

Fruitland Township

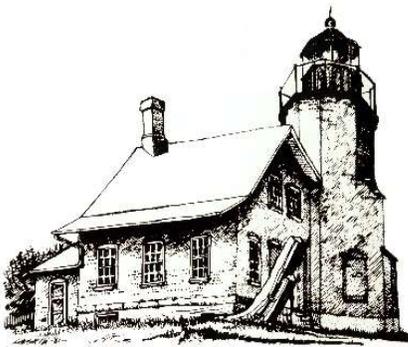
E-News

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www.fruitlandtwp.org

January 22, 2018

Township Board
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Fruitland Township
White River Light Station Museum

A Message from Your Treasurer

The 2017 Winter Tax Bills are due February 14, 2018. Any tax bills paid after this time will incur a penalty. On March 1, 2018, Fruitland Township unpaid taxes are turned over to Muskegon County. Any unpaid tax bills on March 1st and later must be paid at the Muskegon County Treasurer's Office. Call 231-724-6261 to inquire about any outstanding balances.

Parks and Recreation

There are NEW Park hours at Nestrom Road Park. From October 1st through April 30th, the hours are 8:00am to 8:00pm. From May 1st through September 30th, the hours are 7:00am to 10:00pm. Spring is right around the corner. Another great season is fast approaching and the Parks & Recreation Commission invites you to visit the parks this coming season. If you are planning a family reunion or just a party with friends, you can reserve the pavilion after April 1, 2018.

Last year saw a record number of visitors to the parks. One of the big attractions was the new Disc Golf Course at Nestrom Road Park. A vast majority of the comments have been very positive and encouraging, not only by disc golfers, but people who love the trails that were developed by the course to hike and walk their favorite canine friends.

There have been some negative comments regarding the disc golf course as well. A handful of bordering residents have complained about their privacy and serenity. Added to these comments was the possibility of Oak Wilt to close the course. To date there is no supported evidence that there is Oak Wilt in Fruitland Township or Nestrom Road Park. For your understanding Oak Wilt is not created by the playing of disc golf. The course is open for play.

There are a number of disc golf courses within a few miles of Nestrom Road Park. There is one in Montague that was developed in 2012, one in Laketon Township that was developed in 2009, and one in Whitehall Township that was developed in 2004. Two of these courses are wooded areas just like Nestrom Road Park, and neither have reports of Oak Wilt after a number of years of active play.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is working diligently to manage the natural resources in the parks while creating and maintaining great recreational activities to benefit the community. The commission will continue to work to create a healthy balance for all residents of the township so all may enjoy our beautiful parks.

Become a volunteer and help make our parks beautiful. There are plenty of opportunities to become involved. Follow this link to sign up as a park volunteer,
<http://www.fruitlandtwp.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2090> .

Parks and Recreation wants to hear from you! If you have questions, ideas, or want to become involved in our beautiful parks, please contact us at prcommission@fruitlandtwp.org or write us:

Fruitland Township Hall
Attn: Parks and Recreation Commission
4545 Nestrom Road
Whitehall, MI 49461

2017 at the White River Light Station and Museum

2017 was a good year here at the White River Light Station and Museum. Many thanks go to Fruitland Township, several volunteers, and our own Maintenance and Restoration Supervisor, Jim, and his wife Debbie, for their work on the light station grounds. Dead ash trees were removed on the west side of the property along with a dead maple tree on the east side of the grounds. With help from our interns, Jim and Debbie cleaned up and greatly improved the flower beds on the north and east sides of the station. We have received nothing but compliments from all on the flower beds.

With a generous donation of time and money from the Friends of the White River Light Station and Museum, the original workshop located behind the museum has been renovated to house permanent exhibits and a historical video about the Light Station and the surrounding area. The new exhibits and displays will be courtesy of generous donations from the White Lake Community Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. During the off season this year, Matt Varnum, Curator at the lighthouse, will be working on getting the newly renovated space ready for visitors for the 2018 season.

