

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO BRIAN'S ADVERTISED "FACTS TO CONSIDER"

Brian Werschem's

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Supervisor Brian Werschem inherited a four-year general fund deficit of nearly \$1,000,000 dollars and a road revolving fund with an \$95,000 dollar deficit.

The general fund's "savings account" was so low; the Township borrowed money just to pay its bills until property taxes were collected. This is a fact that can be verified at: http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_31038---,00.html

Roads

Since taking office, Brian worked with the Road Commission to obtain grants for road improvements rather than using your tax dollars. He appointed a representative to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission which distributes

Federal road funds throughout North Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. This secured nearly \$1,000,000 in funding to completely reconstruct Hile Road (from

Airline to Sheridan) and Sheridan (from Heights Ravenna to Hile) at no cost to the Fruitport Township residents, in 2013 and 2014. Brian feels it's smarter to maintain existing roads with preventative maintenance and resurfacing (Airline, Dangi, Mill Iron, and Brooks) rather than using tax dollars for expansions.

Bike Paths

The new bike paths represent a cost to the Fruitport tax payer and a future liability and only benefit the Commercial areas around the Lakes Mall. Bike paths are an important non-motorized transportation mode; Brian continues to work with the state to connect the north and south bike paths, using Federal and State money at no cost to the Fruitport taxpayer.

Parks

Brian secured \$465,000 in grants to construct the new Sheringer soccer park.

Public Utilities

Rather than spend millions of dollars on water and sewer extensions in rural areas where people do not want or request it, Brian focused efforts on maintaining and repairing the existing infrastructure. Spending water and sewer customer money on expanding the utility systems to rural areas is not fair to the existing customers, exacerbates the potential for urban sprawl, and creates a future liability with very few new connections to off-set the costs.

Ron Cooper's Response to Brian's Facts!

It would be enlightening for people to go to the web that Brian suggests. You will not find the \$1,000,000 and \$95,000 amounts because they seem to be made-up figures. You will find that when I left office after the March 2008 audit, Fruitport township's total fund balance was \$1,183,738. This figure speaks for itself as an indicator of the financial health of the township at that time.

If we borrowed for a short term cash flow need, it would be so we would not have to cash in a higher paying interest CD for a short amount of time.

Roads: We also worked with the road commission to rebuild roads at no cost to our township residents:

Pontaluna, between Airline and Harvey, Brooks between Hts. Ravenna and Sternberg, and others. It's standard practice and simple to do. We also, on our own, got over two million dollars ear-marked toward on and off ramps on I-96 at Sternberg in Congress by Rep. Hoekstra. We held numerous meetings with Michigan Department of Transportation to get it approved by them, which they did. It was sent to

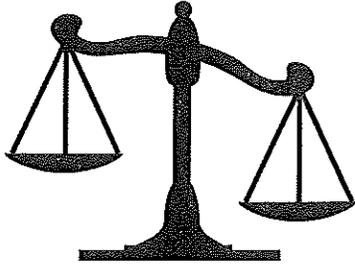
Washington and Brian let it go unused??

Brian seems to think that if you live on a dirty, dusty, pot-holed, and wash-board gravel road, that it's not the township's concern. I believe it's a health and safety issue and the township should be helpful. During my last term we converted 5 such roads.

Bike Paths: Brian says that Bike Paths are a future liability and only benefit commercial areas. I believe that they add to safety, health, and a better quality of life and, ideally, every street would have a bike path. As for the north and south connecting bike path, we had between a half million and one million dollars pledged for it. Brian was not interested enough to even look at it, and most of the pledged money was used on bike paths in Ottawa County.

Parks: The Sheringer soccer park land was purchased by trading other land during my administration. The grant Brian claims he secured was done by the Parks Commission and a paid professional grant writer.

Public Utilities - Water: Evidently Brian's challenge has been to maintain and repair our existing infrastructure. Big deal! Most of our system is less than 50 years old and doesn't require much to maintain. During my term in office, we maintained and also added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines, most were needed to complete the looping in our master plan, and to remedy the areas of stale water. Previously the water department had to frequently run water into



An independent study concluded that Fruitport has the lowest sewer rates in the County which are among the lowest in the State. Our water rates will not go up again due to not spending millions on needless expansions. If residents want water or sewer, the Township will gladly work with them to finance and install it: but only if it is wanted by the residents!

Zoning Enforcement

Brian demands that all zoning ordinances are equally applied to all businesses and residents. No exceptions are given to family members, employees, or friends.

THIS WILL NOT CHANGE!

Lawsuits

Brian ended the lawsuit with the racetrack which was costing too much money with no chance of success.

He joined the Norton Shores lawsuit against Muskegon Heights to stop multiple water quality violations and misappropriation of your money. As a result, Muskegon Heights reimbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars and brought the water plant in compliance with Federal and State Health standards.

Summary

Over the past four years, Brian cut unsustainable spending levels by reducing operational costs by over 25%! This was done by eliminating positions, making organizational changes, reducing employee costs, getting out from under the existing water supply contract, and paying off high-interest debt. This has stabilized the general fund which no longer borrows money to pay bills and allowed for an additional detective to follow up on the nearly 7,000 annual calls for service. It is important that Fruitport citizens know the facts relative to these issues rather than misinformation circulated for personal gain. These facts are undisputable and verifiable through independent audits and Township records that are available to you at Fruitport Township Hall and http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_31038---,00.html.

We cannot afford to go back to the days of spending beyond our means, nor do we need to.

ditches to keep it fresh and safe to drink. Most of those problems were solved with the looping that we did connecting the dead end lines, and it also gave people on those lines the ability to hook up to fresh water.

We did it within our budget and no one was forced to hook up if they didn't want to at the time the line went through. Most of the looping that was done will be needed if the water tower is built at Broadway and Brooks Roads

Public Utilities - Sewer: I extended sewer lines sized for the entire south half of the township which includes the Mall, Calvary Christian Schools, and the Village. We also put in a sewer line that was not needed at that time, down Sternberg Road from Quarterline to I-96 during the rebuilding of Sternberg Road because it was the least expensive to do at that time. It's now being used and our sewer rates are still the lowest.

Zoning Enforcement: Actually, I believe Brian has gone beyond the law and used the zoning ordinances and assessing department to abuse certain township citizens. It's one of the reasons that I'm running for Supervisor. Government's job is to protect its citizens, including the most defenseless, not do them in as has been happening.

Lawsuits: The race track lawsuit was not costing the township any money because I personally accepted responsibility for the township's legal expenses and have been making monthly payments for over four years. I agreed to do that because I felt confident that the township would get a settlement of over \$700,000 and did not want to see the township citizens lose that money because of political motivation. Brian convinced our board to settle it for \$10,000 and put the money in the General Fund.

Brian and the township joined Norton Shores to proceed with a lawsuit against Muskegon Heights that, indeed proved to be, in his words 'a frivolous lawsuit'. Reading the contract with the Heights, would make you wonder how the judge would rule in the township's favor, and the judge ruled against it.

Summary: It could take pages to refute the false and misleading statements made in Brian's summary. It's doubtful that the 25% figure is correct. The 2008 and 2012 audits don't support this statement. It's also doubtful that employee costs are less today than four years ago, OR getting out of the existing water supply contract has stabilized the general fund. His facts are disputable and are not verified through the township's records. Check the website that Brian has offered. It holds the township annual reports and see if you can find his statements true.

We need to go back to compassionate local government – we were not spending beyond our means, but using our resources to benefit the health, safety, and quality of life of our residents.

BRIAN WERSCHEM

for Township
Their records

Promises made by Brian during his 2008 campaign for supervisor

What did he get done?

-
- 0**
- He said he would improve our roads
 - Changed no roads from gravel to asphalt

Within a month of being elected, Brian informed the residents on roads built in the late 1940s and 1950s that had never been accepted by the county that they would have to maintain their own roads. The roads were maintained during both of Ron's terms in office and also during other supervisors' terms. These citizens pay property taxes and gas taxes, but because their homes were built at a time that our government failed to take care of the details of construction and ownership, Brian decided it would be a nice way to save some money.

He may have participated with the county road commission with some chip and seal resurfacing and other road commission projects.

-
- 0**
- Improve bike lanes and bike paths
 - Added no bike paths or lanes

-
- 0**
- He said our core services of water need to be supported
 - Added no water extension to trunk lines

New DPW Building

The DPW has wanted a new building for years. It has been a little tight but they have been getting by. Brian evidently decided that it was time to build them a new building. Its a half million-dollar building - the most expensive building the township has built for itself. And where did Brian decide to build it? On ten acres of property on the corner of Brooks Road and Broadway that was supposedly bought for a location for a water tower which was in our 50-year-old water distribution design. Whether it is still relevant is open for discussion. That location is about as far from the township hall as you can get. There is no water line in either direction about 1/2 mile on Brooks and over a mile on Broadway. Both of those pipes would need to be put in before building a water tower. A well has been put in so that there is water for the building. I always thought that Fruitport Township

government worked really well with the water department and government offices together. They could help each other with phones and customer service, and it was healthy having them within sight. I expect that another person will need to be hired to accommodate the separate offices. Also, the building is about as far from our water and sewer customers as you can get which means extra driving time during the day, every day, just to get to the customers who need services, especially emergency shut-offs in case of accidents or line breakage. It seems to me that that money could have been better spent getting water lines to people who have to deal with bad water and expensive purifying systems. Since the building was built next to the old dump, they may not be able to drink water from their own well.

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- Stop wasting money on frivolous lawsuits
 - Started a lawsuit with Muskegon Heights over a water rate issue that clearly contradicted the water services agreement and lost.
 - Agreed to a settlement of \$10,000 by the race track for not paying close to a million dollars in fees owed to the township. Brian settled it with very little knowledge of the success the township had in court. I rather doubt that he read even 1/4 of the court documents. The settlement was a huge loss to the township.

OR RON COOPER

Supervisor
are revealing

What did Ron do during the previous term in office?

5

- **Converted 5 roads from gravel to asphalt**
 - Maintained the dozen or so old roads which the county wouldn't accept.

1. Harvey between Judson & Ottawa County line
2. Mt. Garfield between Kendra & Quarterline
3. Quarterline between Pontaluna & Sternberg
4. Sheridan between Mt. Garfield & Sternberg
5. 14th Street north of Vig Drive

Participated with the county road commission to do chip and seal to resurface many miles of roads and other road commission projects.

Wash-board gravel roads can be very dangerous, especially for young and inexperienced drivers. The vehicle can easily vibrate off the road. We have had citizens die and also become permanently disabled from these kinds of accidents. Our township leadership needs to be aware and carry a burden for the importance of converting gravel roads to asphalt.

6 & 2

- **During his two terms he established 6 Bike Paths and 2 Bike Lanes**
- He also purchased the equipment to maintain the bike paths during the winter, including the sidewalk near Beach School.

1. The bike path on two sides of the Mall frontage.
2. The bike path on Henry in front of Meijers
3. The bike path on Sheridan between Mt. Garfield & Sternberg
3. The bike path along Mt. Garfield both sides of Sheridan
4. Worked with others to establish the bike path from the Fruitport Village to the Spring Lake bike path
5. The bike lanes, both sides of Pontaluna between the middle school & Harvey
6. Bike path on Independence Drive, Harvey to Meijers

11

- **Added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines**
- Most of these extensions were important looping in the master plan that had been left unfinished for 30+ years.

1. Heights Ravenna Road east to Brooks Road
2. Brooks Road from Trail Side to Hazekamps
3. Broadway Avenue east to bike path (Muskatawa Trail)
4. Dangl Road between Airline and Sternberg
5. Sternberg Road from Dangl to Brooks Road
6. Stringer Road from Mt. Garfield to Sternberg
7. Brooks Road from Sternberg to Ellis Road
8. Ellis Road east to Brooks Road
9. Harvey Street, Wilson to Judson
10. Brooks Road – connected water mains north and south of Norris Creek
11. Wilson Road – connection line, Harvey Street to Norton Shores

• With Norton Shores negotiated through the courts an agreement to have Muskegon Heights return over \$200,000 that they had intermingled with their general fund from the water fund.

• Since the water service agreement was negotiated during Ron's first term, with his direct involvement, Fruitport and Norton Shores have had lower wholesale water cost than either Muskegon or Grand Haven customers pay.

• After a thorough examination and studying the agreement with the race track, I knew they were sending the Fruitport Township share of the betting formula away from Fruitport. They didn't expect us to know what they were doing. It was in their best interest to work behind the scenes to make sure I wasn't reelected. The new board would not familiarize themselves with the case. There was a lot at stake for track ownership. Ron initiated the suit against the race track for not paying about a million dollars in betting fees to the township using funds from the track designed for that purpose, not from the general fund. One of the track attorneys, Nelson Westin, had acknowledged that the track would probably settle for between \$700,000 and \$800,000 when they could no longer stall the case through the courts and if the township board stayed committed. The national ownership agreed in court to pay for the state ownership's obligation when that time came.

Ron agreed to be responsible for the township's attorney bill personally from that time on because he could not bear to see the township lose that much money because of petty politics by the township board, and with the understanding he would be reimbursed for his expenses when the settlement took place. He is still making monthly payments on that bill. The track owners were having difficulty stalling it any longer and were at a point where they would be getting the judge's decision if they didn't settle it. The settlement took place without Ron's knowledge and for a ridiculously small amount of \$10,000. Since the township settled for such a small amount, Brian recommended to just put the settlement into the general fund.

NOTE:

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTERS CAN CHANGE THEIR VOTE BY GOING TO FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP OFFICE AND ASKING.

Is this what Brian calls "Positive Leadership"?

Bending the law and even making up laws to do people in (and to show them who is boss)! Following are some examples:

Critter Café

Airline Rd., Fruitport

Christine's Critter Café, located across the road from the fire station on Airline Road. Christine puts her heart and soul into rescuing abandoned pets and finding new homes for them. She averages about 200 per year. Hers is the only rescue in our area that takes all pets including rabbits, rats, birds, etc. Before moving into her location, she requested a letter of permission from the township which she received May of 2008. Police departments, including the Fruitport police department, 911, and other rescuers that take only dogs and cats send her abandoned pets.

