

News from Fruitport Community Schools



Submitted by Bob Szymoniak, Superintendent

We have begun what has been the most challenging school year we have yet experienced. But in light of the challenges, the students and staff are doing great. They are all wearing masks and we have done our best to social distance per CDC and Muskegon County Health Department guidelines. That said, let’s hope for a rapid end to this pandemic so we can get back to normal.

The pandemic hasn’t just impacted how we run school, but it has also slowed progress on our high school construction project. That said, we are nearing 75% completion and the project is still on track to be done by the start of the 21/22 school year as planned. As soon as we are able, we will host another open house so you can see the construction progress thus far.

Fruitport Community Schools has two important upcoming elections you need to know about. First is our operational millage levy which will be on the November, 2020 ballot. This millage is only charged to non-homestead property at a level of 18 mills. These 18 mills have been collected since proposal A passed in 1994. The state requires us to collect this millage or we lose funding. Look for more information on this to be sent to all box-holders in the coming weeks.

The other election is for a zero mill increase bond issue in May of 2021. Aside from the high

school, our youngest building is the middle school which was completed in 1969 and is now 50 years old. As buildings age, infrastructure fails and building utilization becomes not only expensive, but challenging as well. To address this issue, the district has structured its bond debt so that we can ask voters for a zero mill increase bond issue every ten or so years to replace the next building within the facilities master plan. With this plan, Edgewood would be replaced around the year 2027.

In the meantime, the district has facility needs it can’t afford. For example, this pandemic has taught us the importance of increasing air exchange in our classrooms. This could be accomplished through the addition of air conditioning and modernization of our HVAC systems district-wide. It would take millions of dollars to do this work which is money the district does not have. Therefore, we worked with our financial advisor to develop a zero mill bond issue in May, 2021 that would give us the money to afford air conditioning in all of our buildings, along with several other important improvements. More on this will be sent out in the coming months.

While school looks vastly different than we are used to, we are doing our best to keep students and staff safe while continuing an educational program. We appreciate the continued support we receive from our community.

Candidate Bio: Todd Dunham



Hello Fruitport Residents,

My name is Todd Dunham and I am proud to announce my candidacy for the office of Fruitport Township Supervisor.

I am a lifelong resident of this township and a Fruitport graduate. I am a married father of four children, two graduates of and two currently attending Fruitport Schools. I previously served on the township board as a trustee.

I retired from the Muskegon County Sheriff’s Office with 30 plus years of service, as my father did before me. My oldest son, upon graduation, enlisted in the U.S. Army and is currently serving our country. My family is being raised to believe that you must give back in service to your community.

For thirteen years, I have had the honor of being on the Executive and Budget Committee for Special Olympics Michigan. I am the Director for Muskegon Polar Plunge, Holland Polar Plunge and all events for Special Olympics Michigan in Muskegon and Holland. Along with dedicated volunteers, Muskegon County has raised over \$100,000 annually.

Committed to Community, Driven by Desire, Dedicated to Continuing to Serve, I look forward with anticipation to having the privilege and honor of serving as your next Township Supervisor.

Andrea Anderson, CMMC

Fruitport Charter Township Clerk, Andrea Anderson, is a Fruitport resident who has carefully and mindfully served the community over the last four years. When sworn into office in 2016, Andrea accepted the responsibility of the many rolls of Township Clerk including records keeping, serving on the board, elections administrator, notary public, and cemetery management, among other duties.

Prior to being elected as Clerk, Andrea earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration. She came to Fruitport with a background rich in customer service and business management. While serving Fruitport as Clerk, Andrea completed the education to earn her Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk (CMMC) credentials. She has also found time to improve her skills and advance her profession by completing a variety of election and other local government related trainings. During the last four years, Andrea has served as Secretary, Vice President, and most recently President of the Muskegon County Clerk’s Association.

Andrea has been married to her husband Chris for 13 years and has two children who attend Beach Elementary. In addition to serving her community as Clerk, Andrea enjoys volunteering at local events, attending school functions, participating in church activities, hiking with family and friends, and cheering for her kids at their sporting events.





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