



## The swan of a new day

By Harry and Heidi Wojahn

As we drove through Fruitport this morning, we noticed that there were five swans in Spring Lake, so we stopped to take a few photos. We couldn't help but wonder if these are the children of the swan from this year's horrific tragedy with the jet skier during Fruitport Old Fashioned Days. We hope they nest here. We can't imagine what it would be like without the swans in Fruitport. It would be like living on earth with next-to-no air, because it totally takes our breath away. We love wildlife of all sorts and our world would not be what it is without all the creatures on earth living together on this planet.

We all play our part in this type of symbiotic relationship to keep the planet moving forward. We are all running around, trying to catch up in our lives. All we need to do is take one step at a time and realize that our planet is just that — one planet. When you look at it from that point of view, we all need to work together to assure that we do not damage the planet any further. So when people kill animals out of pleasure and not for population control and sustenance, they need to think for a second about what they are doing. After awhile the harms add up, and before you know it, the damage is done. Many animals are endangered and near extinction. We need to seriously think about our actions and what effects they will have on our ecosystem. •

## Community Foundation scholarships available

(Submitted by the Community Foundation for Muskegon County)

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County announces that the foundation scholarship programs for Muskegon, Oceana, Mason and Manistee counties are now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. Applications are available online and are submitted electronically at the community foundation website, [www.cffmc.org](http://www.cffmc.org). The application process has been streamlined to three easy steps for students and families.

The online application deadline is March 1, 2012.

The Community Foundation for Muskegon County administers over 260 scholarship funds, and grants hundreds of awards each year to both graduating high school seniors and current college students. The Foundation's "General Scholarship Application" is used to support scholarship applications for students in the Muskegon area as well as those in Oceana, Mason and Manistee counties.

The Community Foundation does not make awards solely on the basis of need. Academic achievement, community involvement, extra-curricular activity history and financial need are all taken into consideration. All Community Foundation scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. •

## A.W.O.L. Custom Tattooing sponsoring 'Toys for Tats'

(Submitted by A.W.O.L. Custom Tattooing)

A.W.O.L. Custom Tattooing, LLC, is sponsoring the first annual "Toys for Tats" campaign this year in support of Toys for Tots. The studio, located at 1780 W. Sherman in Muskegon, is offering tattoo and piercing discounts for clients who bring in an unwrapped toy worth at least \$10. The special continues through December 13 when Toys for Tots will pick up collected toys for wrapping and local distribution to our neighbors in need.

How the promotion works:

- Bring in a new unwrapped toy with the purchase receipt worth at least \$10.
- Get \$20 off a tattoo valued over \$60; or \$40 off a tattoo valued over \$200.
- Or get any piercing for \$25.
- Only one discount per tattoo or piercing.

A.W.O.L. Custom Tattooing has been a fixture in the Muskegon community since 2007, tattooing a diverse group of clientele from all over West Michigan, the United States, and clients from as far away as The Netherlands and the Czech Republic. Due to expansion, the studio recently moved to its new location at 1780 W. Sherman. We specialize in custom work; and the artists are friendly, respectful and professional. For more information about the promotion or to schedule an appointment, call (231) 755-9900. •

## Is abstinence education working?

By Charlie Butts (One News Now)

"While some experts credit the sagging economy for last year's low birth rates, a Christian public policy women's group suggests another reason.

"Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America (CWA) says the truth is that teen birth rates have been dropping for several years now, and the stats from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are good news.

"[Teen birth rates] dropped nine percent. This is about the third year in a row when these have declined,' she reports. "It's also a record low for younger and older teenagers and for every single race, and that is particularly significant because the black rate has been very high in comparison to other races, and also with Hispanic groups.'

"The birth rate has also dropped among women who are in their 20s and 30s, as well as for unmarried women. Crouse sees the positive stats as a clear indication that teaching abstinence has had an impact.

"I think it also represents a real victory for people who have advocated traditional values to young women and have told them that there are very definite risks for children and very definite harms for young women themselves when their children are born outside of wedlock and raised in fatherless families,' she suggests.

"The CWA spokesperson concludes that encouraging youngsters to practice so-called 'safe sex' has not been effective for the 20-plus years it has been taught, pointing out that the birth rate has only dropped since implementation of abstinence education. Crouse adds that the idea that a poor economy reduces the birth rate does not prove true when compared to the data collected over the years." •

## Fruitport Conservation Club News

By Greg Weaver

The FCC trap shooters wrapped their summer league on September 15<sup>th</sup>. This year the first place team members were Richard Gunderman, Kim Cooper and Jeff Russel. The second place members were Clay Cooper, Chad Fett and Mike Kruska.

This summer "TOP GUN" gun honors went to Mike Kruska. Mike broke 394 out of 400 clay birds during the 16-week summer league. Congratulations to all of the winners.

FCC holds a trap shoot every Thursday evening throughout the year, from 5 to 9 p.m. The summer league starts the first Thursday in June and the winter league starts the first Thursday in January. The cost is \$3.00 per round, and the public is invited to come out and get involved in this shotgun shooting sport. Shotguns and ammo are not provided.

