



Fruitland Township E-News

4545 Nestrom Rd
Whitehall, MI 49461
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www.fruitlandtwp.org

Township Board
Sam E. St. Amour, Supervisor
Karolyn Rillema, Clerk
Melissa M. Beegle, Treasurer
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Mary Ann Bard
Jan Deur
Terrie Hampel
Val Rissi

August 18, 2015

“The government closest to you, governs best.”

MCRC ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Muskegon County Road Commission will begin work on the road improvement project on Riley Thompson Road from Nestrom Road to Orshal Road in Fruitland Township.

The contractor performing the work will be Hallack Contracting. The work will begin on Monday, August 24th and completion is expected on or prior to Friday, October 16, 2015. The project will consist of one mile of HMA resurfacing, crush and shape, concrete curb and gutter, aggregate shoulders and related work. For the safety and overall speed of project completion, the project area will be closed to thru traffic.

WHITE RIVER LIGHT STATION EVENTS 2015

The White River Light Station is open for the summer. 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 is one final event scheduled for the summer:

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 of 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.fruitlandtp.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

TOWNSHIP BEACHES

Just a reminder, when walking along public and private beaches, make it your responsibility to pick up after yourself and your pets.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

With the warmer weather, we tend to see more pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Listed below are some safety tips for everyone using the roads:

Pedestrians are reminded to:

- ❖ Walk on the side of the road as far to the left as possible or on a paved shoulder **AGAINST** oncoming traffic where there are no sidewalks;
- ❖ Cross the street at an intersection or designated crosswalk when possible and always stop, look left, right, and left again before crossing;

- ❖ Come to the edge of a parked vehicle, stop and look both ways if it's blocking the view of the street before entering the street;
- ❖ Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them and do not assume that because you can see the driver, the driver can see you;
- ❖ Watch for cars that are turning or backing up;
- ❖ Increase visibility at night by carrying a flashlight when walking and by wearing light-colored or reflective clothing that highlights body movements.

Bicyclists should:

- ❖ Always ride **WITH** other traffic;
- ❖ Obey the rules of the road as any other vehicle operator, including all traffic signs, lane markings and signals, and use hand signals to indicate turns, slowing or stopping;
- ❖ Stay as far to the right as practical when riding in traffic lanes;
- ❖ Not ride more than two abreast in a single lane, so long as it does not interfere with the normal flow of vehicular traffic;
- ❖ Avoid entering the roadway without first stopping to look for vehicles;
- ❖ Ride predictably and defensively
- ❖ Always yield to pedestrians;
- ❖ Have a white front headlight and a red rear reflector if riding after dark or in low light conditions.

Drivers should:

- ❖ Look out for and always yield the right-of-way to people walking, jogging, biking, etc.;
- ❖ Pull out slowly from driveways and parking areas while watching for vulnerable road users, including children and others;
- ❖ Stop fully before turning at driveways and intersections to make sure you do not cut off pedestrians or approaching bicyclists with right of way;
- ❖ Never turn right immediately after passing a cyclist – wait until the cyclist has completed the trip through the intersection;
- ❖ Yield to anyone crossing the street when turning left on a green light;
- ❖ Leave sufficient space when passing vulnerable road users and take every possible precaution to avoid collision.

LOCAL, LOCAL, LOCAL

Remember your local businesses when making purchases or contracting for services. Many Fruitland Township residents work at area businesses or own them. Please consider local contractors, dentists, insurance providers, drug stores, auto sales, and most everything else when contemplating goods or services.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

For your convenience, Fruitland Township is now able to process payments at the front counter with credit cards. There will be a convenience fee of 3% with a \$2.00 minimum. We can accept

Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express along with debit cards that are backed by those same companies.

Also, when paying taxes, residents can do E-checks online. On-line payments will only be available to pay taxes. For E-checks there will be a flat fee of \$3.00, up to \$10,000 and a flat fee of \$10.00 for anything over \$10,000. Look for more information on E-check payments on your July tax bill.

ATTACHMENTS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES

The first is an attachment from the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System announcing the launch of a new website.

