



# 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

Sam E. St. Amour, Supervisor  
Karolyn Rillema, Clerk  
Melissa M. Beegle, Treasurer

## Trustees

Mary Ann Bard  
Jan Deur  
Terrie Hampel  
Val Rissi

**July 24, 2015**

**“The government closest to you, governs best.”**

## **Parks & Recreation Commission Survey**

Now is the time to let your voice be heard! The Parks & Recreation Commission is conducting an on-line survey to help us update our Master Plan. Input from you is paramount in helping us determine where to focus our efforts and resources towards our three township parks: Duck Lake Road Park, Nestrom Road Park, and Marcus Park. Please have one member of your household go to the township website at [www.fruitlandtwp.org](http://www.fruitlandtwp.org), and fill out the questionnaire between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your input!

## **Town Hall Meeting**

Fruitland Township residents are encouraged to attend a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to gather comments and feedback from residents of Fruitland Township concerning items to include in Muskegon County's quality of life millage renewal.

The last quality of life millage put before voters in 1995 paid for \$16 million of improvements to the L.C. Walker Arena and the Frauenthal Center. Any quality of life millage in 2016 would have to go toward a designated project.

Plan to attend this meeting and bring your ideas for projects.

## **WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION EVENTS 2015**

The White River Light Station is set to open on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Hours are Tuesday-Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., closed on Monday. Prices to tour the museum and climb the tower are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. There are four events scheduled for the summer:

***Saturday, July 25, 2015:*** W.M.I. Dulcimer Friends will be playing at 2:00 p.m. at the White River Light Station. They are a group of acoustic musicians that between them have decades of experience playing folk music, the music of our ancestors handed down through time. This is the music played in grange halls for square dances. The musicians will be playing dulcimers, guitars and fiddles to mention a few. They play for the love of music. Bring the family, your blankets or

lawn chairs and enjoy an afternoon of folk inspired music while visiting and exploring the White River Light Station. The museum and tower will also be open for the standard admission charge.

**Thursday, August 6, 2015:** “Ghosts of the American Road” at 7:00 p.m. “Ghosts of the American Road” is the latest brainchild from acclaimed songwriter Kevin Higgins and his talented musical partner, Barbara Malteze. Bring the family, your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of music.

**Friday, August 21, 2015:** Yoga on the lawn provided by White River Yoga. Bring your yoga mats or large towels and water to drink and join SPLKA for yoga beginning at 9:30 a.m. In case a rain, we will have yoga on the lawn on August 28, 2015.

## **2015 Summer Taxes**

The 2015 Summer Tax season is upon us. Tax bills were sent out Tuesday, June 30, 2015.

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.

### **Methods of Payment:**

- **Mail** a personal check, money order, or cashiers check to 4545 Nestrom Rd., Whitehall MI 49461. We do **NOT** accept postdated checks.
- **Night Deposit Box** located at the Township Hall. Place payment and the bottom portion of the tax bill in an envelope and drop in our deposit box. **No cash payments in the night deposit box!**
- **In person**, at the Fruitland Township Hall, Monday-Friday. See hours and holiday closing dates below.
- **Online**, at [www.fruitlandtwp.org](http://www.fruitlandtwp.org). There will be an additional fee for this option.
- **Partial payments** will be accepted. Each payment amount will be spread equally to all levied taxes.

### **Note:**

- **NSF (non-sufficient funds) checks** will result in the reversal of the original payment until a cash payment can be made and the NSF check fee will be charged at that time.
- If you request a receipt for payment, a self-addressed, stamped envelope **must** accompany payment.

### **Payment Dates:**

- Payments due to Fruitland Township, July 1, 2015 until September 14, 2015 without penalty. **Postmarked payments and payments in the Night Deposit Box on September 14, 2015 will be accepted without penalty.**
- Normal business hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Fridays.
- **Closed Holidays:** Independence Day (celebrated July 3, 2015) and Labor Day (celebrated September 7, 2015)

- **Payments made after September 14, 2015, will include a 1% penalty per month (as mandated by the State of Michigan) also an additional 3% if not paid by February 15, 2016.** Call (231) 766-3208 for calculation before mailing.

