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Flagpole

by Larry Pellet



The village of Fruitport is about to receive a nice “touch up” on a historical and patriotic landmark, the flag and flagpole located near the entrance to the grounds of the mainstay Fruitport Library. The renovation comes on the heels of another milestone on the same grounds last June, the placement of a marble bench with the history of Fruitport engraved on its seat for all to learn, and sit.

This time, it’s Cloverville’s Tommy Schulz, founder and owner of Coastal Innovations Painting, to the rescue. “We noticed the old flag and pole being rusty and raggedy”, observed Schulz. “...we’re trying to be Americans”, he added. After communicating with library staff, Schulz agreed to do the job, and threw in a good ole’ home-town discount to boot.



Working with a lift supplied for free by neighbor Tim McFarland (who worked on the flag and pole on the intersection of I96 and US31), Tom had this to say. “Anything from Fruitport he is willing to help with”. The chipped library pole will need to be ground down smooth before primer and a special metal paint are applied.

From there, it should be finished in two days.

Schulz, a graduate of Orchard View who married a Fruitport girl, applauds the community he lives and works in, saying Fruitport is a better community than where he grew up, and that he is “honored and proud to raise a flag for her”.

Adam DeWitt, library director seemed happy at the project as well, stating, “It will help to get the library back up and looking good again”!

Villagers will see more renovations involving the 3rd Ave. corridor in the Spring of 2020, and by the end of that year much of the town will have a fresher, modern look. And that to equate with entrepreneur minds like Schulz.

Fruitport Repaving

by Larry J. Pellet

Villagers of Fruitport will soon have some welcomed improvements coming to their beloved town, as council members have voted unanimously to pass Resolution No. 2019-3 allowing for the resurfacing of 3rd Ave, as well as new traffic signals to be installed, replacing the two current ones on the same corridor.

According to the meeting minutes incurred during their June 24th gathering, and subsequent released emails from the council, the project from Pontaluna to Park St. is slated to begin in the Spring of 2020, as part of a master plan layed out in 2015. To help fund the \$605,300 project, federal grants have been obtained, and the levy has been raised from 5.5 mills to 7 mills. The additional tax raise will bring in an estimated \$55,000, which will cost an extra \$90 annually to each household.

Recent mill history indicates that the millage was reduced in 2006 due to national and local

economic hardships, from 7.5 to 5.5 Mills. Despite financial struggles and turnover in personnel, the village has maintained an A+ financial rating that continues to this day.

Village officials note the decrease in federal funding both in recent years and seen as trending, as a hindrance to the publics wants and needs of such projects as improved sidewalks, newer construction equipment, landscaping and beautification projects and improved lighting along 3rd Ave.

The approved development, engineered by Prein-Newhof, also proposed adding curbs and gutters, as well as sewer and sanitation infrastructure, but council members voted down the idea due to adverse cost that would be accrued to property owners.

Last resurfaced in 1998, 3rd Ave has stood the test of time. An estimated 15,800 vehicles travel down the road daily in 2-way traffic. The new surfacing project will take 3-6 months to complete and is expected to last for up to 15 years. Due to resurfacing alone without curbs and gutters, access points to business and residential properties will not be reconfigured. However, traffic patterns will be altered to allow for construction and some backups could occur.

Of special interest are the new traffic signals, which will be synchronized to better improve traffic flow and are fully funded by federal dollars. The new signals will consist of more efficient LED lighting and will be biker and pedestrian friendly, with safer crossing mechanisms.

As for the list of improvements to Pomona Park, procurement and development of playground property, village signage and funding for lakefront activities and facilities, as well as the aforementioned projects, the council states, “to assure success in accomplishing the above cited projects to meet the communities needs and desires, it will require more community interaction, development, planning and local funding...smaller village funded projects will help mitigate the reduction of federal and state funding anticipated in the future.”

As always, copies of board minutes can be located on their website at www.villageoffruitport.com.

Muskegon Home, Garden + DIY Show Opens Exhibitor Registration

The popular Muskegon Home, Garden + DIY show is returning to Fricano’s Event Center March 13 and 14, 2020. Last year, booth spaces sold quickly, so interested businesses are encouraged to apply early.

The 2020 Muskegon Home, Garden + DIY show will feature over 50 exhibitors including everything from windows, siding, gutters, and painting to home décor, furniture, landscaping and much more! A show favorite, the Do It Yourself seminars will be back again this year. The Do It Yourself seminars will highlight floral design, furniture refurbishing, backsplash tiling, gardening and more!

“Last year, we expanded the footprint of the Muskegon Home, Garden + DIY show,” says Home Show Event Director, Kristin Knop. “With the larger space, we are able to offer a larger variety of exhibitors to all of our attendees. We are looking to put on another great show this year!”

Those interested in applying to exhibit are encouraged to visit www.muskegonhgs.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For sponsorships or additional information about the show, contact Kristin Knop at 231.724.3182 or KKnop@muskegon.org.

Scholarships

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County announces that the Foundation Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2020/2021 school year beginning October 1.

Applications are submitted electronically through the Community Foundation website. The online application deadline is February 1, 2020.

DANA SCOTT

Scholarship Coordinator

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W: www.muskegonfoundation.org