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The Township is trying to be proactive with this approach to support future development. For example, Norton Shores has had a DDA in place for decades and has provided support for development on the west side of Harvey St. that ultimately increases the tax base for the municipality. The Fruitport Board understands that a DDA district, strategically located will not only help ensure a solid tax base but will also attract businesses and service that can enhance and provides a reason to live, work @ play in the Township. The definition of the DDA district was well thought out to be in a place that makes great sense with regard to exiting development on the Harvey St. corridor. Existing 'vacant' properties that have little or no tax base and is easily accessible from Fruitport, "" Norton Shores, Muskegon, Spring Lake and Grand Have residences.

**FAN responds:**

Development has been steady and measured in that area for years and the township has benefitted from the tax revenue. With this DDA, the new tax revenues will be given to the developers while the township will have to use tax revenue from other property to pay for the new expenses created by the developers.

Norton Shores has been losing tax revenue to their developers for years and that is part of the reason their unfunded liabilities was under 50% - Fruitport is better off financially than Norton Shores. Norton Shores is not an example to follow.

Fruitport's DDA was not well thought-out and was pushed mostly by people who will benefit to the tune of millions of dollars, or people who are close to them.

**Township responds to FAN article:**

**Statement:** "Steve Biesiada, the Director of DPW said, "It's like giving the developer a discount sale.

**Answer:** Mr. Biesiada denies this statement.

**FAN responds:**

I don't want to argue with Mr. Biesiada over his statement.

**Township responds to FAN article:**

**Statement:** "It's also not fair to the others that have built in that area that did not get a discount on water, sewer, etc.'.

**Answer:** This statement is false. When the Mall was built, the Township issued bonds and reimbursed the developer for the cost of water and sewer and relied on businesses to connect and pay connection fees to pay the bonds. When the Developer connects, he will still pay connection fees, which has been overlooked by many. There have been other cases where a developer has built public infrastructure and the Township has paid, out of its own funds, the cost to upsize and make the utilities available for the next developments (Motion Dynamics just to name one).

**FAN responds:**

The township-issued bonds were paid by the mall with their hook-up fees. There was no money given to the mall developers as a gift as will happen with the DDA.

If the developer pays the established connection fees it will not repay the township for the millions of dollars given to him to put in his infrastructure.

The township's responsibility is to pay for extending and upsizing utilities which it gets paid for by hook-up fees.

**Township responds to FAN article:**

The remaining comments within the letter are not accurately framed. If one were to take the time to review the legal documents associated with the DDA proposal, it is clear that the intent of this DDA and increment capture (increment, not the whole) on NEW DEVELOPMENT ONLY will be used to assist development in the areas outside of the Developer's project. Further, there is a time limit and capture limit on how long the capture will last. Following completion of the capture, the Township will collect all the taxes, which will be much higher than what is collected now, or what would have been collected had the project or other development not taken place.

**FAN responds:**

It will take forever to recoup the millions of tax dollars given to the developers if ever. That area has been developing steadily and the township has been getting all the new tax revenue. With business development you get more tax money without as much new expenses as when you put in apartments which is what this DDA is starting with.

**Township responds to FAN article:**

help ensure a solid tax base but will also attract

Todd Dunham  
Fruitport Township Supervisor

**FAN responds:**

I am surprised that Todd, a retired Deputy Sheriff, would be part of

1. attaching his name to the above township response;
2. establishing the township DDA (Downtown Development Authority) contrary to the purpose as stated in the Downtowns Development Authority Act;
3. he would be part of a DDA that would add responsibility and expense to our police department and also take tax money away from their funding;
4. he would vote for a DDA board whereby most of their members will financially benefit from the millions of dollars the DDA will siphon from the township tax revenue;
5. he would participate in the establishment of a DDA board that has a member who a few years ago was arrested for misappropriating money for personal use.

