

SHELBY TOWNSHIP PRESS RELEASE

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Shelby Township utilizes its rich history to apply for Preserve America program

Shelby Township is putting its best and most historically significant foot forward for the Preserve America program.

Bolstered by the extensive research and support from the Shelby Township Historical Committee, Shelby Township Community Relations Intern Paige Ash compiled a list of information and qualifying criteria for an application to the program that celebrates community efforts to preserve and enjoy priceless cultural and historical heritage.

“We have a rich heritage in Shelby Township dating back to our earliest frontier settlers to the Underground Railroad to the growth of manufacturing in metro Detroit,” Township Supervisor Rick Stathakis said. “I am very proud of Ms. Ash and the effort she put into bringing this all together. She’s a young resident of our terrific township, and she has a great deal of local pride, so this was a great initiative for her to spearhead.”

If granted, the application and participation in the Preserve America program will bring newfound attention to the rich and expansive history that Shelby Township was built upon and bring more chances for even more history to be found and preserved.

“Much of what Shelby Township needed to meet the criteria for Preserve America was already in place thanks to our Historical Committee,” Ash said. “They have done a fantastic job maintaining our history and cataloging it on their website www.ShelbyHistory.com. Their efforts made this application process exceedingly less difficult.”

The website is a catalog of all historically relevant sites and stories associated with Shelby Township dating back to 1822, and it is maintained by former Historical Committee member and current volunteer webmaster Dan Lehman.

“There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer, and the member of our Historical Committee, and all our committees are perfect example of this,” Stathakis said. “These volunteers use their exceptional skills and talents to make our township a better place, and I am extremely grateful for their dedication to our community.”

Preserve America is a federal initiative started in 2003 by the White House. The Preserve America program’s goals are to shed light on the nation’s pasts, strengthen regional identities and local pride, increase local participation in preserving the country’s cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of communities.

Shelby Township’s application for the Preserve America program focuses on some of the many historical landmarks and events located in the area such as the Andrews Schoolhouse Museum and the annual Pioneer Christmas event as avenues for citizens to learn about Shelby Township’s past.

The Preserve America program has over 843 communities designated under the Program. Participants come from all over the country in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two U.S. territories, and, if Shelby Township is approved for Preserve America status, it will be the first community to do so in Macomb County.

“Shelby Township’s heritage is something to be admired for how rich and expansive it is,” Stathakis said. “I hope the Preserve America Program will bring new attention and interest to Shelby Township’s past.”

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Photo caption: Shelby Township Community Relations Intern Paige Ash highlighted historical assets like the Andrews Schoolhouse Museum as she submitted an application for Shelby Township to become a Preserve America community.