

Library Millage Concerns

Letter to the Editor

I am a Fruitport resident that would like to encourage you to vote YES on the Fruitport District Library Proposal on November 6th.

The library is important to me. Many access our local library through the internet for books, music, movies and other programs, but I simply like to walk into the building and check out my books. I also appreciate that they have other walk in services such as internet use, copy services and more.

The ballot language is confusing, but I understand the .75 mills we now pay expires in December 2018 and by voting YES we can continue to pay the same .75 mills for the next ten years. It is not really new or additional, but more like a renewal.

Please support the Fruitport District Library "renewal" millage proposal on November 6th.

Thank you,
Nan Riekse

Letter to the Editor: The Last Minute

The last minute- is it a curse of mine that I'm always doing things at the last minute? Everyone is busy, we are all trying to find a little time for relaxation, exercise, family. This letter is important to me and I'm happy to spend the time even though it's midnight on the day of the deadline.

It's funny how I moved out of this area for somewhere bigger, where everyone didn't know everyone else's business, but decades later moving back to a small close-knit place sounded so perfect. Fruitport is a great place to live. I called it the "undiscovered gem of the lakeshore" when we moved here 12 years ago.

I was especially proud of our residents when we voted to take control of our own library and withdrew from the MADL. It seemed like a big job to get everything up and running but the people did it. Then, I was confused when recently those same independent voters didn't renew the millage needed to operate their library. I had to consider why and I believe a miscommunication is to blame.

As I mentioned everyone is busy and trying their best to spend their time wisely. The millage was listed on the ballot as "additional", and that made me examine it carefully even though I had read a flyer explaining it was legally required to be listed that way. The newly approved Fruitport District Library was asking for the same amount of money over the same length of time as we used to pay the MADL. I voted yes, and I will vote yes again on November 6th.

I could follow up with a lot of facts about how Michigan is producing kids who need local libraries- more than half of third grade students can't pass their State Assessment reading goals (it is true), but I'd rather just tell you my family's experiences at our library. Our oldest is in college now, her love of reading and her time at Fruitport High School served her well, she excelled on the English portion of her SATs. The baby was two when we moved here, she is 13 now and still loves going to the library. I have to take books away from her to convince her to do other schoolwork. My little surprise was born here in Fruitport and I have the best memories of her attending the children's programs and spending time playing at the park afterward.

I still feel like we have a great place here- the people and the setting. I want to be sure everyone understands what's at stake; the Fruitport District Library would be greatly missed by our family. The millage on the ballot November 6th is our last minute chance; please spend your valuable time voting yes.
Mrs. Jennifer Michaels

Letter to the Editor:

This library really rocks...

I love this little library and want to see this millage pass because it is a very important place for kids to come and read and be inspired to use their imaginations. To me, this library is a place where you can go a million places and never leave your comfortable chair. It inspires my creativity and offers children a safe place to hang out and do homework and get involved in activities that may be scheduled for that day. This is an awesome place and I don't want to see it go away...

Audrey Aamodt

Letter to the Editor

Please vote "yes" for the Fruitport District Library millage on November 6th. Since state funds and penal fines provide less than 10% of our library budget, this millage is essential for the operation of our library. The current .75 mill ends on December 31st, 2018. The requested .75 mill begins on January 1, 2019. A "yes" vote for the library will NOT raise your taxes. As a former Fruitport Library director, I urge you to support our library and help us move forward. Trust me, our children and our community as a whole will benefit. Love our library. Thanks!

Karla Brown

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Fruitport residents,

My name is Darlene Field and have been living in this area since 1968.

We have always had a library • Sort of the heart of the Village. It's where things happen!

Recently the community decided to be an independent library.

So therefore we as a community need to step up and fund our library – Books – programs, etc!

So at the present time we have a millage of .75 to fund our library. At the end of the year this millage goes away.

Therefore a millage is on the Nov. 6 ballot asking for .75 to fund the library. This is not new. The wording that's "official" sounds like it's an addition. It is not! It will be exactly the same.

So please vote on Nov. 6 – for our library!
Darlene Field

To the Editor:

Regarding the so-called "new" millage to continue financing our Fruitport District Library. There's really nothing new about this, although the Lansing bureaucrats who make the rules on ballot proposals would have us imagine there is. The requested millage will continue funding at exactly the same level as we've paid for years, with zero tax increase. To vote "No" is to vote to close Fruitport's library, which for two generations has served the needs of Fruitport families at its home in Pomona Park. So let's vote "Yes" to keep our library open and separate from intrusive, expensive county control.

Eric Wiggin, *resident of Fruitport Township, a former school librarian, a retired pastor/school teacher, and author of 16 books found in libraries across America.*



Fruitport District Library 231-366-6107

Hours: Mon & Thur 11 - 7
Tue, Wed & Fri 10-5
Sat: 10-2

Letter to the Editor:

I Fell in Love

When I first moved to Fruitport about 10 years ago, I immediately fell in love with the charm of the village.

I quickly discovered the little library by the park and felt welcomed by the staff and other patrons.

Two years ago there was a vote to separate from the Muskegon Area District Library and I voted against because I did not want to lose what had meant so much to me.

The vote to separate passed and after a few months of transition the Fruitport District Library begin to take shape. Over the past two years I have watched our community come together to create an astounding library.

Our library provides more than just a large collection of books or even the access to books from other libraries. It provides more than just a wonderful staff who are able to help us or a place for people to be able to use the computers. The library is more than just a place that provides learning opportunities with guest speakers and children's programs.

The Fruitport District Library is a place of connection, of people, of the community coming together where all are welcomed and encouraged to be a part.

I am very proud of what the Fruitport District Library has become and I'm excited about our future.

Please take the time on November 6 to Vote Yes to keep our library open.

If the doors close, not only do we lose our library, but we lose part of who we, as a community, are.

Julie Sanderson

Fruitport Library questions can be answered year around by attending the monthly library board meeting the **third Wednesday of each month at the Fruitport Township Hall at 5:30p.m.**, or by contacting one of these board members:

Fruitport District Library Board

Township Appointed:

- * Rose Dillon, President
- * Mary Weimer, Secretary
- * Joshua Datte, Treasurer
- * Marjorie Stonecypher

Village Appointed:

- * Lorri Essenberg
- * Donna Pope
- * Laura Oldt

Letter to the Editor:

Concerned citizen has library millage facts for voters:

- Millage request is **not an increase** in taxes
- Millage is a renewal of previous millage
- Keeps our library running
- Gives us continuing access to books, movies, children's programs
- Vote yes for no increase!

Denise Wiswell, PhD