After over four years operating her rescue, Brian initiated a letter sent by Michigan Township Services that told her that all her "animals must be removed from the property until all necessary approvals are given by the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals." Brian's actions could be because Christine complained to authorities that an animal the police asked her to pick up had been abused. There was a connection between Brian and the possible abuser.

After receiving the letter and emailing it to some of her fellow rescuers for their opinion on what she should do, she called Township Services and they told her she needed to go to Brian's office and talk to him, which she did.

According to Christine and others who were nearby, Brian hollered that 5,000 people had responded to him on the internet and proceeded to verbally and aggressively (in an intentionally overbearing manner) abuse her to the point where she broke down in tears, and he still continued.

On Channel 8 news he said he had no knowledge of the Critter Café existing. Brian put an ad in the December 2008 FAN. Right next to it (about 1/2"), is an article about the Critter Café Rescue with a picture of her sign, and Brian seems to be looking right at it. Usually, when someone puts an ad in the paper with their picture in it, they check it out at least once. Additionally, the fire and police department driveway faces her sign and Brian probably uses that drive about once a week.

Christine seems to be a pleasant and open person who might not be able to defend herself. Fortunately, the public came forward and offered to do what they could to help her. Christine spends her limited retirement on her rescue and has no funds left over. One person who stepped forward was an attorney, Ginny Mikita, from Rockford who started a conversation with the township attorney, and Christine has been in limbo ever since, not knowing from day to day what is going to happen to her and her rescue.

She knows that the Department of Agriculture, the DNR, Animal Control, and Pound Buddies had been contacted by the township because they had contacted her.

Recently, she was in the hospital for a few days because she was injured by a cat that was dropped off at her rescue by an unknown person. Even though volunteers looked after the rescue while she was in the hospital, it was a worry to her of what the township might do to her rescue while she was gone.

Mark Diederich

2636 E. Pontaluna Rd., Fruitport

Mark and his dad before him, have been taking in yard compostables since the 1940s. When I was in office a couple neighbors complained that his place was not neat enough to suit them. Mark also lives there in a 100-year-old house that his grandfather built. I checked out the legalities with what Mark was doing and came to the conclusion that

he was agriculture and pre-existed any of our zoning ordinances, and under the law he should be able to continue.

In 1995, Fred Constantini from Michigan Township Services, wrote Mark that the township has no problem with the composting behind his house and acknowledged that an unlicensed van was a farm vehicle.

One of the neighbors told me at that time to get 'rid of Mark'. When I told him that he was within the law I was told to get rid of him anyway, because government can do it! At that point I realized that our township government should be protecting Mark, not doing him in. With that background, I'm assuming that the same neighbor told Brian the same thing because in early 2011, Fruitport Township got an order to enter Mark's home and started the process to condemn and demolish it. It's my opinion that the judge who issued the order to enter Mark's home and all other buildings on his property was not fully informed of Mark's situation. Yellow tape was put across his driveway thus putting him out of business and it has never been taken down by the township.

Brian again had to deal with angry protestors supporting Mark and gave him more time to do some of the improvements inside of his house that the township demanded of him. The township hired a building inspector from Norton Shores and called him a "Hearing Officer" to make numerous requirements to basically bring his 100-year-old house up to modern code. I believe this was an abuse of power by Brian who had to get someone from outside our township to do the dirty deed because our local inspectors fully understood and were probably not anxious to participate.

Mark is a pleasant man whom one would assume would be unable to defend himself. Thankfully, the public became involved to help him.

Using the Assessor to Spy

I have been made aware that the township, under Brian's direction, is using the township assessor to spy on our citizens' property because the township zoning and building department can't trespass without a warrant.

On Wilson Road, the township assessor entered private property and took pictures of what was a legal operation that could not be seen from any other property and gave the pictures to township services.

At the same time, the assessor took pictures of some cars on neighboring property that no one could see except from the property she was standing on, and turned them in to township services also. I have first-hand knowledge of this. I was told by a very reliable source that the assessor also went into a fenced-in area behind a garage that had an unlicensed car that no one could see from outside the fence! The unlicensed car may have been that of a son away at college or in the service. Whether or not the car was there legally is not the question. I believe it is against the law to use the township assessor in this way.

The New Water Agreement

I don't believe it's a good decision to stop buying water from the Muskegon Heights water plant.

1. Fruitport and Norton Shores have paid less for water than Muskegon water plant customers for nearly all of 40 years.

2. It's been healthy for Muskegon water plant customers because Muskegon was limited on how much more they could charge their customers over what the Heights charged.

3. With Fruitport and Norton Shores contracted to Muskegon for water, it will make it difficult for the Heights plant to survive.

4. The Heights marked up their water to Fruitport and Norton Shores by 25% and they desperately need that income.

5. It's in everyone's interest to help the Heights succeed. Their problems spill over to the neighboring communities whether it is crime, school sports, or this areas visitors' safety going through the Heights and numerous other ways.

6. It's utterly irresponsible to purposely damage the Heights like that, and the end result will be that the Muskegon plant will have a monopoly. When our contract runs out, our price will increase to the level their other customers are paying, and we will get what we deserve for failing to consider what is best for the Heights in our decision.

Misleading Advertising

Brian states in his advertising that he "Eliminated over three million dollars in debt at no additional cost to the taxpayers." More simply, he paid the water and sewer bond payments with money that was in those funds and actually he didn't do it, but the treasurer did.

He says he eliminated "over \$500,000 in interest payments on behalf of the taxpayers." Interest costs have gone down without Brian's help and the township treasurer/board has simply taken advantage of the lower rates.

"Reduced operational costs by \$587,000 (25.1%) while improving services." At the moment I don't have the means to check his figures. Which services have improved:

Not funding the private/public roads that have been maintained by the township for years?

Doing one unadvertised cleanup in the spring and eliminating the fall clean up?

Having such poor police investigation that people are starting to not call the police after a robbery because it isn't worth the bother?

"Saved the Fruitport Sewer System from bankruptcy." First I've heard of it and don't believe it.

"Improved the financial position of the township so we are no longer borrowing to pay bills." I would like him to show where the township borrowed to pay the bills unless it was to keep from cashing in high paying CDs for a short term need.

Cline Road Property Sale

The township owned 100+ acres on Cline Road. Why did we sell that property at the bottom of the market? Why did we lower our price by \$100,000 to do it? It was the largest parcel the township owned and also had some of the highest ground.

NOTE:

Government's job is to protect its citizens. That includes those less able to defend themselves. If we allow our government to do them in, who is next and where does it stop? We all have a responsibility to respond and that's one of the main reasons I am running for township supervisor. — Ron

Some of what is printed here is from memory and I believe it is accurate, but there is the possibility that I may be off a little on something. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 865-3135 and I will do my best to respond.

This subject was sent to the Chronicle by Mr. Stewart on 10/8/12, and to our knowledge, it had not been printed as of 10/23/12.

I have been a resident of this area for almost 70 years except for a few years at U of M Dearborn. I was surprised recently by the possibility of Fruitport and Norton Shores changing their water supply from Muskegon Heights to Muskegon. To me it does not make any sense (there must be politicians involved). I have three reasons why I am against the change:

1. The Heights has been a good supplier for many years (IF IT WORKS DON'T FIX IT). The Heights has plenty of capacity. Both Fruitport and Norton Shores are geographically adjacent to the Heights, therefore, less piping and pumping expense. The Heights built the elevated tank at Getty and Norton primarily to supply Fruitport and Norton Shores. With the change we will have to build a large connecting pipeline and one or two storage tanks (unnecessary taxpayer expense).

2. When the East Sherman shopping area was being developed, Fruitport tired to get the water from Muskegon which was just on the North side of Sherman. However, Muskegon's cost was so high that Fruitport ran a supply pipe for a mile through Norton Shores to connect to the Heights, for a more reasonable rate.

3. I have always thought the Heights water was better tasting. There may be good reasons for this. Muskegon Lake is fed by the Muskegon River, several streams, storm sewers, and all the areas' "treated" sewage. When this leaves the channel and enters Lake Michigan it forms a brown flume. Boaters have noticed this flume (fishermen call the edges "the scum line") and it can be seen in overhead photographs. Lake Michigan has a natural South current which takes it to the Muskegon treatment plant, which is about one mile south of the pier. The flume dissipates before it reaches the Heights treatment plant, 3-1/4 miles south of the pier.

I hope the responsible parties will reconsider this serious change.

Ken Stewart
Fruitport Township

NOTE: Mr. Stewart expresses valid concerns in addition to some that I have given on the page 6. The decision to buy water from Muskegon and sever our long-standing relationship with Muskegon Heights (which affects everyone on all our water lines and those on future water lines) should have had a wide-ranging discussion with public input. The pros and cons should have been encouraged in order to fully examine the issue and make the best decision for our township, instead of having been done by backroom politics and then rushed to a board decision. Fruitport and Norton Shores leadership may have made a huge and permanent mistake here. It's a perfect example of amateur leadership and the consequences that our citizens will have to live with forever.

- Some accomplishments from Ron's first term in office (1996-2000):**
- > Facilitated the establishment of the Lakes Mall
 - > Helped with the establishment of Calvary Christian School
 - > Facilitated the accumulation of property needed for the Meijers store
 - > Facilitated the extension of the water and sewer lines needed to build the Mall as well as the future development in that area
 - > Converted several roads from gravel and sand to asphalt, some of which were the north end of Raffie to Cleveland, and Cleveland from Raffie to Dangle
 - > Rebuilt Cline Road west of Sheridan
 - > Bike paths on two sides of the Lakes Mall and other areas
 - > All this while increasing our fund balance

Select the right candidate this November Letter to the Editor:

It's your animal loving friend, Christine Lea, here. I am the "bunny loving lady," founder and operator of Critter Café Rescue on Airline and Mt. Garfield's corner.

I am writing in celebration of our privilege of CHOICE. This November, we have the honor of electing our next township supervisor for Fruitport Charter Township. My wonderful friend, Ron Cooper, is on the township supervisor ballot as a no party affiliation candidate.

He and most of his family are lifelong residents of Fruitport Township. Ron is also one of our elders at Fruitport Congregational Church. He is a respectable, fair and trustworthy guy who has all of our best interests at heart, including that of our beloved pets.

For such a small community as Fruitport, we are fortunate to have such a great wealth of different amenities. In Fruitport Township, indeed, there is something for everyone to enjoy. It's no secret that I am a huge animal lover and advocate. Let me describe some of the ways in which Fruitport Township, with the support of Ron Cooper, benefits me in my mission to help needy animals that find their way to Critter Café.

I feel so blessed to have a strong relationship with my beloved go-to veterinarian, Dr. Corbett (honors also to her husband, Dr. Kromp). Dr. Corbett hangs her shingle just a short hop, skip and jump away, at the end of Pontaluna. It's reassuring that during emergencies I can trust one of the foremost rabbit and small animal vets in the area to be so close.

The West Michigan Spay and Neuter Clinic on Airline offers high quality, low cost spay/neuter/micro-chipping/rabies vaccinations and post-surgical care. To me, this is another priceless asset here in Fruitport, giving critical support to pets and their owners. Did you know Ron Cooper was one of two people instrumental in getting the clinic up and running to stop pet over-population in west Michigan? More than 4,000 (and counting) cat and dog spay/neuters have been safely accomplished.

My many years of being an animal lover have connected me with myriad personalities and minds. I have listened to and been fascinated by historical figures whose quotes, amazingly, speak to the human (and animal!) condition as it stands today. The words of the wise seem to endure our changing times to stay relevant. One, my favorite, comes to my mind thinking over all that Ron Cooper has to offer our community now and in the future — "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." — Mahatma Gandhi

Ron has put forth monumental effort in improving West Michigan. The Spay and Neuter Clinic has bettered the lives of thousands of West Michigan companion animals. He continues to embrace animal rescues like Critter Café, and helps in any way he can to enable me and other volunteers to do some of the heartbreaking and physically tedious work that goes into animal rescue.

To me, that really says a lot about Ron Cooper. Ron Cooper's work has given Critter Café and other animal rescues the safe space to, among other popular truisms, "live and let live," and "don't sweat the small stuff." His faithful support has even allowed animal rescuers to live this wisdom: "There is nothing that wastes the body like worry, and one who has any faith in God should be ashamed to worry about anything whatsoever." — Mahatma Gandhi

When one cares so deeply about the hardworking people in his community as Ron Cooper does, (and he is genuine in that care) a community as a whole is greater. Ron Cooper is truly a great leader.

Fruitport's current supervisor lacks the vision, empathy and greatness within himself to deserve a re-vote into our very abundant governmental heart. Where do we, as a community, want to go?

Sadly, too, our current supervisor lacks the stewardship, knowledge and reverence to respect many of the old-fashioned Good Samaritan folk like me. I am following my mission, which is to simply educate about and reach out to as many of the voiceless fur and feather babies in need as I can within my lifetime. Under the current supervisor, I have been persecuted for such works, which do harm to none.

I ask you to take a critical look at the promise — not kept, but made — of our current township supervisor upon his being sworn in: The promise of positive, experienced and proven leadership. Positivity, I certainly cannot prove, considering my encounters with him. I wonder also where he got his supervisory experience — certainly, he can't be citing his prior employment as a clerk?

He is not Fruitport's best bet for the future, as the past four years have truly proven. Please, let's go back to what worked and vote Ron Cooper back in! With Ron at our head, we can live our lives and take pleasure in addressing other important township issues, like enjoying and improving the venues!

I'll leave you with another quote, this time by philosopher Immanuel Kant: "We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals." Ron Cooper's heart truly is so good.

Sincerely
Christine Lea
Critter Café Rescue
5818 Airline Road

Complimentary voting worksheet for Fruitport Precinct 2. (Other Precincts will be similar.)

