

Fruitport planning commission

(Submitted by Fruitport Township planning commission)

July 16, 2013

The Fruitport Township Planning Commission held a regular meeting on July 16, 2013. New business included discussion on approval of a site plan for a pharmacy on Harvey Street. Chairman Jeff Jacobs excused himself because of a possible conflict of interest due to his brother's part ownership in the property under consideration.

The site plan for Hometown Pharmacy at 5866 S. Harvey Street was approved, contingent on all sections of the ordinance being met.

Also approved was an amended site plan for Muskegon Surgical Associates on Independence Drive.

The third site plan approval of the evening was for the new township hall on Airline Road.

Further discussion, no action taken, regarded the ingress/egress at Kainay Church on Heights Ravenna Road.

July 23, 2013

Both Dollar General and Tractor Supply claim to have driveway approvals from the Muskegon County Road Commission.

During this special meeting, Peter Olezuke, a developer representing Dollar General, stated they are not part of the proposed Lappo PUD and have an approved driveway cut from the Muskegon County Road Commission. The tenant prefers not to have a shared driveway with other developments.

Chris Kettler, representing Tractor Supply Company, questioned how the amended agenda might affect their development. Chairman Jacobs suggested that a PUD may require that all work together to develop a safe, workable plan.

Supervisor Werschem stated that the township is fully behind the development of this parcel and has gone forth with design work on a substantial sewer design to serve the area.

A zone change was granted to David Malotke, 3324 DeFeyer of south 94 feet of lot 39 from B2 to R1.

A zone change was allowed for the former Lappo property from B3 to PUD. Chairman Jacobs suggested that a PUD would provide greater flexibility and less effort. After further discussion, it was agreed that the issue would be further reviewed after the developer's plans are submitted.

A site plan was approved for the Meat Block for an addition to their current building, provided all contingencies are met.

August 20, 2013

A site plan for First General Credit Union at 5160 S. Harvey was approved.

A zone change was requested to allow a retail business at the southwest corner of Airline Road and Farr Road (across from Subway) for Dollar General. The change was approved.

Planning commission members agreed that a revised site plan should be submitted to Supervisor Werschem for final approval, as a shared driveway for Dollar General and Tractor Supply is recommended by the Muskegon County Road Commission.

Current ordinance allows for 6-foot high fencing, so the developer for Tractor Supply must either request a waiver from the Zoning Board of Appeals or wait for a proposed fence ordinance change to take effect to allow for an 8-foot high fence. Water main issues were also discussed with Supervisor Werschem assuring that they would be addressed.

A site plan was approved for a retail bakery at 4849 S. Quarterline.

David Teller and Rhom Dahm from Olivet Evangelical Church came before the planning commission to ask for opinions on placement of a proposed temporary classroom on the site located at 6790 Harvey Street. A site plan will be submitted at the September planning commission meeting. •

Mi-SBTDC to offer workshops

(Submitted by The Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center)

A workshop entitled "How Business Owners Can Fight Fraud" will be held at the MAREC Center, 200 Viridian Drive in Muskegon on Wednesday, October 23 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. The workshop is designed to assist business owners in identifying potential fraud and providing the means to prevent it. We will explore the different types of fraud that threaten businesses, and guide participants in setting up the safeguards that will help protect them.

The workshop is free. Register on-line at www.misbtcd.org/events. Search topic "Managing a Business" and zip code 49440.

"How to Buy or Sell a Business," will be presented at the MAREC Center on Wednesday, November 20 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. This workshop is for those who are looking to purchase or sell a business, as well as

New crime stopping program being launched

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

A new crime prevention program is being launched by a coalition of local business, education and law enforcement leaders. The new program: *Silent Observer — The Lakeshore Crime Stopper*, is high tech with a youthful brand. It is a reinvention of the former Silent Observer Program that worked well before smart phones and the internet. "In today's youth oriented society, a new approach is needed to manage this very important community safety program," says Michael Hagen, general manager of The Lakes Mall and chair of the new Silent Observer Council.

"It's a great program because information can be sent to law enforcement officials in real time," says D.J. Hilson, Muskegon county prosecutor. People can report information as it is happening. Community leaders hope the new system will encourage people to watch out for each other and keep neighborhoods safe while remaining anonymous. The program works with a number code system so that no one knows who reported the information or who is receiving a reward. The Silent Observer Program does not replace 9-1-1 for reporting a crime, but is a tool for passing along information related to a crime. For more information on how the Silent Observer Program works, go to www.silentobservermuskegon.com.

The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce is helping to coordinate and market the new program. "Safe communities are important for citizens and are good for business," says Hagen. A number of organizations like



Berri, the Pekin duck

by Christine Lea
(Christine's Critter Cafe Rescue)

I recently rescued Berri, white Pekin duck, from a popular place that has kept ducks there all the years I can remember — white "Pekins" as well as mallards come in the summer.

This has brought me a wealth of information that I feel I should share for the betterment of them.

Pekins rarely can fly, hence they are forced to stay, even through harsh Michigan winters.

