

## ATHENA on the Lakeshore Recognizes Women Leaders



The Lakeshore Chambers are proud to announce your ATHENA on the Lakeshore Award Recipients:

**2022 ATHENA Award: Stacey Ruwe, Five Star Lakeshore | Homeless Prevention Partners**

Stacey is a local Real Estate Broker. She is the president of the Women's Council of Realtors® Lakeshore, chair of the Government Affairs Committee for the West Michigan Lakeshore Association of Realtors® (WMLAR), current instructor for New Agent Orientation for WMLAR, and a state trustee for Michigan Realtors® RPAC. She is also the president of Homeless Prevention Partners/Soup For All and Bras for a Cause Lakeshore - both non-profit organizations. She is the 2021 Good Neighbor Award recipient from Michigan Realtors® and 2020 Realtor® of the Year for WMLAR.

**2022 ATHENA Young Professional Award: Rachel Gorman, Pioneer Resources | City of Muskegon**

Rachel is the Director of Development at Pioneer Resources and a Commissioner At-Large in the City of Muskegon. With a passion for connecting people and organizations, she is engaged with community leaders to grow opportunities and inclusion for populations with disabilities while promoting the Muskegon Lakeshore as a destination to live and work. She is a proud Alumna of the Executive MBA Program at the Broad College of Business at Michigan State University and Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at Grand Valley State University.

This award program is a collaboration of The Chamber of Commerce Grand Haven, Spring Lake, Ferrysburg, and your Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. Please join us in congratulating Stacey, Rachel and all of the 2022 finalists!

## Fruitport District Library Welcomes Miss Lesa!

*submitted by Matt Lubbers-Moore, Director, Fruitport District Library*

The Fruitport District Library welcomes Miss Lesa, a longtime resident of Fruitport, as its new Youth Focused Library Assistant! She is a proud graduate of the Fruitport Community Schools and is super excited to be a part of the Fruitport District Library. Working with children has always been her passion. She comes to us with 13 years' experience working in schools.

She has two teenage boys (one of whom is a 2022 Fruitport graduate and one who is a junior attending Fruitport High School), as well as the many friends who visit that are like her own.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her children, playing with her yellow lab, Daisy, working in the yard, and reading inspirational books.

We have been having a lot of fun at our 11am Friday Story Times! Lesa reads fun stories, sings with the kids, and works on a craft with them! Did you know that Library Story Times can help children get experience listening to another adult, experience a public performance in which they learn how to act and behave in public spaces, learn to love reading, and how to tell a story, all of which will help prepare them for school? And of course it is SUPER FUN!!

The Fruitport District Library is also participating in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Numerous studies estimate that as many as one in five children have difficulties learning to read. Reading has been associated as an early indicator of academic success. Public formal education does not typically start until ages 5-6. Before then, parents and caregivers are the first education providers during the 0-5 early critical years. The 1,000 Books before Kindergarten challenge is a simple (read a book, any book to your child, with the goal of reading 1,000 before

kindergarten) and very manageable endeavor. Ask the library for more information and to sign up.

For parents on the go, stop and grab a weekly Make-n-Take Craft for your 3-to-9-year-olds! Always new and always fun!

In November the library will focus on writing our own stories by providing writing prompts for your children to write a short story! Parents could even submit the story to [writemichigan.org/short-story-contest/](http://writemichigan.org/short-story-contest/) by November 30th to be entered for a cash prize! Ask the library for details.

Stay up to date with fun crafts, programs, and events throughout the year with our community calendar on our website at [FruitportDistrictLibrary.org](http://FruitportDistrictLibrary.org).

## Lion Lifetime Memberships

*by Heidi Tice*



Fruitport Lions Club awarded life time membership to two of their long-standing members:

Lion Steve Wilson (Coach)

Lion Dan Gusik (Goose)

Lion Dan is currently in a nursing home in Grand Haven. He has been a member of the Fruitport Lions club for 50 years. Goose was a band director, on the board of Directors for the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, has received Lion of the Year award and the driving force for Fruitport Lions Jazz Festival. Lion Dan loved music and teaching kids about music, the Jazz Festival just made sense to him. He brought together school jazz bands from Pentwater to Spring Lake for an outdoor all-day event at the Fruitport Old Fashioned Days. The event has been active for 40 years and schools still look forward to coming thanks to Lion Dan's enthusiasm. Dan was unable to attend the Lion Meeting for his award so Lion Bruce Gaultney will take it to him.

