

Honoring 50 years of prolife advocacy in Michigan

This year Right to Life of Michigan is honoring 50 years of prolife advocacy in Michigan. While we honor the past, our eyes are set firmly on our future and the next few years.

Since 1846 Michigan law has recognized the value of unborn children and protected their lives. Michigan has been a leader in our nation for protecting the value of human life. In the time of great controversies, Michigan had led the way.

Michigan was the first English-speaking government to ban capital punishment, also in 1846 (we take no position either way, it being settled in Michigan). Abolitionists met in Jackson in 1854 at the Under the Oaks Convention to establish the Republican Party, an action which would set the nation on a course of ending slavery. Some scoffed when Henry Ford promised he could build a B-24 Liberator bomber every hour to help win World War II, but millions of lives were saved from the axis powers through victory forged in Detroit's assembly lines.

In March of 1967, State Senator John McCauley introduced a bill to legalize abortion in Michigan, completely disregarding our history. Sen. McCauley's bill was defeated in committee, as were other bills in the next few years.

The abortion movement changed their strategy and tried to go straight to the Michigan voters. A coalition of local prolife grassroots groups joined together as the Voice of the Unborn to oppose them. The abortion legalization proposal in 1972 met a stunning rebuke, failing by a vote of 61 percent to 39 percent.

The victory was short lived when the U.S. Supreme Court usurped the will of Michigan voters with Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton two months later in 1973.

Decades later and under a different name, Right to Life of Michigan continues the same work on the same mission. Given the circumstances of the current Supreme Court and the unique status of Michigan law, the next few years present an opportunity to fulfill that mission.

Right to Life of Michigan has already begun preparing for a possible reversal of Roe v. Wade and the opportunity for voters to once again have a say on the issue of abortion. A plan is in place for Michigan to once again lead the way in defending life.

Fifty years ago, most abortion supporters thought we would quickly melt away. Fifty years later, we're still here, and much stronger.

• Chris Gast, Director of Communication/Education • cgast@rtl.org | 616-532-2300 • www.RTL.org



Nora Kathleen Cooper was welcomed into this world February 25, 2017 by his parents, Chris and Megan. She was born two months early and weighed 3 lbs. 12 oz. and spent her first six weeks at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. She is healthy, happy and brings a lot of joy to their lives! Grandparents are Larry Cooper, Robert and Bonnie Johnson, Rocky and Sally Woodward, and Daniel and Teresa Heuer.

Our Fruitport Library has been on an interesting journey for over the past year.

We voted to separate from the Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) in November 2015. In May of 2016 we voted to fund the operation of the Fruitport Library for three years with a .75 millage rate, which was the same millage rate we had been paying with the MADL. Per our MADL Agreement we continued library services with them through December 31, 2016. A special thanks to the Spring Lake District Library Board and their Director, Claire Sheridan for partnering with us January through the end of March of 2016 to provide our residents with library services. During all this time we were working with the State Library office, Lakeland Library Cooperative and the ILS, and Baker and Taylor to meet all the criteria required to establish our own Fruitport District Library. What a happy day on Monday, April 10, 2017 when we were able to issue our very own Fruitport District Library Cards.

A special thanks to our newly hired Library Director, Bethany Nettleton-Seeley who has worked nonstop to get our library open. She has worked to keep the library open various hours while we contracted with Spring Lake Library in order to allow Fruitport residents to continue to check out books that were donated and provide computer services. We are planning the Grand Opening on May 20, 2017. The ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. and our guest speaker will be Randy Riley the State Librarian. We will have a variety of events throughout the day with a band, a magician and an author who will be hosting a book signing.

We thank our Fruitport community for their patience as the bulk of our budget has gone into the startup process. A new roof has been installed on the library. Crockery Township had some book shelves that we have purchased for a reasonable amount. White Lake Library has donated some articles. Children's programs are being offered now and will continue throughout the summer. We are starting to add on programs as the funding becomes available.

Please note: Muskegon County patrons that are qualified Blind and Physically Handicapped and meet the state requirements can utilize the subregional library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped located at the MADL Administration Building, 4845 Airline Road, as this service receives funding from the State. Those who qualify can pick up their books/media at this address or have them mailed to their homes.

The support of our Fruitport community is unbelievable. There are not enough words to express our thanks for those who have donated such wonderful books, new subscriptions of magazines, DVD, CD and other materials. Also, thanks to those who continue to stop by the library and help Bethany on a regular basis. Thanks to all who participated in the logo contest. The winner has been chosen and received \$25.00. Our new outside Fruitport District Library sign was done by Compass Designs, a local business.

We thank the Spring Lake District Library Board of Directors and their Library Director, Claire Sheridan for helping to service our library patrons through January, February and March.

Please join us for the monthly District Library meetings at the Fruitport Township Hall the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. where we welcome your ideas and input. We are looking for volunteers to serve on a facility committee that will do research on our library building needs and recommend how we meet handicap accessibility, parking needs and increase space into the future.

Visit our website at Fruitport District Library.org for more information. Also, visit our Fruitport District Library Facebook page or call the library at 231 366-6107.

Fruitport District Library Board of Trustees: Rose Dillon, President; Lorri Essenberg, Treasurer; Mary Weimer, Secretary; Laura Oldt, Chuck Koon and Joshua Datte, Trustees



Muskegon Community College

community family fest

NEW LOCATION

Lakeshore Fitness Center
(Former YMCA Downtown)

June 3, 2017
12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Bouncy Houses • Train Rides • Face Painting
Make-and-Take Crafts • Games • Chalk Art
Karate Demonstrations • Life-Sized Jenga • Gaga Ball

Participate in fitness center tours, family-friendly Pilates and Zumba exercises, a PICNIC WITH FREE FOOD, onsite body screenings, and an appearance by Jayhawk, the MCC mascot.



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Summer Music Camps
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This year will be our first year participating in the Old Fashioned Days Memorial Day Parade on May 29, 2017, so come see us!! Our studio is located in Cloverville, at the intersection of Heights Ravenna Road and S. Dangl Road.

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