Fruitport Township DDA board members are:  
Larry Hall, Chairman  
Tim Riley, Vice-chairman  
Heidi Tice, secretary / treasury  
Todd Dunham  
Jason Bronold  
Gary Smith  
Randy Klingel  
Mark Campbell  
Larry Romanilli  
Frank Matice

All Fruitport Township board members voted for the DDA with the listed members except for Greg Hulka.

**COMMUNITY ON THE LAKESHORE**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- For every **\$100** you spend at locally owned businesses, **\$68** will stay in the community.
- For every **\$100** spent at a national chain, only **\$43** stays in the community.

  
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Warm regards,  
  
**Kyle Murnen, '09**  
DIRECTOR OF ONLINE LEARNING, HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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**Dear Lifesaver,**

*condensed from a letter by Barbara Listing*

On June 5th, Richard Scott William Hurtchinson was caught on camera totally demolishing his first birthday cake. This adorable little boy and his loving family had an awful lot to celebrate!

In just one year, Richard has established himself as quite the overachiever.

For one thing, even before his first birthday, he was recognized by **Guinness World Records**. But that's not even Richard's greatest achievement. His greatest accomplishment is survival!

Richard was born 131 days premature. **He only weighed 11.9 ounces!** A loaf of bread outweighed him. Guinness World Records named Richard as the "*World's Most Premature Baby to Survive.*"

The neonatology team at Children's Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis sat Richard's parents down immediately after his early arrival. They gave Richard "*...a 0% chance of survival...*"

That's nada, zip, zero!

Due to COVID, Richard's parents were unable to stay overnight with him at the hospital, forcing them to travel daily from their home in western Wisconsin.

Richard's dad said this, "*We made sure we were there to give him support. I think that helped him get through this because he knew **he could count on us.***"

After more than six months in the hospital, Richard went home! In his wake: grateful parents, an adoring fan club at Children's Hospital in Minneapolis and a Guinness World Record!

The implications of a story like this are absolutely profound:

- The technology now exists to help premature babies survive earlier and earlier.
- A case like this can change the entire culture in a huge hospital—and the community at large. Richard's fan club were all in tears bidding him farewell.

• Richard's story is yet another powerful testament to the spirit of survival residing in all of us.

• Life is a miracle! It is precious, in all its stages, and worth protecting!

But you and I must face reality. There are little Richards being aborted every single day...right in our own backyard. We have Michigan hospitals who will abort/kill a child like this on the third floor. Yet, at the same time, up on the fifth floor, they will go to heroic efforts to save a child at the same age of gestation.

Little Richard's story has all the "ingredients" you and I will need for success. Courage, determination, and a fighting spirit to overcome all odds. All the ingredients are necessary, on a daily basis, if we're ever to restore full legal protection to the little Richards of this world.

I was deeply moved by what Richard's dad had to say when interviewed by Guinness World Records, "*...he knew he could count on us.*"

Can I count on you? Because without you we have a 0% chance of ultimate victory!

With deepest appreciation,  
Barbara Listing, President  
Right to Life of Michigan

P.S. Speaking of percentages, I make this promise to you: we will maximize every penny of your contribution. We work extremely hard to minimize expenses and maximize results. Please visit our website **RTL.org** for details on the many life-saving projects and programs currently under way. Thank you and God bless you for giving us a percentage of your charitable giving. We deeply appreciate your trust and your confidence in our life-saving work.

**Right to Life of Michigan**  
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Editorial P.S.

The preceding story shows that abortion is killing a baby! Back when Roe vs. Wade was determined, science had not determined what exactly abortion was, at least to the judges' understanding. Since then science has definitely determined that the baby is not just a blob and life begins at conception as the Bible has said all along!

Editorial P.P.S.

While in the hospital, people were operating at a high level of intelligence and character while outside of the hospital, the young people were acting at the lowest level of intelligence, stupidity and character and may have destroyed the hospital if they could. What a contrast!