Lion Steve was in attendance with his wife Holly Wilson on Wednesday August 23, 2022 to receive his life time member award. He has been a member of the Fruitport Lions club for 27 years. Coach was both a teacher and football coach for Muskegon High School for 11 years and Fruitport High School for 23 years. He retired in 2011 and is working part time with Source One Signs. Coach was able to merge youth football with Lion events and was extremely proud of the wheel chair ramps he and his football team volunteered and built for residents with mobility issues. After retirement, with the help of his son-in-law Lion Bruce Gaultney Jr., Lion Steve worked with the newly chartered Fruitport Leos on 2 ramp projects as well.

This life time membership is the highest honor a Lions Club can give out to a member, congratulations to Lion Steve and Lion Dan.

## Spoonville Trail Project Wins 'Outstanding Civil Engineering' Award

Michigan branch of American Society of Civil Engineers recognizes Ottawa County, project partners for engineering, public good achievements

The awards keep coming for the recently completed Spoonville Trail, a scenic recreational pathway located near Nunica in Crockery Township. Already recognized twice for excellence in management and administration with awards from the regional and statewide branches of the American Public Works Association (APWA), the County and its Spoonville project partners have been honored again with an Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. Presented by the Michigan branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), this award recognizes projects that contribute to the progress of civil engineering and the well-being of communities.



**Representatives from Ottawa County, Prein & Newhof, and Anlaan Corp.** accept the Michigan branch of American Society of Civil Engineer's Outstanding Civil Achievement Award during the Michigan Infrastructure Conference in Kalamazoo on May 12, 2022. [Image courtesy Prein & Newhof]

"Spoonville Trail's unique design certainly embodies both those aspects," said Ottawa County Department of Strategic Impact Director Paul Sachs, whose department spearheaded the Spoonville Trail Project on behalf of the Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Department. "Being honored three times for Spoonville speaks to the impact of this unique and important pathway."

Named after the 19th-century village that once existed on the north bank of the Grand River in Crockery Township, this 4.2-mile non-motorized pathway safely guides cyclists and walkers to the Sgt. Henry E. Plant Memorial Grand River Bridge Non-Motorized Pathway, then continues along 120th Avenue, winds through forested hills and ravines adjacent to the Terre Verde Golf Course, and ends in Nunica. Scenic beauty aside, Spoonville Trail is also an important north-south connector in the County's growing non-motorized network of pathways because it provides cyclists, runners, and walkers access to two trail systems: the North Bank Trail in Spring Lake and the still-developing Idema Explorers Trail, which will run from Grand Haven to Grand Rapids.

## Sherman D. Hecksel



Sherman Dale Hecksel, age 84, of Coopersville, passed away at his home Sunday, June 12, 2022. He was born in Muskegon, MI., to the late Sherman Edward and Kathleen (Mellow) Hecksel. In addition to his parents Sherm was preceded in death

by his son Sherman John Hecksel on Sunday, Feb. 1, 1998, brother and sister-in-law David and Joyce Hecksel, brother-in-law Joe Young, sister-in-law Elaine Hecksel and great niece Isabel Joy Umlor. He graduated from Coopersville High School, Class of 1956 and attended Michigan State University for two years. Sherm founded S. Hecksel Farm Drainage which he started in 1961. He loved his job in the farm drainage business and working with farmers. Sherm was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Coopersville, he served on the Board of Michigan Land Improvement Contractors, the Coopersville Area Foundation Board, and various other boards and councils. He also enjoyed wintering in Estero Florida after his retirement. Sherm is survived by his wife of 50 yrs., Ruth (Hoffman) Hecksel; brothers, Gary Hecksel and Philip Hecksel; sister, Kathleen Young; brothers-in-law, John (Judy) Hoffman and Richard (Sue) Hoffman; sisters-in-law, Betty (Nate) Brock and Kay (Kieth) Edick; many nieces and nephews. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at St. Michael's Catholic Church with Fr. Ayub Frances Nasar celebrant. Burial was in the Coopersville-Polkton Twp. Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the S.J. Hecksel Memorial Scholarship Fund awarded to Coopersville High School Seniors for College Education, please make checks payable to the Coopersville Area Community Foundation, 182 East St. Rm 112, Coopersville MI 49404. Online condolences may be left on his tribute wall at [www.throopf.com](http://www.throopf.com). ~ Throop Funeral Home, Coopersville, MI, (616) 837-8161.

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