



# Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

Nov./Dec. 2018 Issue

Art!!  
Heart  
& Soul!

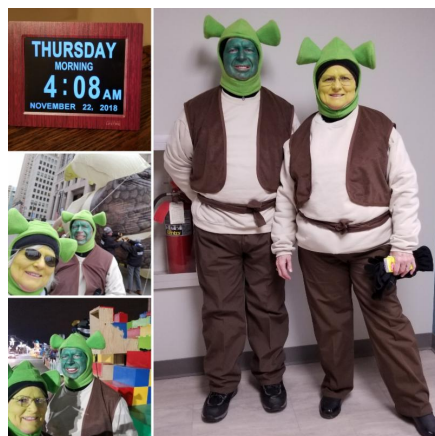


Miles Of Smiles



I  A PARADE!!!!

*Thank you to our **AMAZING** volunteers for another spectacular Parade season. Hope to see you next year!!!!*



Shrek Balloon Handlers:  
"It was a great day!"

--Dee and Ron Dershem

The Happiest Clowns  
On Earth - Love Them  
Smiles!  
Getting the Parade  
Started!

- Felicia Phillips McGlocklin



Shrek, ready to go for a  
flight down Woodward!

"Shrek was a very cooperative guy who didn't give us much problem. I can't imagine not doing the parade! Such fun!"

--Peace, Frank B. Ford



## GREAT MOMENTS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED!!



Steven & his wife JoAnn at  
Hob Nobble Gobble presented  
by Ford



Steven, his daughter Andaiye,  
and son Jamal having fun on  
Mother Goose!!



Marilyn Mayberry (r)  
and her sister  
Linda Davidson (l)



Steven Gentz (r) and  
his mom JoAnne (l)



Steve pictured with Parade  
Company CEO Tony Michaels

### ***Art Van Volunteer of the Year!***

Steven Spencer was named the 2018 Art Van Volunteer of the Year!! Steven Spencer has dedicated his time and talents to The Parade Company since 1991. Over the years, Steven has served as a Parade float driver, Costume Marcher, Captain for Hob Nobble Gobble® presented by Ford, and Captain for the Rooftop Party presented by Ford Motor Company. Additionally, Steven is an AWESOME tour guide!! He won the Parade Company's Golden Megaphone award two years in a row for conducting the most tours during Parade season. Steven puts in over 240 volunteer hours

each year and he was a top three finalist awardee for the 2018 Detroit Rose Awards.

As Art Van Volunteer of the Year, Steven was awarded a \$1,000 gift certificate to Art Van Furniture Store; two tickets to Hob Nobble Gobble® presented by Ford; and he and his family were able to ride on the Mother Goose float during this year's Parade.

*Big Congrats and thank you for what you do, Steven!!!*

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### ***Dance Off Winners***

In October, we put out a call for volunteers to send us a video their best Parade dance! Thank you to all of the very talented (and brave) volunteers who answered the call!!!

Some of the volunteers got their Parade groove on in the living room, some in the dance studio and some in the backyard! All of the video submissions were great. It was tough to pick just four, but in the end the winners were: **Steven Gentz, Donna Lindsey-Law, Marilyn Mayberry and Alan Speed!**

Steven, Donna, Marilyn and Alan, along with their friends and family, all received the honor of riding on a float during this year's Parade!!

If you haven't already, you can check out their awesome dance videos on the [Parade Company's Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

*Kudos to all-love your spirit!!! Hope you had fun riding on the float!!*



Alan Speed



Donna Lindsey-Law





Dan and his team patrol the streets at this year's Parade!

## FUN FACTS ABOUT DAN!!

### Age & Occupation:

- 66 years perfecting and maturing
- Business Analyst with DTE Energy (about to retire in January 2019)!!!!!!!

### Favorite Music:

Classic Rock; although silence is good sometimes too.

### Few People Know That:

Basically, I am a kid at heart. I am happiest when I am totally engaged in something, losing track of time.

### Favorite Place to Eat:

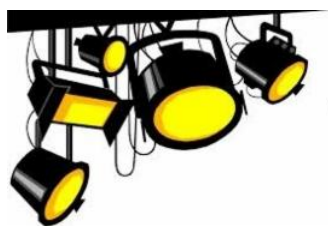
My wife and I like to go to Depot Town in Ypsilanti to eat at the Side Track.

