

Inaugural Wings Over Muskegon a Success!

Submitted by Brenda Kerfoot, Yankee Air Museum  
Photos by Trevor Griffis with Airshow360  
Organizers delighted with the show's results



Muskegon, Mich. – After a 17-year hiatus, Muskegon County Airport hosted an air show on July 8 and 9. The Wings Over Muskegon Air Show, produced by the Yankee Air Museum with the support of Muskegon County, Muskegon County Airport, and F3 Airport, exceeded expectations of organizers with an estimated 25,000 spectators over the weekend. Saturday, July 8th, was sold-out prior to the show day, and Sunday's crowd was near capacity. Event Director, Ashley Myers, said, "We are ecstatic with the show results. The community enthusiastically welcomed the return of an air show, and we were fortunate to have tremendous support from performers, sponsors and volunteers."

A dynamic lineup of performers, many of whom were performing for the first time in Muskegon, added to the enjoyment of the spectator's experience. The Muskegon audience saw Captain Lindsay (callsign MAD) M. Johnson fly the U.S Air Force A-10C Thunderbolt II along with 11-time U.S. aerobatic champion, Rob Holland. Ed Hamill and his Folds of Honor bi-plane made a patriotic splash along with World War II aircraft of the Yankee Air Museum. Randy Ball lit up the sky with his afterburners on his MiG-17F. Local formation team, the Hooligans Flight Team and RT Dickinson, who flew the WW II P-51 Mustang Swamp Fox, were crowd favorites. Air show fans were thrilled to see the Smoke-N-Thunder Jet Car roar down the runway as it raced with some of the aerial performers.

Many have asked if the air show will continue every year. Event organizers will take time to

evaluate this year's show along with the input from all the entities that supported the event before making a decision. "We sense the excitement from this year's audience, and have received messages of appreciation for bringing back an air show to Muskegon," remarked Myers, "we will keep all of this in mind in our decision-making process."

About Yankee Air Museum: Established in 1981 the Yankee Air Museum is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. The Yankee Air Museum dedicates itself to educating individuals through the history of American aeronautics, aerospace industry and its associated technologies while inspiring generations through personal experiences to instill pride in our national accomplishments. Yankee Air Museum is located at 47884 D Street, Belleville, Michigan on the grounds of historic Willow Run Airport. Visit [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org) to discover more or call 734-483-4030.



A-10C  
Thunderbolt  
piloted by  
Captain  
Johnson

Rob Holland  
in his MXS  
aircraft



Swamp Fox  
piloted by RT  
Dickinson

Architects Volunteer Time to Present Library Board with Ideas for Renovating Library

by Kimmie and Kate Holtrop

On October 4, 2023, Matt Slagle and Kyle Osterhart, local architects, volunteered some preliminary ideas for renovation of the Fruitport District Library at the library board meeting at Township Hall. Matt and Kyle are both architects that graduated from Fruitport High School, and work at different local companies. Matt was one of the architects responsible for creating the new High School we enjoy today. The current library renovation proposals were not requested by the board, but Matt and Kyle felt that volunteering their time and effort to propose these ideas for this project was important. They also feel that Pomona Park is a good place for the library, and that they would "like to see the library stand out." Other community members attended the board meeting to share questions and comments.

Library renovation has been discussed several times over the past few years, primarily because the current building is running out of usable space, and dealing with flooding problems in the basement. Necessities include more adequate parking, handicap accessibility, and a vehicle access book drop. Other renovations community members are interested in seeing include a larger community room for events and gatherings, a larger Book Nook, and a History Room where residents can look up their own history as well as that of the township. Some would like to see a meeting room for the Village Council, among other ideas.

Matt and Kyle have attempted to answer some of these needs with their designs. They developed diagrams of their ideas and presented them to the board at the meeting.

The first idea presented was Concept A. This idea would either use or tear down the original building once a new expansion has been built. A couple of possibilities for location for this concept include building on the current library site or constructing an entirely new building on a site near Fruitport Chiropractic Center on Farr Road. The Farr Road possibility is a three-acre parcel, costing \$100,000 for site purchases. Phase 1 of this project involves building the new library, with an estimated cost of \$1.6 million. Phase 2, which is tearing down or renovating the old library, is approximated at 1.5 million. The total cost for

this venture would be about \$3.4 million, adding 10% extra cost for contingencies. The total square footage of this concept would be 3,132 square feet for Phase 1. Total final square footage after Phase 2 is estimated at 7,400 square feet.

