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Fruitport Library
Library Hours 865-3461
 Mon., Tues. 11 am - 7 pm
 Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10 am - 5 pm
 Sat. 10 am - 1 pm



Clothes Encounters
 "of the used kind" **established 1988**
NOW REOPENED

- **Non-profit organization**
- **We accept clothes, small appliances & toys**
- **Community Center available for rent 865-3419.**

HOURS	
Tues.	3:30pm-6pm
Thurs	Noon-3pm
Sat:	10am-1pm

Phone **865-3637**
268 N. 3rd Ave. Fruitport Village
Next to Word of Hope Church

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.

FOR RENT: Community Room at the Word of Hope Church's new Clothes Encounters building. Call (231) 865-3419.

TREE WORK: DENNY'S TREE SERVICE is still servicing your area even though I now live in Whitehall. For your bucket truck, hand climbing, chipping, etc. tree work, call Denny Heistand for your free estimate. 30 years' experience. Insured. Call (231) 894-9416 or (23) 329-0429.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BEEN DENIED? Is an employer or the state fighting your unemployment benefits? For information and possible representation call (231) 773-8529.

DEPENDABLE FHS SENIOR to do yard work, etc. Needs summer job. 777-3854 Ask for Ernie.

Editorial
Are Fruitport / Norton Shores leaders out of their gourds?
 Opinion by the Editor

\$793,594 is being spent by Fruitport and Norton Shores for engineering to hook up to Muskegon's water system – usually engineering is at least 15% of the construction project which points to a \$5,290,626 project. If Fruitport pays approximately 40%, that amount will be \$2,116,250. Divide that figure by the approximately 3800 water customers in Fruitport Township and some way or another, each customer is going to pay \$556.90 in addition to their increased water bill. For what???

For over 40 years Fruitport and Norton Shores have paid less for water from Muskegon Heights than Muskegon water customers have paid. The agreement these communities have made with Muskegon does not assure them that the price of water will be less than they would pay to the Heights, and it's a non-cancelable 30-year agreement. History indicates we will pay more. There will be no pay-back over time. Fruitport and Norton Shores citizens need to act now and question their boards about this decision.

In addition to cost there is more risk for impure water from the Muskegon plant because of its close proximity to the Muskegon River. All kinds of unhealthy things come down that river from farms, wild animals, the wastewater system, and who knows what else. The Muskegon plant has to remove more of those contaminants from the water than the Heights plant does because the Heights plant is farther from where the river empties into Lake Michigan. Fruitport and Norton Shores' citizens are going to pay more money for a riskier product.

When the Heights was negotiating with these communities, they really underestimated the incompetence and prejudice of those with whom they were dealing and the willingness of their boards to follow them. Whatever you think of Muskegon Heights government, they need us for a customer for their water plant, and we need them for the best deal for water. They will be purposely hurt by our actions. Is this how we want to treat our neighboring community? Additionally, when we cause problems for their community, those problems spill over into our community and become ours also—an additional cost to us as well.

We watch helplessly at the stupidity of our national government, but this is happening at the local level where we can actually go to the meetings where these decisions are made and try to change the course of these kinds of decisions. Once we are hooked up to the Muskegon system, it will be too late. We will have next to no influence in our water supply and its cost and we will deserve our predicament.

We need to cut our losses and continue to buy our water from Muskegon Heights, the best water at a lower price than either Muskegon or Grand Haven can provide. Our citizens need to do something now.

Fruitport board meetings are 7:00 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays at the township hall. Norton Shores board meetings are 5:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesday at Norton Shores branch library.

Cost of health care is number one priority for Chamber
 (Submitted by the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce)

Cost of health care trumps workforce development as the number one priority on the Chamber's 2013 advocacy agenda. With numerous health care changes on the way, the cost of health care now tops the advocacy agenda.

"Although health care is a major focus for us, we will continue working on issues regarding workforce development," says Cindy Larsen, President of the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce. Larsen and several other members of the county's Workforce Development Board recently went to Washington, D.C. to advocate for workforce development and skills training funding and imitative support.

Editorial
Who should pay for roads?
 Opinion by the Editor

Some would say the rich should pay for the roads, or farmers, or teachers, or bricklayers, or anyone but themselves. The fact is, somebody has got to pay and I believe the people who use the roads should pay for their construction and maintenance. A practical way to do that is with a per gallon tax on fuel. The more you use the roads the more fuel you burn and the more you pay. Heavier vehicles are harder on the roads and burn more fuel and thereby, pay more. The lighter vehicles are easier on the roads and they use less fuel and pay less. All vehicles using the roads should pay the same rate per gallon. Trucks should not pay less per gallon than cars.

If there is now a difference between what the cars and trucks, pay per gallon in fuel tax the adjustment can take place gradually until there is no difference – maybe a penny per gallon per year until everyone is paying the same per gallon. The per gallon taxes can be adjusted to cover the expenses required to maintain the roads. All funds raised through the per gallon taxes should go for maintaining the roads. None should go toward mass transit, trains, trolleys, etc. Those forms of transportation should find their own funding.

The cost of registering and licensing vehicles should be determined according to the actual cost to the government of doing that. Registration and license plates should not finance road maintenance. Many people struggle each year to pay the cost of registering and licensing their vehicle and some may use the roads very little. It's not fair to them to mark up the cost of registering and licensing their vehicle to pay for road maintenance that's not proportionate to their use.

If all funds from a per gallon gas tax are used for roads, and not for something else, most reasonable people will not object to that method of funding our roads. The price of fuel fluctuates so irrationally that a per gallon road maintenance tax would be unnoticeable at the pump. We would all be paying for our roads as we used them.

Goeff and Colleen – what do you think of this?

Letter to the Editor
State Senator wants your medical bills

By Senator Joe Hune
 As we have all experienced, medical costs are rising rapidly. I was struck by the *Time Magazine* exposé published March 4, 2013, entitled "Bitter Pill: Why Medical Bills are Killing Us," by Steven Brill. The subject of the exposé was the cost of medical care. Interestingly enough, many of the fees that hospitals charge bear no relation to the actual underlying cost of the product or service that the hospital is providing.

Many times, bills are tripled for some items used. According to one hospital's report, it spent \$27.5 million for laboratory work during calendar year 2010, yet it charged \$293.2 million for that same work. That is roughly eleven times its original cost!

According to Brill's article, hospitals are charging patients with bills that bear little to no relation to the actual cost of the health care. Whether it is charging \$77 for boxes of gauze pads or marking up one tablet of acetaminophen 10,000 percent, hospitals are not making these prices known to patients before providing care.

There is a price list for products and care that a hospital keeps called the "chargemaster." This "chargemaster" is currently not available for your review, leaving the true price of medicine ambiguous to patients.

I need your help. If you have any outrageous hospital bills for services and/or products that do not match a reasonable market price, we want to see them! We are looking to gather as many bills from the 22nd District as we can as we pursue legislation that would, among other things, require hospitals to post their "chargemaster" lists online for patients to view. We are open to all suggestions of how to bring down medical costs, and we welcome your input.

If you are interested, you can mail copies of your bills to Senator Joe Hune, Attn: Sam Champagne, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 or scan and email them to senjhune@senate.michigan.gov. We ask that you redact your sensitive information and we will keep all other information private. Of course, if you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at 855-Joe-Hune.

Thank you, and we look forward to your incoming correspondence!•