Fruitport Charter Township		Precinct 2		Fruitport Community Schools	
OFFICIAL BALLOT General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Muskegon County, Michigan Fruitport Charter Township, Precinct 2 Page 1 of 2 Note: Ballot has two pages Please remember to vote all pages.					
NONPARTISAN SECTION		STATE BOARD		COUNTY	
STRAIT PARTY TICKET Vote for not more than 1		MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for not more than 2		CLERK Vote for not more than 1	
Republican Party Democratic Party Libertarian Party U.S. Taxpayers Party Green Party Natural Law Party		Todd A. Courser Melanie A. Kordys Michelle Fackula Lupe Ramos-McGregory Andy L. Gresser Karyn Adams Gail M. Greaser Candace R. Corry Dawn Reynolds, IB etc.		Cindy Fairfield Nancy A. Waters Eric Ruffolo Tony Moulton Mark F. Fairchild etc.	
PRESIDENTIAL		REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN		DRAIN COMMISSIONER	
ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES Vote for not more than 1		Dan Horning Robert Stasle Mark Bernstein Shama Ryder James Lewis Gregory Scott Joe Sanger Gerald T. Van Sickle Eric Borregard Nikki Mattson etc.		David Fisher Joe Farber Stephen V. Veltzer etc.	
Mitt Romney Ryan Paul Barack Obama Joe Biden Virgil H. Goode, Jr. James H. Clymer U.S. Senator Jill Stein Cheryl Honkala etc.		TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2		COUNTY COMMISSIONER 5TH DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1	
Rosa C. Anderson Luis Rodriguez etc.		Melanie Foster Jeff Salvia Joel Ferguson Brian McMillan Michael H. Miller Bill Mohr, II Stephen J. Young Lloyd Clarke etc.		Marvin Engle Lew Collins etc.	
CONGRESSIONAL		GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY		SUPERVISOR	
UNITED STATES SENATOR Vote for not more than 1		Vote for not more than 2		Vote for not more than 1	
Pete Hawkins Debbie Stabenow Scotty Bowman Richard A. Durbin Harley Mikulski John D. Lyle etc.		Michael J. Buzza Sarah B. Jaso Sandra Hughes O'Brien Kim Travers Robert Gale Marc J. Sosnowski Margaret Gurtshill Latham Redding etc.		Brian K. Werschm Ron Cooper etc.	
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS AND DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1		GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN Vote for not more than 1		CLERK Vote for not more than 1	
Bill Huelskamp Willie Garman, Jr. Mary Beyer Ronald E. Craker William J. Opelka etc.		Mitt Romney Barack Obama etc.		Carol Hoka etc.	
LEGISLATIVE		COUNTY		TREASURER	
REPRESENTATIVE IN STATE LEGISLATURE 81ST DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1		Vote for not more than 4		Vote for not more than 1	
Holly Hughes Colleen Lamonte Nick Sandfort etc.		Ronald E. Backlin David J. Markgraf Marjorie J. Nash Charles Whitlow Sherry Yonkers etc.		Ross Dillon etc.	
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY		TRUSTEE		PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	
Vote for not more than 1		Vote for not more than 4		Vote for not more than 1	
D.J. Hiseck etc.		Dean C. Roesser Ronald Lee Grzeskowiak etc.		D.J. Hiseck etc.	

CHECK BOTH SIDES AND BOTH PAGES OF BALLOT. This ballot has two pages and two sides. Be certain to check both pages and the reverse side of each page.

Fruitport Charter Township		Precinct 2		Fruitport Community Schools	
OFFICIAL BALLOT General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Muskegon County, Michigan Fruitport Charter Township, Precinct 2 Page 2 of 2 Note: Ballot has two pages Please remember to vote all pages.					
PROPOSAL SECTION					
STATE PROPOSALS					
PROPOSAL 12-1 A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW Public Act 4 of 2011 would establish criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts.					
Authorize Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials.					
Require EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved.					
Alternatively, authorize state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree.					
Should this law be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					
PROPOSAL 12-2 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING This proposal would:					
Grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor union.					
Invalidate existing or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements, including employees' financial support of their labor unions. Laws may be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking.					
Override state laws that regulate hours and conditions of employment to the extent that those laws conflict with collective bargaining agreements.					
Define "employer" as a person or entity employing one or more employees.					
Should this proposal be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					
PROPOSAL 12-3 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY This proposal would:					
Require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower, by 2022.					
Limit to not more than 1% per year electric utility rate increases charged to consumers only to achieve compliance with a renewable energy standard.					
Allow annual extensions of the deadline to meet the 25% standard in order to prevent rate increases over the 1% limit.					
Require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents.					
Should this proposal be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					
PROPOSAL 12-4 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MICHIGAN QUALITY HOME CARE COUNCIL AND PROVIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR IN-HOME CARE WORKERS This proposal would:					
Allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC). Continue the current exclusive representative of in-home care workers until modified in accordance with labor laws.					
Require MQHCC to provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage the cost of in-home care.					
Preserve patients' right to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the MQHCC registry who are bargaining unit members.					
Authorize the MQHCC to set minimum compensation standards and terms and conditions of employment.					
Should this proposal be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					

Fruitport Charter Township		Precinct 2		Fruitport Community Schools	
NONPARTISAN SECTION					
TOWNSHIP					
PARK COMMISSIONER Vote for not more than 5					
Chad Parker Ross Spivey Melanie Lynnalls etc.					
JUDICIAL		JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS 3RD DISTRICT		JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT 60TH DISTRICT	
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 2		Incumbent Position Partial Term Ending 11/1/2015 Vote for not more than 1		Incumbent Position Vote for not more than 1	
Bob Roddis Doug Dern Connie Marie Kelley Stephen Markman Bridget Mary McCormack Kerry L. Morgan Colleen O'Brien etc.		Sheila Johnson Brian Zahra Mindy Barry etc.		Michael J. Nolan etc.	
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 2		JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS 3RD DISTRICT Incumbent Position Partial Term Ending 11/1/2015 Vote for not more than 3		LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER FRUITPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Vote for not more than 2	
Mark T. Boren etc.		Jane M. Beckering Bill Murphy Douglas B. Shapiro etc.		Kris Cole Gavin Haan Kurt Hazard Steve Keglavit Ted Cemiglia etc.	
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 2		JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT 14TH CIRCUIT Incumbent Position Vote for not more than 1		COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Vote for not more than 2	
Bob Roddis Doug Dern Connie Marie Kelley Stephen Markman Bridget Mary McCormack Kerry L. Morgan Colleen O'Brien etc.		Mark T. Boren Annette Smedley Raymond J. Kostzewa etc.		Donald K. Crandall Sean Maffly Roy J. Portenge etc.	
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 1		JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT Incumbent Position Vote for not more than 1		BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Partial Term Ending 12/31/2014 Vote for not more than 1	
Gregory C. Pitman etc.		Gregory C. Pitman etc.		Roy J. Portenge etc.	

Fruitport Charter Township		Precinct 2		Fruitport Community Schools	
STATE PROPOSALS					
PROPOSAL 12-5 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT This proposal would:					
Require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.					
This section shall in no way be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in this Constitution.					
Should this proposal be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					
PROPOSAL 12-6 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS This proposal would:					
Require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels.					
Create a definition of "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" that means, "any bridge or tunnel which is not open to the public and serving traffic as of January 1, 2012."					
Should this proposal be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROPOSAL					
MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BONDING PROPOSAL					
Shall Muskegon Community College, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Thirty-One Million One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$31,135,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:					
Constructing, furnishing and equipping the science wing additions including new science labs, the health education facilities addition and a new creative arts building; remodeling, refurbishing and re-equipping buildings and facilities; acquiring, developing and improving sites and supporting infrastructure?					
The following is for informational purposes only:					
The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2013, under current law is .48 mill (\$0.48 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, for any single series, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond series is .37 mill (\$0.37 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).					
Should this proposal be approved?					
YES <input type="radio"/>					
NO <input type="radio"/>					

The Pioneer Group

Invoice

115 N. Michigan
Big Rapids MI 49307

(231) 796-4831
(231) 796-1152

RON COOPER
-- FRUITPORT AREA NEWS
420 N. 3RD AVE
FRUITPORT, MI 49415

Acct. #: 00039776
Phone #: (231)865-3135
Date: 10/29/2012

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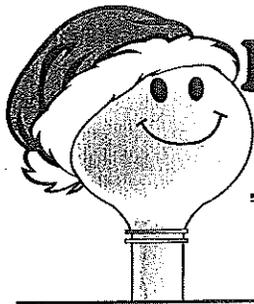
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Holiday Issue

FRUITPORT Area News

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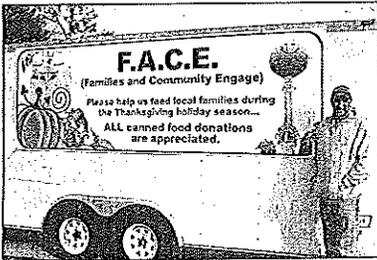
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December, 2012 • Volume 30 • Number 5

The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.

THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR 192 FAMILIES Snapshots of Another Genuine Community Effort



F.A.C.E. organizers Lions Bryan Gemmel, Sue Johnson, Cindy and Bruce Gaultney

F.A.C.E. distributes Thanksgiving meals

By Past Lions President Sue Johnson

Families and Community Engage (F.A.C.E.) and the Fruitport Lions Club combined forces once again this year to provide 192 Thanksgiving meals complete with turkeys for area families less fortunate than ourselves.

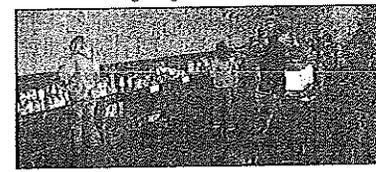
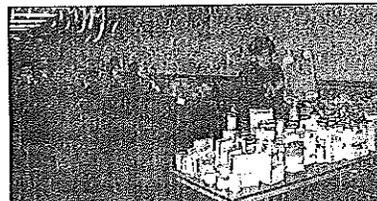
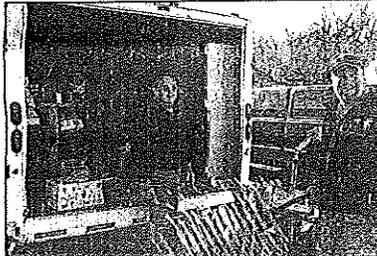
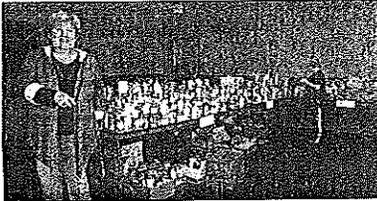
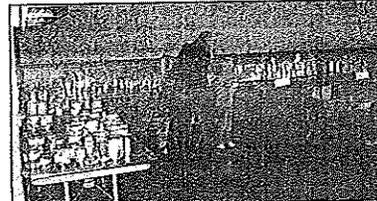
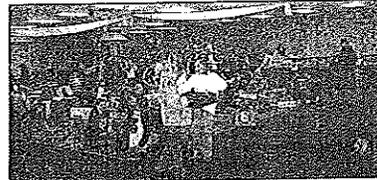
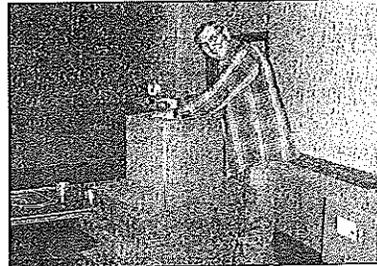
Families, the community, the Fruitport Lions Club, business owners, teachers and students from our community schools and F.A.C.E. organizers gathered together on Sunday, November 18 at what was once the Fruitport Auditorium to help put the Thanksgiving boxes together and ready them for delivery on Sunday and Monday.

The food donation effort began about two weeks ago with a massive canned goods drive at Fruitport Community Schools. Chairman Bryan Gemmel, F.A.C.E. organizers, the Fruitport Lions and the caring people from the community worked handing out fliers at Fruitport Orchard Market collecting turkeys and canned goods to provide much of what was needed. Raffles were held at the Ye Old Tavern with items donated by members of the community. The Grand Haven Eagles gave a generous donation, and cash donations were collected from the donation boxes at area businesses to complete the Thanksgiving boxes.

Area businesses also have given generously to the F.A.C.E./Fruitport Lions cause, including the Fruitport Auditorium's new owner, Jerry Lundberg, who donated his facility for the Thanksgiving and Christmas programs.

Among those helping with the Thanksgiving program have been Fruitport Orchard Market, Ye Old Tavern, Hazekamp Meats, Pin Crest Lanes, Fruitport Chiropractic Center and their staff, Castings Technology, Fruitport Store and Lock, Peppies Pizza, Susies Village Inn, McDonalds, Burger Crest, the Meatblock, Janies Barber Shop, Mr. Quick in Cloverville, Cozy Corner Café, RV Tree Service, the Fruitport Lions Club, F.A.C.E., Fruitport schools and the children and families of Fruitport.

F.A.C.E. Chairman Lion Bryan Gemmel, F.A.C.E. Organizers, The Fruitport Lions Club and Past District Governor of the Fruitport Lions Club Mike Johnson would like to thank the community and businesses who gave so generously this Thanksgiving season. Without your help and support it would not have been possible for the 192 families in our community to have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving. •



Tentative Newspaper Delivery Schedule

February 9, 2013

Presidents / Valentine's Day Issue
(Deadline January 27, 2013)

THANK YOU from Ron Cooper to all who helped me run for Fruitport Township Supervisor. Not having to devote my primary attention to the operation of the township for the next four years is fine with me. What does concern me is that the problems that I offered to correct still exist.

If you're concerned, get involved by attending board meetings, asking questions, and participate as best you can. We are all going to pay for poor government decisions.

Causeway park concern Letter to the Editor:

Four people from Muskegon County have died from their military service in the Iraq war. The war is now officially over, yet there are no plans for a fitting monument to their service at the Causeway Veterans Memorial Park. One of these fallen heroes is Corporal Jason T. Lee of Fruitport Township. Soon after his demise in the Iraq War, the people of Fruitport Township got together and added his name to our granite monument honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. We did not even wait for the war to end to add his name to our monument. It was the right thing to do and the people of Fruitport got it done, ASAP.

