



Clownie Connection

The Parade Company Volunteer Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2020 Issue #1



So. much. fun!

Thank you to all of our incredible volunteers! Special thanks to DTE!!!
Visit [ShutterBooth](#) to view more photos.



The Parade Company will be hosting a series of Volunteer Orientations throughout the year for our new and existing volunteers to train on Volgistics, our online volunteer management system. The system is used for tracking volunteer hours and scheduling volunteer opportunities.

The training will help you get familiar with the system and ask questions. You will also have a chance to learn more about the organization, go over our policies and procedures and ask questions.

If you have not yet joined Volgistics. We encourage you to please sign up! You can do so by completing the [online sign up form](#).

Training for Volgistics is **Sat., Mar. 21, at 10:30 AM, at our Studio**. To RSVP, please go to [SignUp Genius](#).

If you cannot make it to the training, don't worry! We will be offering more training dates this spring and summer. Watch your email!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! **North American International Auto Show** **TCF Center, Detroit** **June 13-20**

The Parade Company will be producing a Kids Zone area during the much anticipated Auto Show coming this June. We will need volunteers to help with activities, greet and help direct guests. You must like kids!

If you would like to help, please sign up on Volgistics:
<https://www.volgistics.com/ex2/vicnet.dll?from=244046>.

The event takes place June 13-20, and two shifts will be offered: 11 AM to 3:30 PM and 3 PM to 8 PM. You can volunteer one shift or both! Any questions, please contact: volunteers@theparade.org.

The St. Patrick's Parade



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parade Company is providing volunteers for the The United Irish Societies' St. Patrick's Parade on March 15, 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM!

We are in need of more volunteers for the **Family Fun Kid Zone** for this fun and treasured annual celebration.

Volunteer Description: Volunteers will help greet and direct families and assist with activities. You must like kids! You will be stationed in that area during the Parade.

The Detroit St. Patrick's Parade route follows along Michigan Avenue through the area known as Corktown. Step-off is at 1:00 PM. Report time for volunteers is 10:30 AM. This is a really fun parade and a long-time, beloved tradition in Detroit.

In order to volunteer, you must also attend the mandatory Orientation on Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 PM at the Parade Company Studio, 9500 Mt. Elliott Detroit MI 48211.

To sign up:

- Log in [Volgistics](#)
- Click Sign Up on the Home page
- Click March 15
- Select Schedule Me

If you have not yet joined Volgistics, please email: volunteers@theparade.org.

Sign up to Become a Tour Guide!!!



If you love meeting new people and sharing fun facts about The Parade, then put your talents to good use and join the TPC Tour Guide Team!!!

To become a tour guide or for more information, please send an email to smorris@theparade.org.



DETROIT RIVERFRONT RUN 5K/10K **Saturday, June 6, 6:30 AM - Noon** **Detroit Riverwalk**

Volunteers are needed for course marshals, registration, water station and greeters for the RiverFront Run 5K/10K.

To sign up: Go to Volgistics:

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/?from=244046>

If you have not joined Volgistics yet, please send an email to volunteers@theparade.org to sign up.

5 Facts You Didn't Know About LARRY DEBAKER



1. "I peddled my 10-speed bicycle from Lansing to Mackinac (430 miles in four days)!"
2. "I have been white water rafting on the Upper Gully River, West Virginia."
3. "Currently, I enjoy going to car shows with my 1969 VW Bug that I restored."
4. "My wife and I have three children ages 20, 23, and 25. They have volunteered with me at the Parade & Hob Nobble Gobble."
5. "I've sung in the church choir for over 30 years."



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



LARRY DEBAKER

Meet Larry DeBaker, Parade Company volunteer rock star and a proud member of the Parade Company's Flight Crew (aka the Balloon Team).

As Balloon Captain, Larry has delighted the crowds by inflating and flying giant helium balloons on Parade day for over two decades - and he does it all with a smile and joyous spirit that soars as high as the balloons he flies.

A couple of years ago, Larry was asked to take on double duty by serving as the Dispersal Captain in addition to his duties as Balloon Captain during the Parade. This would mean that he had to arrive by 5 AM to help his team with balloon inflation, and then stay until the end of the Parade to lead the dispersal team. Without hesitation, Larry took on the extra responsibilities, and he did an amazing job.

When asked why he volunteers, Larry said it's all about the smiles.

"People often ask me, 'why do you give up so much of your free time, and why do you get up extra early on Thanksgiving morning?'," said Larry. "The answer for me is quite simple... to see a group of people getting together from many different backgrounds and walks of life giving their time freely. Their only payment is the greatest payment of all ...the smiles of joy and delight from all the people that have braved the cold to be there celebrating and being thankful on Thanksgiving Day."

We are so grateful to have Larry as part of the Parade Company Volunteer family. That's why we are pleased to present him as this issue's Volunteer Spotlight! Enjoy!

Q: How did you get involved with TPC?

A: My sister-in-law got me involved in 1996. She was a balloon handler with the people from her office, and they needed more volunteers to join their team (My first balloon was the old Nutcracker Balloon). Now, it has spread to other members of my family as well. My dad, wife, children and sister are all involved in the Parade!