**Deferment of Summer Tax: Applications are available to qualifying individuals. All forms must be presented to Fruitland Township Treasurer NO LATER than September 14, 2015.**

Melissa M. Beegle  
Fruitland Township Treasurer

### **Information from the Clerk's Office**

There is a special election scheduled for August 4, 2015 to renew a current millage for the Muskegon Central Dispatch 9-1-1.

Ballot language reads:

*Shall the total constitutional tax rate limitation in the County of Muskegon be renewed the amount of up to .30 cents (\$.30) per one thousand dollars (\$1000) (.30 mill) against all taxable property in the County of Muskegon for a period of 7 years beginning with December 1, 2016 levy and ending with the December 1, 2022 levy so as to provide funding for the operation of the "9-1-1" Central Dispatch? If approved and levied in its entirety on December 1, 2016, this millage would raise an estimated \$1,250,000 in the first year.*

If you would like to obtain an absentee ballot for this election, please contact either Clerk Rillema or Deputy Clerk Dion if you meet one of the following qualifications:

- I am 60 years of age or older.
- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on Election Day.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

The Clerk's office can be reached at (231) 766-3208.

### **ATTACHMENTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES**

Attached below are flyers from various organizations with helpful information.



**Land Conservancy**  
OF WEST MICHIGAN

*Join us for the celebration!*

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## **Dedication Event: Anderson Woods Nature Preserve**

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### **When:**

Sunday, August 9, 2015  
1:30 p.m.

### **Where:**

Anderson Woods  
Nature Preserve

*Located on Simonelli Road,  
between Bard Road and Duck  
Lake Road. A small parking  
area as well as street parking  
is available.*

### **RSVP:**

Contact Keri Amlotte at  
[keri@naturenearby.org](mailto:keri@naturenearby.org)  
or 616-451-9476.

### **Featuring:**

- A brief dedication program.
- Ribbon cutting for the Sandy Hansen Birding Trail.
- Hikes along the new trail system.
- Local artists with our *Preserved!* program

*Light refreshments will be provided.*

### **Thank you:**

Anderson Woods Nature Preserve was made possible through the generosity of our members and the community. Major donors include: Judith Anderson, Hansen Family Foundation, Alcoa Foundation, Carls Foundation, James Hanna and Mary H. Murphy Land Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, Consumers Energy Foundation, and the J.A. Woollam Foundation.



*Seen here, construction of the Sandy Hansen Birding Trail is now underway! Come see the completed trail at the dedication on August 9.*

### **About Anderson Woods Nature Preserve:**

With a towering oak and white pine forest, interspersed with glades lush with blueberry and wintergreen, this is a peaceful refuge for people and wildlife alike.

With its proximity to the lakeshore, this is an important stopover habitat for migratory birds and supports resident birds that require large tracts of unbroken forest.

The new two-mile Sandy Hansen Birding Trail guides visitors through the dappled shade of the forest. The Land Conservancy has worked closely with Disability Network/West Michigan to design an accessible trail so that more people have the opportunity to enjoy the tranquility and beauty of a forested natural area.

The southern loop is fully accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, while the northern rustic loop offers opportunities to explore more secluded areas of the preserve. Birds, deer, turkeys, and other wildlife are often seen along the trail.



July 5, 2015

FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP  
Township Hall  
ATT: Sam St. Amour, Supervisor  
4545 Nestrom Road  
Whitehall, MI 49461

**Board of Directors**

**Lynn Jazdyk, Chair**  
Territory Representative,  
Nobel Biocare Dental  
Implants

**Cathy Brubaker-  
Clarke, Vice Chair**  
Director, Community &  
Economic Development  
City of Muskegon

**Connie Karry,  
Treasurer**  
Controller, Cameron  
Dyna-Torque

**Rita Higgins,  
Secretary**  
Retired, Marketing &  
Public Relations  
Director, Learning to  
Give Project, Council of  
Michigan Foundations

**John Karala**  
Attorney, McCroskey  
Law

**Amy Rolleston**  
Director of Human  
Resources,  
Kent County

**Mitzi Taylor**  
Owner, Not So Basic  
Training

**Executive Director**  
Lana Carson

Dear Mr. St. Amour,

I am writing to you as the Treasurer and founder of Pound Buddies. In a collaborative effort, we founded Pound Buddies Animal Shelter & Adoption Center thirteen years ago to actively respond to the needs of Muskegon County's stray, abused and homeless animals. The services that we provide are not just for the health and safety of animals in need, but also for the health and safety of the residents of our Muskegon County communities. I am writing to request your support and partnership in the vital work that we do throughout the County of Muskegon, including Fruitland Township.