There are individual stones in the Muskegon County Causeway Veterans Memorial Park honoring hundreds of Muskegon men and women who died in service in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Those individuals who died in World War I are listed by name in bronze at the south end of the park. Those from World War II and the Korean War are listed by name in stone at the north end of the park; and those individuals from the Vietnam War are listed by name on a stone on the island in the park.

No stone is planned for the four who died from Muskegon County from the Iraq War. Why? The war is over. Sad to say, but the self-appointed Muskegon County Causeway Veterans Memorial Park Committee and the Muskegon VFW County Council not only have no plans to erect such a monument, either now or in the future, but rather refer to the Iraq War as just another conflict, not worthy of individual recognition.

If this bothers you, and it should bother many Americans, contact your local county commissioner and have the commission replace the entire Causeway Park Committee and replace them with Iraq War and Afghanistan War veterans. Perhaps with some new faces on this committee we will see a more positive attitude towards Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans and those four men who died for our great Republic who deserve to be honored with their names engraved on stone at the Causeway Veterans Park.

On another note, the LST has a new granite memorial honoring Muskegon County's two men who were awarded our nation's Medal of Honor and a VFW member who did so much to see that veterans of Muskegon County received a military funeral. Go see it. On the back of the granite stone honoring the Medal of Honor awardees is a bronze plaque honoring VFW honor guard captain Fruitport's Skip Vermilya, who dedicated his life to seeing that area veterans received a military funeral. The granite memorial at the LST, which was donated by Superior Monument, was soundly rejected for placement at the Causeway park by the self-appointed committee. Perhaps the veterans who run the LST should be considered as custodians of the Muskegon County Veteran's Memorial Park, as they have the right attitude towards all veterans of all wars.

LTC (Ret) Max Riekse
United States Army
Vietnam & Iraq War
Veteran
Commander, Fruitport VFW
Post 3734
Past Commander,
Muskegon VFW County Council

Graham crackers

By Judy Brandow

24 graham cracker squares
½ C. melted butter
¼ C. brown sugar
1 C. chopped nuts

Line a pan with crackers. Combine butter and sugar. Spoon over crackers. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake at 350° for 10 or 12 minutes.*

Fruitport Area News • December 2012 • Page 25

Letter to the Editor

This subject was sent to the Chronicle by Mr. Stewart on 10/8/12, and to our knowledge, it had not been printed as of 10/23/12. He sent it to FAN at that time.

I have been a resident of this area for almost 70 years except for a few years at U of M Dearborn. I was surprised recently by the possibility of Fruitport and Norton Shores changing their water supply from Muskegon Heights to Muskegon. To me it does not make any sense (there must be politicians involved). I have three reasons why I am against the change:

1. The Heights has been a good supplier for many years (IF IT WORKS DON'T FIX IT). The Heights has plenty of capacity. Both Fruitport and Norton Shores are geographically adjacent to the Heights, therefore, less piping and pumping expense. The Heights built the elevated tank at Getty and Norton primarily to supply Fruitport and Norton Shores. With the change we will have to build a large connecting pipeline and one or two storage tanks (unnecessary taxpayer expense).

2. When the East Sherman shopping area was being developed, Fruitport tired to get the water from Muskegon which was just on the North side of Sherman. However, Muskegon's cost was so high that Fruitport ran a supply pipe for a mile through Norton Shores to connect to the Heights, for a more reasonable rate.

3. I have always thought the Heights water was better tasting. There may be good reasons for this. Muskegon Lake is fed by the Muskegon River, several streams, storm sewers, and all the areas' "treated" sewage. When this leaves the channel and enters Lake Michigan it forms a brown flume. Boaters have noticed this flume (fishermen call the edges "the scum line") and it can be seen in overhead photographs. Lake Michigan has a natural South current which takes it to the Muskegon treatment plant, which is about one mile south of the pier. The flume dissipates before it reaches the Heights treatment plant, 3-1/4 miles south of the pier.

I hope the responsible parties will reconsider this serious change.

Ken Stewart
Fruitport Township

Water Agreement

Note from the Editor regarding the new water agreement. Ken Stewart expresses valid concerns in addition to some that I have.

1. Even with the Heights occasionally intermingling the water plant funds with their general fund, Fruitport and Norton Shores have paid less for water than Muskegon water plant customers for nearly all of 40 years.

2. With Fruitport and Norton Shores contracted to Muskegon for water, it will make it difficult for the Heights plant to survive.

3. The Heights marked up their water to Fruitport and Norton Shores by 25 percent and they desperately need that income.

4. It's in everyone's interest to help the Heights succeed. Their problems spill over to the neighboring communities whether it is crime, school sports, police backup, or this area's visitors' safety driving through the Heights.

5. The end result will be that the Muskegon plant will have a monopoly. When our contract runs out, our price will increase to the level their other customers are paying.

In the meantime, I believe that if all expenses are considered, we will pay more for Muskegon water from day one.

If the Fruitport Township Board would ask the Heights if they would set up a separate checking account for the water plant and agree to allow the advisory committee a little more participation in the water plant decision-making progress, I think there's a good chance they will agree. It's well worth the effort, if they agree we will continue with the best water at the lowest price.*

NEW HOURS

for Copies & More and FAN
11:00am - 3:00pm
M - F

Sorry for any inconvenience.

Questions, call 865-6370

Grand Valley State University Dean's List

(Submitted by Grand Valley State University)

Winter 2012 semester dean's list students from our area include Fruitport residents Jamie M. Adams, Aiste Baltuonyte, Hillary A. Berry, Kristian T. Bringedahl, Megan L. Foster, Rachel L. Robinson, Tyler J. Strayer and Breann M. Woolley.

Nunica residents: Alix E. Anderson, David E. Evans, Kaleigh M. Haase, Stephen R. Hintz, Danielle M. Johnson, Dawn L. Medendorp, Grace L. Schoenborn, Dominic A. Taylor and Misty R. Van Brocklin.*

Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber awarded Chamber of the Year

(Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

The Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals (MACP) recognized the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce with the 2012 Outstanding Chamber of Commerce award in the large chamber category at the MACP Leadership Conference and annual meeting on October 18, 2012.

This is the third time in six years the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber has been recognized for excellence in organization leadership.

"The Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce received this award based on its accomplishments in leadership and governance, financial stewardship, business advocacy and member programming," said Bob Thomas, director for the Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals. "Among the chamber's noted achievements were its leadership in state and local policy issues, its targeted communications strategy and its ability to manage financial and human resources to maximize return on its investment."*

Synthetic Drugs

Letter to the Editor:

There is a huge ruse in the use of synthetic drugs such as bath salts that any kid could buy over the counter. These dangerous and lethal drugs should not be sold at all. I am sure many of you heard of the man who bit off half of a homeless man's face while he was high on synthetic drugs; those would be the bath salts that he had used. There is a rise in this new and disgusting wave that most news organizations like to entitle "Zombie Apocalypse." Our government needs to step in as soon as possible and do something about this nightmare that is plaguing our children, family and friends.

The first act should be to take all of these synthetic drugs out of the stores so that no one else can get hurt. Let alone the fact that I am sure there is a large quantity floating around our streets. We need to get the message out to our children, family and friends that these are not harmless over-the-counter novelty items. They are extremely dangerous and deadly chemicals not to be taken lightly. Bath salts, with designer names such as "Purple Wave," "Vanilla Sky," "Ivory Wave," and "Bliss" among many other names used on the street, have caused many thousands of people to call the Poison Control Center for help within the last year. There is really no way to know if someone has truly used any, due to the fact that our government has yet to identify a way to trace the chemical in a person's system. These "so-called" bath salts are not even meant for bathtubs. Their labels state that they are "for baths and not for human consumption," which is how they are able to stay under the government's radar.

There are warning signs of someone's using this synthetic drug. If someone you know starts to exhibit symptoms like agitation, chest pain, paranoia, suicidal thoughts or actions, high blood pressure or tachycardia (rapid heartbeat), be sure to contact your local 9-1-1 dispatcher and Poison Control. They will know what to do. If you believe that your loved one is using one of these drugs, get him/her to the hospital. It could mean the difference between life and death.

I hope that our government can get this problem taken care of as soon as possible. We need to get these synthetic drugs off of our streets and out of our homes immediately.

Harry Wojahn
Fruitport

Dec 2012 issue

Print + mail 32 page pages 85.59 per page

÷ 96" = .90 per col inch

Pg 25 + 6" = \$5.40

Save and compare!

Hire (Vote for) Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor

Resumé

Fruitport Township Supervisor 1996-2000 & 2004-2008

West Michigan Spay and Neuter Clinic 501c3 2008 to Present
Co-founder and president. Non-paid. Purpose is to provide low-cost spay and neutering to help prevent over-population of pets and reduce the thousands that are killed each year because there are not enough people who want them. We will soon do our 5000th spay/neuter.

Fruitport Area News Inc 1983-present
Founder, publisher, editor, in our 30th year as a community service newspaper, non-paid

Copies & More Inc. 1993-present
Founder and President. My wife, Mariann, is the manager.

Farmer 1957-present
At one time produce, an in this area, combines o corn for the present, doi
Document E

Thanks a
Drove the :
the Feeding
and worked
about 600,
Hudsonvil
managed other food trucks directly with receiving ~~run~~ using their trucks.

Fruitport Lions Club Member 1957-2012
55th year, former president, board member, Old Fashioned Days board, Lion of the Year, Melvin Jones Fellow twice, Distinguished Service Award, Co-Chair of Lions Bandshell construction project and raised all the funds

Cooper Lawns Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1959-1994
Founder, CEO. Sold in 1994 to a national company.
We manufactured lawn fertilizer and provided a weeding and feeding service to the greater Milwaukee area. For years we were the largest business of that type in greater Milwaukee.

Project Pride Award
Honored by Muskegon Chamber of Commerce

Professional Farmers of America
Represented Michigan farmers in Washington, D.C. during the Carter administration.

Elected to represent Muskegon County farmers at various times to our regional agricultural district.

First Congregational Church of Fruitport 1984-present
Member, Elder, and Sunday School Superintendent for many years and at the present time

Married to Mariann. We have six kids, foster kids, exchange students, 17+ grandkids, 8 great-grandkids. Both of us were born and raised in the Fruitport area.

Thank you for your support.
If you are willing to have a sign in your yard, please call 865-3135 and a sign will be delivered to your address. If you have questions about this or any other information, please call 865-3135. Thank you in advance for your help and consideration. Please vote in the November 6th election. Together we can make a difference.

420 N 3rd Ave
Fruitport, MI 49415



Carrier Route



Vote for Proven Leadership & Results

There were many accomplishments during his last term (2004 - 2008):

- **Converted 5 roads from gravel to asphalt**
- **Added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines**
- **Started a soccer park on Sheringer Rd.**
- **Extended bike paths**
- **Added to the cemetery building**
- **Renovating the bathrooms at Farr Field**
- **Added two practice fields at east side of Farr Field**
- **Built police headquarters (\$300,000) onto fire station on Airline**
- **Focused Lights on Water Tower**
- **Inherited a \$500,000 budget deficit and balanced.**
- **Left office with a total Fund Balance of \$1,183,738**

• **Added 11 needed extensions to our water trunk lines**
Under Ron's administration several important loops were completed that are part of our master plan for water distribution. There are several more that should be completed, but we succeeded in connecting some very important ones that had been ignored for 30 years. A huge contribution to the cost of these improvements and extensions was from grants and contributions from businesses on those lines (over \$600,000). This has added to the circulation and freshness needed for large areas in our township's water system.



• **Eastbound ON & OFF ramps at I-96 and Sternberg Rd.**
This was a high priority project from my first week in office. We went through close to a dozen hearings and received a recommendation from MDOT (Michigan Department of Transportation). The project was sent to the Federal DOT (Department of Transportation) for final approval. Over 2 million dollars [\$2,000,000] in grant money was set aside for this project at the Federal level and more was pledged locally.

• **Land for Soccer Park**
With more than 600 Fruitport Township youth in soccer (more than all the other sports combined), I feel that there is a need for a park dedicated to youth soccer. When I ran for office in 2004, I set as a personal goal to add more soccer fields to our parks system. After taking office, we had meetings with the soccer parents' group and encouraged them to participate and help identify the best location of land the township owned. Forty (40) acres of township property on Porter Road was chosen. Opposition developed against using the land for that purpose, and with the help of some very key people, a 3-way land swap was made with the township, the conservation district, and the school system. The township now has ownership of 20 acres on Sheringer Road for our soccer park.



• **Bike Paths**
We built miles of bike paths and lanes during both terms, all within our budget. I believe bike paths are important to the health and welfare of our community and much more can be done. When I left office we had about 1/2 of the money needed pledged to connect the Muskatowa bike path on the north to the Spring Lake bike path on the south. It looks like the current administration has aborted the project. Some of the money pledged has now been used for an Ottawa County bike path.

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO BRIAN'S ADVERTISED "FACTS TO CONSIDER"

Brian Werschem's

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Supervisor Brian Werschem inherited a four-year general fund deficit of nearly \$1,000,000 dollars and a road revolving fund with an \$95,000 dollar deficit. The general fund's "savings account" was so low; the Township borrowed money just to pay its bills until property taxes were collected. This is a fact that can be verified at: http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_31038---,00.html

Roads

Since taking office, Brian worked with the Road Commission to obtain grants for road improvements rather than using your tax dollars. He appointed a representative to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission which distributes Federal road funds throughout North Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. This secured nearly \$1,000,000 in funding to completely reconstruct Hile Road (from Airline to Sheridan) and Sheridan (from Heights Ravenna to Hile) at no cost to the Fruitport Township residents, in 2013 and 2014. Brian feels it's smarter to maintain existing roads with preventative maintenance and resurfacing (Airline, Dangl, Mill Iron, and Brooks) rather than using tax dollars for expansions.

Bike Paths

The new bike paths represent a cost to the Fruitport tax payer and a future liability and only benefit the Commercial areas around the Lakes Mall. Bike paths are an important non-motorized transportation mode; Brian continues to work with the state to connect the north and south bike paths, using Federal and State money at no cost to the Fruitport taxpayer.

Parks

Brian secured \$465,000 in grants to construct the new Sheringer soccer park.

