

Muskegon Community College



Change
Your Mind

777-0250

www.muskegoncc.edu

FRUITPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS invites you to a

Parent/Community Forum on the Upcoming Bond Proposal

You are cordially invited to attend an informational meeting regarding the **Bond Proposal** going before voters on **May 5, 2009**.

Please plan to attend one of two meetings to:

- hear detailed information about the proposal
- get answers to your questions
- take a guided tour of Fruitport High School

Meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, **March 24** at 6:30 PM and

Monday, **April 13** at 6:30 PM

Fruitport High School Auditorium

Focusing on the future for our students



- A single dad wants to join a parent support group
- A nineteen year old college student seeks HIV testing
- A runaway teen needs a safe place to stay
- A working woman seeks adult day care for her elderly father and a caregiver support group for herself
- A senior citizen wants to volunteer
- A young family in financial crisis searches for budget counseling

WANTED



Shawn Lyn Stong
w/f 6" tall 150lbs.

She has 2 warrants for failure to appear. Warrant #1 (from Muskegon County) is 08-104760SM, retail fraud 3rd degree. Warrant #2 (from Ottawa County) is gh-08-007991SM, for retail fraud 2nd degree.

REWARD

\$200.00 cash

for info leading to the arrest of subject.

Call TommyD on his confidential tip line:

866-728-6400

No questions asked.

Crockery fire response time pitiful Letter to the Editor

A fire was reported at 104th Avenue and Wilson at the dead end of Wilson on July 11, 2007. Four minutes after truck 581 left the station, the driver called to ask the address of the fire. There were three people including Lt. Botbyl in that truck, and not one of them knows the location of the fire. Gary Dreyer is trying to exit Taft to Wilson and drove past my house on Walnut. He was being followed by a fireman in his personal vehicle plus a Spring Lake brush truck, then three more cars. Truck 561 is also lost. That means at least six Crockery firemen don't know where to go, plus possibly three others if those cars following the brush truck are firemen.

Leon Stille, Dave Nelson, and the township board members have no idea what happened on that fire run. Yet if you are heard complaining, you are the troublemaker. Leon and Gary will both lie to try to make themselves right. For anyone who doesn't believe me, I have the 9-1-1 tape, the police report, the *Grand Haven Tribune* article, and the central dispatch report. You are welcome to see them.

Following is a condensed version of the central dispatch tape regarding this fire:

7-11-2007 13:45 hours

Ottawa 9-1-1

Caller: Yea, Wilson and 104th Avenue. There's a fire just east of that going in the back yard and I don't see anybody around. And it's a big fire.

9-1-1: Okay. Wilson and Cleveland run parallel. Do you have a better street where you're at?

Caller: 104th

9-1-1: Okay, Cleveland, that's 104. M104 That's Cleveland.

Caller: Okay, well...

9-1-1: 593 is on route from 68th and Warner at 13:54.

9-1-1: Ottawa County Central

Caller: Hi, this is Gary from Crockery

9-1-1: Hi.

Caller: Hi. I'm actually leaving Grand Haven Township here. I had a meeting down there. Um, and I got a phone call here from one of my guys that we've got a brush fire going. And have any units gone on route yet?

9-1-1: Um, let me see. 593 is the only one that's gone on route.

Caller: Okay. Um, let's see, Oh he's probably doing it right now. Ha ha

Garbled talking in background.

9-1-1: I didn't hear what he said.

Caller: He's asking size of the fire and such. He may be wanting to start Coopersville that way.

9-1-1: Are you short on staff right now?

Caller: Yea, Um. It's supposed to be an office day for me but I had meetings over in Grand Haven so....

9-1-1: 10-4. Brush trucks from Coopersville. Coopersville, stand by for assist at 10130 Wilson.

(Toned out.) For Coopersville, requesting your brush trucks at the wildfire in the area of 10274 Wilson. Between a dead end and 104th on a large wildfire behind a residence. Requesting your brush trucks at 1400 hours.

Caller: Yea, I need Crockery Fire Department to go to the end of Wilson Road. There's a big fire and it's headed toward my house too. It's on the very dead end it's on the right-hand side.

9-1-1: How big is it?

Caller: It's pretty big. It's burning the fields behind it. And pine trees and..

9-1-1: What's your address?

Caller: 10130. It's the very last driveway on the right. I've got to call them back and tell them to get out.

9-1-1: Yes, tell them to stay safe and get out of the house if they need to.

Caller: 491 Central. I'm four miles away and I have a large column of smoke.

9-1-1: 10-4. 491 is quite a ways away. Large column of smoke at 14:03.

Caller: 481 en route. Central, could you re-tone for tanker?

9-1-1: 481 is en route. Re-toning for tanker. For Coopersville, requesting tanker on a at 10274 Wilson

between a dead end and 104th. Fire behind a residence at 14:05.

9-1-1: Central 593

Caller:dispatch?

9-1-1: Received another call. It's now into the woods in the pine trees.

593: I'm still about 4 minutes out.

Crockery station to 593: I'm down at the station. Want me to roll one of the trucks?

593: I'll be there in about 30 seconds.

Station: All right, I'll wait for you.

Caller: 462 en route.

9-1-1: 462's en route with three at 14:08.

Caller: Is 461 en route?

9-1-1: 461 en route at 14:09.

9-1-1: 581's en route with two, maybe three on board at 14:12.

