

### The Fruitport Historical Society Needs Your Help

Brian Zwart

Over the past several months, the Fruitport Historical Society has been surveying and recording all the headstones in the Pine Hill Cemetery located in the Village of Fruitport. Our first phase is now complete and we need everyone's help in completing the next phase. If anyone knows someone buried in the cemetery, we're asking the public to write a brief biography on the person and submit it to us with a photo of the individual. Photos should be only of the individual, no family or group pictures please. We will then enter the information into our database and include the photo of the person, along with a photo of the headstone on that person's file.

Our goal is to create a file for each person buried in our cemetery so we can have a searchable database for the community and the historical record. The FHS has already begun photographing the headstones, and we will be creating a great deal of biographies ourselves, but we can't do it alone. If you would like to help in completing this process, please write the biography with a photo, and submit it to the Fruitport Historical Society, fruitporthistory@gmail.com. Handwritten biographies can be brought to Copies and More and scans of original photographs will be done. If handwritten, please write as legibly as possible.

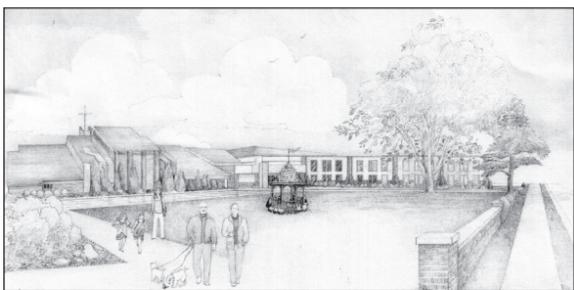
To get involved further with the historical society or with this project, inquiries can be made at the above email address, or at our monthly meetings, which are the last Tuesday of each month at Burger Crest.

### FCS fall preschool registration

*(Submitted by Fruitport Preschool Programs)*

The Early Childhood Center is currently accepting names to place on their mailing list for preschool. If you have a child or know of a family with a child who will be three or four by October 1, 2014, please contact the ECC office at (231) 865-4102.

Fruitport Community Schools offers three exceptional preschool programs: Head Start, Great Start Readiness and Child's World Tuition Preschool. All of our preschool programs will offer your child a safe and nurturing environment to grow and learn in. We look forward to hearing from you. •



### St. Mary's Church to build new Catholic Education Center

by Pam Mettler

During a special "Announcement Weekend" mass held recently at St. Mary's Church in Spring Lake, Father Dan DePew, pastor, made public for the first time the news that St. Mary's Catholic Education Center.

The proposed Center is expected to be built at 421 East Exchange Street in Spring Lake within the next three to four years. Plans call for it to replace the existing St. Mary's School, currently located at the site.

The new Center will cost around \$5 million to build. It will provide 22,000 square feet of space to accommodate over 500 students, including those in young fives, preschool, kindergarten through eighth grade, plus faith formation education, RCIA and other faith-based ministries in one combined building. State of the art technology facilities will be a hallmark of the new Center.

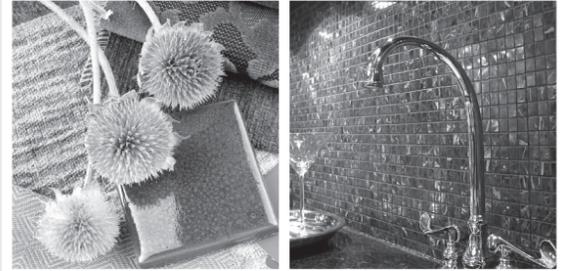
Forty-three percent of the congregation of 1,250 families have pledged \$1.87 million so far, allowing officials to begin the project and keep it on schedule. Additional community-based funding, donations and additional pledges will allow the project to move forward.

Upon completion, the new St. Mary's Catholic Education Center will weave the school, faith formation and school ministries together into one main campus. St. Mary's officials believe this will enhance overall parish life. •

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