Public Utilities

Rather than spend millions of dollars on water and sewer extensions in rural areas where people do not want or request it, Brian focused efforts on maintaining and repairing the existing infrastructure. Spending water and sewer customer money on expanding the utility systems to rural areas is not fair to the existing customers, exacerbates the potential for urban sprawl, and creates a future liability with very few new connections to off-set the costs.

Ron Cooper's Response to Brian's Facts!

It would be enlightening for people to go to the web that Brian suggests. You will not find the \$1,000,000 and \$95,000 amounts because they seem to be made-up figures. You will find that when I left office after the March 2008 audit, Fruitport township's total fund balance was \$1,183,738. This figure speaks for itself as an indicator of the financial health of the township at that time.

If we borrowed for a short term cash flow need, it would be so we would not have to cash in a higher paying interest CD for a short amount of time.

Roads: We also worked with the road commission to rebuild roads at no cost to our township residents:

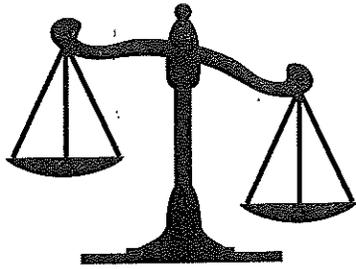
Pontaluna, between Airline and Harvey, Brooks between Hts. Ravenna and Sternberg, and others. It's standard practice and simple to do. We also, on our own, got over two million dollars ear-marked toward on and off ramps on I-96 at Sternberg in Congress by Rep. Hoekstra. We held numerous meetings with Michigan Department of Transportation to get it approved by them, which they did. It was sent to Washington and Brian let it go unused??

Brian seems to think that if you live on a dirty, dusty, pot-holed, and wash-board gravel road, that it's not the township's concern. I believe it's a health and safety issue and the township should be helpful. During my last term we converted 5 such roads.

Bike Paths: Brian says that Bike Paths are a future liability and only benefit commercial areas. I believe that they add to safety, health, and a better quality of life and, ideally, every street would have a bike path. As for the north and south connecting bike path, we had between a half million and one million dollars pledged for it. Brian was not interested enough to even look at it, and most of the pledged money was used on bike paths in Ottawa County.

Parks: The Sheringer soccer park land was purchased by trading other land during my administration. The grant Brian claims he secured was done by the Parks Commission and a paid professional grant writer.

Public Utilities - Water: Evidently Brian's challenge has been to maintain and repair our existing infrastructure. Big deal! Most of our system is less than 50 years old and doesn't require much to maintain. During my term in office, we maintained and also added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines, most were needed to complete the looping in our master plan, and to remedy the areas of stale water. Previously the water department had to frequently run water into



An independent study concluded that Fruitport has the lowest sewer rates in the County which are among the lowest in the State. Our water rates will not go up again due to not spending millions on needless expansions. If residents want water or sewer, the Township will gladly work with them to finance and install it: but only if it is wanted by the residents!

Zoning Enforcement

Brian demands that all zoning ordinances are equally applied to all businesses and residents. No exceptions are given to family members, employees, or friends.

THIS WILL NOT CHANGE!

Lawsuits

Brian ended the lawsuit with the racetrack which was costing too much money with no chance of success.

He joined the Norton Shores lawsuit against Muskegon Heights to stop multiple water quality violations and misappropriation of your money. As a result, Muskegon Heights reimbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars and brought the water plant in compliance with Federal and State Health standards.

Summary

Over the past four years, Brian cut unsustainable spending levels by reducing operational costs by over 25%! This was done by eliminating positions, making organizational changes, reducing employee costs, getting out from under the existing water supply contract, and paying off high-interest debt. This has stabilized the general fund which no longer borrows money to pay bills and allowed for an additional detective to follow up on the nearly 7,000 annual calls for service. It is important that Fruitport citizens know the facts relative to these issues rather than misinformation circulated for personal gain. These facts are undisputable and verifiable through independent audits and Township records that are available to you at Fruitport Township Hall and http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_31038---,00.html.

We cannot afford to go back to the days of spending beyond our means, nor do we need to.

ditches to keep it fresh and safe to drink. Most of those problems were solved with the looping that we did connecting the dead end lines, and it also gave people on those lines the ability to hook up to fresh water.

We did it within our budget and no one was forced to hook up if they didn't want to at the time the line went through. Most of the looping that was done will be needed if the water tower is built at Broadway and Brooks Roads

Public Utilities - Sewer: I extended sewer lines sized for the entire south half of the township which includes the Mall, Calvary Christian Schools, and the Village. We also put in a sewer line that was not needed at that time, down Sternberg Road from Quarterline to I-96 during the rebuilding of Sternberg Road because it was the least expensive to do at that time. It's now being used and our sewer rates are still the lowest.

Zoning Enforcement: Actually, I believe Brian has gone beyond the law and used the zoning ordinances and assessing department to abuse certain township citizens. It's one of the reasons that I'm running for Supervisor. Government's job is to protect its citizens, including the most defenseless, not do them in as has been happening.

Lawsuits: The race track lawsuit was not costing the township any money because I personally accepted responsibility for the township's legal expenses and have been making monthly payments for over four years. I agreed to do that because I felt confident that the township would get a settlement of over \$700,000 and did not want to see the township citizens lose that money because of political motivation. Brian convinced our board to settle it for \$10,000 and put the money in the General Fund.

Brian and the township joined Norton Shores to proceed with a lawsuit against Muskegon Heights that, indeed proved to be, in his words 'a frivolous lawsuit'. Reading the contract with the Heights, would make you wonder how the judge would rule in the township's favor, and the judge ruled against it.

Summary: It could take pages to refute the false and misleading statements made in Brian's summary. It's doubtful that the 25% figure is correct. The 2008 and 2012 audits don't support this statement. It's also doubtful that employee costs are less today than four years ago, OR getting out of the existing water supply contract has stabilized the general fund. His facts are disputable and are not verified through the township's records. Check the website that Brian has offered. It holds the township annual reports and see if you can find his statements true.

We need to go back to compassionate local government – we were not spending beyond our means, but using our resources to benefit the health, safety, and quality of life of our residents.

BRIAN WERSCHEM

for Township
Their records

Promises made by Brian during his 2008 campaign for supervisor

What did he get done?

- He said he would improve our roads

- Changed no roads from gravel to asphalt

0

Within a month of being elected, Brian informed the residents on roads built in the late 1940s and 1950s that had never been accepted by the county that they would have to maintain their own roads. The roads were maintained during both of Ron's terms in office and also during other supervisors' terms. These citizens pay property taxes and gas taxes, but because their homes were built at a time that our government failed to take care of the details of construction and ownership, Brian decided it would be a nice way to save some money.

He may have participated with the county road commission with some chip and seal resurfacing and other road commission projects.

- Improve bike lanes and bike paths

- Added no bike paths or lanes

- He said our core services of water need to be supported

- Added no water extension to trunk lines

New DPW Building

The DPW has wanted a new building for years. It has been a little tight but they have been getting by. Brian evidently decided that it was time to build them a new building. Its a half million-dollar building - the most expensive building the township has built for itself. And where did Brian decide to build it? On ten acres of property on the corner of Brooks Road and Broadway that was supposedly bought for a location for a water tower which was in our 50-year-old water distribution design. Whether it is still relevant is open for discussion. That location is about as far from the township hall as you can get. There is no water line in either direction about 1/2 mile on Brooks and over a mile on Broadway. Both of those pipes would need to be put in before building a water tower. A well has been put in so that there is water for the building. I always thought that Fruitport Township

government worked really well with the water department and government offices together. They could help each other with phones and customer service, and it was healthy having them within sight. I expect that another person will need to be hired to accommodate the separate offices. Also, the building is about as far from our water and sewer customers as you can get which means extra driving time during the day, every day, just to get to the customers who need services, especially emergency shut-offs in case of accidents or line breakage. It seems to me that that money could have been better spent getting water lines to people who have to deal with bad water and expensive purifying systems. Since the building was built next to the old dump, they may not be able to drink water from their own well.

- Stop wasting money on frivolous lawsuits

- Started a lawsuit with Muskegon Heights over a water rate issue that clearly contradicted the water services agreement and lost.

- Agreed to a settlement of \$10,000 by the race track for not paying close to a million dollars in fees owed to the township. Brian settled it with very little knowledge of the success the township had in court. I rather doubt that he read even 1/4 of the court documents. The settlement was a huge loss to the township.

OR RON COOPER

Supervisor
are revealing

What did Ron do during the previous term in office?

5

- **Converted 5 roads from gravel to asphalt**
 - Maintained the dozen or so old roads which the county wouldn't accept.

1. Harvey between Jiddson & Ottawa County line
2. Mt. Garfield between Kendra & Quarterline
3. Quarterline between Pontaluna & Sternberg
4. Sheridan between Mt. Garfield & Sternberg
5. 14th Street north of Vig Drive

Participated with the county road commission to do chip and seal to resurface many miles of roads and other road commission projects.

Wash-board gravel roads can be very dangerous, especially for young and inexperienced drivers. The vehicle can easily vibrate off the road. We have had citizens die and also become permanently disabled from these kinds of accidents. Our township leadership needs to be aware and carry a burden for the importance of converting gravel roads to asphalt.

6 & 2

- **During his two terms he established 6 Bike Paths and 2 Bike Lanes**
- He also purchased the equipment to maintain the bike paths during the winter, including the sidewalk near Beach School.

1. The bike path on two sides of the Mall frontage.
2. The bike path on Henry in front of Meijers
3. The bike path on Sheridan between Mt. Garfield & Sternberg
3. The bike path along Mt. Garfield both sides of Sheridan
4. Worked with others to establish the bike path from the Fruitport Village to the Spring Lake bike path
5. The bike lanes, both sides of Pontaluna between the middle school & Harvey
6. Bike path on Independence Drive, Harvey to Meijers

11

- **Added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines**
- Most of these extensions were important looping in the master plan that had been left unfinished for 30+ years.

1. Heights Ravenna Road east to Brooks Road
2. Brooks Road from Trail Side to Hazekamps
3. Broadway Avenue east to bike path (Muskatawa Trail)
4. Dangl Road between Airline and Sternberg
5. Sternberg Road from Dangl to Brooks Road
6. Stringer Road from Mt. Garfield to Sternberg
7. Brooks Road from Sternberg to Ellis Road
8. Ellis Road east to Brooks Road
9. Harvey Street, Wilson to Judson
10. Brooks Road – connected water mains north and south of Norris Creek
11. Wilson Road – connection line, Harvey Street to Norton Shores

- With Norton Shores negotiated through the courts an agreement to have Muskegon Heights return over \$200,000 that they had intermingled with their general fund from the water fund.

- Since the water service agreement was negotiated during Ron's first term, with his direct involvement, Fruitport and Norton Shores have had lower wholesale water cost than either Muskegon or Grand Haven customers pay.

- After a thorough examination and studying the agreement with the race track, I knew they were sending the Fruitport Township share of the betting formula away from Fruitport. They didn't expect us to know what they were doing. It was in their best interest to work behind the scenes to make sure I wasn't reelected. The new board would not familiarize themselves with the case. There was a lot at stake for track ownership. Ron initiated the suit against the race track for not paying about a million dollars in betting fees to the township using funds from the track designed for that purpose, not from the general fund. One of the track attorneys, Nelson Westin, had acknowledged that the track would probably settle for between \$700,000 and \$800,000 when they could no longer stall the case through the courts and if the township board stayed committed. The national ownership agreed in court to pay for the state ownership's obligation when that time came.

Ron agreed to be responsible for the township's attorney bill personally from that time on because he could not bear to see the township lose that much money because of petty politics by the township board, and with the understanding he would be reimbursed for his expenses when the settlement took place. He is still making monthly payments on that bill. The track owners were having difficulty stalling it any longer and were at a point where they would be getting the judge's decision if they didn't settle it. The settlement took place without Ron's knowledge and for a ridiculously small amount of \$10,000. Since the township settled for such a small amount, Brian recommended to just put the settlement into the general fund.

NOTE:

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTERS CAN CHANGE THEIR VOTE BY GOING TO FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP OFFICE AND ASKING.

Is this what Brian calls "Positive Leadership"?

Bending the law and even making up laws to do people in (and to show them who is boss!) Following are some examples:

Critter Café

Airline Rd., Fruitport

Christine's Critter Café, located across the road from the fire station on Airline Road. Christine puts her heart and soul into rescuing abandoned pets and finding new homes for them. She averages about 200 per year. Hers is the only rescue in our area that takes all pets including rabbits, rats, birds, etc. Before moving into her location, she requested a letter of permission from the township which she received May of 2008. Police departments, including the Fruitport police department, 911, and other rescuers that take only dogs and cats send her abandoned pets.

After over four years operating her rescue, Brian initiated a letter sent by Michigan Township Services that told her that all her "animals must be removed from the property until all necessary approvals are given by the Planning Commission or Zoning Board of Appeals." Brian's actions could be because Christine complained to authorities that an animal the police asked her to pick up had been abused. There was a connection between Brian and the possible abuser.

After receiving the letter and emailing it to some of her fellow rescuers for their opinion on what she should do, she called Township Services and they told her she needed to go to Brian's office and talk to him, which she did.

According to Christine and others who were nearby, Brian hollered that 5,000 people had responded to him on the internet and proceeded to verbally and aggressively (in an intentionally overbearing manner) abuse her to the point where she broke down in tears, and he still continued.

On Channel 8 news he said he had no knowledge of the Critter Café existing. Brian put an ad in the December 2008 FAN. Right next to it (about 1/2"), is an article about the Critter Café Rescue with a picture of her sign, and Brian seems to be looking right at it. Usually, when someone puts an ad in the paper with their picture in it, they check it out at least once. Additionally, the fire and police department driveway faces her sign and Brian probably uses that drive about once a week.

Christine seems to be a pleasant and open person who might not be able to defend herself. Fortunately, the public came forward and offered to do what they could to help her. Christine spends her limited retirement on her rescue and has no funds left over. One person who stepped forward was an attorney, Ginny Mikita, from Rockford who started a conversation with the township attorney, and Christine has been in limbo ever since, not knowing from day to day what is going to happen to her and her rescue.

