



(Gar)Field Notes

From Executive Director Tim Garfield:



As we wind down 2024 and look ahead to 2025, it is time for an annual wrap up. So here we go!

Our “**Discovering Garfield**” series was initiated with a March event at **Lake Erie College** (Painesville, OH) in the room where JAG celebrated his last birthday, a very appropriate spot. This talk received extra publicity, courtesy of Chad Felton and the News-Herald, which created a definite spike in attendance! That was followed up with our series of **Charlie Goodyear** lectures at the four main sites in June, and again, we had great crowds on all four days! The last talk of the year took place at **Chagrin History Center** with their historian, John Bourisseau, presenting “Garfield and Chagrin Falls.” In 2025, we’ll continue the series with Debbie Weinkamer coordinating the schedule of talks, so please watch for upcoming announcements where the details will be confirmed.



We held our second fundraising event at **Sharon James Cellars** in Newbury, OH on September 12th with the stated goal of supporting Hiram College’s efforts to restore the Garfield-Robbins-Zimmerman (**GRZ**) House on campus. First, thanks goes to Nancy Fellows and her committee for putting on a very successful evening! We made a **\$5,000.00** donation to the cause, in hopes of spurring some further fundraising efforts. Nancy will continue as our Event Coordinator in 2025 and has proposals for the new year. My hope is to have a summer event and a winter event to try to build on the momentum we have created.

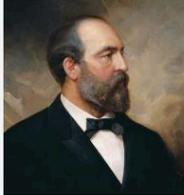
Our website management was given over to Alison Stipkovich and we engaged De-de Mulligan as a paid consultant to advise us on improvements to our website and social media. De-de is retiring, and it is my goal to utilize her information and guidance as much as possible to move forward. I hope all will visit the website occasionally and see the additions made:

photos in the gallery, upcoming events, current newsletters, changes to the Board, etc. Alison has done a great job!

There have been some changes to our Board membership this year. We “lost” JAGNHS Site Manager Todd Arrington as he advanced to the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas and replaced him with **NPS Ranger Allison Powell**, acting site manager at JAGNHS. **Anne Haynam, Mayor of the Village of Hiram**, came on board in a “shared seat” with Rob Bohrer, now President of Hiram College. The village and college are dependent upon each other and want to work together in a cooperative way, so this can only help enhance the efforts to showcase Hiram and the history of the Garfield family at the college and in the community.

As most of you are aware, I have been dealing with health issues since the September event at Sharon James Cellars. I am improving every day but will face surgery this month. I plan to utilize my Board members’ assistance until getting back on my feet 100%.

For 2025, **my goals** are to streamline our operation, share duties with others on the Board, and ask for assistance with research and development in running this non-profit organization. We are doing very well in spreading the word about the Garfield family’s legacy in northeast Ohio and in broadening our audience – and we are financially healthy. Please watch the website for changes and announcements as we move forward!



The Garfield Trail

Our Mission:

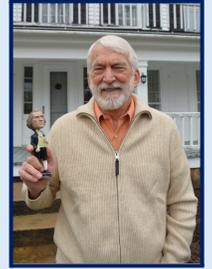
To preserve and promote the legacy of James A. Garfield and his family at the four sites affiliated with him in northeast Ohio through advocacy, service, and philanthropy.



Other Notes of Interest:

- The Trail donated \$250 as a silver level sponsor of **“Head for the Hills”** on October 5th in support of Moreland Hills Parks. Funds raised during this 5K go to helping the Village maintain and enhance Forest Ridge and other green spaces in the village, including the Garfield Birth Site.

- Please visit <https://eyesofjefferson.com/>, Episodes 316 through 319, for an entertaining and enlightening series of **blog posts** as Tom Watson, his wife, and granddaughter brought their traveling bobblehead to visit the four locations of the Garfield Trail on November 15-16. Our Executive Director and a surprise guest (Lucretia R. Garfield) met them in Hiram, providing an extra special experience. We appreciate the excellent review and kind words shared by Tom!



- The first annual **“James A. Garfield Day in Ohio”** took place on November 19, 2024! The birth site at Moreland Hills and Lake View Cemetery held commemorative events to mark this occasion. Our local, Ohio legislators, along with Gov. Mike DeWine, are responsible for this recognition of the 20th US President.

- **Hiram College** will celebrate its **175th anniversary** in 2025! Zeb Rudolph, Lucretia’s father, was one of the founders of the school in 1850. She was enrolled in the first term: Fall 1850. James A. Garfield, of Orange Township, entered the school in 1851. The rest is history...



- Please keep us in mind as **Giving Tuesday** takes place on December 3rd. We realize there are many “asks” for donating to non-profits this time of year, however your support is appreciated at any time: online at <https://www.garfieldtrail.org/> or by mailing a check to The Garfield Trail of OH, 2210 White Marsh Dr., Twinsburg, OH 44087.



*Wishing you good health and happiness in
2025!*