

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
½ 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. •

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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