

## Delegate Convention for Nominating Upcoming Candidates

by Julie Sanderson

Most voters understand that there is a primary election in August where the Republican and Democrat candidates are chosen to be their respective parties' nominee for the November election. Most voters do not understand that for several statewide positions, no primary exists and the voters' voices are through their delegates.

The Muskegon portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District is allowed to choose 20 voting delegates and 20 alternates to the Republican state convention which was held on March 28 in Novi. On March 27, Stan and Diana Piotrowski, Kathy and Six, Max Riekse, Donna Esch, Mariann Cooper, and me, Julie Sanderson, made our way to Novi. Friday evening, candidates held parties for the 3000+ delegates, alternates, and guests. Donna Esch and I attended parties hosted by gubernatorial candidate Perry Johnson, SOS candidate Anthony Forlini, and AG candidate Doug Lloyd. The other candidates for SOS Monica Yatooma and Amanda and for AG Kevin Kijewski also held well attended events.

Saturday morning was registration, mingling with other attendees and all gubernatorial candidates, and we attended a great breakfast hosted by US Senatorial Candidate Mike Rogers. The convention started at 10am and the day was filled with speakers and music with 2,015 delegates voting for our nominees.

The Fruitport delegates unanimously voted for Anthony Forlini for SOS and Doug Lloyd for AG. Overall, the day went very smoothly, and Doug Lloyd earned 63.2% of the vote and Anthony Forlini won on a 3-way ballot with 55.19%. The other positions nominated were two Michigan Supreme Court Justices, Judge Michael Warren and Judge Casandra Morse-Bills, Bree Moeggenberg and Terence Collins for State Board of Education, Michael Scholstak and Lena Epstein for U of M Board of Regents, Roger Victory and Julie Maday for MSU Board

of Trustees, and Christa Murphy and Andy Anuzis for WSU Board of Governors. These 12 nominees will be on the November ballot.

Anthony Forlini visited Norton Shores on March 12 to speak with voters. He shared his personal path to public service first as a township supervisor, then a state representative, and currently as the Macomb County Clerk. In his career, Forlini has cut budgets while improving customer service, worked with both Republicans and Democrats to meet important goals, and furthered election security and transparency. His plans for Michigan are exciting and can be found at [forliniforum.com](http://forliniforum.com).

Doug Lloyd visited Muskegon on January 12 to speak with voters. Lloyd has 30+ years of service as a prosecutor with the last 13 years as the elected top prosecutor for Eaton County. Lloyd has a proven history of fighting crime fairly, protecting victims, and supporting law enforcement properly. He has won numerous awards and endorsements for his work in the courtroom, managing his office, and advocating for victim rights. Find more information at [douglooyd.com](http://douglooyd.com)

To learn more about candidates, issues, or getting involved visit [MuskegonGOP.com](http://MuskegonGOP.com) or ask your local delegates. Remember to vote for your delegates on the Republican ballot in August.



## MUSIC ON THE GRAND

by Veronica Dare and Nancy Timmer

We are so excited for the 2026 Music On The Grand summer events series! This year celebrates the 56th year of music on Grand Haven's waterfront. Music On The Grand is proud to be a part of maintaining this long standing family friendly tradition. In addition to live music, we include an area for dancing which is why sometimes we are also referred to as Dancing On The Grand!

Grand Haven is home to the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium where we host a variety of music all summer long on **Wednesday** evenings. We welcome music lovers, dancers, and people watchers. Whatever your interest, the venue is both stroller and wheelchair accessible and provides a beautiful backdrop with all sorts of boats traveling up and down the Grand River. Sometimes we even get to see a large carrier ship pass!

Our summer event series begins the first Wednesday in June and ends the last Wednesday in August. Performances in June and July are from 7:00-9:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:30 p.m. in August to adjust for the earlier setting sun.

This year, our lineup is as follows:

Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

June 3 Spring Lake High School Jazz Band

June 10 Katy Couch and the Lazy Boys

June 17 Carl Webb Band

June 24 Rock Shop Band

July 1 Whiskey Bound

July 8 Silverado

July 15 Livin' The Dream

July 22 Backwoods Express

July 29 We take a break for Coast Guard events

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

August 5 Thornapple River Band

August 12 Lakeshore Big Band

August 19 Two Dudes In Flip Flops

August 26 The Johnny Park Band

## New Business Profile: Great Lakes Lashes

by Kim Holtrop

Great Lakes Lashes is a new Fruitport eyelash studio, owned by Jacquelyn Fausset. Jacquelyn has been in the eyelash business since 2021, and because of a lack of jobs available for a lash artist and a lack of a local artist, Jacquelyn decided to build her own business right here in Fruitport. As a single mom who wanted more control over her schedule, Jacquelyn decided that starting her own business in a field she loved was her best option. "I started my business with nothing but lash supplies and a dream." But after pitching her plan to a supportive investor, she built up her studio enough to move to Fruitport. "It has been great here. I love it."

