

The Fruitport District Library would like to thank the people of Fruitport for their support of our November 2018 millage. We strive to be a community-centered library, and without you this would not be possible.

If you have questions, or ideas for how we can better serve you, please let us know. Visit the library, attend a board meeting, or speak with one of our staff members.

As part of our community efforts, we thank you for your donations to our recent food drive. We also invite you to participate in our 150th anniversary survey as we collect memories of Fruitport past and present. Visit the library or our website during Old Fashioned Days to learn more.

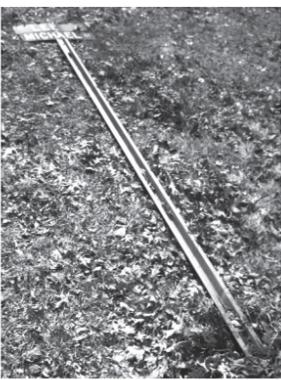
**Fruitport District Library Board**

<u>Township Appointed:</u>	<u>Village Appointed:</u>
Rose Dillon, President	Laura Oldt
Marjorie Stonecypher, VP	Donna Pope
Mary Weimer, Secretary	Ruth Woodward
Joshua Datte, Treasurer	

Monthly library board meetings are typically held the third Wednesday of each month at the Fruitport Township Hall at 5:30 p.m.  
47 Park Street / 231.366.6107 / fruitportdistrictlibrary.org / f

## Fruitport Township: A Job Well Done

by Lin Holtrop



The street sign on the corner of Michael and Lee fell down recently. It appeared the post had been sheared off at ground level, possibly by a vehicle hitting it. The call was made to Andrea Anderson, who said the township would fix it if it was

in Fruitport Township, which it was. Soon, someone from the township came and took the fallen sign away, leaving a wooden stake as a marker.



After the sign was fixed, Jerry Darga, a Fruitport Township Cemetery Maintenance worker, returned to install it. Two of our family members, my husband, Tim, and son, Cameron, were there and stopped to watch. After making sure the sign was properly aligned with the streets, Jerry packed down the dirt around the sign post, got out his level, and made sure the post was vertically straight. Tim asked him about his procedure, and he shared a valuable life lesson that we think would be great for kids today: Take a little extra time to do things right the first time, so you don't have to come back and fix the job later.

They talked with Jerry briefly, and were happy to hear that he enjoys his job working for Fruitport Township. We thank him for his help, and are very happy with the response of the township. It's good to know they respond well to the needs of the community.

## LIONS PROJECT FUNDS RAISED FROM THE PUBLIC ARE NOT USED FOR DUES, MEALS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE PUPOSES.

100% are distributed as charitable donations. All Lions, Lionesses, and Leos donate their time and efforts.

## Shop with a Hero 2018

submitted by Lion Heidi Tice  
photos from Jim Kauppila and Bernie Langlois



For several years now, Fruitport Police and Fire have participated in a "Shop with a Hero" program for children and families in the Fruitport Area that are having a difficult time affording Christmas.



The event is getting bigger and better each year, with additional organizations stepping up to help out. Detective Bryan Rypstra is the Fruitport Police Officer that spearheads the project, and is encouraged each year as he sees an increase in the volunteers that make the event happen. He works



with local churches and Fruitport area schools to get the list of children in need for the year. The program is set up so that officers and firemen accompany children to shop for gifts for their family members. Each child has a set amount on gift cards, and is proud to make purchases they know will be appreciated and needed.

Boy Scout Troop 1127, for the past three years, has helped wrap the gifts that the children purchase for their family. This allows the presents to go home with the children as a surprise, and then they can enjoy opening them on Christmas



Day. The generous monetary donations from the Fruitport Lions Club, Meijer and Walmart allow for every member of the child's family to have a present under their tree.

The event takes place on two separate days in December, one day at Meijer, and one day at Walmart. This year, the Boy Scouts were given help from the Fruitport Leo Club, Fruitport Lions Club, and firemen and policeman's families.

Wrapping went much quicker and may not have been as efficient, but still, good times were had by all. Santa and Mrs. Claus made a surprise visit at the Meijer location this year, which was a big hit with the children, volunteers, and shoppers alike.

Thank you to Fruitport's Police and Fire Departments for making Christmas a little merrier and brighter, and a big thanks as well for all their extra elves.

## Editorial – Who Should Pay for Roads?

Some would say the rich should pay for the roads. If not the rich, how about farmers, or teachers, or bricklayers, or anyone but themselves. The fact is, somebody has to pay, and I believe the people who use the roads should pay for their construction and maintenance. A practical way to do that is with a per gallon tax on fuel. The more you use the roads the more fuel you burn and the more you pay. Heavier vehicles are harder on the roads and burn more fuel and therefore would pay more. The lighter vehicles are easier on the roads and they use less fuel and would pay less. All vehicles using the roads should pay the same rate per gallon. Trucks should not pay less per gallon than cars. All electric and alternative energy cars could pay a higher registration fee so that their cost is comparable with the average car of that weight.

The per gallon taxes can be adjusted regularly to cover the expenses required to maintain the roads. All funds raised through the per gallon taxes should go for building and maintaining the roads. None should go toward mass transit, trains, trolleys, etc. Those forms of transportation should find their own funding. A special non-political committee could be set up to keep the Department of Transportation from making unauthorized or unwise decisions on how to spend these funds.

To me, one obvious ill-advised road expense is the large and expensive signs along roads that tell people how many minutes to some place ahead. Smart phones already give this information. But, even if they did not, the money for those signs could be better used for road repair, and is an example of why people are hesitant to agree to more tax money. It shows that our state management is missing common sense. And that is a problem.

The cost of registering and licensing vehicles should be determined according to the actual cost to the government of doing that. Registration and license plates should not finance road maintenance, except in the case of cars that don't use petroleum fuel. Many people struggle each year to pay the cost of registering and licensing their vehicle and some may use the roads very little. It's not fair to them to mark up the cost of registering and licensing their vehicle to pay for road maintenance that's not proportionate to their use.

If all funds from a per gallon fuel tax are used for roads, and not for something else, most reasonable people will not object to that method of funding our roads. The price of fuel fluctuates so irrationally that a per gallon road maintenance tax would be unrecognizable at the pump. We would all be paying for our roads as we used them.

– Ron Cooper