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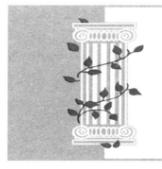
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Z L E R R A U Q C Q E
Q U A I L Q G J E N Z

QUART QUATRO QUARTZ
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QUAGMIRE

©2009 TIM HOLTROP. CONTRIBUTED BY KAERLYN HOLTROP. 9 years old

Fruitport's decision on private road maintenance is not fair
Letter to the Editor

One of the first actions of Fruitport Township's new supervisor is a plan to stop maintaining ten private roads. Maintenance includes plowing, brining, grading and patching. Many of these roads were built back in the 1940's and were taken care of by the township for over 60 years. This action is very unfair for private road property and home owners.

These older private roads that have been serviced by the road commission in the past include DeBaker Road south of E. Broadway, Ann Street north of Pontaluna Road, DeVowe Road south of E. Broadway, Elm Street west of Eighth Avenue, Haight Street south of Heights Ravenna, Leach Street north of Heights Ravenna, Sherringer Road south of Mill Iron Road, White Road west of Medema Road, Manahan Road west of Sheridan Road, and Spruce Road west of Sheridan Road.

The road commission is paid by the state to maintain public roads. This money comes from gas taxes. Everyone pays a gas tax, whether they live on public or private roads. Money for private roads comes from the township. Private property owners pay into this fund when paying taxes as well as public road property owners. The township refers to a law stating that funding for service of private roads is not supposed to come from them as it has been for many years. At the March 9 meeting they weren't able to prove whether this law applies to pre-existing private roads or why they've been able to pay for maintenance for all these years. This law (Private Road Ordinance 75, October 2, 2005) didn't exist when these older private roads were built. So shouldn't this service be "grandfathered in?" Pre-existing roads have lawful non-conforming status, or prior vested rights.

The public is allowed to drive on these private roads, so wear and tear is caused by everyone. Where's the fairness in this?

Most importantly, the township hasn't mentioned anything about a public safety issue. This enabled private road property owners to have their roads maintained in the past by the township. It stated that bad roads were hazardous to people's health and welfare because it would be very difficult for emergency vehicles such as ambulances, police cars and fire trucks to have access to them. The budget will be decided in March, 2009 for next year. So if nothing is done about this tragic situation soon, the private road property owners' taxes will most likely continue to increase next year and the following years depending on their decisions. It's possible that renters will pay more, also. On the other hand, public road property owner taxes probably won't decrease, because everyone has to pay taxes. Many times they offer promises, but they're not always able to keep them.

Jackie Gee, Doris DeVowe, Bettie Gyori, Dorothy Blanchard, Steve Nelson, and several other residents

(Note: there will be another important meeting for concerned private road property owners soon. Letters will be sent out and hopefully at the next meeting they can come up with some positive proof to back up their words.)

Political commentary, etc.
by Mad Max Riekse

I have some good news and some bad news. First, the good news. There is still a United States of America with an elected president. That issue was in doubt, given the last eight years of baby Bush and his neo-con elites. Now the bad news. The United States, with our present inactive United States Constitution, is on its last legs, morally, financially, socially, politically, and a few other ways. Thanks to policies and laws put into place by daddy Bush, Clinton, baby Bush, and kept in place by Obama, this country is on its way to being a National Socialist country. National Socialist was the party of Hitler's Nazis.

Several key events will take place in the coming months. One, the U.S. dollar will lose value. A ten trillion dollar deficit (some say as high as 100 trillion dollars) that this country owes other nations and the American people will drive the American dollar into a one-world currency. And with it, control of our lives and country and that of our grandchildren, will fall into the hands of a new world order, national socialist types.

Another major event is the forces of government demanding that everyone turn in their guns or face harsh criminal penalties. Hundreds of FEMA prison camps have already been built for "you" people, including the politically incorrect. If "you" people have no guns to fight back with, then the government can do anything it wants with and to "you" people.