As you may know, Pound Buddies is our community animal shelter. It is the hub for all stray and owner-surrendered cats and dogs in Muskegon County. Here are some important timelines about our organization:

- 1998: a small group of people began volunteering at what was then called Animal Control.
- 2002: Pound Buddies 501(c)(3) status was obtained as "Volunteers for Muskegon County Animal Control" (dba Pound Buddies).
- 2003: The Health Department invited Pound Buddies to take over the adoption process and the name changed from Animal Control to Vector Control. Because most of us had full-time jobs, we went to the Shelter after hours, at lunch or on the weekends to show dogs and process applications. We also took over the responsibility of caring for the dogs on weekends and holidays.
- 2006: Our campaign to replace the gas chamber with lethal injection was successful.
- 2010: The Health Department decided to accept bids from outside sources to take care of the animals. Pound Buddies was awarded the contract and took over operations at the Shelter.
- 2010: Pound Buddies began accepting cats at the shelter. As Vector Control, cats were not accepted at the shelter since 1998. Stray cats are a serious health and safety issue for Muskegon County.

When we began, over 2,500 dogs were being euthanized each year. We have been working diligently to decrease the intake numbers through education and working to reunite pets with their owners. We have also obtained over \$100,000 in grants for essential spay and neuter programs. Through all of our efforts over the years, we have reduced the euthanasia rate by more than 75%.

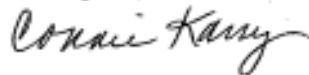
*"The greatness of a society  
and its moral progress can be judged  
by the way it treats its animals."  
—Mahatma Gandhi*

**Putting People and Pets Together**

1300 E. Keating Avenue, Muskegon MI 49442 • (231) 724-6500 • [www.poundbuddies.org](http://www.poundbuddies.org)

Approximately 30% of our operating costs are covered by our contract with Muskegon County. The rest of our expenses are subsidized through grants, donations, and adoption fees. At least one municipality has already committed to partner with us and has allocated funds for their 2015-2016 budget. In order to help us to continue our successful efforts, and to do even more within our community, please consider partnering with us, as well, and providing assistance to Pound Buddies through your jurisdiction. Thank you for sharing our letter with your Board of Trustees.

Best regards,



Connie Karry, Treasurer & Founder  
Phone: (231) 767-0921  
Email: [connie@poundbuddies.org](mailto:connie@poundbuddies.org)

## SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability comes in many shapes and sizes; it can be anything from teaching children how to read or planting a garden, to companies choosing to use recycled materials to create their product or using only renewable energy. In all respects, sustainability is a conscious effort that focuses on maintaining resources of today without compromising the availability of future resources to help empower future community success. With this goal in mind, Muskegon County government is making that conscious effort by developing a Sustainability Plan with funding from MDEQ's Pollution Prevention grant. This plan will outline goals based on social equity, environmental integrity and economic prosperity to help guide Muskegon County government's future endeavors. More details of the Sustainability Plan will be forthcoming—keep a lookout at [www.co.muskegon.us/sustainability/](http://www.co.muskegon.us/sustainability/)! To learn more about Muskegon County's sustainability efforts and see how we measure up to the rest, visit [www.muskegonasc.org](http://www.muskegonasc.org) at the Prosperity Index tab. Let's make the effort to empower our community's success—together!



## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT Muskegon County Northside Water System

Serving the Townships of Dalton, Fruitland, Laketon and Muskegon Charter

Muskegon County Department of Public Works Phone (231) 724-6411 FAX (231) 724-6118

### SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The Muskegon Water Filtration Plant is a conventional water treatment plant with a capacity of 40 million gallons per day. Customers include not only the City of Muskegon, but also Muskegon Township, North Muskegon, Roosevelt Park and the County Northside system.

