



4-H Youth Fair wrap up/Memories

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Carrier Route

September, 2009 • Volume 27 • Number 5

The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.

Fruitport student's park project a step toward Eagle Scout badge

by Pam Mettler

With the help of scouting friends, Fruitport High School senior Daniel Start is well on his way to earning his Eagle Scout rank.

The 17-year old member of Fruitport Boy Scout Troop 1023 recently spearheaded a project that helped beautify Pomona Park.



Daniel Start, the scout from troop 1023 who headed up the park project.

during the last month of school in May through around the end of June," he said.

Originally, Daniel wanted to reclaim the beach, but that area turned into a dedicated wetland area, and he didn't have time to do that project. So, Daniel spoke to Village Councilman Bruce Raymond, who is in charge of parks and recreation.

"Mr. Raymond told me about this project instead, so I just said, 'let's go for it.' I'm still trying to raise money for an oxynator to clean up the water."

The oxynator device helps decompose organic material and adds more oxygen to the water. With clearer and

cleaner water, the scout hopes to attract more game fish to the lake.

Daniel acknowledges the hardest part of the project was digging the trench that runs along the pavilion sidewalk and down to the pier's electrical box, providing electricity to the pier.

"We put electrical cable in the ground and we had an electrician hook up the electricity. When we were all done, we put fill dirt over it," he said.

As luck would have it, one of the troop's family members had a trencher that helped the boys out considerably, although they hand-dug the trench around the pavilion. The only snag in the process was hitting ground water. Once that was resolved, the scouts cleared as much as they could along the ground prior to placing the cable in the trench. They also planted the finished trench with grass seed.

"We worked weekends and evenings to get it done," said Daniel. "We did a lot of cleanup work, too, and Mr. Raymond was here every day that we worked. He told me he was quite pleased with what we had done."

After tackling the trenching process, Daniel and his fellow scouts set their sites on cleaning up the shore around the pier. They had to use canoes to get past the row of cattails and other green overgrowth.

"We had to pull our canoes through those weeds by building up momentum and pulling ourselves into the cleanup area. There we found a large sheet of plastic, which I don't know how it got there, plus Coke® cans, plastic cups, Styrofoam water bottles, energy drink cans, glass, and other trash," said Daniel.

The irony of seeing all of the debris was that a trash can

"I had the help of sometimes two and sometimes up to seven troop members. This took multiple days during the last month of school in May through around the end of June."

— DANIEL START



Ben Palmer and Andrew Youngquist with the trash they pulled out of Spring Lake.

is provided right next to the pier. This got the scouts wondering why people don't use the trash receptacle provided. It appeared that most of the trash was actually thrown from the pier into the water.

"After we cleaned up all of that trash, we went back a couple of days later and found there was already more trash out there," said Daniel.

During the time they were working on the project, one throw-back to early Fruitport history emerged.

"It was when one of the guys was digging the trench. We found glass slag from when the hotel was burned down there. We actually found not only the glass, but also an old railroad stake from when the railroad line ran through here. It's near where the power poles are located."

Despite all of the work that has gone into earning the Eagle Scout designation, Daniel still has more work to do.

He needs to earn two more merit badges and fill out a booklet outlining the Pomona Park project. This should take about two more weeks to complete.

Daniel says these past six years of scouting have been all-around fun. In the summer, several troop members went to Boundary Waters on a canoe trip in Canada. Daniel has been backpacking in New Mexico, and will soon head to Mackinaw Island to commemorate the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouting in America.

Once he turns 18, his scouting life will be finished and a new chapter begins. The next step is called Adventure Scouting. Daniel is active in that right now, but will become more involved with fewer restrictions as he ages.

Daniel is the son of Tim and Patty Start. He has one brother, Caleb, who also earned his Eagle Scout badge. He is currently in college.

Daniel is excited to be a senior, but is eager to be done with high school. He plans to attend Muskegon Community College and then attend a business college to get his degree.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in scouting can contact Mike Retzlaff, scout master of Fruitport troop 1023, at 865-2156.



Scouts digging the trench from the pavilion to the pier.



Garden club essay contest winners Lance VanTine from Calvary Christian Schools, and Shaienna Quinn from Steele Middle School, both 8th graders, attended the presentation ceremony. (Photo by Theresa Freese)

Muskegon County Garden Club honors veterans

by Mary Weimer

On Sunday, August 2, 2009, members of the Muskegon County Garden Club carried on a long-established tradition of honoring our nation's veterans.

A special ceremony was held at the Great Lakes Naval Memorial and Museum, home of the U.S.S. Silversides near Pere Marquette Park in Muskegon.

The ceremony included the presentation of a Blue Star Memorial plaque in tribute to our Armed Forces.

The tradition began in 1946 when the garden club of Michigan presented Blue Star Memorial plaques in several locations. The Muskegon County Garden Club requested one of the memorials to be presented to the local Naval museum. However, they were told there was already one issued to this area.

Indeed, the original one, sent to Muskegon years ago, was located in a Muskegon County storage area. Time had

taken its toll, however, and it had to be refurbished. So, the garden club got another one which they presented in the August ceremony.

The city of Muskegon brought in several loads of beach sand and the Muskegon Conservation District supplied the plantings. Once the memorial was placed, the garden club members, with the help of the Montague Future Farmers of America, planted 1,400 plugs of beach grass around it. They also planted daylilies around the museum building.

The introduction of dignitaries by 9th District American Legion Commander Nancy Frye, included State Representative Mary Valentine, Lakeshore Museum Director John McGarry, Veterans' Affairs Director Dave Eling and many others. Sea Cadets posted the colors, and Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts from Muskegon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The plaque was presented by Lynn Dinvald from the state garden club to Brian Hughes, director of the Naval Museum, and was uncovered by Muskegon Garden Club past president Marilyn Swanson and current president Peggy Tully. Music was provided by Lake Effect Brass.

The presentation was followed by a 21 gun salute and the playing of taps by area veterans.

Another ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. on November 11 at the Veterans Memorial Park on the causeway when the refurbished Blue Star Memorial plaque will be dedicated. The public is invited to attend that presentation.



Nancy Frye, 9th District American Legion Commander, introduced dignitaries and guests at the presentation of the Blue Star Memorial. (Photo by Theresa Freese)

Tentative Newspaper Delivery Schedule

December 12, 2009

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