I have found that people come to Bear Lake Tavern "BLT" to feed the ducks there every day during the summer. As colder temperatures set in, the mallards fly away south and the restaurant closes for the season. But as a domestic duck, Pekins depend upon being cared for and fed. Winter brings freezing temperatures, and the Pekin left there at BLT, or wherever else they have been dropped off after being purchased at farm stores (like at Easter). Pekins, come winter in Michigan, are left to literally starve/freeze to death while trying to fend for themselves. They go into an almost catatonic state, some even consumed piece by little suffering piece while still alive, by predator species such as turtles.

The BLT restaurant saves "heals" of bread for their customers to feed the ducks there, as well as many people bring loaves of bread bought from the discount bread stores, but there is little nutritional in it for these pets in the summer months.

I would love to see BLT get bubble gum machines with duck pellets in them.

accountants, attorneys, business brokers, financial planners, CEOs and CFOs. This session will answer buyer questions such as: How to find and determine a fair price for a business, investigating a business once you've decided it's a target, and financing the purchase. Topics for sellers include: Getting your business in shape to sell, calculating the worth of your business, finding a buyer, and how to determine if you should finance the sale. The workshop will open with a panel discussion followed by separate breakout sessions for buyers and sellers.

The cost is \$75 per person (veterans should contact growth@gvsu.edu to have the fee waived). Register on-line at www.misbtcd.org/events. Search topic "Managing a Business" and zip code 49440.

Information about these workshops as well as other valuable resources for entrepreneurs is available at the e-merge Entrepreneur Network web site, www.e-mergewestmichigan.org or call (231) 724-3173. •

Baker College have made donations to the project. According to Lee Coggin, president of Baker College, "A safe community is important to the college because it creates a better learning environment for our students. We want the students to be focused on studies, not neighborhood concerns."

Ways to submit a tip:

- Text MKGTIP plus your tip to 274637

(CRIMES)

- Call 231-72-CRIME

- Submit a tip at

www.silentobservermuskegon.com

A new logo and web site have been created with the help of Finline Creative and the County of Muskegon's technology staff. "Taking this program to a new level has been a real team effort," added Hagen. Members of the planning group include Muskegon Community College, Baker College of Muskegon, the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, City of Muskegon, Muskegon County, Muskegon County Sheriff's Office, Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office, Mercy Health, The Lakes Mall, ProMed, Parmenter O'Toole and the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce.

Special thanks go to the former Silent Observer Program volunteers, many of whom will remain part of the new program. The program is run on donated resources. Please donate to the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Foundation at 380 W. Western, Suite 202, Muskegon, 49440. Be sure to designate that your donation is to be applied to the Silent Observer Muskegon Fund. •

That said, the poor nutrition of the many ducks at BLT is most likely what contributed to Berri's diagnosis of bone cancer.

I went to rescue her because I was told she had been hit by a car. Many DVM visits, x-rays and several medications later, we can see the bone cancer is disintegrating Berri's knees.

Berri has a sling that I carry her in for walks daily and she takes supervised swims in my tub. She loves it when I make the hose put a light continual mist on her in the overgrown clove and sunshine in my front yard.

Most people think, and it appears that Pekins live quite happily in the summer months with mallards. Wrong!

When Berri was picked up, I could not understand why the back of her neck was featherless, raw and bloody as well as under her wing feathers — a grapefruit-sized feather-plucked bleeding raw spot. Those developed as Berri and her Pekin friends are continually gang-raped during mating season by mallards. Because Pekins are so bottom-heavy, at 8 to 11 pounds, they can't fly and cannot get away from the countless mallards that come back in the summer months to the areas known to them where Pekins are fed. This can cause infection and excruciating pain and suffering for Pekins. Mallards usually return to the same area yearly.

What I hope for the reader to take away from this is some Pekin knowledge.

These are live and very social animals that deserve vetting and proper care. They cannot live happily among mallards without year 'round care and supervision. They are domestic, like your pet dog, cat, or bunny.

With farm stores selling live babies for about \$2.00 and school projects and 4-H incubating eggs, the project should not end after the baby hatches. This bird can live for about 12 years and needs your continued help and care to do so. She can produce about 175 eggs per year.

Please don't buy them for Easter or use them as a "project" without following through those years to ensure the animal's safety. And please don't dump Pekins just because you see mallards. It is not a morally right thing to do if you care about animals. •

Lumber Barons' Ball

(Submitted by the Lakeshore Museum Center)

The 20th annual Lumber Barons' Ball will be held on Saturday, October 12 from 6:30 to 11 p.m.

The ball will again be held at Watermark 920, located at 920 Washington Avenue in Muskegon. Last year was the first time the event was moved out of the museum and the new venue proved to be comfortable and welcoming for our guests.

This year's event will feature a 1950s theme. Live music will be provided by Trilog, with plenty of tunes to dance to in your blue suede or saddle shoes. Dressing the part will make the event especially fun. Chantal will share '50s fashion tips and advice to help our guests plan their costumes. Visit her website, www.ThriftTicket.com, or email her with questions at ThriftTicket@gmail.com.

The Hearthstone Bistro will provide us with a wonderful dinner, and a cash bar will be available. We will have a photographer on site to capture images of the evening.

Tickets are \$75 per person, and sponsorships are available. We will have live and silent auctions featuring themed baskets, attraction and event tickets, overnight stays, baskets of children's books and much more.

For information about becoming a sponsor, donating to the auction or attending the event, contact joni@lakeshoremuseum.org or at (231) 722-0278. •