Your water comes from Lake Michigan. The state performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a six-tiered scale from very low to high based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source water is moderately high.

### Water Quality Exceeds Mark!

Dear Customer,

This report contains a summary of the quality of the water provided to you during 2014 and details where our water comes from, what it contains, and the risks our water testing and treatment are designed to prevent. Muskegon Water Filtration Plant technicians are committed to providing you with the safest and most reliable water supply. Informed consumers are our best allies in maintaining safe drinking water.

Our state certified lab runs over 8,000 tests a year and include collecting water samples at various stages of the treatment process as well as throughout the distribution system. These samples are analyzed for many different chemical and microbiological parameters. Our sophisticated lab equipment can detect substances at very minute levels. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate our water poses a health risk.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



*Muskegon Water Plant treated  
over 2.7 billion gallons of water  
in 2014.*

### Customer Views

#### Welcome!

#### ! GET INVOLVED !

Meetings that deal with decisions about our source water are conducted through the Muskegon Conservation District at 773-0008

Consult the Web site at [www.shorelinecity.com](http://www.shorelinecity.com) or contact the treatment plant at 724-4108

For further information, see U.S.Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)

### Is a water treatment device needed for my home?

The water we deliver to our customers is safe to drink as determined by federal and state drinking water standards. We caution those who choose to use treatment devices in their homes to maintain them in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. A poorly maintained treatment system can become a breeding ground for bacteria.

### LEAKS

Leaks are expensive! If we suspect a leak in your water service, we will notify you in writing and possibly make a site visit. Please, for your benefit, do not ignore leak notices.

### You Can Help!

DON'T POUR petroleum based oils, paints, solvents, wood or bug killers, undiluted industrial strength cleaning products DOWN THE DRAIN.

Take all hazardous chemicals to a hazardous waste collection site for proper disposal. Contact our office for details at 724-6001. Use environmentally friendly shampoos and detergents; look for low phosphate or phosphate-free products). Use natural gardening techniques to avoid over-use of pesticides and fertilizers which may run off into streams and lakes.

For more information, contact Greg Lawrence, Household Hazardous Waste coordinator at 724-6001.

**MUSKEGON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

Report on Road Work/Construction

For the week of July 27 – 31, 2015

*\*The following are proposed work schedules, which are subject to change due to weather conditions and/or other unexpected circumstances.*

1. All Roads – in Blue Lake, Dalton, and Fruitland Townships: ***Mowing***
2. Canada Road – from Bailey to Moore Road in Casnovia Township: ***Place Box Culvert***
3. Hart Road – from Ewing to West Lake Avenue in Holton Township: ***Dura Patching***
4. Blue Lake Road – in Blue Lake Township: ***Dura Patching***
5. All Subdivision Streets – in Fruitland Township: ***Dura Patching***
6. Fruitvale Road – from Walsh to Fogg Lake Road in Montague Township: ***Crack Pouring***
7. Heights Ravenna Road – from Heights Ravenna Road to Ravenna Village Limits in Sullivan and Ravenna Townships: ***Chip Sealing***
8. Middle Lake Road, Staple Road and Duff Road – from Blue Lake Road and White Lake Drive in Dalton Township: ***Chip Sealing***
9. Ryerson Road – from M-120 (Holton Road) to Holton Duck Lake Road in Dalton and Cedar Creek Townships: ***Rehabilitation of the road, HMA surface overlay, base crushing and shaping, shoulder work, curb and gutter, slope restoration, guardrail, trenching, and pavement markings. Project area closed to through traffic, please follow detour route. Project expected to be completed by September 11, 2015.***
10. Sternberg Road – from Brooks to Maple Island Road in Fruitport and Sullivan Townships: ***Rehabilitation of the road, placement of an asphalt overlay, shoulder work, curb and gutter, earthwork, approach reconstruction and pavement markings. The project area will be closed to thru traffic. Please follow detour route. The project is expected to be completed by September 18, 2015.***

Regards,

Sam St.Amour, Supervisor  
Fruitland Township