



Fruitland Township  
White River Light Station Museum

# Fruitland Township E-News

4545 Nestrom Rd  
Whitehall, MI 49461  
Phone: (231) 766-3208  
Fax: (231) 766-3027

[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

**MARCH 4, 2020**

## FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

**Presidential Primary Election – Tuesday – March 10, 2020  
Polls will be open on Election day from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM**

The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, March 7, 2020, from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm for issuing absent voter ballots only.

## CAN EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDERS FIND YOU?

Purchase your "911 Sign" for \$30.00. Installation may be available for an additional charge. To order, complete the coupon below and send it with a check to the address on the coupon. For more information call 231-724-6597. A portion of the proceeds is a donation to Muskegon County Citizen Corps Council.

Mail to: Muskegon County Emergency Services  
Attention: Rhona Colbert  
1611 Oak St.  
Muskegon, MI 49442

E-mail: [colbertrjc@gmail.com](mailto:colbertrjc@gmail.com)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET/ROAD: \_\_\_\_\_

FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP, MUSKEGON COUNTY

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CLOSEST CROSS ROAD \_\_\_\_\_

## CENSUS 2020

The Census Bureau is looking for census takers. Apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs). For more information or help applying, please call 1-855-JOB-2020 or Lori Coleman at 616-283-2743. EOE

## **NEWS FROM DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY**

High water levels have taken a toll across Michigan and it doesn't look like it's going to get any better this year. Michigan is in the middle of the wettest one-year, three-year, and five-year periods since records began 125 years ago.

Legislation has been introduced to give contractors a free pass to armor shorelines without a permit – regardless of the effect on neighboring properties and important natural features. This is not the solution. Installing shoreline protections incorrectly can actually cause more problems than it solves. Waves can destroy barriers and spread debris into the lake. Protection for one property may actually exacerbate erosion on neighboring properties. We don't want to add to the erosion problem with haphazard and uncoordinated efforts to gird our shorelines.

EGLE will work with homeowners to find timely solutions that benefit everyone and that create the least impact on the shore or the state's globally significant freshwater dune system. Also, they are:

- Working with our community partners to study high water impacts on inland lakes, rivers, and canals, as well as working with communities on measures to safeguard infrastructure.
- Assisting partners with statewide mapping of areas vulnerable to flooding if water levels increase another foot, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is predicting for this Spring.
- Diverting staff to lakeshore permitting and approving overtime to process permits, more than 500 from October to December 2019.
- Approving the temporary use of sandbags to guard against erosion.
- Beefing up customer assistance so people can get answers more quickly.
- Coordinating with other state agencies, local emergency managers and community stakeholders through the Michigan High Water Action Team on short and long-term efforts to stem the impact of high-water levels.

We emphasize the property owners should begin acting soon as possible, before the situation become critical. Even with EGLE expediting permits, experienced contractors and engineers are in high demand and short supply. Flooding erosion and high-water levels will not go away soon. Please reach out to us at [Michigan.gov/EGLE](http://Michigan.gov/EGLE) for contact information for our district offices and click the link to a page dedicated to high water issues.

*This is just a small excerpt from the full article. Please call me if you wish to read the article in its entirety. I also have a FAQ sheet on Flood Insurance and NFIP Policy Coverage if you are interested.*

### **CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS**

#### Upcoming Events:

*All events held at the Muskegon Conservation District Office located at: 4735 Holton Road, Twin Lake, MI 49457*

- Conservation Fridays: Every Friday until March 27 - Time: 8 -9 AM
- Muskegon Area Beekeepers: Every first Thursday of the Month - Time: 6 - 7:30 PM
- March 20: Tree Orders Due
- March 25: Golden Oyster Mushroom Log Workshop - Time: 5:30-7:30 PM
- March 26: Snow Cap Shiitake Mushroom Log Workshop - Time: 5:30-7:30 PM
- April 18: Tree Sale - Pick up: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM & Extra Stock: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