The second idea was Concept B. This concept would involve renovating and expanding the current library. The building would be two stories at the front, cut into the hill, and one story at the back, reversing the current front and back. It would allow for shelving on the lower floor, which would include the current basement area, and for other shelving or programs on the upper floor which would include the current main floor of the library. The total square footage for the lower floor would be 5,250 square feet, and for the upper floor would be 2,800, totaling 8,050 square feet. The funds necessary for this project have been estimated at \$1.1 million for additional shelving space, with \$80,000 for new furniture. About \$80-\$150,000 would go toward an elevator between the two floors. There is also the need for a drainage pond, which Matt said would be placed beneath the new parking lot. Matt and Kyle also generated some possible ideas for additional, non-essential programs and facilities. They estimated \$227,500 for a larger conference room, and \$180,000 for a community room renovation. Rose Dillon, President of the Board, mentioned the meeting room for the Village Council, which is currently meeting in the local DPW garage. Creating this space would cost about \$35,000. There is also an idea for a village plaza, which would be constructed outside the library around the Time Capsule. Matt estimated that the cost for the plaza would be near \$100,000. Additionally, \$50,000 would go toward a larger-capacity parking lot, and a sum of \$200,000 for window replacement and winterizing. The board has a \$50,000 donation for each of a larger Book Nook and History Room. The total estimated cost for these non-essential renovation ideas would be \$1.8 million, making the total rebuilding process cost up to \$2.9 million, while also adding 10% extra cost for contingencies.

These ideas are not final, and the board is open to feedback, comments, and other ideas. For more information on library programs, board minutes, and more, please visit [www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org](http://www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org) or go to: [www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org/about-us/library-board](http://www.fruitportdistrictlibrary.org/about-us/library-board).

Please visit: [updates.fruitportareanews.com/](http://updates.fruitportareanews.com/) for more information and a PDF of Matt and Kyle's presentation.

SHORELINE  
MEMORIAL SERVICES

CREMATIONS & FUNERALS

• Personal • Compassionate • Affordable

~ Cremation Packages  
from \$1,595

~ Traditional Funeral Packages  
from \$5,700

David Cummings, Mgr. – Doug Peterson

231-722-5050

WWW.SHORELINEMEMORIAL.COM



Van Andel Propane

BERT (B.J.) VAN ANDEL JR. 1-231-853-2227  
P.O. Box 201 • 3805 S Ravenna 1-800-227-6595  
Ravenna, MI 49451 US-1-800-243-1965

EDGEWOOD LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, ELCA

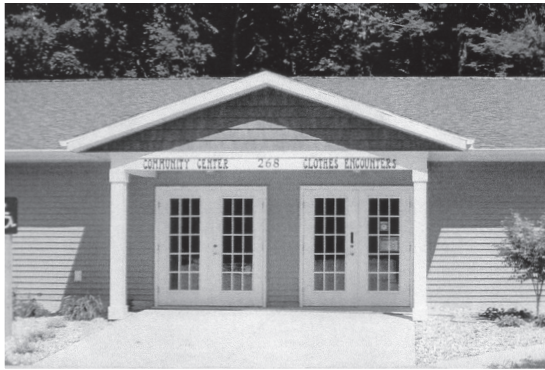
2525 E. Pontaluna Rd. • Fruitport, MI

10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Pastor Ellen Schoepf  
Phone • (231) 865-3300

Communion  
every Sunday  
Barrier Free



Clothes Encounters

"of the used kind" established 1988

• Non-profit organization

• We accept clothes, small  
appliances & toys

• Community Center  
available for rent

231-865-3419  
or 231-286-1179

Phone  
366-6092

HOURS

Tues. 3:30pm-6pm  
Thurs Noon-3pm  
Sat: 10am-1pm

268 N. 3rd Ave. Fruitport Village  
Next to Word of Hope Church



Fruitport Eagles 3666

AERIE – EAGLE RIDERS – AUXILIARY  
LOCATED IN HISTORIC CLOVERVILLE  
3354 S DANGL RD, MUSKEGON, MI 49444  
PHONE 231-777-3044  
EMAIL - [frtprtaerie3666@frontier.com](mailto:frtprtaerie3666@frontier.com)

- FRIDAY FISH FRIES - SEPT THRU APRIL
- OTHER FOOD AND MEALS DAILY
- PULL TABS – KENO – ATM
- LIVE BANDS ON WEEKENDS
- CHARITY FUND RAISING EVENTS

OUR MOTTO: "PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE"