme says it all!! Thank you so much for everything you do - we could not do it without you!! Get ready for the best Parade season ever in our great City!! **THANK YOU!!**

--Tony

President & CEO, The Parade Company

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And the Winner is ...



Congrats to **Carol Willard** who submitted the winning entry "Clownie Connection" for our name our newsletter contest!

Christmas in July

Thank you to the volunteers who came out to Comerica Park to help with Christmas in July. What a fun evening!



The ballpark was decorated with holiday cheer, including a giant fireplace, Santa, the Grinch -- and of course, our amazing volunteers dressed as elves, gingerbread people and snowmen! Our volunteers had a blast greeting guests at the gates and waving to the crowd as they paraded around the baseball field.

If you missed any of the action, you can check out pictures on Detroit Parade Volunteers Facebook. Again, thanks to everyone for making the event extra special!

Contest Continued ...

With more than 120 entries submitted, it was no easy task for the TPC committee to pick a winner, but Clownie Connection was the favorite.

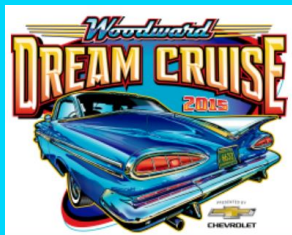
"I was so surprised when I got the call that I had won," says Willard.

As the winner of the contest, Willard will get four Grandstand tickets to America's Thanksgiving Parade® presented by Art Van! "I volunteered as a balloon handler in the Parade for quite a few years...that is where I got to know Clownie, says Willard. "I was never his handler but I think Clownie is the universal mascot for the Parade Company. He's cute, he's friendly and he's really cool!"

We think Clownie is cool too!
Thank you to all who suggested names for our contest!



Upcoming Events



Cruise in Shoes 5K Run

August 15, 6AM-10AM
Shrine High School
Royal Oak, MI

To volunteer, email:

volunteers@theparade.org



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Gary!

Volunteers are the heart of The Parade Company. We appreciate and celebrate the people who give their time and talents to help us succeed.

Each month, the Clownie Connection will shine a spotlight on one of our amazing Parade Company volunteers.

Check out our Q & A interview with this month's featured volunteer **Gary Morgan**.

Q: How long have you volunteered for the Parade Company?

A: I've volunteered for 10 years already ...time goes by like a rocket ship! My first event I volunteered at was the Fireworks in 2005.

Q: What got you hooked on volunteering for the Parade Company, and what keeps you coming back?

A: What got me hooked and keeps me coming back is that the Parade Company is involved in lots of exciting events, and they are a community organization that promotes Detroit.

Q: What might surprise our readers about you?

A: I've had a uniquely different life. Growing up I was an Eagle Scout. I've worked as an electrician at General Motors in Pontiac. I was on the 1988 USA Olympic team in the 20K Race Walk. I carried the Olympic Torch in 1996 and 2002 when the United States held the Olympics here. I fell 500 feet while climbing Mt Hood in Oregon, and I lived to tell about it.

I've traveled all over the world - all 50 states and 40 other countries along with every National park in the USA. I'm a writer and videographer for Michigan Runner.

Through all this, I think the most important thing in life is to continue to give back to the community, so the world can be a little better place to live.

Well said, Gary. Thank you and all our wonderful volunteers for helping The Parade Company do good things for metro Detroit.

If there's a Parade Company volunteer who you'd like to see featured, send us an [email](mailto:volunteers@theparade.org) and tell us about their good work!

Want to participate as a walker or runner in the Cruise in Shoes 5K? Go to: [Cruise in Shoes.com](http://CruiseinShoes.com) to learn more or register

Get Ready for the Parade!
We'll be sending out a call for Parade volunteers in mid-September. Watch your email!

Did You Know



The Parade Company Studio was built in 1928, and designed by Albert Kahn - a famous Detroit architect. The building was originally the Chrysler Lynch Road plant that produced Dodge vehicles.

Want to know more fun facts? Send an email to tours@theparade.org or call 313-923-7400 to book a Studio Tour!



Volunteers Rock at River Days and Shine at the Ford Fireworks

HUGE thanks to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers who helped with Detroit River Days, The Ford Fireworks, the Barge Site, and the Ford Rooftop Party! What better way to kick off the summer than with four consecutive days of music, entertainment and family fun in our beautiful city of Detroit?

These events could not have been a success without our volunteers.

We hope to see you again for next year's summer celebrations!



Memories From Detroit River Days



Kim Lowell-Leverett

Thank you to everyone for welcoming me to The Parade Company! It has been an exciting and fun summer, and I have had the pleasure of working with many of our incredible volunteers. I am looking forward to parade season and meeting more of our volunteers. It's going to be a great year!

Cheers,
- Kim

STAY CONNECTED!

