



Fruitland Township  
White River Light Station Museum

# Fruitland Township

## E-News

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[www.fruitlandtwp.org](http://www.fruitlandtwp.org)

**Township Board**  
Marcia Jeske, Supervisor  
Karolyn Rillema, Clerk  
Melissa M. Beegle, Treasurer

**Trustees**  
Mary Ann Bard  
Manny Cisneros  
Mike Holman  
Terrie Hampel

### 2019 SUMMER TAXES

Last day to pay 2019 summer taxes is Monday, September 16, 2019 and the Township Hall will be open until 5:00 p.m. that day!

All payments must include the bottom portion of the tax bill in order to appropriately post payments to the correct parcel. Payments received without parcel numbers could result in processing delays.

Make all checks **PAYABLE TO: FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP.**

*Melissa M. Beegle, Treasurer*

### FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

**Special Election – Tuesday – November 5, 2019**

Visit [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) to:

- View your **Sample Ballot**
- Track your **Absentee Ballot**
- Verify your **Voter Registration**
- Find your **Polling Place**
- Contact your **Local Election Official**
- Find answers to **Frequently Asked Questions**

Check your voter registration at: [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

Exercise your right to vote. Due to the passage of the November 2018 statewide ballot proposal 18-3, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason. Cast your vote from the convenience of your own home. Contact the Clerk's office to obtain an absentee voter application and ballot.

Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing by completing an absent voter application for each and every election and submitting such to your township clerk. You may request an absent voter ballot application by phone, mail, email or in person. Absent Voter Applications are also available on-line at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/AVApp\\_535884\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/AVApp_535884_7.pdf). To have an absent voter ballot mailed to you, your application must be received by the local clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office at your earliest convenience prior to the close of polls on election day. Only you, a family member or person

residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your signed absent voter ballot to your clerk's office. If the office is closed, please feel free to drop your signed and sealed ballots in the night drop box located just to the left of the main outside doors leading into the township hall.

**Polls will be open on Election day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.**

REMINDER: The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, November 2, 2019, from 7:00 am to 3:00 PM for issuing absent voter ballots.

*A Message from Muskegon County Senior Resources is attached.*

## Small game hunting opens Sunday statewide



Hunters around Michigan are getting ready to get outdoors! Sunday, Sept. 15, marks the statewide start of hunting season for cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, fox and gray squirrel. Woodcock season, also statewide, follows less than a week later on Sept. 21.

Before hitting the forests and fields, every small game hunter needs to have a Michigan base license. A resident base license costs \$11 and is valid as a small game license.

The base license allows hunters to hunt for rabbit, hare, squirrel (fox and gray), pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, woodchuck, woodcock, quail, crow, coyote (Michigan residents only) and waterfowl during the open season for each species.

Hunting for pheasant, sharp-tailed grouse, woodcock or waterfowl? Remember these extras (all of which are available via [e-License](#)):

- Pheasant and sharp-tailed grouse require a free endorsement.
- Woodcock hunters need a free woodcock stamp.
- Waterfowl hunters 16 and older need a federal migratory bird hunting stamp (also known as a federal duck stamp) and a Michigan waterfowl hunting license.

Hunters coming from out of state also have options for a three-day or seven-day nonresident base license. Base licenses can be purchased online or wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold.

Before you go, get additional season dates and regulations information in the [2019 Hunting Digest](#) or visit [Michigan.gov/Hunting](http://Michigan.gov/Hunting).

Questions? Contact the [DNR Wildlife Division](#), 517-284-9453.

Also attached is an article about Making Michigan's outdoor recreation more accessible for the Muskegon Sports Complex and State Parks.

*There is so much happening in Muskegon County and throughout the State that I want to share with you. I pick and choose what I think may be of interest so I hope you enjoy or benefit from the articles in and attached to this week's edition of the E-Newsletter.*

*Your feedback is always welcome!*

Best,

Marcia Jeske  
Supervisor

## Making Michigan's outdoor recreation more accessible

By DIANA PAIZ ENGLE

Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Nine seconds.

That's all it took. Flat on my back, head raised slightly, core muscles straining as I rode a sled 20 miles an hour down the summer luge track at the Muskegon Winter Sports Complex inside Muskegon State Park in West Michigan.

Nine seconds to travel 300 feet is fun for just about anyone. Speaking for myself, as someone with a disability, it was more than

fun – it was a thrilling personal first.

The truth is that people with physical disabilities don't often have opportunities to experience speed independently. People who use wheelchairs encounter a lack of both adaptive equipment and barrier-free environments.