Caller: 582 en route, 590 on board

9-1-1: 582 en route, 590 on board at 14:15.

Caller: 561 en route with one.

9-1-1: 561 en route with one at 14:16.

Caller: 581 repeat on the address, please.

Caller: Central this is 590.

9-1-1: 590 go ahead.

Caller: (garbled).....enter off Taft.

9-1-1: Your radio's breaking. Did you say enter off Taft?

Caller: Affirmative.

9-1-1: 481's on scene at 14:18.

9-1-1: 581's on scene for a large wildfire, requesting Spring Lake's brush truck. Spring Lake stand by for an assist. Toned out. For Spring Lake, I need your brush truck at 10274 Wilson Drive between the dead end and 104th behind the residence

on a large working brush fire at 14:18:17.

As you can see by the calls to 9-1-1, it took 24 minutes before anyone left the fire barn: Botbyl from Allendale, Dreyer from Grand Haven. Dreyer knows they are short personnel during the day, yet he doesn't have his radio with him or it's turned off. Dreyer has been chief for four years, yet he doesn't know the roads. Botbyl has been on the fire department for at least eight years, and he has to call again for the address when he is on Wilson. If they knew which way to look, they could have seen the smoke. This is unacceptable for any fireman, let alone for an officer. People on 112th Avenue and Taft were wondering what the fire trucks were doing going back and forth. When I heard them on 112th Avenue, then heard them coming down Walnut, my thought was, "They are on the wrong end of Taft." When I went to see where they should have been on Taft, I couldn't find them. Marv Mershon couldn't find them, either. Bill Hecksel, Sr. was working in his garden on the intersection of 96th and Taft when he saw a Coopersville truck enter Crockery going west on Taft. Next, he saw a small brush truck come out of Crockery going east and it turned north on 96th Avenue. I said, "We lost a large truck between my house and yours because that small brush truck was second when they went past my house." Crockery made a lasting impression on Carl Merkins when the truck with the big brush bumper had to drive over large Christmas trees when all the other trucks drove between them. A boy and his toy! Then they wonder when something breaks. Where truck 561 was is anyone's guess, but it took him 11 minutes to go 4 1/2 miles.

Neither Leon Stille nor Dave Nelson had any idea what happened on that fire run. Myself and others were not "bragging," because Coopersville got there first; we were all laughing at how bad Crockery was. Now I know there are people reading this who are going to say, "Wait until you need them." Wait for Crockery for 30 minutes or drive to Mercy Hospital in 15 minutes? I'd be at the hospital before Crockery personnel got to the station.

But you don't disagree with the "Gods of Crockery Township" without suffering their rath!

Bob Kriger
10579 Walnut

Fruitport taxpayers irate over bad roads

News and commentary by Eric Wiggin

When Farmer Bagley sat beneath his lawn maple with a shotgun across his knees, the highway construction supervisor paid attention. "You'll need to move, Mr. Bagley. That tree is in the way of widening the road."

A burly road worker stood ready with a chainsaw. The skidder operator, prepared to haul off the tree the minute it was felled, rested against his steering wheel and lit a cigarette.

"Ain't gonna move." Bagley settled into his old rocking chair. "I'm out here to watch you boys rebuild the road."

"Shotgun loaded?" The super nervously eyed Bagley's 12-gauge.

"Nossuh." Bagley kept a poker face. He glanced at his weapon, to be sure the barrel wasn't actually pointed at his adversaries. Bagley had no interest in being charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

The construction supervisor cursed. "Then why you carrying it?"

"Ain't carrying." Bagley folded his hands behind his head and teetered back. "I'm sitting. Since you asked, I'm outnumbered, so I came out here prepared to defend myself."

The above story is true, Probably Bagley and the road crew's exchange was no more heated than what met Fruitport Township Supervisor Brian Werschem Monday evening, March 9, at the township board meeting. Citizen Jan Steeger led off, presenting Werschem and his board with color photos of an impassable sea of mud — Porter Road in March.

Werschem was immediately conciliatory. "This is happening all over Fruitport Township," he explained. The Muskegon County Road Commission (MCRC) is "required to take care of these roads," but "thousands of miles of county roads are like this." Supervisor Werschem went on to say that Bexley Street, the entrance to Shettler School, did not get plowed for more than a week this winter, a "danger" to several hundred K-5 students there.

But Werschem's discourse against the MCRC was short-lived. For most of the next hour he took the defensive, as a legion of citizens rose up to blame his administration for failing to repair or plow their roads and streets.

So, briefly back to Farmer Bagley's beef. His road, a beautiful, century-old gravel lane, was lined on both sides with lovely maples. His township had been granted state-aid funds to widen and pave the road. State engineers, intent on an arrow-straight modern highway, determined the maples should be cut, despoiling the beauty.

Bagley (name changed) complained. Official bureaucracy wouldn't budge. So he staged his protest with rocking chair and shotgun. Local police wrote Bagley an appearance citation, but declined to physically remove a respected citizen, pending a court hearing.

Then a daily newspaper took up Bagley's cause.

The state backed down. Engineers decided they had erred. The road was rebuilt, but the maples remained.

Besides taxpayer Steeger, who lives on a public road, Werschem faced a passel of "private road" homeowners on March 9. Several were mad as hornets. This writer listened to citizen Ron Greys of DeVoe Road make his point. He'd been

(continued on next page)