She knows that the Department of Agriculture, the DNR, Animal Control, and Pound Buddies had been contacted by the township because they had contacted her.

Recently, she was in the hospital for a few days because she was injured by a cat that was dropped off at her rescue by an unknown person. Even though volunteers looked after the rescue while she was in the hospital, it was a worry to her of what the township might do to her rescue while she was gone.

Mark Diederich

2636 E. Pontaluna Rd., Fruitport

Mark and his dad before him, have been taking in yard compostables since the 1940s. When I was in office a couple neighbors complained that his place was not neat enough to suit them. Mark also lives there in a 100-year-old house that his grandfather built. I checked out the legalities with what Mark was doing and came to the conclusion that

he was agriculture and pre-existed any of our zoning ordinances, and under the law he should be able to continue.

In 1995, Fred Constantini from Michigan Township Services, wrote Mark that the township has no problem with the composting behind his house and acknowledged that an unlicensed van was a farm vehicle.

One of the neighbors told me at that time to get 'rid of Mark'. When I told him that he was within the law I was told to get rid of him anyway, because government can do it! At that point I realized that our township government should be protecting Mark, not doing him in. With that background, I'm assuming that the same neighbor told Brian the same thing because in early 2011, Fruitport Township got an order to enter Mark's home and started the process to condemn and demolish it. It's my opinion that the judge who issued the order to enter Mark's home and all other buildings on his property was not fully informed of Mark's situation. Yellow tape was put across his driveway thus putting him out of business and it has never been taken down by the township.

Brian again had to deal with angry protestors supporting Mark and gave him more time to do some of the improvements inside of his house that the township demanded of him. The township hired a building inspector from Norton Shores and called him a "Hearing Officer" to make numerous requirements to basically bring his 100-year-old house up to modern code. I believe this was an abuse of power by Brian who had to get someone from outside our township to do the dirty deed because our local inspectors fully understood and were probably not anxious to participate.

Mark is a pleasant man whom one would assume would be unable to defend himself. Thankfully, the public became involved to help him.

Using the Assessor to Spy

I have been made aware that the township, under Brian's direction, is using the township assessor to spy on our citizens' property because the township zoning and building department can't trespass without a warrant.

On Wilson Road, the township assessor entered private property and took pictures of what was a legal operation that could not be seen from any other property and gave the pictures to township services.

At the same time, the assessor took pictures of some cars on neighboring property that no one could see except from the property she was standing on, and turned them in to township services also. I have first-hand knowledge of this. I was told by a very reliable source that the assessor also went into a fenced-in area behind a garage that had an unlicensed car that no one could see from outside the fence! The unlicensed car may have been that of a son away at college or in the service. Whether or not the car was there legally is not the question. I believe it is against the law to use the township assessor in this way.

The New Water Agreement

I don't believe it's a good decision to stop buying water from the Muskegon Heights water plant.

1. Fruitport and Norton Shores have paid less for water than Muskegon water plant customers for nearly all of 40 years.

2. It's been healthy for Muskegon water plant customers because Muskegon was limited on how much more they could charge their customers over what the Heights charged.

3. With Fruitport and Norton Shores contracted to Muskegon for water, it will make it difficult for the Heights plant to survive.

4. The Heights marked up their water to Fruitport and Norton Shores by 25% and they desperately need that income.

5. It's in everyone's interest to help the Heights succeed. Their problems spill over to the neighboring communities whether it is crime, school sports, or this areas visitors' safety going through the Heights and numerous other ways.

6. It's utterly irresponsible to purposely damage the Heights like that, and the end result will be that the Muskegon plant will have a monopoly. When our contract runs out, our price will increase to the level their other customers are paying, and we will get what we deserve for failing to consider what is best for the Heights in our decision.

Misleading Advertising

Brian states in his advertising that he "Eliminated over three million dollars in debt at no additional cost to the taxpayers." More simply, he paid the water and sewer bond payments with money that was in those funds and actually he didn't do it, but the treasurer did.

He says he eliminated "over \$500,000 in interest payments on behalf of the taxpayers." interest costs have gone down without Brian's help and the township treasurer/board has simply taken advantage of the lower rates.

"Reduced operational costs by \$587,000 (25.1%) while improving services." At the moment I don't have the means to check his figures. Which services have improved:

Not funding the private/public roads that have been maintained by the township for years?

Doing one unadvertised cleanup in the spring and eliminating the fall clean up?

Having such poor police investigation that people are starting to not call the police after a robbery because it isn't worth the bother?

"Saved the Fruitport Sewer System from bankruptcy." First I've heard of it and don't believe it.

"Improved the financial position of the township so we are no longer borrowing to pay bills." I would like him to show where the township borrowed to pay the bills unless it was to keep from cashing in high paying CDs for a short term need.

Cline Road Property Sale

The township owned 100+ acres on Cline Road. Why did we sell that property at the bottom of the market? Why did we lower our price by \$100,000 to do it? It was the largest parcel the township owned and also had some of the highest ground.

NOTE:

Government's job is to protect its citizens. That includes those less able to defend themselves. If we allow our government to do them in, who is next and where does it stop? We all have a responsibility to respond and that's one of the main reasons I am running for township supervisor. — Ron

Some of what is printed here is from memory and I believe it is accurate, but there is the possibility that I may be off a little on something. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 865-3135 and I will do my best to respond.

This subject was sent to the Chronicle by Mr. Stewart on 10/8/12, and to our knowledge, it had not been printed as of 10/23/12.

I have been a resident of this area for almost 70 years except for a few years at U of M Dearborn. I was surprised recently by the possibility of Fruitport and Norton Shores changing their water supply from Muskegon Heights to Muskegon. To me it does not make any sense (there must be politicians involved). I have three reasons why I am against the change:

1. The Heights has been a good supplier for many years (IF IT WORKS DON'T FIX IT). The Heights has plenty of capacity. Both Fruitport and Norton Shores are geographically adjacent to the Heights, therefore, less piping and pumping expense. The Heights built the elevated tank at Getty and Norton primarily to supply Fruitport and Norton Shores. With the change we will have to build a large connecting pipeline and one or two storage tanks (unnecessary taxpayer expense).
2. When the East Sherman shopping area was being developed, Fruitport tried to get the water from Muskegon which was just on the North side of Sherman. However, Muskegon's cost was so high that Fruitport ran a supply pipe for a mile through Norton Shores to connect to the Heights, for a more reasonable rate.
3. I have always thought the Heights water was better tasting. There may be good reasons for this. Muskegon Lake is fed by the Muskegon River, several streams, storm sewers, and all the areas "treated" sewage. When this leaves the channel and enters Lake Michigan it forms a brown flume. Boaters have noticed this flume (fishermen call the edges "the scum line") and it can be seen in overhead photographs. Lake Michigan has a natural South current which takes it to the Muskegon treatment plant, which is about one mile south of the pier. The flume dissipates before it reaches the Heights treatment plant, 3-1/4 miles south of the pier.

I hope the responsible parties will reconsider this serious change.

Ken Stewart
Fruitport Township

NOTE: Mr. Stewart expresses valid concerns in addition to some that I have given on the page 6. The decision to buy water from Muskegon and sever our long-standing relationship with Muskegon Heights (which affects everyone on all our water lines and those on future water lines) should have had a wide-ranging discussion with public input. The pros and cons should have been encouraged in order to fully examine the issue and make the best decision for our township, instead of having been done by backroom politics and then rushed to a board decision. Fruitport and Norton Shores leadership may have made a huge and permanent mistake here. It's a perfect example of amateur leadership and the consequences that our citizens will have to live with forever.

Some accomplishments from Ron's first term in office (1996-2000):

- > Facilitated the establishment of the Lakes Mall
- > Helped with the establishment of Calvary Christian School
- > Facilitated the accumulation of property needed for the Meijers store
- > Facilitated the extension of the water and sewer lines needed to build the Mall as well as the future development in that area
- > Converted several roads from gravel and sand to asphalt, some of which were the north end of Raffie to Cleveland, and Cleveland from Raffie to Dangle
- > Rebuilt Cline Road west of Sheridan
- > Bike paths on two sides of the Lakes Mall and other areas
- > All this while increasing our fund balance

Select the right candidate this November Letter to the Editor:

It's your animal loving friend, Christine Lea, here.
I am the "bunny loving lady," founder and operator of Critter Café Rescue on Airline and Mt. Garfield's corner.

I am writing in celebration of our privilege of CHOICE. This November, we have the honor of electing our next township supervisor for Fruitport Charter Township. My wonderful friend, Ron Cooper, is on the township supervisor ballot as a no party affiliation candidate.

He and most of his family are lifelong residents of Fruitport Township. Ron is also one of our elders at Fruitport Congregational Church. He is a respectable, fair and trustworthy guy who has all of our best interests at heart, including that of our beloved pets.

For such a small community as Fruitport, we are fortunate to have such a great wealth of different amenities. In Fruitport Township, indeed, there is something for everyone to enjoy. It's no secret that I am a huge animal lover and advocate. Let me describe some of the ways in which Fruitport Township, with the support of Ron Cooper, benefits me in my mission to help needy animals that find their way to Critter Café.

I feel so blessed to have a strong relationship with my beloved go-to veterinarian, Dr. Corbett (honors also to her husband, Dr. Kromp). Dr. Corbett hangs her shingle just a short hop, skip and jump away, at the end of Pontaluna. It's reassuring that during emergencies I can trust one of the foremost rabbit and small animal vets in the area to be so close.

The West Michigan Spay and Neuter Clinic on Airline offers high quality, low cost spay/neuter/micro-chipping/rabies vaccinations and post-surgical care. To me, this is another priceless asset here in Fruitport, giving critical support to pets and their owners. Did you know Ron Cooper was one of two people instrumental in getting the clinic up and running to stop pet over-population in west Michigan? More than 4,000 (and counting) cat and dog spay/neuters have been safely accomplished.

My many years of being an animal lover have connected me with myriad personalities and minds. I have listened to and been fascinated by historical figures whose quotes, amazingly, speak to the human (and animal) condition as it stands today. The words of the wise seem to endure our changing times to stay relevant. One, my favorite, comes to my mind thinking over all that Ron Cooper has to offer our community now and in the future — "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." — Mahatma Gandhi

Ron has put forth monumental effort in improving West Michigan. The Spay and Neuter Clinic has bettered the lives of thousands of West Michigan companion animals. He continues to embrace animal rescues like Critter Café, and helps in any way he can to enable me and other volunteers to do some of the heartbreaking and physically tedious work that goes into animal rescue.

To me, that really says a lot about Ron Cooper.

Ron Cooper's work has given Critter Café and other animal rescues the safe space to, among other popular truisms, "live and let live," and "don't sweat the small stuff." His faithful support has even allowed animal rescuers to live this wisdom: "There is nothing that wastes the body like worry, and one who has any faith in God should be ashamed to worry about anything whatsoever." — Mahatma Gandhi

When one cares so deeply about the hardworking people in his community as Ron Cooper does, (and he is genuine in that care) a community as a whole is greater. Ron Cooper is truly a great leader.

Fruitport's current supervisor lacks the vision, empathy and greatness within himself to deserve a re-vote into our very abundant governmental heart. Where do we, as a community, want to go?

Sadly, too, our current supervisor lacks the stewardship, knowledge and reverence to respect many of the old-fashioned Good Samaritan folk like me. I am following my mission, which is to simply educate about and reach out to as many of the voiceless fur and feather babies in need as I can within my lifetime. Under the current supervisor, I have been persecuted for such works, which do harm to none.

I ask you to take a critical look at the promise — not kept, but made — of our current township supervisor upon his being sworn in: The promise of positive, experienced and proven leadership. Positivity, I certainly cannot prove, considering my encounters with him. I wonder also where he got his supervisory experience — certainly, he can't be citing his prior employment as a clerk?

He is not Fruitport's best bet for the future, as the past four years have truly proven. Please, let's go back to what worked and vote Ron Cooper back in! With Ron at our head, we can live our lives and take pleasure in addressing other important township issues, like enjoying and improving the venues!

I'll leave you with another quote, this time by philosopher Immanuel Kant: "We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals." Ron Cooper's heart truly is so good.

Sincerely
Christine Lea
Critter Café Rescue
5818 Airline Road

Complimentary voting worksheet for Fruitport Precinct 2. (Other Precincts will be similar.)