People who are blind, as I am, face challenges that are not physical, but obstacles of people's misconceptions.

My first summer luge experience took place after last week's meeting of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Accessibility Advisory Council, whose members, appointed by the DNR director, represent disability communities, recreation organizations and industry, and other state government departments.

I was there as a member of the DNR Accessibility Team, an internal team that serves as a liaison between the department and the council. The council had gathered at Muskegon State Park to hear from park supervisor Greg Sherburn and Jim Rudicil, executive director of the winter sports complex, about existing accessibility features and future improvement plans.

Now in its 10th year, the summer luge is the world's first universally accessible wheel luge track. It includes three different ways for people to transfer from a wheelchair or other mobility device to a sled at the top of the track.

"We want to meet the needs of all customers," Rudicil said. "It's an important part of our mission. We embrace the philosophy of universal accessibility and work to solve obstacles."



This fall brings construction projects at the winter sports complex and the park that will enhance visitor experiences for everyone in 2020.

Work on a dual zipline breaks ground in October. Rudicil said that his team's commitment to universal accessibility led to a final design that added 300 feet to the original 1,000-foot length.

"Now, when it debuts next year, the zipline will be an even more exciting, accessible experience for everyone," he said.

The winter luge also will be lengthened to improve accessibility. Rudicil feels that luge is a sport where people with disabilities can compete alongside athletes without disabilities.

"Luge requires upper body strength, position and memory," he said. "These are attributes that, for example, might already exist in someone who uses a wheelchair or someone with a sight impairment."



Things are not standing still in the park outside of the sports complex.

The channel campground – the larger and more popular of Muskegon State Park's two campgrounds – has closed early for the demolition of two restroom buildings.

"The channel campground has accessible campsites but, at roughly 50 years old, the toilet buildings were not accessible," Sherburn said. "With the opening of two

modern facilities next spring, we'll be able to fully meet the needs of all channel campers."

A "Brock Dock" – a hard, level path on the beach – gets people of varying mobility levels close to the water's edge. Like many features created to improve accessibility, it also is used by the general public.

"People who don't want to burn their feet in the sand appreciate the 'Brock Dock' too," Sherburn said.

The dock is not the only way for people with mobility challenges to get to the lake.

Muskegon State Park has received one of five track chairs donated to the DNR by Kali's Cure for Paralysis Foundation. These battery-powered chairs can go off road, handling trails, sand, snow and up to 8 inches of water.

The other track chairs donated by Kali's Cure are available to use free of charge at Belle Isle Park, Mayberry State Park, Tahquamenon Falls State Park and the Waterloo Recreation Area.

**[Watch a video about how the track chairs work.](#)**



**For Immediate Release- September 6, 2019**

Contact: Lisa Tyler, Communications Director  
Phone: 231-733-3509 or [lyler@seniorresourceswmi.org](mailto:lyler@seniorresourceswmi.org)  
560 Seminole Road, Muskegon, MI 49444

### **Seeking Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for snow removal services for older adults in Muskegon County**

MUSKEGON COUNTY - Senior Resources of West Michigan, the administrator of the Muskegon County Senior Millage, is seeking proposals to provide snow removal services to the aging through the senior millage. Funding is available to organizations which will provide services to persons 60 years of age and older within the service area of Muskegon County. Interested parties may obtain specifics to submit a proposal at: [www.seniorresourceswmi.org/muskegon-county-senior-millage](http://www.seniorresourceswmi.org/muskegon-county-senior-millage).

Proposals documents are due no later than September 27, 2019 by 3 p.m.

Applying organizations must have the ability and willingness to provide monthly demographic reports, including, but not limited to Muskegon County zip code and township codes, and monthly financial status reports for millage-funded services.

The funding request is for one year. For more information, contact: Karla Betten, Senior Resources of West Michigan, 560 Seminole Road, Muskegon, MI 49444; 231-733-3519 or email [RFP@seniorresourceswmi.org](mailto:RFP@seniorresourceswmi.org).

Senior Resources has served Muskegon, Oceana and Ottawa counties for more than 40 years. As an Area Agency on Aging it serves as a regional planning agency for older adult services and as a focal point for information on long term care and aging resources, linkage to care assessment and coordination services, counseling on Medicare and Medicaid and as an advocate agency for the elderly and disabled. Senior Resources is also a designated agent for the Department of Community Health's MI Choice (Medicaid Waiver) program, and is the administrator of Muskegon County Senior Millage funds.

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