

Fruitland Township

E-News

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www.fruitlandtwp.org

February 19, 2019



Fruitland Township
White River Light Station Museum

Township Board
Marcia Jeske, Supervisor
Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Melissa M. Beegle,
Treasurer
Trustees
Mary Ann Bard
Manny Cisneros
Mike Holman
Terrie Hampel

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

On March 1, 2019, Fruitland Township unpaid taxes will be turned over to Muskegon County. You can still pay taxes at the Township Hall through February 28th. Any unpaid tax bills on March 1st and later must be paid at the Muskegon County Treasurer's Office. You can check on any outstanding balances at the County by calling 231-724-6261.

ECOLOGY STATION

Spring is on the way! The Ecology Station will be open on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. beginning in March, as well as on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSESSOR

Soon you will be receiving a Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation and Property Classification (Form L-4400) for 2019. Any change in taxable value will be shown in the heading column in the table (just above #1) in the center of the page. If you have any question about your Form L-4400, please call Assessor Sue Bowen at the Township Hall on Wednesday or Thursday between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

RESPECT YOUR NEIGHBORS

Fruitland Township is primarily a residential community with a number of lakefront properties, agricultural and township owned properties. Please remember when traversing your property, township or state-owned property to know the boundaries to avoid entering private property. I've been made aware that private property rights have been violated. Please remember to respect your neighbor's privacy and don't trespass without permission.

SUMMER HELP

Fruitland Township has an immediate opening for a hard-working person who has a valid driver's license, general maintenance and lawn care skills, ability to work without direct supervision and able is to perform the duties of Ecology Station attendant when required. The qualified person must be responsible and able to work well with the public. This position is seasonal part-time. Applications will be accepted until noon on March 14, 2019. Apply in person or send resume to:

Fruitland Township
Attn: Supervisor
4545 Nestrom Road
Whitehall, MI 49461

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Spring is when most creatures start to wake up from the cold of winter to begin their lifecycles once again. There is an invasive pest however, that has used the winter months to slowly feed on hemlock shoots and branches and develop into adults in the spring.

This invasive pest is the hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-like insect that sucks the nutrients from hemlock trees, slowly killing them over time.

During this feeding time, the adelgid secretes a white waxy coating that looks like a small, round, cottony mass. That makes it possible to identify infested trees in the spring. These woolly masses are attached at the base of hemlock needles and can be spread by wind, mammals, and birds; with birds being one of the primary ways HWA can move. Humans can also spread HWA through vehicles, trailers, and campers that come in contact with infested trees, then move to a different location.

Michigan has more than 170 million hemlock trees that we want to protect. They provide important habitat and winter cover for many wildlife species, add diversity across the landscape, help stabilize and protect dune and riparian systems, and provide shade to create a cooling influence on rivers, streams, and creeks.

HWA has been found so far in four west Michigan counties and it's important to keep it from spreading.

You can do the following to help prevent the spread of the hemlock woolly adelgid.

Consider placing bird feeder at least 100 feet away from hemlock trees, or

- take them down from April – June, or
- treat your hemlock trees with insecticides to prevent HWA from being established or to destroy existing HWA

Identify hemlock trees: Generally dark green and have somewhat droopy, lacy-looking branches. Needles are flat and attached individually to the branch. There are two white stripes on the underside of the needle.



Identify Hemlock Woolly Adelgid: Small, round, cottony mass attached at the base of hemlock needles.



Report any suspicious sightings:

If you see what you suspect to be the hemlock woolly adelgid please report your sighting to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) at: <https://www.misin.msu.edu/>

For more information on the hemlock woolly adelgid and treatment options please visit: www.michigan.gov/HWA

(Cheryl Nelson, Forester, Forest Health Response Team, Michigan DNR)



Best,

Marcia Jeske
Supervisor