

Operating the Fruitport District Library

By Adam DeWitt

In August, electors voted against a “new” proposal funding the Fruitport District Library. Supporters of the Library feel that the defeat was due to a misunderstanding of the proposal’s wording, which had to state that this levy is new, due to the fact the Library is, for the first time, on the ballot as “Fruitport District Library.” This “new” millage continues where the current millage ends. The current millage, expiring December 2018, levied .75 mills. The November proposal will continue to levy .75 mills for the next ten years, until 2028. With this money, the Library purchases new books and materials, provides staffing for reference, operation, and support, and maintains the facility.

Fruitport District Library is a vibrant part of the community. The shelves are full of books, many published since 2015. At last count, there are over 16,000 items with new books continuing to arrive. In addition to books, there are DVD’s, books-on-CD, magazines, and book club kits. Onsite library services also include free Wi-Fi, inexpensive printing and faxing services, and computer use for anything from playing online games to filling out job applications. Electronic books and audiobooks are available with the Overdrive app; or you can read your favorite magazine with the RB Digital app.

The Library partners with other West Michigan and more distant in-state libraries. You may have a book delivered to the Fruitport District Library from almost any library in Michigan. The Michigan eLibrary Catalog (MeLCat) provides books and databases. These databases provide information that help children with homework, adults with legal and consumer questions, and even automotive repair.

Fruitport District Library hosts a weekly children’s story time, which includes a craft or activity. In addition, this year was the first official Summer Reading Program that offered participation for everyone. Over 300 people participated. We had seven programs, including the Outdoor Discovery Center from Holland brought “Animal Chorus” to Pomona Park. Meyer Music also presented “Touch-a-Tuba”. More programs are yet to come this Fall.



Finding the Word

by Rev. William Randall

Summer comes to an end and the school doors swing open for another year. By necessity dictionaries will be opened for spelling and for the definition of words. Of course many will turn to their phones or computers instead of flipping pages. Using a phone book or a dictionary is for many something of the past. Whatever the means of locating a desired word there is a list somewhere. Your dictionary is a valuable source of information.

Daniel Webster, America’s pioneer lexicographer published his first dictionary, a major contribution to education and communication, in 1828. Language continues to change therefore there have been numerous editions of Webster’s dictionary.

Interestingly, when his dictionary was published Webster spoke of a Book greater than his work saying:


“The Moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitution and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition injustice, oppression, slavery and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible,”

Oh that educators and students today would have respect for the Bible and refer to it. The Supreme Court ruled that the Bible could not be used devotionally in our public schools. It may be referred to as literary work and as a historical source for information. It is amazing to see how the history of the Bible inter meshes with secular history. Those who are familiar to the Bible are much better educated than those who neglect it. In the early days of America, Ben Franklin was our Ambassador to France. He was a speaker


VOTE YES TO SAVE OUR STACKS

In November, the Fruitport District Library will be asking for a **.75 millage to fund the library until 2028**. This will **replace** the current .75 mills that **expires** at the end of this year.

Fruitport Library




.75 mills
2016-2018



**NOT A
NEW TAX**

Fruitport District Library



.75 mills
2019-2028


Because this is the first time we are running as Fruitport District Library, Michigan law requires that we also include the words 'new' and 'additional.' **We believe that it is more like a renewal.** The name and the period of time have changed, but **the tax amount itself hasn't.**

paid for by the friends of the Fruitport District Library

Library Millage Discussion
Oct 17 5:30
Fruitport Township Hall

Friends Book Sale
Nov 1-3, 5-6
Fruitport District Library

learn more at
fruitportdistrictlibrary.org



The Library staff include three members. Beth Werking, a veteran children’s librarian, lives in Grand Haven. Erica Huyser, the Library Assistant, lives in Fruitport. Adam DeWitt, the Library Director, lives in Grant.

The lower level of the Library building is being refurbished with new flooring and a fresh coat of paint. Our upper level is clean, organized, and mixes the traditional library of books and tables with modern internet technology. The Library also purchases supplies needed on a day-to-day basis.

This is how the Fruitport District Library uses millage money. New materials are purchased. Membership fees are paid. Programming is planned and executed. Staff members are paid.

with a lot of creativity and the elite enjoyed social times when he spoke. On one occasion he dramatically told the story of Queen Esther without identifying it as part of the Bible. The secular audience was unfamiliar with the Bible and were quite surprised when they learned of the source. Many in our schools and society are biblically illiterate, to their loss. The Bible is available and can make a great contribution toward the enrichment of individual lives, our communities and nation. Finding the right word in a dictionary might meet a special educational need but hearing the Word of God can be life changing.



The Library building and daily operations are kept in working order. Please come into the Fruitport District Library, and see your money at work.

Find more information about the Library’s millage proposal, the Library’s budget, and other information about the Fruitport District Library on our Facebook page (search: Fruitport District Library), on our website, at www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org, or by calling us at (231) 366-6107.

Stop by, have some coffee and visit with us. You can help with a craft or just keep us company!



Make New Friends

and learn new **QUILTING SKILLS & OTHER CRAFTS.**

Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

- No experience necessary
- Members of other churches invited

For more information please call Lorene (231) 773-8369 or Laura (231) 670-3207 or stop by. First Congregational Church, 3212 Pontaluna Rd. across from Edgewood School.

Weeping
By Reverend R.A. Shackles - rerun from May 2015

In a famous story about a little girl telling her father about a companion’s accident, the father asked her what she did. She answered, “I didn’t know what else to do, so I cried for him.”

This is a lesson in compassion for Christians. Sometimes, in crises, what is critical is expertise we don’t have. The most popular suggestion as to what, then, you can do, is “I will pray for you.” And that, we heartily endorse. Our only hesitation is that, in an honest sense, that is almost too easy! That little girl understood that. Others had to heal the little boy’s wounds. She understood that the harder task is to try to heal the fear and hurt in his spirit and only one thing really helps in that — the tears of the faithful.

That is something the early Greek fathers of the church knew and practiced. They said you haven’t completely witnessed with healing love until you wept. It was not the weeping of a self-induced hysteria. These were tears of caring so deeply for your brethren that you yourself consciously wept for your brother or sister in their spiritual agony. That is what the little girl knew, the Greek fathers knew — it was understanding why Jesus wept for His friend Lazarus, why He wept for Jerusalem and for the women of Jerusalem on His way to the cross. To weep in faithful love for a friend is to experience the compassion of Christ in your own heart! Have you shed such tears? That is one of the privileges of being a Christian. •