Also during the 2017 season, many events on the grounds of White River Light Station and Museum were well attended. Five concerts took place in July and August, along with three yoga on the lawn events. In August, Sable Point Lighthouse Keepers Association partnered with Fetch Brewing Company of Whitehall for a fundraising beer event on the grounds. Even though the weather was not the best, there was still a decent turnout. Here's hoping that with better weather this year, more people will come out to enjoy the event and experience the beauty that is the White River Light Station.

Visitors from 41 of the 50 states, Washington DC, and from 12 different countries visited the light station in 2017. During this off season, exhibits in the museum will be rotated so that there will have new exhibits for the opening in 2018 season.

In 2018, there will also be the new permanent exhibits and the video in the former workshop. Concerts, yoga, and hopefully another fund-raising event in conjunction with Fetch Brewing Company will be held here on the grounds of the White River Light Station and Museum. Be sure to check our website for dates and information about these events.

Starting with the 2018 season, the light station and museum will be open seven days a week, resulting in a second day of volunteer opportunities each week at White River. If you are interested in volunteering, please submit the volunteer application available at www.splka.org so that you can be contacted regarding available dates. The link to the application can be found on the right side of the home page.

Matt Varnum, Curator
White River Light Station & Museum

Support the White River Light Station and Museum

The Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is caretaker of the White River Light Station and Museum whose mission is to preserve, promote and educate the public and to make our lighthouses accessible to all. SPLKA wants to make sure that when the newly remodeled workshop opens in May of 2018 that it will be accessible to all. To make this happen, a wheelchair ramp will be installed on the south end of the building. Guests who once couldn't enter the Light Station now will be able to experience most of the museums larger artifacts as well as view the informational video about the history of the lighthouse itself. SPLKA is raising money to help fund this ramp, made of Trex's board material; by giving donors to this project the opportunity to buy a three-foot personalized board. Each personalized section, costing \$100.00, can contain up to two lines with 25 characters per line. Executive Director Peter Manting said a similar fundraiser was started at the Big Sable Point Lighthouse in July of 2014 and last year as a walkway at the Little Sable Lighthouse. Since that time, we have sold over 450 of these boards which helped fund projects at each lighthouse. This has been a wonderful way for many individuals and businesses in our communities to help preserve the lighthouses in a way that also memorializes their contributions. They also make wonderful gifts for the person who has "everything." Order forms are available on the splka.org web site or by calling the SPLKA office at 231-845-7417. Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association is registered

with the State of Michigan as 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Donations are deductible to the full extent permitted under law. SPLKA invites you to "Leave Your Footprint in the Sand."

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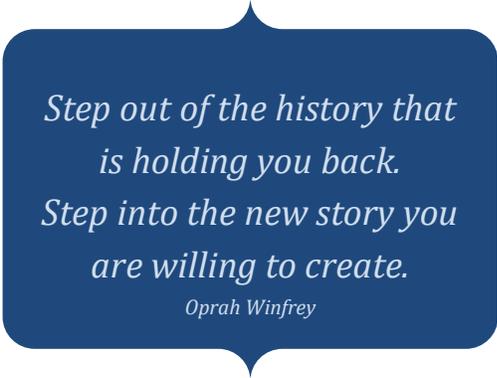
As we begin 2018, the Township Board of Trustees invites you to participate and volunteer your time toward the White River Light Station, Township Parks, or become a member of one of our Commissions, Committees or Boards. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those that are currently sitting on these boards and commissions for their dedication to Fruitland Township as they strive to improve the health and welfare of its residents and to identify important issues facing the township.

The Disc Golf Course has been a source of controversy with a few members of the Duck Lake Riparian Association. The Parks and Recreation Commission continue to listen to their concerns and will take them into consideration as they move forward with anticipated improvements to Nestrom Park.

Your comments are important to me so please feel free to contact me at the Township Hall or by phone.

Happy 2018!

Marcia Jeske
Supervisor



*Step out of the history that
is holding you back.
Step into the new story you
are willing to create.*

Oprah Winfrey