Over 60 million Russians, mainly Christians, were killed — dead, under Communism. Communism resulted in more people being murdered than the Nazis. And know this, the neo-cons who have set this country up to be a National Socialist (Nazi) country, have their roots in being Russian Trotskyite communists; the very same type of blood thirsty murdering, venomous, viscous, vile, villainous, anti-Christian communists responsible for the deaths of over 60 million unarmed Russians.

With the current financial collapse, it's only a matter of time when millions of Mexicans will be driven north into the U.S., mainly into the red (or Republican) states, to further the

aims of the Democrats to make this country into a one-party state. Not that the Republicans did that much better in the eight years they were in "power."

We all know they did a horrible job, and made billions in the process for personal gain. It's all about power, control, money, greed, avarice and severing the devil and his anti-Christian neo-con assistants.

And before I forget, let's not forget those on Social Security. "You" were forced to put your money into Social Security all those years and then congressional Democrats and Republicans taxed your meager Social Security checks. And the time is coming when you will be asked to suck it up and take less or a smaller Social Security check. Welcome to the New World Order, folks. Enjoy it!

As to all that money coming out of Washington, D.C., I hope western Michigan gets a whole lot of it, soon. We need to fix our roads, bridges, and repair and rebuild our schools. And a few more turtle fences would be nice, as well. The two best things about the causeway turtle fence were that it brought federal money into Muskegon County and it saved the lives of a whole lot of turtles. As to wasting money, give me a break. Washington has wasted trillions of our hard-earned tax dollars and continues to do so. So sit back, folks, and enjoy the ride. It's all going to come to a crashing stop.

Reminds me of an old political saying in regards to American voting habits, i.e., voting for either Democrats or Republicans. "You" keep voting the same way that you have been doing, and "they" will keep doing the same thing "they" have been doing. That's why I've decided to become an independent voter. A Nazi — National Socialist — country is NOT what I want for my children and grandchildren to grow up in and under. I want a solid pro-American Christian country with a working Constitution and a strong Bill of Rights.

Enough said. •

Time to tighten your belt for others
Letter to the Editor

I am one of you. I pay taxes twice a year. I live alone. I have a fixed income. I pay my bills and I am careful how I spend money. I have a grown family and grandchildren. I have some beliefs that make my life richer. One of those beliefs is that every adult should give back to the community. I believe in my heart that a quality education for all children is a fundamental responsibility of every adult. I believe it is a duty of every adult to fund and support our local schools as our forefathers did for us. It is a gift we can give.

Sometimes we have to get out of the "me first" attitude and tighten our belts for others. It is time to show our pride in Fruitport and instill that pride in our children. We are not a second-rate community. I will put the education of our students up against any other school. A local principal interviewing for a position at Fruitport said, "Fruitport Schools is a hidden gem." He is so right. We have wonderful staff and support personnel.

Education has changed since many of us were in school, even from the time our children attended. Consider the growth in technology and how quickly it has changed our lives forever. Knowledge base doubles constantly and we expect our students to keep up. Education is not just sitting at a desk, learning math tables or doing dittos any more. We must give our students the current tools and resources to keep up with the changes in order for them to be competitive and succeed. We cannot short-change our children, our grandchildren, our neighbor's children.

Businesses look at the schools when they decide whether to move into a community. Families will not purchase a home in a community that does not value education. This affects all home owners, that means you and me. Schools are a good investment if we will be in a better position to sell our homes when ready.

Unlike our homes, schools are used by hundreds of students and adults on a regular basis. Sixty year old schools wear out, need major renovation, are no longer energy or educationally efficient, and could take millions to renovate.

So you say, "now is not a good time." I ask, when is it a good time; 5, 10, 15 years? Building prices are low and the longer we wait, the more it will cost. Even now, it will be five years before a building project could be completed. That means five more years of bandaid solutions, five years of spending tax dollars for short term renovations. We have to have the vision to invest our money more wisely.

I know that some people who repeatedly fight any millage will be visible again, but I urge you to come to a meeting; get your questions answered from a Facilities Committee Member who has studied the needs, questioned the options, and recommended the proposal.

This is the time for our community to pull together and show the children of Fruitport that we believe education is a priority.

I am a taxpayer who will vote "YES."
Betty Kinney
2258 Corrine



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