### Favorite Food:

I am on a strict See-Food diet; all the food I see I eat. Actually, I am an Opportunistic Grazer and a committed Chocoholic. You never know when your next snack will suddenly appear; preferably chocolate.



Dan with Paws at the 2011 Volunteer Thank You Party



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Dan Katanski

Every volunteer position in the Parade is important, but one could argue the Equestrian Escort team (also known as the "Super Pooper Scoopers") have one of the most important roles in the Parade. The job? ... keeping the route clean of horse debris for the hundreds of marchers who follow behind them in the Parade!



Dan (middle) pictured with The Parade Captain Team

For nearly three decades, Volunteer Captain Dan Katanski has taken on that important task, and has done an amazing job!! Dan organizes and leads the Parade "poop patrol" down Woodward and ensures that marchers don't have to side step their way down the route. He also attends to the needs of the equestrian units (riders and horses) in the Parade.

His team members love to work with

him and so do the equestrian units.

Not everyone is equipped to answer the call of doody (pun intended), so Dan must be doing something right to have the same volunteers return to the team year after year. Not to mention, the crowd LOVES the Equestrian Escorts! They are definitely a crowd favorite! Dan's secret to success ... make what you do **FUN** for everyone!

"I will say that I am the ultimate team player," says Dan. "I take a crappy job and make it fun for others to participate."

Dan has a great spirit and sense of humor - plus he takes his role as Volunteer Captain very seriously. Because of his dedication, the Equestrian Escort team runs like a well-oiled machine every Parade.

We cannot thank Dan enough for his years of service and dedication. That's why we are proud to feature him in this issue's Volunteer Spotlight.

Please enjoy the following Q & A!

### Q: How did you get involved with TPC?

**A:** Well that is a bit of a story... About 30 years ago I would go to the Parade with my wife, and her parents who attended the parade every year standing at the corner of Henry and Woodward. One year my wife's sister and family were in town from Georgia and went to the parade. My brother-in-law Steve and I were sitting on the curb watching the Parade when an unescorted horse did its thing on the street in front of us. We spent the rest of the parade watching marchers step around the mess.

Note that Steve had been in the Navy for 17 years. I told Steve that in 3 years when he retired from the Navy, I would get him a job in the parade scooping poop as a retirement gift. Almost three years passed, when I volunteered Steve and myself to become "Equestrian Escorts." For Thanksgiving, Steve came back to Michigan for his retirement gift. We had fun in the parade keeping Woodward clean.

The next Thanksgiving came where I volunteered again as an Equestrian Escort (EE). Soon, I was asked to be the Captain - a dubious promotion. To this day, I wince when I think that I was being enthusiastic about picking up poop. Ever since, I have lined carts, inflated tires, rebuilt carts, emptied carts, organized people, etc. It has become part of my Thanksgiving tradition - doing shovel patrol and seeing if I can be seen on the video tape recording we make of the Parade.



Dan and the EE team taking time out to strike a pose in 2013



Dan entertains the crowd with his famous gas mask!!

**Q: How long have you been a volunteer with TPC?**

**A:** I have been a Parade Volunteer this year for 28 consecutive years. I have walked the parade route every year, except in 2000 - 2001, when I was also responsible for operating the "Flicker the Dragon" float. It was 60-feet-long with computer controlled animation. A Parade Company first. More about that later ...

I hope that I have many years more to walk the Parade route.

**Q: What's the best part about being an Equestrian Escort in the Parade?**

**A:** There are two best parts about being an EE in the parade. The first is organizing the people, the equipment (carts and shovels, and occasionally other things for llamas, dogs or goats), the specialty units, horses and other things.

It is important to get the marching volunteers matched with their friends and preferred units to maximize their Parade experience.

The other part is being in the Parade. You must be part showman and part clown in this role. We are under time pressure to do the scooping without stopping the moving parade behind you. We still find ways to have fun such as spraying the poop with air freshener before shoveling it; it goes over well with the crowds. When the parade stops moving, we have time to get to talk to the spectators and get into pictures with them. Occasionally I will wear my gas mask that looks ironically funny as I'm pushing my cart along Woodward.