The winter league is scheduled to begin on January 5 and runs 16 weeks through April 19<sup>th</sup>.

The trap shooters held a "Belt Buckle" shoot on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>. The winners of the shoot were as follows: The No. 1 shooter was Fred Westerfield; Class AA was Mike Kruska; Class A was Larry Bradfield; Class B was Mike Bredin; and Class C was Dale Afton.

On Wednesday evenings, there is a group of guys who make good use of the pistol range shooting their handguns. The guys either shoot a level of a NRA Bullseye course or have something planned for a fun shoot. If you would like to get familiar with your new handgun or maybe just warm up the barrel on one of your old handguns, this is a good time and place to do just that.

There is also a group of guys that get together on the third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. to shoot their .17 or .22 rimfire rifles at little targets placed 100 yards away from the shooting bench. Wintertime doubles the challenge to get those 5 little bullets into an egg-sized target before your fingers get too cold. The cost is \$3.00 per shooter.

Mark your calendars, because the Fruitport Conservation Club in conjunction with the 4H club will be holding a fundraiser banquet and auction on April 20 at Braun's Auditorium in Fruitport. Details will be available at the club or by visiting the club's web site at "[fruitportcc.com](http://fruitportcc.com)".

The Fruitport Conservation Club is located at 5373 Sternberg Road, and has facilities for trap, rifle, and pistol shooting. There are covered areas for the rifle and pistol ranges, along with a covered pavilion to keep rain or snow off shooters and guests.

Just a reminder: A yearly membership at the Fruitport Conservation Club is only \$45.00. A membership allows usage of the ranges from 9 a.m. to dusk seven days a week unless another event is taking place. Members may also rent the club for parties or receptions for \$150.00. Range usage is not allowed while the club is rented; this includes those who rent the facility.

Lastly, thanks to all of our members and sponsors for supporting the club and its activities throughout the year. •

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CROP WALK!

Fruitport's 10th Annual CROP Hunger Walk thanks all who participated. This year's Fruitport Area Crop Hunger walk raised over \$3,400.00 in pledges and involved over 90 walkers. It was a beautiful day for the walk once again.

We would like to thank the following sponsors who have supported us over the years:

- Excel Propane
- InterDyne
- Grover's Pharmacy, Inc.
- Baxter's Towing & Storage
- Pin Crest Lanes
- Spring Lake Storage, LLC
- Bert Hazekamp & Son, Inc.
- Burger Crest

We would also like to thank our musicians led by Ron Mielecki, the volunteers, and especially you, our walkers. A special thanks to Joyce Busman who has chaired the walk for the past 10 years; Pat Stressman, who has served as treasurer; Dan & Nita Leaver for providing refreshments; Thara Johnson for serving refreshments; and Carla Welton for contacting the business sponsors.

The Fruitport Area CROP Hunger walk appreciates the leadership and support of Church World Services, especially Rev. Larry Jackson and the support of Fruitport Congregational United Church of Christ.

The 2012 CROP Hunger Walk in this area will be led by Edgewood Lutheran Church. We look forward to working together in order to have another successful walk to support our area food pantry and those around the country and the world who are in need of assistance.

## Fruitport Village Christmas decorations

By Jerry Alger

With the recent installation of the Christmas decorations along Third Avenue, the Village Council has received several compliments. The council would like to let the residents know how we were able to put up new decorations. As you can guess, this type of decoration is extremely expensive to buy. The old ones were worn out, and the council didn't feel money should be spent on buying new ones. At least, not at the prices we found. So with a little discussion on how we could afford new ones at a reasonable amount of money and have first-class decorations, we decided to build them "in house" at a fraction of the cost of purchasing new ones.

It was decided to build and install them in three phases over three years. Last year was phase one and we installed the ones we had made. This year is phase two, and we have lights from Bridge north to Pontaluna. Next year, phase three will see lights from Bridge Street to the south village limits.

We realize that we have some "tweaking" to do with regards to the electrical workings. The village and Consumers Energy are working to solve those issues.

The village was also able to put some lights up in the Veteran's Park.

Soon the Lions Club will have their Christmas display up in Pomona Park. We look forward to Fruitport Village having the finest Christmas display ever!

The Fruitport Village Council hopes all the residents enjoy "your" new festive Christmas decorations, and we would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas. •

# FAN want ads

**\$10 for the first 15 words  
20¢ each additional word**

Send your ad and payment to FAN  
420 N. Third • Fruitport, MI 49415  
(There is an additional charge of \$2 if we need to send you a bill.)

**FOR RENT:** Werschem Community Room at the Fruitport District Library for private family events. For more information, contact Rose Dillon at the Fruitport Township Hall, or call 865-3151.

**FURNACE REPAIR:** Expert furnace mechanic, semi-retired. I am familiar with all makes and models. Call any time. 24-hour service. Clip and save! Show this ad for discount. Call Dave at (231) 286-1193.

**SENIOR HELPER:** Light housekeeping, groceries, errands, etc. Also respite care. Sixteen years' experience. Call Monica at (231) 747-7253.

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