Q: Where did you grow up? Was the Parade a tradition in your house?

A: I was born and raised in Michigan, where I grew up watching the Thanksgiving parades on a black and white TV. What a change from where we are at today!

Volunteer Spotlight Cont ...

Q: What volunteer jobs have you done?

A: I was a Balloon Handler during my first-year volunteering. In the second year, I volunteered in the Art Studio. I worked on several floats over the years, including Little Richard's Juke Box.

I'm a Captain for the Ford Fireworks and I work the spotlight.

I'm Balloon Captain for Hob Nobble Gobble presented by Ford. I also volunteer with the Detroit Hydrofest Grand Prix Hydroplane races.

Q: Best TPC Memory?

A: Best memory is a nighttime parade in the city of Gladwin on December 5, 2009. We flew two balloons that night: Christmas Elmo and the Turtle. The local people had pickup trucks with generators and spotlights in front and behind the balloons to light them for all to see. As we were walking through this small town with buildings two stories high that lined the narrow main street, I noticed people were watching out of every window - it looked just like a Hallmark Channel movie! Then, it started to snow the biggest snowflakes you have ever seen. Here I was flying the Christmas Elmo balloon all lit up in the sky. It looked like Elmo was reaching out with his tongue and tasting snow for the first time. Pure magic.

Q: Did you really change someone's tire while volunteering for the Ford Fireworks?

A: You never know when you are placed in a position to help someone. At the Ford Fireworks this past year, we were wrapping the event when an elderly gentleman (well older than me) was driving in the area and seemed lost. In his frustration, he took a turn too sharp and hit a curb blowing out his right front tire. He called his roadside assistance and the soonest that they could get there was two hours. I was able to change his tire with his spare and he was back on his way. He told me that I made his night - but he really made my night by his sincere "thank you" to myself and the Parade Company.

He reminded me that what we do for others can have a profound effect on ourselves. You may not ever know just how much you can change someone's life by volunteering, but just know that you do!



Larry and his wife Deanna in 2018 at Hob Nobble Gobble presented by Ford



Larry's Best Memory: Christmas Elmo Balloon at the Gladwin Parade in 2009



Larry and co-Captains Brian Thompson & Don Finney train volunteer Balloon Handlers every year! (pic from Balloon School 2016)



Wishing you much joy on your special day and all year long!!!

Abulebdeh, Manal	Dailey, Jim	Irving-Martin, Monique	Reffigee, Johnny
Agar, Claire	Daniel, Adrienne	Jacob, Bruce	Rhind, Jonathon
Anderson, Sherese	Derengowski, Barbara	Jones, Geoffrey	Rimar, Diane
Antushevich, Shannon	Derey, Patrick	Jordan, Natasha	Rivetto, Carol
Atkinson, Dennis	Dona, Linda	Josaitis, Tom	Rockford, Beth
Atkinson, Douglas	Doss, Linda	Kabrick, Larry	Rousseau, Jane
Baker, Frank	Dyson, Charmaine	Kisner, Pamela	Salter, Lakila
Balcer, Aaron	Eddins, Bridgett	Knox, Cassandra	Sandoval, Pauline
Ballard, Michele	Edwards-Welton, Terra	Kolman, Dorothy	Scott, Dominique
Barrow, Phyllis	Finn, Julie	Koss, David	Sheppard, Luka
Belle, Domonique	Floyd, Angelice	Kreza, Sharon	Siat, Conrad
Beller, Nicholas	Ford, Isaiah	Krug, Jessica	Simmons, Shane
Bentley, Sierra	Freers, James	Long, Karen	Singleton, Annette
Bernhardt, Angela	Gardner, Brianna	Mabry, Nastassia	Smith, Joe
Beydoun, Sophia	Ghazal, Beth	Maccoll, Jennifer	Soyk, Kathy
Blake, Lisa	Glefke, Angela	Macdonald, Barbara	Spencer, Jamal
Bloodworth, Susan	Griffin, Tara	Marshall, Corey	Sykes, Venus
Brantley, Wiry	Haddock, Ann	Mondello, Adrienne	Talabi, Tobi
Calvert, Lynn	Hardaway, Zaundra	Morgan, Gary	Tank, Steve
Careathers, Alaina	Hardrick, Keneisha	Murphy, Brandi	Taylor, Cathy
Cazabon, Ken	Harris, Lisa	Murphy, Carl	Thompson, Kylund
Chessin, Wendy	Harris, Wilma	Nagel, Barbara	Thomson, Richard
Coe, Shianna	Hayes, Bob	Odom, Doreen	Tiller, Sean
Coleman, Carolyn	Helms, Arlene	Olds, George	Tucker, Alytle
Collick, Brendan	Hilberath, Henrietta	Orr, Shaunice	Unitis, Josie
Corn, Barbara	Hill, Antonio	Owens, Laniesha	Verkennis, Carol
Crile, Pat	Hillery, Stacy	Papp, Heather	Vermiglio, Kenneth
	Hockman, Diane	Pawlak, Todd	Voight, Michelle
	Holley, Nakia	Paylor, Nikia	Weinberg, Jill
	Howard, Carolyn	Pitts, Brenda	White, Janet
	Husband, Nishay	Pusz, Katie	Wilkins, Stephanie
		Rambus, Darryl	Wojdacki, George
			Wolf, Gary
			Young, Brenda