**Q: Best volunteer memory...**

**A:** In 2000 - 2001 I was part of the team that built the "Flicker the Dragon," a 60-foot-long float with computer controlled animation. I wrote software, a movement scripting language, wired the electronics for the float, and created a wireless remote control. On Flicker, the ears would wiggle independently, the eye would move side to side, the head/neck would move up and down and twist, the wings would go up and down, the tail would go up and down, and smoke would come out of the nose. And it all worked, mostly. What a learning experience trying to make the movement be choreographed to music on something that big. And did I mention the inflexible deadlines?

**Q: What other causes or organizations do you care about?**

**A:** Even though I have a Parade-life, I also have a Robotics-life. For the past 18 years, I have been a volunteer for FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). FIRST runs a series of four age-specific robotics events for Grades 1-12. I am a Lead Robot Inspector and software mentor for the First Robotics Competition (FRC) for high school students. I am also a Lead Robot Design Judge for the FIRST LEGO League for Grades 4-6. I am a geek, and it is fun teaching others to be the best geeks that they can be. For the high school students, this can lead to college scholarships.

**Q: Best place you've traveled...**

**A:** I like traveling to the US National Parks when I have vacation time. I'll have lots soon! In my volunteer role with FIRST, in late July 2018 I traveled with the Ypsilanti Grizzly Robotics Team to Hangzhou, China to participate in an off-season First Robotics Competition (FRC) event.

It was a once in a lifetime trip - China was amazing. I hope that I get to go next year.



WE   
VOLUNTEERS

TPC VOLUNTEERS  
ROCK!!!!



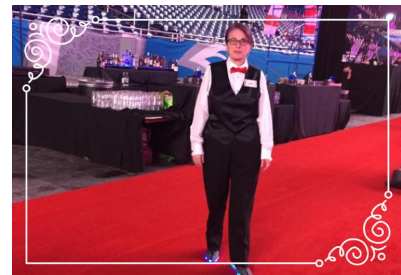
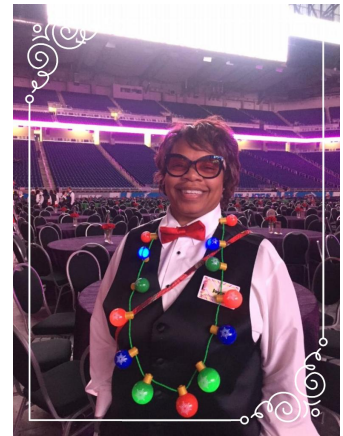
Hob  
Nobble  
Gobble

PRESENTED BY



Ford Motor Company

This year's event was **AMAZING, INCREDIBLE & AWESOME !**  
Big thank you to all of our **AMAZING, INCREDIBLE & AWESOME** volunteers  
Thank you for helping make unforgettable memories for so many!







**Volunteer  
Thank You Party  
January 29, 2019  
DTE Headquarters  
Downtown Detroit**

\*\*\*\*\*

TPC Volunteers who have  
put in 20 + volunteer hours  
will be invited.

Check [Volgistics](#) to make  
sure your volunteer hours  
are accurate.

Click "My Service History"  
after you log in.

Email:

if you cannot access  
Volgistics.

Hope to see you there!