## Spring Turkey Season

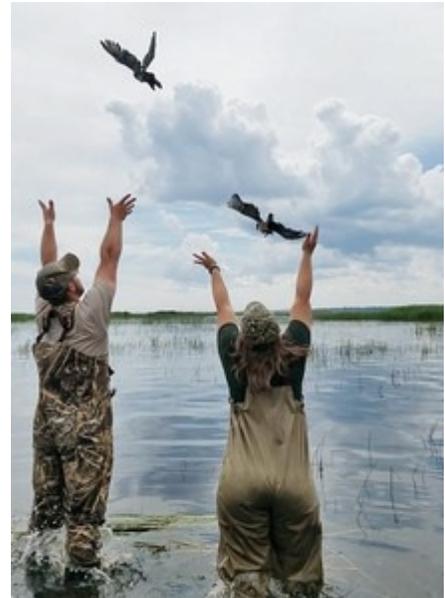
Spring turkey season is right around the corner! The Muskegon Conservation District sells spring turkey permits at \$25 per hunter and allows access to ALL MCD properties. Hunters that bought an all season permit for 2019 will receive \$5.00 off their permit. The permit applicable permit period begins in April and is good through the month of May. Permits numbers are limited and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis starting March 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information about our hunting program and properties contact the Muskegon Conservation District Office at 231-828-5097.

### **JOIN THE DNR'S WILDLIFE TEAM; APPLY NOW FOR SUMMER SPOTS**

If you or someone you know is seeking valuable experience working in wildlife conservation – or just an interesting job that gets you outdoors – consider applying for one of 70 summer positions with the DNR Wildlife Division.

The division regularly hires additional people to work with staff at DNR field offices, customer service centers and state game areas. These seasonal employees help in a variety of ways, including: Assisting with wildlife habitat maintenance and improvement, which may include cutting clearings and adjusting water levels. Mowing, landscaping and facility maintenance duties. Handling tasks related to wildlife surveys, nuisance animal control and equipment operation and maintenance.

“These positions are perfect for college students, anyone looking to re-enter the workforce, and seniors or retirees who want to be more involved in the outdoors,” said Jennifer Schafer, DNR Wildlife Division human resources liaison.



Learn more about [seasonal wildlife positions](#) – and other openings throughout the department – at [Michigan.gov/DNRJobs](https://Michigan.gov/DNRJobs); scroll to the Seasonal and Temporary Positions section. Questions? Contact [Jennifer Schafer](#) at 517-284-6163.

## Time Change 2020 in the United States

Next change:

MAR

8

1 hour Forward

Mar 8, 2020, 2:00 am

White Lake Community

# BE Business Expo

Come check out what our area businesses have to offer!

2020

Saturday, March 21, 2020  
8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Whitehall High School  
– 3100 White Lake Drive • Whitehall, MI 49461 –

**BE informed • BE inspired • BE involved**



- Rotary Pancake Breakfast 
- Over 50 Businesses
- FREE Admission & Parking
- Giveaways, Drawings & Door Prizes!



WHITE LAKE AREA  
CHAMBER + VISITORS BUREAU  
Montague • Whitehall

231-893-4585  
[whitelake.org](http://whitelake.org)

EVENT SPONSORS



BUSINESS EXPO LOGO & FLYER BY DERBY DESIGN, LLC



MUSKEGON COUNTY  
M I C H I G A N  
OFFICE OF THE DRAIN COMMISSIONER



**Brenda M. Moore**  
Drain Commissioner  
moorebr@co.muskegon.mi.us

**141 E. Apple Avenue**  
Muskegon, Michigan  
49442-3404

**231-724-6219**  
(Fax) 231-724-3480  
[www.co.muskegon.mi.us/492/Drain-Commissioner](http://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/492/Drain-Commissioner)

### I Have Water in My Basement!

#### 2020 Update

Our office often receives calls from people with water in their basements (see graphic next page). Many of these homes are not part of a county drainage district, so this office has no jurisdiction over the situation. Even if you are in a county drainage district; because groundwater can span over many square miles, there is only so much that can be done on a regional basis to address groundwater issues. Currently, groundwater throughout the county is on a high cycle that has not yet peaked, which adds to many people's level of worry.

Although we may not be able to help you directly, we offer the following information for consideration:

- Look at site grading and where downspouts discharge on your property, it may be bringing water back towards your house and basement. See also: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/real-estate/ct-xpm-2010-05-25-sc-home-0524-diy-drainage-20100525-story.html>
- Use sump pumps, with a back-up pump, pump alarm, and generator (in case of pump or power failure) to pump water out of the basement (generally, water is pumped from sub-surface tiles). An appropriate place to discharge the water can be a challenge. Legally you are not supposed to discharge your water on another person's property without their permission. Caution: There is a danger if water is pumped too fast that soil can flush from under the footing and floor causing structural failure.
- Where walk-out basements allow surface water intrusion; remove the slider or door; add a couple of blocks at floor level, then replace the exit with a window. This slows the intrusion of surface water, but a sump pump is still generally needed.
- Waterproofing the footing or area below the groundwater level if water intrusion is in smaller amounts (e.g., the basement is only a few inches below ground water level). Dampness, mold, and mildew may still be a factor. See also: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html> or <https://www.hgtv.com/remodel/interior-remodel/mold-in-the-basement>

If excessive ground water is your problem, it would be good to know what the "ordinary high (ground) water mark" (OHWM) is near your home. The septic permit for your house should have soil data and the elevation at which the septic field was set (per Health Code it must be above the OHWM). Septic system records are kept at County Public Health; 231.724.6208.