Jacquelyn specializes in eyelash extensions, her best-selling service, and is "really big on lash health, quality, and good application," especially emphasizing a proper and healthy application. She does custom designs to fit each wearer's features with a long-lasting, natural look. She loves the artistic value of eyelash application, and likes doing colored lashes. She makes sure to take good care of her customers, and loves building relationships with the people she works with. One of her favorite parts of her work is making people look and feel beautiful and confident.

"I'm not just making things look pretty—but doing them correctly, cleanly, and comfortably. We value integrity in an industry where shortcuts are common," Jacquelyn said, adding, "I really care about doing things the right way even if nobody would notice." She noted that she gets "tons and tons of transfer fills where the lashes have been applied in a way that is so uncomfortable for the client and leaves them with damaged lashes that I have to nurse back to health." She also shares the warning signs of a bad lash application on her Facebook page.

Along with her primary lash service, she also works with eyebrows and waxing.

Jacquelyn loves teaching others how to do lashes, too. She'll be taking on new apprentices this fall. She started her apprenticeship program to "create pathways for people who are facing barriers like paying for school." Her students, she says, "get a better education, in my opinion, because they're learning in real world experience."

Jacquelyn can be reached through her website, [www.greatlakeslashes.square.site](http://www.greatlakeslashes.square.site), or on Facebook (Great Lakes Lashes) and Instagram (@greatlakeslashes).

## School Millage recap

By Mariann Cooper

On May 4, I attended the 2026 Awards Ceremony for Fruitport High School where Marsha Musil and I presented two \$1000 scholarship awards to Ryder Merkins and Shea Harrison, from the Fruitport Lions/Lioness Club. The Fruitport Lions also presented five \$2000 scholarships that night. It was very impressive to both myself and Marsha.

There were 120 award recipients, but some of them were called to the podium so many times, they knew the 'path' by heart! It's good to see the students take their education seriously.

After the program ended we spoke with others who were there. One in particular, was on the favorable side of the recent school millage issue. I explained to her that one of the reasons I was against another millage was because there were still three millages extending until 2036 that weren't paid off yet.

Another reason I opposed the millage was because of the hardship it was to our senior citizens. Seniors should not have to trade their lifetime homes in for a new school!

They plan to tear down the old school and build a brand new one.

I don't believe property tax is even lawful and the funds should come another way. Her response was that it has to come from that until they come up with another way! Many influential young people today seem focused on the more expensive things than what our seniors experienced in their lifetime. A huge new house was unheard of in their day. Seniors today are experiencing higher grocery cost, taxes, utilities, and other necessities. Everybody is paying more. However, the seniors who are surviving on their monthly checks also know that the cost of living has exceeded the increase

allotted to seniors. This is where many seniors can lose the home they paid for with their years of employment, and now they can't work to make up the difference. If sickness or old age complicates their lives, there's another expense which may put them on Medicaid, something they never intended to happen.

There are programs the seniors can apply for such as the Hardship Exemption for property taxes if your income and assets dip so low that you can't pay them, but, again, it's humbling to have to apply for this help.

A person on one of the township boards paid the taxes twice for a senior lady in Fruitport. I thanked him personally and told him that a senior should never lose their mortgage-free home due to back taxes. He agreed with me, and so did our Muskegon County Treasurer. They don't believe it should be allowed. Our Constitution doesn't allow it, but somewhere through the years it was ignored. Sooner or later these malfunctions need to be adjusted, never too soon in my opinion. Gov. DeSantis wants to eliminate property taxes in Florida!

### HISTORY:

"Prior to the early 20th century, most federal revenue came from tariffs rather than taxes, although Congress had often imposed excise taxes on various goods."

"The Sixteenth Amendment enables expansive federal government spending and facilitates central banking policies, with some, including former Congressman Ron Paul, calling for its repeal on these and related grounds."

Property taxes are fundamentally un-American. After all, do you ever really own your property if the government can take it away from you for not paying taxes annually to retain it?