# Birthday Wishes!!!!

Abraham, Jacquelyn	Ford, Linda	Karam-burk, Elly	O'Donnell, Erin	Smith, Deandrea
Agee, Shanta	Frederick, Kimberly	Kilbury, Candace	O'Higgins, Marian	Smith, Kathryn
Anderson, Brie	Freeman, Matthew	Klein, Christine	Parr, Linus	Sobie, Robert
Baldwin, Kenneth	Gaskins, Latonya	Knox, Nichelle	Patillo, Karla	Solis, Brenda
Banks-Hall, Regina	Gatewood, Sharon	Kreindler, Tatum	Penkala, Debbie	Szappanyos, Stephen
Bastianelli, Luciano	Gatzke, Lori	Labut, Sandy	Perry, Carolyn	Tallman, Mathew
Bates, Kyeshia	Gaylord, Rachel	Lakey, Terrence	Petty, Ashley	Teagan, Deirdre
Bean, Robin	Gentry, Jasmine	Lali, Job	Pioletti, Jessica	Thompson, Pam
Beeler, Stephany	Gilmore, Kenneth	Lancaster, Bonnie	Pitts, Latanya	VanGordon, Karhy
Bierma, Andrea	Goosen, Eric	Lane, Ameenah	Pressley, Rita	Vinson, Ruth
Brudzynski, Richard	Greene, Robert B.	Lowe, Sabrina	Ramos, Edwin	Voner, Apryl
Bryant, Shakara	Gregory, Tamika	Mack, Theresa	Reed, Lisette	Walker, Donna
Burleigh, Kim	Gruenberg, Janice	Maher, Angie	Reese, Vitula	Walter, Laura
Bussey, Mary	Guel Watmuff, Grace	Martinmcneil, Sabrina	Riach, Ken	White, Pam
Cyars, Davine	Hale, Jo-Ann	Mayes, Priscilla	Richardson, Dawn	Williams, Tekia
Dantzler, Mary	Howard, Pat	McCaskey, Lo'riss	Rocholl, Debbie	Windom, Holly
Dargin, Carol	Howard, Patricia	McClain, Briggitt	Rowe, Romeo	Young, Marty
Davis, Matthew	Ingraham, Dorothy	Mernatti, Darryl	Sack, Lee	Young-Freeman, Brenda
Denk, Kelley	Innes, Jean	Middleton, Dori	Schneider, Michelle	
Dershem, Dee	Jaczynski, Suzette	Miller, Denise	Searcy, Ciera	
Dershem, Ron	Jain, Niharika	Miller, Mike	Sharp, Kristi	
Dery, Louise	James, Leslie	Minus, Marilyn	Shaw, Harvey	
Elliott, Kari	Jones, Bill	Moore, Princessonakapomadianna		
Fields, Karen	Joyner, Daryl			
Fisk, Alan				

## OCTOBER

Addison, Lakeeta	Donnelly, Patrice	Jones, Myron	McHenry, Susan	Thomas, David
Addison, Sharon	Durham, Cora	Jones, Nikki	Melynyky, Andrew	Torres, Erin
Anderson, Kristin	Enright, Maureen	Kaitschuck, Kaylie	Mohammed, Anjail	Townsell, Dwayne
Austin, Moria	Evans, Shernetta	Kalange, Nilima Dilip	Moore, Debra	Trusel, Jade
Auston, Terrian	Felstow, Larry	Kasperek, Karl	Newman, Walt	Tuazon, Nora
Baker, Devante	Ferguson, Debbie	Kessler, Amy	OKopski, Marie	Turnwald, David
Baker, Janessa	Fetsco, Jo	Kienle, Justin	Osborn, April	Udell, Avery
Baumgart, Austin	Fetzer, Aubrey	Lanning, Oksana	Page, Carletta	Vannouvong, Melissa
Birth, Erica	Flack, Patty	Lawrence, Jorell	Pursell, Jean	Vincent, Rebecca
Bogus, Barbara	Fletcher, Teresa	LeCour, Lori	Rellinger, Sandra	Walker, Gabrielle
Borowski, Pat	Gant, Tanya	Leggs, Kenyon	Richardson, Dayja	Washington, John
Bradford, Anya	Glenz, Karen	Levin, Clif	Richardson, Destine	Whitley, Shanecia
Brin, Ann	Green, Roxane	Lewis, Anna	Rochon, Judy	Willemsen, Christopher
Bryant, Kimberlynn	Haber, Tim	Lockhart, Patricia	Rooks, Laura	Williams-Atkins, Terri
Burrell, Leola	Harris, Kimberly	Logan, Elaine	Rossi, Pam	Wirtz, Jerry
Busquaert, Guy	Hathey, Steve	Lyons, Julianne	Sanders, Marion	Wood, David
Chapman, Dierk	Hough, Terone	Macioce, Pam	Santavicca, Lawrence	Wright, Conuetta
Cheney, Lenore	Huber, Judi	Margalski, Ava	Sears, Bridgett	Young, Yolanda
Clayborn, Lawarren	Hunt, Patricia	Martin, Jody	Skeen, Bernice	Zerafa, David
Clemons, Rohnneak	Hunt, Rick	Martin, Michelle	Smith, Sheila	Zitny, Al
Coleman, Kenyatta	Jackson, Sasha	Martin, Sonji	Smith, Wanda	Zuchowski, Zachary
Cox, Patricia	Jarocki, Elizabeth	McAulay, Trish	Sousa, Jason	
Craig Thompson, Kimberly	Johnson, Allen	McCoul, Al	Stedman, Meredith	
Davis, Renee	Johnson, Sarah	McDonald, A Stafford	Szyborski, Marianne	
Dechane, Jennifer	Jones, Brenda	McFadden, Marlene	Taylor, Jennifer	

## NOVEMBER



## UPCOMING EVENTS! 2019



Watch Your Email for More Details  
on These Upcoming Events!!

