

Business notes: Recordkeeping

By Joe Tomodachi

I should not be amazed, but on these reality shows where an expert saves a restaurant, bar, hotel or whatever, a series of questions is usually asked. How many dollars in monthly sales? Dunno. How much is payroll? Shoulder shrug. What is the cost of your product? No clue.

As an experienced bookkeeper/accountant, I get alarmed. Not only is this business floundering, but how are the myriad of taxes being reported and paid — or are they? How can any intelligent decisions be made?

Even if some sort of bookkeeping system is in place, how helpful is it?

Too many entrepreneurs believe they are the best ones to do it all — marketing, purchasing, production, negotiating deals, distribution, managing employees — all of the niches that are part of any business. After ten-hour days of all this, are you really ready to sit down to a couple of hours of bookkeeping every night?

Mr./Mrs. Business Person, you likely need help and there are many reasons to seek an independent accountant to take charge of payroll, taxes and bookkeeping; you may be surprised that it wouldn't cost you as much as you fear.

- A full time accountant is familiar with the latest most efficient ways of bookkeeping and would have the investment in software. That saves you a lot of hassle right there!

- An accountant would be up to date on all local, state and federal taxes; many now require electronic filing and payments — do you really want to learn all of these intricacies? The penalty for missed filings and/or payments can be punitive.

- Professional records can provide you with meaningful decision-making tools, inform you of trends, identify trouble spots, and serve as documentation in the event of a tax audit.

- Lots of creative arrangements can be worked out, including your entry of certain items such as checks, with the accountant filling in the gaps and doing the other challenging chores for you.

What would it cost you to find out? Nada, nothing, freebie! You may be pleasantly surprised, and a decision to seek help may make the difference for your future. •

State launches online training resources for election officials

(Submitted by Michigan Secretary of State)

Local clerks and their staff now have a new online training resource that allows them to take courses, view video tutorials, and participate in webinars for self-paced learning from the Michigan Bureau of Elections.

The new Michigan Election e-Learning Center makes use of the latest distance-learning technology to complement the Bureau of Elections' existing in-person training sessions. It provides manuals and other informational resources in an easily accessible and searchable format. The site also includes collaboration features for Michigan's 1,600 county, city, township and village clerks that promote information sharing through specialized user groups and discussion boards on specific topics. The system allows for individualized learning plans, and progressive training modules targeted at specialized groups, such as new clerks.

"The capabilities of our new online training system are almost unlimited," Secretary of State Ruth Johnson said. "We now have numerous tools at our disposal to ensure all Michigan election officials receive consistent and ongoing training on all of the vital procedures and laws involved in election administration." •

Muskegon to host Walk to End Alzheimer's

(Submitted by The Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter)

The Alzheimer's Association needs your help in reaching the thousands of local families who are facing the daily trials of this devastating disease as well as the families of those who have lost their battle. We want to empower them to fight back by participating in our Walk to End Alzheimer's — the nation's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research — and help us realize our vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

- Every 68 seconds, someone develops Alzheimer's disease
- There are about 180,000 people living with Alzheimer's in Michigan
- Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S.
- One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia
- Since 2000, deaths from Alzheimer's has dramatically risen 68 percent.

The Muskegon Walk will be held September 28, 2013. •

Fruitport Area News • May 2013 • Page 25

COMMUNITY SHORES DENTAL

"Specializing in Families"

231-865-6945

384 N. 3rd Ave. Suite A
Fruitport, MI 49415

Save with
FAN Money
& coupon



Christopher Sortman DDS



We participate with
many insurance plans! Kyle Giese DDS

General Dentistry, Braces, Implants

www.communityshoresdental.com



*Designers & Engravers of
Domestic & Imported Granites*

Cemetery Marker, Monuments and Lettering

Serving West Michigan for more than 25 years

354 Ottawa St.
Muskegon 49442
800-479-6483



1003A S. Beacon Blvd.
Grand Haven 49417
616-844-1700

Find us online at www.superiormonument.com

Showroom Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 to 5:00 & Saturday by appointment

LAKE SHORE

ART FESTIVAL

July 5 & 6, 2013

www.lakeshoreartfestival.org
Downtown Muskegon

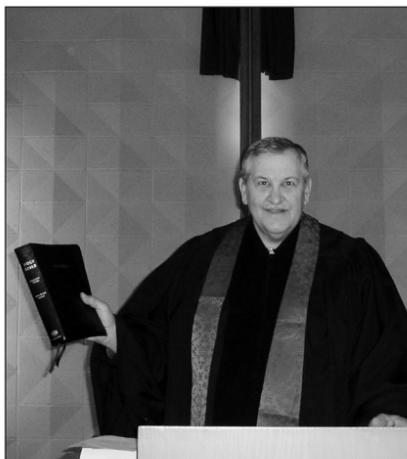
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRUITPORT

(231) 865-3822

**Come as you are for
Church & Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.**

Coffee & snacks at 10:00 & 11:30 a.m.

3212 Pontaluna Road, Fruitport
(between Edgewood & Middle Schools)



When our new
minister Mike Scott came,
he brought the manual.

Our church service starts with
traditional & praise music, and
after a few songs, the youth
go to their Sunday School. ~
Preschool through High School
~ Nursery Provided ~