The second is the Marketing and Development Report for August 2015 from the Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management Committee.

Finally a flyer with details of the 2015 Annual Labor Day “Community Walks”.

August 13, 2015

MUSKEGON COUNTY
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Contacts:

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Economic Development Coordinator
Muskegon County
231-724-8861
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Muskegon County Wastewater Management System Launches New Website

Muskegon, MI – Muskegon County Wastewater Management System (MCWMS) has launched a marketing campaign to attract new business opportunities to the area. The campaign will target food processing companies, liquid waste haulers and datacenter companies.



The campaign will feature a website (www.muskegoncountywastewatertreatment.com) for businesses to learn more about the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System. Website visitors will also be able to locate permitting forms and view available property for development. The new website features social media plugins and an added blog and newsletter sign up form. Other materials to support marketing efforts will include a new MCWMS brochure, promotional video and an interactive infographic depicting how water is treated at MCWMS.

“The goal of these marketing efforts is to increase engagement and potential business opportunities”, says Jonathan Wilson, Economic Development Coordinator for Muskegon County.

In addition to these marketing efforts, MCWMS is looking to take advantage of its ample space, power, water and connectivity to attract data center companies to the property. “We have been exploring the potential to support data center operations and feel we have more than enough space and infrastructure to support this type of operation on the property”, says Wilson.

About Muskegon County Wastewater Management System: Muskegon County Wastewater Management System treats wastewater from 16 municipalities with a 43 MGD design, the largest land treatment plant in the State of Michigan. The 17 square miles of property have several recreational opportunities. For example, MCWMS is one of the best locations in West Michigan for bird watching. Muskegon Astronomical Society has an observation site there. The West Shore Snowmobile Council has trails throughout. Port City Radio Club has a model airplane field. The property also hosts Muskegon Michigan Area Rocketry, water fowl hunting, a youth turkey hunt, and deer bow hunting.

About Muskegon County: Muskegon County is located in West Michigan, bordering the shores of Lake Michigan at the terminus of Interstate 96. With a population of over 170,000, Muskegon County offers West Michigan’s largest deep water port and is a logistical hub located in the fast-growing Muskegon/Holland/Grand Rapids Combined Statistical Area (CSA), the second largest CSA in the State of Michigan and the 39th largest CSA in the United States with a population of over 1.4 million.



Muskegon County Economic Development Office
Hall of Justice, 4th Floor | 990 Terrace Street | Muskegon, Michigan 49442
P. 231.724.8861 | F. 231.724.4707 | www.co.muskegon.mi.us/economicdev/



Muskegon Municipal Wastewater Management Committee – Marketing & Development
Report
August 2015

Marketing—Muskegon County Wastewater Management System (MCWMS) has launched a marketing campaign to attract new business opportunities to the area. The campaign will target liquid waste haulers, food processing companies and datacenter companies. The campaign will feature a website portal (www.muskegoncountywastewatertreatment.com) for businesses to learn more about the Muskegon County Wastewater Management System. Visitors will also be able to locate permitting forms and view available property for development. The new website features social media plugins and an added blog and newsletter sign up form. Other materials to support marketing efforts will include a new

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Development Projects:

Barley Crop/Malting Operation—Muskegon County, in partnership with Muskegon Area First and Michigan State University Product Lab submitted a grant application from MDARD to support the creation of an integrated barley/malt sector in the greater Muskegon area. Volumes will be large enough to meet the needs of some West Michigan brewers as well as perhaps some brewers in Wisconsin and Illinois. This project will support product development on county property, expand local business and potentially provide an exchange of goods between Wisconsin and Illinois through the Port of Muskegon. The grant application was submitted on July 22nd.

2015 ANNUAL LABOR DAY
COMMUNITY
WALKS

**Join us on Labor Day
as we walk the bridge from
Montague to Whitehall!**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2015
10 a.m.

**Start Location: East Spring St. in Montague
(behind Montague Foods)**

**End Location: White Lake Area Chamber
(124 W Hanson, Whitehall)**



Hosted By:



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Regards,

Sam St. Amour, Supervisor
Fruitland Township