Jan. 9 Tour Guide Party

Jan. 12 Gretchen Whitmer  
Inaugural Celebration

Jan. 29 Volunteer Thank You  
Party

## CONGRATS GARY!



Gary Morgan holding his  
USATF award

Gary Morgan was recently  
honored by USA Track and Field  
for his outstanding community  
service. Gary works with  
RiverFront Conservancy,  
Grand Prix and of course -  
The Parade Company!  
Thanks for all you do.  
Keep up the great work!



## Birthday Wishes!!!!

Andrusiak, Karen	Ester, Jada	Kubiak, Janet	Picano, Danelle
Bebb, Wilma	Ewald, Christine	Kunnath, Renetta	Pless, Yvonne
Baka, Annette	Finnegan, Eileen	Lesniak, christoper	Price, Toni
Banks-Smith, Minyon	Ford, Frank	Lewandowski, Karen	Raymond, Katana
Barker, Bill	Gebhard, David	Lewis, Charlotte	Rehfeld, Vinson
Beebe, Kathleen	Geiger, Richelle	Losensky, Jane	Richter, Susan
Black, Annette	Gipson, Sharon	Mason, Latoya	Ried, Kim
Blackman, Carolyn	Glenn, Gloria	Mayberry, Marilyn	Royal, Debra
Borys, Randi	Gluski, Jacob	McDonel, Greg	Rusnak, Joseph
Carman, Anita	Graham, Diane	McGee, Madeline	Schutter, Rebecca
Chick, Diane	Hamilton, Aundreya	McMullen, Jennifer	Schwartz, Caroline
Chodun, Carol	Harris, Diane	Miller, Pat	Sethi, Arpit
Collier, Ken	Harville, Germaine	Miller, Terri	Shivers, Patrick
Cook, Keisha	Helms, Madelyn	Mitchell-Boykin, Chalonda	Smith, Courtney
Czuchaj, Melisa	Hess, Blair	Morris, Symone	Smith, Jeanette
Davis, Vaughn	Hodge, Deborah	Muschick, Desiree	Sparks, Anthony
Dean, Mary	Holcomb, Terry	Nardecchia, Jim	Spennachio, Fred
Dimanche, Elianta	Hollins, Norma	Neubacher, Jeff	Sumling, Mykaiya
Dobson, Mike	Irby, Yohance	Newwson, Robert	Szymanski, Stephanie
Doherty, Joe	Isadore, Dionne	Oberski, Krystal	Van Sile, Mark
Dore, Nancy	Jackson, Patricia	OBryan, Mary	Wade, Nancy
Dresser, Rachel	Jasser, Rima	Ogadinma, Louise	Warnock, Cheryl
Dunn, Carol	Johnson, Elaine	Ortner, Justin	Wilber, Ross
Eagenwest, Debbie	Keith, Linda	Oswald, Susan	Williams, Burnell
England, Christina	Klingensmith, Robert		

DECEMBER

## Maximize Your Volunteer Impact!



Did you know that your volunteer hours could also earn grant  
donations for The Parade Company?

Many companies offer Volunteer Grants (sometimes called  
"Dollars for Doers") for current and retired employees.  
Through these programs, you can earn monetary donations for  
your favorite charity by volunteering your time.

Please check with your HR department to see if your company  
has such a program, and if so please consider supporting  
The Parade Company by requesting a grant for your volunteer  
hours. Be sure to indicate Volunteers Dollars for Doers on your  
donation.

Donated funds support TPC's programs and cherished events!!!!



## Macomb Daily News Article

Our wonderful Parade volunteers: Judi Chaffee, and Susan and Anthony Piccirilli were recently featured in the *Macomb Daily News*!

Click [here](#) to read about their volunteer service!!!

### *More Moments & Memories Parade Season 2018*



**See you in 2019!!**

**STAY CONNECTED!**