



Fruitland Township E-News

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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

December 1, 2015

“The government closest to you, governs best.”

SUSTAINABILITY CENTER WINTER HOURS

Please be advised, the Fruitland Township Sustainability Center will be open the following hours for the winter months:

December, 2015	Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
January, 2016	Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
February, 2016	Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
March, 2016	Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Township Holiday Closings

Fruitland Township offices will be closed on the following days in December and January:

December 24, 2015 – Christmas Eve Day
December 25, 2015 – Christmas Day

December 31, 2015 – New Year’s Eve Day
January 1, 2016 – New Year’s Day

Friends of Fruitland Township Multi-Use Trail
Meeting – December 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Friends of Fruitland Township Multi-Use Trail will be held on Thursday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Fruitland Township Hall, 4545 Nestrom Road.

Feedback, gathered through conversations and surveys, from residents and visitors in Fruitland Township, showed that there is strong support for developing an east-west and even broader, connecting trail system in our township. The time is ripe for us to put feet (and wheels) on the ground and give our trail visions some traction. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting to help prioritize and plan, or join an action committee.

Rep. Hovey-Wright Coffee Hour – December 11, 2015

State Representative Marcia Hovey-Wright (D-92nd District) invites Muskegon County residents to join her to enjoy a cup of coffee and share ideas and concerns about state government. She will be discussing the status of road funding, current legislation in Lansing, and other topics. The coffee hour will take place at 10:00 a.m., Friday December 11, 2015 and will be held at the Fruitland Township Hall, 4545 Nestrom Road.

Residents of Representative Hovey-Wright's district – which includes Muskegon, Muskegon Heights and North Muskegon as well as Fruitland, Laketon, Muskegon and Whitehall townships are encouraged to contact her at (517) 373-2646 or by email at MarciaHoveyWright@house.mi.gov. Those interested in keeping up to date on her work at the Capital are also encouraged to sign up for her e-newsletter by visiting www.092.housedems.com.

Buy Local

During this holiday season, I would like to urge everyone to buy local! We have many people who live and work in the White Lake area. Before planning a shopping trip out of our community, take the time to visit our various local merchants and service providers, I know they would appreciate the support! By choosing to buy locally, we all help to maintain a vibrant business community.

Residential Broadband and Technology (High Speed Internet) Survey

Through the leadership of the Muskegon County Broadband Initiative, the support of the county's Infrastructure and Economic Development Committee, the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, local municipality leaders and many other organizations, our community is participating in Connect Michigan's "Connected Community" program. This project will assess the current status of broadband access, adoption, and use in our area so we can develop a Broadband Technology Action Plan to improve the quality of life and economic potential across Muskegon County.

Your answers to the survey questions are critical and will be combined with others to identify the current need for improved internet access and support in our municipality. This information will then be used to develop the most effective action plans with local broadband providers and other contributing organizations to improve technology and internet service and support in our community.

Printed copies of the survey were mailed with tax bills. However, if you have access to the internet, we strongly encourage you to take the survey online at:

<http://connectmycommunity.org/muskegon-county-residential-survey>

If you opt to fill out the survey that was mailed with your tax bill, please return the completed survey by Tuesday, February 16, 2016 to: Fruitland Township Hall, 4545 Nestrom Road, Whitehall MI 49461. Thank you in advance for your participation in this important survey.

Parks & Recreation Commission

The Parks & Recreation Commission is looking for someone to fill a vacancy on the commission. This would be for a partial term serving until November of 2016. The commission meets the first Monday of every month and has jurisdiction over Nestrom Road Park, Marcus Park, and Duck Lake Road Park. If you have questions or want more information, please call Supervisor Sam St. Amour at 766-3208. If you are interested in applying, please send your resume to Supervisor St. Amour here at the township offices.

Township Meetings for December 2015

Thursday, December 3, 2015 – Planning Commission – 6:30 p.m.
Monday, December 7, 2015 – Parks & Recreation Commission – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 14, 2015 – Township Board Work Session – 10:00 a.m.
Monday, December 21, 2015 – Township Board – 5:00 p.m.

2015 Winter Taxes

The 2015 Winter Tax season is here. Tax bills were mailed November 30th.

The Fruitland Township Hall will have extended hours on Tuesday, December 29, 2015. The hall will be open until 5:00 p.m. in order to process tax payments that residents would like processed before the year end.

All payments must include the bottom portion of the tax bill in order to appropriately post payments to the correct parcel.

Make checks payable to: **FRUITLAND TOWNSHIP.**

Methods of Payment

- **Mail** a personal check, money order, or cashier's check to 4545 Nestrom Rd., Whitehall, MI 49461.
- **Night Deposit Box** located at the Township Hall. Place your 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.
- **Partial payments** will be accepted. Each payment amount will be spread equally to all levied taxes.
- **Online** at www.fruitlandtpw.org. There will be an additional fee for this service.

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 your payment.

Payment Dates

- Payments are due to Fruitland Township from December 1, 2015 to February 16, 2016 without penalty. **ONLY postmarked payments for February 16, 2016 will be accepted without penalty.** Night drop deposits on February 16, 2016 will also be accepted without penalty. **Payments made after February 16, 2016 will include a 3% penalty.** Call (231) 766-3208 for calculation before mailing.
- Normal business hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
- **Closed Holidays:** Christmas Holiday (December 24, 2015 and December 25, 2015), New Year's Holiday (December 31, 2015 and January 1, 2016), Martin Luther King Day (January 18, 2016), **President's Day (February 15, 2016).**
- Additional hours for tax collection are December 29, 2015 and February 29, 2016 both until 5:00 p.m.
- Summer taxes, if owing, are always paid first and the rest is applied to the winter tax.
- **TREASURER MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF TAX PAYMENT BY February 29, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.** All night drop payments will be posted as February 29, 2016. **No February 29, 2016 postal mark** will be accepted.
- On March 1, 2016, the tax roll will be closed. All payments received in the mail on March 1st and after will be delivered to the Muskegon County Treasurer's Office and subject to delinquent penalties. Call (231) 724-6261. **Notice:** Tax Sale process begins on March 1, 2016 (Note: new property tax law, "Public Act 123").