Fruitport Charter Township	Fractid 2	Fruitport Community Schools
OFFICIAL BALLOT General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Muskegon County, Michigan Fruitport Charter Township, Precinct 2 Page 1 of 2 Note: Ballot has two pages Please remember to vote all pages.		
PARTISAN SECTION		
STRAIT PARTY TICKET Vote for not more than 1		
Republican Party <input type="radio"/>	MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for not more than 1 Todd A. Courser <input type="radio"/>	CLERK Vote for not more than 1 Cindy Fairfield <input type="radio"/>
Democratic Party <input type="radio"/>	Melania A. Kurdyk <input type="radio"/>	Nancy A. Waters <input type="radio"/>
Libertarian Party <input type="radio"/>	Michelle Fecteau <input type="radio"/>	TREASURER Vote for not more than 1 Eric Rothoff <input type="radio"/>
U.S. Taxpayers Party <input type="radio"/>	Lupe Ramos-Monroy <input type="radio"/>	Tony Moulatsiotis <input type="radio"/>
Green Party <input type="radio"/>	Andy LeClerc <input type="radio"/>	REGISTER OF DEEDS Vote for not more than 1 Mark F. Fairchild <input type="radio"/>
Natural Law Party <input type="radio"/>	Kara Adams <input type="radio"/>	REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Vote for not more than 2 Dan Horning <input type="radio"/>
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES Vote for not more than 1	Robert Steila <input type="radio"/>	DRAIN COMMISSIONER Vote for not more than 1 David Fisher <input type="radio"/>
Mitt Romney <input type="radio"/>	Mark Byrnes <input type="radio"/>	Joe Fenner <input type="radio"/>
Ryan Paul <input type="radio"/>	Shauna Ryder Diggs <input type="radio"/>	SURVEYOR Vote for not more than 1 Stephen V. Vallier <input type="radio"/>
Barack Obama <input type="radio"/>	James Lewis Hudler <input type="radio"/>	COUNTY COMMISSIONER 5TH DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1 Marvin Engle <input type="radio"/>
Joe Biden <input type="radio"/>	Gregory Scott Stampe <input type="radio"/>	Lew Collins <input type="radio"/>
Virgil H. Goodie, Jr. <input type="radio"/>	Joe Stanger <input type="radio"/>	TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR Vote for not more than 1 Brian K. Werscham <input type="radio"/>
James M. Clymer <input type="radio"/>	Gerald T. Van Sickle <input type="radio"/>	Ron Cooper <input type="radio"/>
Jill Stein <input type="radio"/>	Eric Borregard <input type="radio"/>	CLERK Vote for not more than 1 Carol Hulka <input type="radio"/>
Cheryl Honkala <input type="radio"/>	Nikki Mattson <input type="radio"/>	TREASURER Vote for not more than 1 Ross Dillon <input type="radio"/>
Ross C. Anderson <input type="radio"/>	TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2 Melanie Foster <input type="radio"/>	TRUSTEE Vote for not more than 4 Ronald E. Becklin <input type="radio"/>
Luis Rodriguez <input type="radio"/>	Jeff Sakara <input type="radio"/>	David J. Markgraf <input type="radio"/>
CONGRESSIONAL UNITED STATES SENATOR Vote for not more than 1	Joel Ferguson <input type="radio"/>	Marjorie J. Nash <input type="radio"/>
Pete Hoekstra <input type="radio"/>	Brian Mosallam <input type="radio"/>	Charles Whitlow <input type="radio"/>
Debbie Stabenow <input type="radio"/>	Michael H. Miller <input type="radio"/>	Sherry Yonkers <input type="radio"/>
Scotty Bowman <input type="radio"/>	Bill Mohr, II <input type="radio"/>	COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY Vote for not more than 1 D.J. Hillson <input type="radio"/>
Richard A. Matkin <input type="radio"/>	Stephen J. Young <input type="radio"/>	SHERIFF Vote for not more than 1 Dean C. Roefer <input type="radio"/>
Harley Mikkelson <input type="radio"/>	Lloyd Clarke <input type="radio"/>	Ronald Lee Gramsmeier <input type="radio"/>
John D. Little <input type="radio"/>	GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2 Michael J. Burulis <input type="radio"/>	BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Vote for not more than 2 Donald K. Crandall <input type="radio"/>
LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE IN STATE LEGISLATURE 91ST DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1	Sarah B. Jastl <input type="radio"/>	Sean Mullaly <input type="radio"/>
Holly Hughes <input type="radio"/>	Sandra Hughes O'Brien <input type="radio"/>	Annette Smedley <input type="radio"/>
Colleen Lamoree <input type="radio"/>	Kim Trenk <input type="radio"/>	Raymond J. Koztrawa <input type="radio"/>
Nick Sumpster <input type="radio"/>	Robert Gale <input type="radio"/>	Gregory C. Fitzman <input type="radio"/>
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY Vote for not more than 1	Marc J. Borkowski <input type="radio"/>	BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Vote for not more than 1 Roy J. Portenga <input type="radio"/>
D.J. Hillson <input type="radio"/>	Margaret Guttschall <input type="radio"/>	
	Letham Redding <input type="radio"/>	

Fruitport Charter Township	Fractid 2	Fruitport Community Schools
OFFICIAL BALLOT General Election Tuesday, November 6, 2012 Muskegon County, Michigan Fruitport Charter Township, Precinct 2 Page 2 of 2 Note: Ballot has two pages Please remember to vote all pages.		
PROPOSAL SECTION		
STATE PROPOSALS		
PROPOSAL 12-1 A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW Public Act 4 of 2011 would: Establish criteria to assess the financial condition of local government units, including school districts. Authorize Governor to appoint an emergency manager (EM) upon state finding of a financial emergency, and allow the EM to act in place of local government officials. Require EM to develop financial and operating plans, which may include modification or termination of contracts, reorganization of government, and determination of expenditures, services, and use of assets until the emergency is resolved. Alternatively, authorize state-appointed review team to enter into a local government approved consent decree. Should this law be approved? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
PROPOSAL 12-2 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING This proposal would: Grant public and private employees the constitutional right to organize and bargain collectively through labor union. Invalidate existing or future state or local laws that limit the ability to join unions and bargain collectively, and to negotiate and enforce collective bargaining agreements, including employer's financial support of their labor unions. Laws may be enacted to prohibit public employees from striking. Override state laws that regulate hours and conditions of employment to the extent that those laws conflict with collective bargaining agreements. Define "employer" as a person or entity employing one or more employees. Should this proposal be approved? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
PROPOSAL 12-3 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY This proposal would: Require electric utilities to provide at least 25% of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources, which are wind, solar, biomass, and hydropower, by 2025. Limit to not more than 1% per year electric utility rate increases charged to consumers only to achieve compliance with the renewable energy standard. Allow annual extensions of the deadline to meet the 25% standard in order to prevent rate increases over the 1% limit. Require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment of Michigan residents. Should this proposal be approved? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
PROPOSAL 12-4 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MICHIGAN QUALITY HOME CARE COUNCIL AND PROVIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR IN-HOME CARE WORKERS This proposal would: Allow in-home care workers to bargain collectively with the Michigan Quality Home Care Council (MQHCC). Continue the current exclusive representative of in-home care workers until modified in accordance with labor laws. Require MQHCC to provide training for in-home care workers, create a registry of workers who pass background checks, and provide financial services to patients to manage the cost of in-home care. Preserve patients' rights to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the MQHCC registry who are bargaining unit members. Authorize the MQHCC to set minimum compensation standards and terms and conditions of employment. Should this proposal be approved? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
STATE PROPOSALS		
PROPOSAL 12-5 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT This proposal would: Require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation. This section shall in no way be construed to limit or modify tax limitations otherwise created in this Constitution. Should this proposal be approved? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
PROPOSAL 12-6 A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS This proposal would: Require the approval of a majority of voters at a statewide election and in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" are to be located before the State of Michigan may expend state funds or resources for acquiring land, designing, soliciting bids for, constructing, financing, or promoting new international bridges or tunnels. Create a definition of "new international bridges or tunnels for motor vehicles" that means, "any bridge or tunnel which is not open to the public and serving traffic as of January 1, 2012." Should this proposal be approved? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROPOSAL		
MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE BONDING PROPOSAL Shall Muskegon Community College, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Thirty-One Million One Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$31,135,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series, for the purpose of: Constructing, furnishing and equipping the science wing additions including new science labs, the health education facilities additions and a new creative arts building; remodeling, refurbishing and re-equipping buildings and facilities; acquiring, developing and improving sites and supporting infrastructure? The following is for informational purposes only: The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2013, under current law is .48 mil (\$0.48 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, for any single series, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-five (25) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is .37 mil (\$0.37 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>		

CHECK BOTH SIDES AND BOTH PAGES OF BALLOT: This ballot has two pages and two sides. Be certain to check both pages and the reverse side of each ballot page.

Fruitport Charter Township	Fractid 2	Fruitport Community Schools
JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Partial Term Ending 11/01/2015 Vote for not more than 1		
NONPARTISAN SECTION SHELLA JOHNSON <input type="radio"/>		
TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSIONER Vote for not more than 5 Chad Parker <input type="radio"/>		
Ross Spynke <input type="radio"/>		
Melania Lyonnals <input type="radio"/>		
JUDICIAL JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 2 Bob Roddis <input type="radio"/>		
Doug Kern <input type="radio"/>		
Connie Marie Kelly <input type="radio"/>		
Stephen Markman <input type="radio"/>		
Bridget Mary McCormack <input type="radio"/>		
Kerry L. Morgan <input type="radio"/>		
Colleen O'Brien <input type="radio"/>		
JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT 60TH DISTRICT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 1 Michael J. Nolan <input type="radio"/>		
JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS 3RD DISTRICT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 3 Jane M. Beckering <input type="radio"/>		
Bill Murphy <input type="radio"/>		
Douglas B. Shapiro <input type="radio"/>		
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER FRUITPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS Vote for not more than 2 Kris Cole <input type="radio"/>		
Gavin Haan <input type="radio"/>		
Kurt Hazard <input type="radio"/>		
Steve Keglovitz <input type="radio"/>		
Ted Cerniglia <input type="radio"/>		
JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS 3RD DISTRICT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 1 Mark T. Bognera <input type="radio"/>		
COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Vote for not more than 2 Donald K. Crandall <input type="radio"/>		
Sean Mullaly <input type="radio"/>		
Annette Smedley <input type="radio"/>		
Raymond J. Koztrawa <input type="radio"/>		
JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT 14TH CIRCUIT Vote for not more than 1 Annette Smedley <input type="radio"/>		
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Vote for not more than 1 Roy J. Portenga <input type="radio"/>		

IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION FOR FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Brian Werschem's

FACTS TO CONSIDER

Supervisor Brian Werschem inherited a four-year general fund deficit of nearly \$1,000,000 dollars and a road revolving fund with an \$95,000 dollar deficit. The general fund's "savings account" was so low; the Township borrowed money just to pay its bills until property taxes were collected. This is a fact that can be verified at: http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_31038---,00.html

Roads

Since taking office, Brian worked with the Road Commission to obtain grants for road improvements rather than using your tax dollars. He appointed a representative to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission which distributes Federal road funds throughout North Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. This secured nearly \$1,000,000 in funding to completely reconstruct Hile Road (from Airline to Sheridan) and Sheridan (from Heights Ravenna to Hile) at no cost to the Fruitport Township residents, in 2013 and 2014. Brian feels it's smarter to maintain existing roads with preventative maintenance and resurfacing (Airline, Dangl, Mill Iron, and Brooks) rather than using tax dollars for expansions.

Bike Paths

The new bike paths represent a cost to the Fruitport tax payer and a future liability and only benefit the Commercial areas around the Lakes Mall. Bike paths are an important non-motorized transportation mode; Brian continues to work with the state to connect the north and south bike paths, using Federal and State money at no cost to the Fruitport taxpayer.

Parks

Brian secured \$465,000 in grants to construct the new Sheringer soccer park.

Public Utilities

Rather than spend millions of dollars on water and sewer extensions in rural areas where people do not want or request it, Brian focused efforts on maintaining and repairing the existing infrastructure. Spending water and sewer customer money on expanding the utility systems to rural areas is not fair to the existing customers, exacerbates the potential for urban sprawl, and creates a future liability with very few new

Ron Cooper's Response to Brian's Facts!

It would be enlightening for people to go to the web that Brian suggests. You will not find the \$1,000,000 and \$95,000 amounts because they seem to be made-up figures. You will find that when I left office after the March 2008 audit, Fruitport township's total fund balance was \$1,183,738. This figure speaks for itself as an indicator of the financial health of the township at that time.

If we borrowed for a short term cash flow need, it would be so we would not have to cash in a higher paying interest CD for a short amount of time.

Roads: We also worked with the road commission to rebuild roads at no cost to our township residents:

Pontaluna, between Airline and Harvey, Brooks between Hts. Ravenna and Sternberg, and others. It's standard practice and simple to do. We also, on our own, got over two million dollars ear-marked toward on and off ramps on I-96 at Sternberg in Congress by Rep. Hoekstra. We held numerous meetings with Michigan Department of Transportation to get it approved by them, which they did. It was sent to Washington and Brian let it go unused??

Brian seems to think that if you live on a dirty, dusty, and pot-holed gravel road, that it's not the township's concern. I believe it's a health and safety issue and the township should be helpful. During my last term we converted 11 such roads.

Bike Paths: Brian says that Bike Paths are a future liability and only benefit commercial areas. I believe that they add to safety, health, and a better quality of life and, ideally, every street would have a bike path. As for the north and south connecting bike path, we had between a half million and one million dollars pledged for it. Brian was not interested enough to even look at it, and most of the pledged money was used on bike paths in Ottawa County.

Parks: The Sheringer soccer park land was purchased by trading other land during my administration. The grant Brian claims he secured was done by the Parks Commission and a paid professional grant writer.

Public Utilities - Water: Evidently Brian's challenge has been to maintain and repair our existing infrastructure. Big deal! Most of our system is less than 50 years old and doesn't require much to maintain. During my term in office, we maintained and also added 11 extensions to our water trunk lines, most were needed to complete the looping in our master plan, and to remedy the areas of stale water. Previously the water department had to frequently run water into

Handwritten: January 17

connections to off-set the costs.

An independent study concluded that Fruitport has the lowest sewer rates in the County which are among the lowest in the State. Our water rates will not go up again due to not spending millions on needless expansions. If residents want water or sewer, the Township will gladly work with them to finance and install it: but only if it is wanted by the residents!

Zoning Enforcement

Brian demands that all zoning ordinances are equally applied to all businesses and residents. No exceptions are given to family members, employees, or friends.

THIS WILL NOT CHANGE!

Lawsuits

Brian ended the lawsuit with the racetrack which was costing too much money with no chance of success. He joined the Norton Shores lawsuit against Muskegon Heights to stop multiple water quality violations and misappropriation of your money. As a result, Muskegon Heights reimbursed hundreds of thousands of dollars and brought the water plant in compliance with Federal and State Health standards.

Summary

Over the past four years, Brian cut unsustainable spending levels by reducing operational costs by over 25%! This was done by eliminating positions, making organizational changes, reducing employee costs, getting out from under the existing water supply contract, and paying off high-interest debt. This has stabilized the general fund which no longer borrows money to pay bills and allowed for an additional detective to follow up on the nearly 7,000 annual calls for service. It is important that Fruitport citizens know the facts relative to these issues rather than misinformation circulated for personal gain. These facts are undisputable and verifiable through independent audits and Township records that are available to you at Fruitport Township Hall and http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/0,4679,7-121-1751_31038---,00.html.

We cannot afford to go back to the days of spending beyond our means, nor do we need to.

ditches to keep it fresh and safe to drink. Most of those problems were solved with the looping that we did connecting the dead end lines, and it also gave people on those lines the ability to hook up to fresh water.