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



Alandkar, Amit	Hall, Sandra	Manley-Williams, Vickie	Russo, Mary Anne
Anderson, Sheree	Haman, Deborah	Mayes, Mia	Samson, Pamela
Arrington, Angela	Hans, Lauren	McClellan, Courtney	Sarosik, Lynn
Azar, Janet	Hill, Jennifer	Menzies, David	Scarpace, Cindy
Baker, Meg	Hodge, Terrance	Moore, Tanisha	Senyk, Vanessa
Baker, Poullette	Hoekstra, Robert	Morgan, Marilyn	Shamoon, Danial
Banks, Patricia	Holleran, Gary (Fuzzy)	Moultrie-Davis, Colbi	Silski, Cindy
Bartnik-Walton, Laura	Howard, Melia	Mucker, Chappelle	Stokes, Mel
Bernes, Tanya	Howze, Melvia	Mullen, Sarah	Stone, Art
Bowman, Parker	Hughes, Diana	Nagle, Brenda	Sukenic, Allen
Brown, Crystal	Hyer, Tamara	Newman, Patricia	Tameka, Sorrell
Coleman, Barbara	James, Brian	Pape, Ann	Tear, Katherine
Copeland, Mandy	Johnson, Carol	Parks, Jennifer	Thompson, Amanda
Covington, Dorothy	Johnson, Zharia	Phillips Mcglocklin, Felicia	Toliver, Tiffany
Crowley, Deborah	Jones, Charisse	Piasecki, Donna	Venet, Chris
De Baker, Larry	Jones, Cynthia	Prong, Maggie	Vidal, Laney
Deloatch, Jafre	Kargenian, Steven	Quagliotto, Holly	Warren, Shawn
Dewolf- Duignan, Dena	Kilbury, Brent	Ramey, Sonya	Wekwert, Marjorie
Dore, Harold	Kozer, Debra	Ramus, Enzo	White, Worthon
Elliott Jr, Charles	Kurak, Shelli	Randazzo, Michael	Wicker, Justin
England, Jason	Kushner, Nicci	Reece, Paula	Williams, Brittany
Fennoy, Danna	Lewis, Latania	Rougeau, Jane	Wisswell, Ron
Ferriss, Andrea	Love, Rachael		Young, Katrina
Ford, Valerie	Maher, Cathy		Zajac, Alec
Francisco, Diane	Malbach, Doug		Zedde, Janice
Gatewood, Keith	Mallad, Ronya		Zienty-Wagner, Donna
Geisinger, Julie	Mallory, Xavier		
Glenz, Evan			
Goodman, Skylett			
Gordon, Gerry			
Graham, Kristin			
Hall, Jillian			

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 11:

St. Patrick's Parade Volunteer Orientation @ the Parade Studio, 5:30 PM

March 15:

Detroit St. Patrick's Parade in Corktown, 10:30 AM

June 6:

Riverfront Run, Detroit
Riverfront, 6:30 AM

June 13-20:

North American International Auto Show, 11 AM-8 PM
Family Fun Zone
TCF Center, Detroit

June 22: Ford Fireworks Rooftop Party**

September 3: **Sign up begins:*America's Thanksgiving Parade®* presented by Art Van

**Watch your email in the coming weeks and months for sign up information and more details on these & other exciting events!

Maximize Your Volunteer Impact!

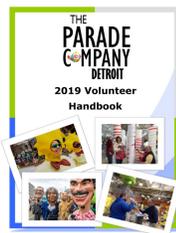


Did you know that your volunteer hours could also earn grant donations for The Parade Company?

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 designate your donation as a volunteer grant, and please give us a heads up that your grant has been submitted. Big thank you to volunteers from Quicken Loans, DTE, Apple and GM Cares for participating. We appreciate your support!!!!!!



REMINDER!!

Volunteer Handbook/Code of Conduct

It is important that all volunteers (new & existing) review and acknowledge receipt of [The Parade Company's Volunteer Handbook/Code of Conduct](#).

The Handbook describes our organization's guidelines and policies. You can access the Volunteer Handbook by clicking [HERE](#). The Handbook is also located on the Home page of Volgistics.

After reading the Handbook, we ask that you print your name, sign and date the Handbook Acknowledgement on the last page. Please return the last page of the Volunteer Handbook to the Volunteer Director by March 31, 2020.

Also, be sure to complete and sign a [volunteer waiver](#) for 2020. You must complete a new waiver every year. Please note: for the safety of all, we reserve the right to conduct background checks.

You can scan/email both completed documents to volunteers@theparade.org, fax to 313.923.2920 or mail it to: Parade Company Studio, 9500 Mt. Elliott Detroit MI 48211. Please print legibly!!!
As always, we thank you and appreciate your service!!!