If you do not have a septic system soil borings are an option. Once you know the high ground water elevation you can compare that to your basement floor elevation. For example, if your basement is sitting well below the ordinary high water mark you may make a different decision than if it is just above it.

If you seek help; be sure to ask for the elevation of the mottling line around your home (OHWM), in addition to the elevation of your basement floor.

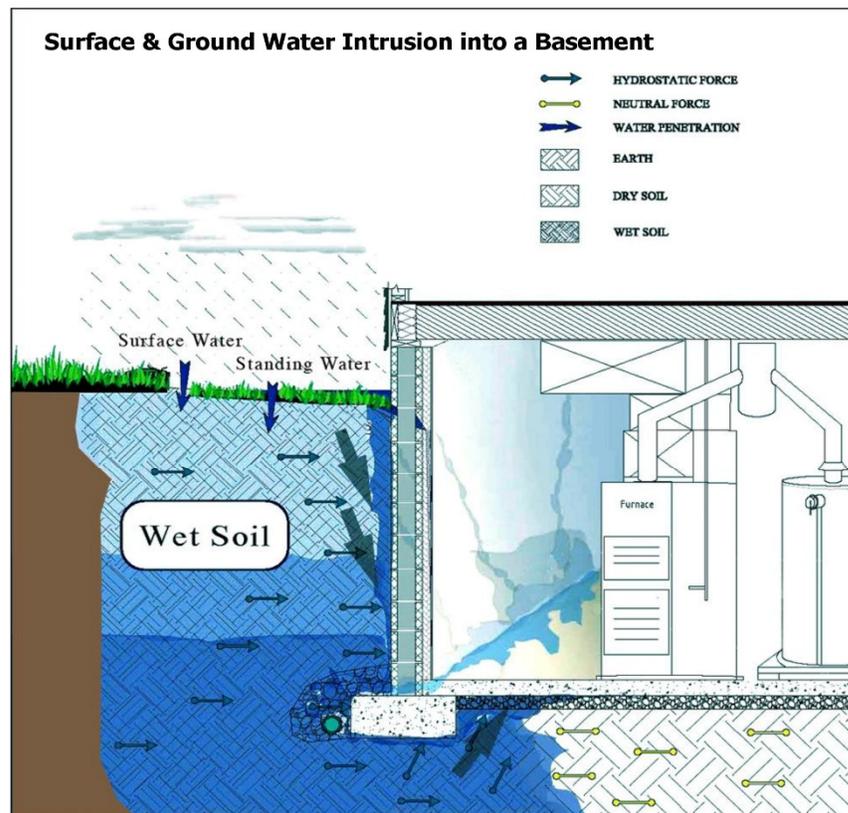
For assistance with soil borings contact, Soils & Structures, Inc. at 6480 Grand Haven Rd. at 800.933.3959. They have the only soil boring rig in the area. There are also some engineering firms who have hand boring equipment.

As you explore options, it may help to speak with reputable engineers, contractors, house movers, and/or your local building inspector to choose the option best for your situation. It may be best to speak with a few people so you can feel comfortable that you are getting consistent information.

Caution: If water is an issue at high volumes, hydrostatic pressure of the groundwater pushing on a foundation that has been waterproofed can pop the floor, causing new leaks or structural damage to the home-- like sidewall cave-ins.

- Where there is room: some owners have filled basements and crawl spaces with sand, above the groundwater level, then capped the area with cement. Generally, a slurry of material is placed in the crawlspace or basement with a pump truck. It may help to speak with local cement plants about that process. In this case, furnaces and water heaters are often moved to upper levels of the house. Pipes and duct work may also need to be moved. This can solve the water problem but you lose living space.
- If a full basement is desired it is possible to physically raise the home and add several blocks to the basement. This is the most expensive option, but it can give you a usable basement. As with the previous option the areas between the high groundwater mark and the bottom of the new basement is filled with sand and capped with cement.

See also sidebar on page 1.



Best,

Marcia Jeske, Supervisor