We did it within our budget and no one was forced to hook up if they didn't want to at the time the line went through. The township purchased some ground at Broadway and Brooks to put a water tower on. Most of the looping that was done will be needed if that tower is built.

Public Utilities - Sewer: I extended sewer lines sized for the entire south half of the township which includes the Mall, Calvary Christian Schools, and the Village. We also put in a sewer line that was not needed at that time, down Sternberg Road from Quarterline to I-96 during the rebuilding of Sternberg Road because it was the least expensive to do at that time. It's now being used and our sewer rates are still the lowest.

Zoning Enforcement: Actually, I believe Brian has gone beyond the law and used the zoning ordinances and assessing department to abuse certain township citizens. It's one of the reasons that I'm running for Supervisor. Government's job is to protect its citizens, including the most defenseless, not do them in as has been happening.

Lawsuits: The race track lawsuit was not costing the township any money because I personally accepted responsibility for the township's legal expenses. I did that because I felt confident that the township would get a settlement of over \$700,000 and did not want to see the township citizens lose that money because of stupid politics. Brian convinced our board to settle it for \$10,000.

Brian and the township joined Norton Shores to proceed with a lawsuit that, reading the contract with the Heights, would make you wonder how the judge would rule in the township's favor, and the township lost.

Summary: It could take pages to refute the false and misleading statements made in Brian's summary. I doubt that the 25% figure is correct. The 2008 and 2012 audits don't support this statement. I doubt also if employee costs are less today than four years ago, OR getting out of the existing water supply contract has stabilized the general fund. His facts are disputable and are not verified through the township's records. Check the website that Brian has offered. It holds the township annual reports and see if you can find his statements true.

We need to go back to compassionate local government – we were not spending beyond our means, but using our resources to benefit the health, safety, and quality of life of our residents.



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

February 1, 2013

Ron Cooper
4491 E. Pontaluna Road
Fruitport, MI 49415

Dear Mr. Cooper:

This letter concerns the complaint that was recently filed against you by Brian Werschem, which relates to purported violations of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq.* The Department of State has received a rebuttal statement from the complainant, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter.

Section 15(10) of the MCFA, MCL 169.215(10), requires the Department to determine within 60 business days from the receipt of the rebuttal statement whether there is a reason to believe that a violation of the Act has occurred. Mr. Werschem's complaint remains under investigation at this time. At the conclusion of the review, all parties will receive written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori A. Bourbonais".

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Brian Werschem

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building – 1st floor
430 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48918

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
MI DEPT OF STATE

2013 JAN 31 PM 3:07

January 28th, 2013

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

I have received and reviewed Mr. Cooper's response to my complaint. It appears that a rebuttal from me, for the most part, is unnecessary. Mr. Cooper has a warped view of reality, as was the case while he was in office. He is manipulating the issues as he sees fit. Between the laws that govern In-Kind contribution as well as calculating the costs of a campaign my original filing clearly outlines the violations. His response is terribly flawed as we had anticipated. He did provide for a small 200 word free space to all elected officials that most candidates took advantage of. He has outlined that in his filing. His pages of deception and lies go far beyond the small freebies afforded to candidates.

Mr. Cooper knows very well he has been violating campaign finance laws. He has stated in open meetings that people shouldn't interfere with what he wishes to do. He has done it knowingly for years. He simply has not had anyone willing file a complaint against him. See Fruitport and Ron Cooper vs. Great Lakes Downs in your records and you will understand the type of man you are dealing with.

The 8 page campaign mailing outlined as Document E cost \$1,200 in postage alone (verified by the bulk mail cost for that particular mailer at the post office) plus the printing cost. Though it says on one page, paid for by committee to elect Ron Cooper, he now states it was paid for by his newspaper. Either way, it was a campaign mailer and by itself violates the law. He is changing his position in an attempt to cover up his intentional violations.

I do however wish to respond to Mr. Coopers P.S. statements. In both the 2008 and 2012 election cycles, I did receive written endorsements from each of the three unions as well as written endorsements from contractual employees of Fruitport Township. I received those written endorsements at my home and not at Fruitport Township Hall. The employees of Fruitport wanted desperately for the corruption of Mr. Coopers reign to end. I have not received any financial support from any of the unions represented at Fruitport Township. That is why it does not appear on my campaign statements. The SEIU Local 517M PAC did, at their expense, send out a support postcard in 2008 that was not part of my campaign committee. It does appear in the PAC's campaign statements from 2008 on record in your office. Mr. Cooper is simply attempting to cloud his illegal activity by pointing his finger at me. I have religiously filed meticulous campaign statements as required by Michigan Law. My accounts and records are at your disposal.

My committee though will be filing additional complaints against another elected official here that did participate in illegal campaign activity for herself and Mr. Cooper at Fruitport Township Hall, during Township hours. The complaint will come with written statements from myself who witnessed the activity, over half of the staff here in Fruitport who witnessed the activity, as well as written statements from resident voters that witnessed the activity. We were content with assuring that Mr. Cooper was held accountable for his actions but now that he has brought these horribly false accusations to the forefront, we feel it necessary that we assure that all parties follow the laws.

We look forward to your decisions on this matter.

Sincerely,


Brian Werschem – Supervisor Fruitport Charter Township

4491 E. Pontaluna Rd
Fruitport, MI 49415
February 23, 2013

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
MI DEPT OF STATE
2013 FEB 28 AM 8:57

Lori A. Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Richard H. Austin Building - 1st Floor
430 W. Allegan
Lansing, MI 48918

Re: Complaint against Ron Cooper by Brian Werschem

Dear Ms. Bourbonais:

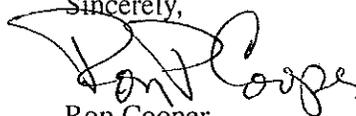
I would like to respond to some new accusations made by Brian Werschem in his response to my answer to his complaint.

In his second paragraph, I do not believe that I ever made the statement, "that people shouldn't interfere with what I wish to do," not even once, in open meetings, closed meetings, or at any other time. I don't believe I said that in jest, either.

Second paragraph, in any information you may have in regard to Fruitport and Ron Cooper vs. Great Lakes Downs, you will find that I continually tried to combat corruption there and also Great Lakes Downs' success at beating the township out of money that they were supposed to pay (approximately \$1,000,000). They admitted in court that they did not pay according to the correct formula, and Brian agreed to settle the suit for next to nothing. The only reason I can think of is he did not want me to be right. The money lost by the township evidently did not concern him.

In paragraph 4, the township employees supported Brian, not because of corruption on my part because there was none, but because of the hope that they would get what they wanted from Brian.

Last paragraph: Brian evidently thinks he knows who spilled the beans about money being collected on his behalf during working hours, and plans to attack whomever he thinks that is. Brian has no conscience when it comes to hurting people, and will make up one story after another to destroy the credibility and reputation of an individual to achieve his goal. I've lived in this community 75 years. His made up stories about me only go so far with people who have known me longer than he has been alive. I am really concerned though, when he threatens to discredit fine younger individuals with possibly less inner strength to deal with his barrage of false accusations. It can be devastating to that person(s). One of the reasons I decided to run against him at the eleventh hour was because other people seemed to be afraid to, especially their wives, for good reason.

Sincerely,

Ron Cooper

P.S. Someone recently reminded me that Brian had large election signs on both sides of his truck and parked it on township property in front of the township hall nearly every day for months before the election. Is that legal? Should the election results be voided because of his actions?



STATE OF MICHIGAN
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
LANSING

April 29, 2013

Ron Cooper
4491 East Pontaluna Road
Fruitport, Michigan 49415

Dear Mr. Cooper:

The Department of State (Department) has completed its investigation of a complaint filed against you by Brian Werschem, which alleged that you violated section 33 of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA or Act), 1976 PA 388, MCL 169.233(6), by receiving or spending an amount in excess of \$1,000.00 in relation to the 2012 Fruitport Supervisor election and failing to file campaign finance reports in compliance with the Act. This letter concerns the disposition of Mr. Werschem's complaint.

The MCFA requires a candidate committee that receives or expends more than \$1,000.00 during any reporting period to file periodic campaign finance reports in compliance with the Act. MCL 169.233(6). The failure to file a single campaign statement may trigger the assessment of late filing fees, while the failure to file two or more campaign statements is a misdemeanor offense. MCL 169.233(7)-(8).

The Act also requires the Department to "endeavor to correct the violation or prevent a further violation by using informal methods [,]" if it finds that there may be reason to believe that a violation has occurred, and if the Department is unable to correct or prevent additional violations, it may convene an administrative hearing or ask the Attorney General to prosecute if a crime has been committed. MCL 169.215(10). The objective of an information resolution is "to correct the violation or prevent a further violation [,]" *Id.*

The complaint was filed by Mr. Werschem on December 14, 2012, and you filed a written response on January 15, 2013. Mr. Werschem's rebuttal statement was filed on January 31, 2013.

Mr. Werschem alleged that although you filed a statement with the Muskegon County Clerk indicating that your candidate committee is eligible for a reporting waiver, your committee received or spent an amount in excess of \$1,000.00 in relation to the November 2012 election.

Mr. Werschem provided a list of campaign documents filed with the Muskegon County Clerk by the Ron Cooper for Supervisor committee; a price list for advertisements in the Fruitport Area News; a printout from the Fruitport Area News webpage which lists distribution at approximately 7,600 homes and businesses; the October, 2012 Fruitport Area News, which contained a 4-page insert that stated "Hire (Vote for) Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor [,]" and "Please vote in the November 6th election [,]" a mailer that stated "Hire (Vote

for) Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor [;]" and a large 2-sided flyer which purported to contain "IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION FOR FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR [;]" Mr. Werschem also alleged that you purchased new signs for this campaign, but he did not provide any evidence that would establish this fact.

In response, you stated that you "created and published the Fruitport Area News (FAN) for thirty years as a community service paper [;]" and that "an ad in FAN does not cost [you] anything [;]" You also stated that the extra cost to the paper for 5 different campaign ads that you ran in FAN was \$381.41. You further stated that you "don't pay the same rate for advertising that other advertisers do and they don't all pay the same rate, either." You argue that "the fact that [you] were one of the candidates does not change the desire of the paper to accurately inform the voters of the character and abilities of the candidates." You also stated that you did not purchase any new signs for this campaign, and that you "spent close to nothing" and did not trigger the Act's reporting requirements.

Expenditure is a term of art which is generally defined, in pertinent part, to include anything of ascertainable monetary value that is used to influence or assist a candidate's nomination or election. MCL 169.206(1). An in-kind contribution or expenditure means "a contribution or expenditure other than money." MCL 169.209(3). The campaign statement of a committee must list an in-kind contribution or expenditure at fair market value, and in-kind contributions or expenditures must be listed as both a contribution and an expenditure on a candidate committee's campaign statement. MCL 169.226(1)(b). Additionally, the definition of a contribution includes "the granting of discounts or rebates not available to the general public [;]" MCL 169.204(2).

As you stated in your answer, because you are the publisher of the Fruitport Area News, you did not pay the normal advertisement fee for the 4-page ad in the October, 2012 edition of the newspaper advocating for your election. However, the ad had an ascertainable monetary value and was used to influence or assist your nomination, and the ad, therefore, constitutes an expenditure. Additionally, the ad went beyond "accurately inform[ing] the voters of the character and abilities of the candidates [;]" as argued in your answer.

When determining whether a written communication is subject to the MCFA, the Department applies the "express advocacy test." The MCFA provides that a communication that does "not support or oppose a ballot question or candidate by name or clear inference" is not subject to the requirements and limitations of the MCFA. MCL 169.206(2)(b). A communication that expressly supports or opposes a candidate contains words such as "vote for," "vote against," "support," "defeat," or equivalent words or phrases. The four-page ad in the October, 2012 edition of the Fruitport Area News specifically urged voters to "Hire (Vote for) Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor [;]" placing the ad squarely within the ambit of the Act.

To determine the cost of an ad that must be reported on a campaign statement, we look to the actual fair market value of the ad, not the actual extra cost to the newspaper for the ad to run. MCL 169.226(1)(b). According to the Fruitport Area News advertisement rate schedule, the full-page rate for an ad is \$825.00. The four-page ad in the October, 2012 edition of the Fruitport Area News put your committee well over the \$1,000.00 reporting waiver threshold.

Additionally, it appears that the committee made expenditures for the 8-page mailer which also stated "Hire (Vote For) Ron Cooper for Fruitport Township Supervisor [;]" You indicated in

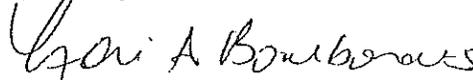
your answer that the total printing and mailing costs of this mailer were \$1,831.17. Contrary to your argument that only one page of the mailer constitutes an "ad" and the cost should be divided by 8, the express advocacy contained in the mailer subjects the entire mailer to the reporting requirements of the Act. The cost of this mailer also puts the committee over the \$1,000.00 reporting waiver threshold.

The Department does note, however, that it has determined that the large 2-sided flyer which purported to contain "IMPORTANT VOTER INFORMATION FOR FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR" did not contain words such as "vote for," "vote against," "support," "defeat," or equivalent words or phrases and, therefore, did not contain express advocacy, and it does not fall under the reporting requirements of the MCFA.

Based upon the evidence submitted, the Department finds that there is reason to believe that your committee surpassed the \$1,000.00 reporting waiver threshold and violated section 33 of the MCFA by failing to file, at a minimum, a pre-election statement for the November 2012 election. It is also possible that the committee also owes a post-election statement for the November 2012 election, depending upon the timing of the expenditures for the 8-page mailer. Upon making this determination, the Department is required by law to attempt to resolve the matter informally. MCL 169.215(10).

You must file the appropriate statement(s) with the Muskegon County Clerk on or before ~~May~~ **20, 2013**. Please provide the Department with a copy of the statement(s), along with a receipt from the filing official stating that each statement has been filed. After its review of the statement(s), the Department will then determine how to proceed with enforcement.

Sincerely,



Lori Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

c: Brian Werschem