

FRUITPORT Area News

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The purpose of this paper is to be beneficial to the community it serves in every way possible.

Rededication celebration of Civil War Veteran Monument

By Heidi Tice

On May 31, 2015, at 2 p.m., there will be a rededication of a stone and brass plaque that students placed at the foot of a tree in remembrance of Walter Lewis, a Civil War veteran. Walter Lewis lived the last 33 years of his life in the Village of Fruitport. The students planted a tree in the front lawn of the old Third Avenue School on May 29, 1939. In the summer of 2013 the tree was removed. In the summer of 2014, Jerry Alger approached the owner of Ram Electronics (which is in the old Third Avenue School building), about moving the stone and plaque to the Fruitport Veterans Park. The owner was all for that, and even made a generous donation to help pay for the new historic panel that tells about the life of Walter Lewis. Others donated money, too, and the panel was ordered.

When Jerry was told he could move the plaque, he got busy and, with the help of Brian Zwart, they located a grandson of Walter Lewis in the Grand Rapids area. The grandson was helpful with stories and pictures of Walter. Brian continued to research and they were able to locate Walter Lewis's headstone. Jerry researched and was able to locate some classmates that were there the day they dedicated the stone and plaque in memory of Walter. Some of those students will be present at the rededication.

This is an important event in the history of Fruitport Village. At the time of his passing Walter Lewis was the oldest surviving Civil War veteran in Muskegon County. He was 97 years old when he passed away on January 26, 1941.

Walter Lewis deserves the highest of honors and we hope this is one way we can give him this honor. Please join us for the rededication. A great program is planned. It should be a very nice event. •

New Leo Club in Fruitport

By Heidi Tice

A new Leo Club began in Fruitport on December 2, 2014 when 20 charter members celebrated the organization of the new Fruitport Leo Club at Whitlow's Forerunner Restaurant. The Fruitport Lions Club sponsored the new club for young people ages 13 to 18.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Peoples has been elected to serve as the first President of the new club. KayLee Vanos will serve as the first club Secretary; Cameron Oleen will serve as the first club Treasurer. Vice Presidents will be as follows: Cameron LeNore, First Vice President; Shelby Thurston, Second Vice President; and Syndel Stressman, Third Vice President. The Fruitport Leo Club plans to become involved with all Fruitport Lions Club activities, ramp constructions with Lion Steve Wilson, and community betterment efforts.

According to Third Vice President, Leo Syndel Stress-

OFD King and Queen's "huge" community contribution

By Mary Weimer

This year, Cloverville residents Tim and Jan McFarland have been selected as King and Queen for Old Fashioned Days. You could say that their contribution to our area is "huge," because it is in the form of the 20 x 38 foot American flag, which proudly waves at the crossroads of US31 and I96 off Hile Road, just inside the Fruitport Township line.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, Tim decided our area needed a big memorial. He credits Marshall Luker and Jim Chandler, former owners of Muskegon Awning, for instilling in him a particular fondness for the American flag. Tim had been part of the crew that installed flags along Seaway Drive for holidays and special occasions while employed there.

Tim's idea was the catalyst, and fortunately, fellow employees and management members from Consumers Energy, as well as Fruitport Township officials and community support all led to his dream becoming reality. Everyone seemed to agree that his idea was a great one, all they "flew" with it.

The original flag, pole, and hardware were purchased by Consumers Energy employees in 2011. Several details had to be ironed out, such as getting airport clearance, permits, etc. Fortunately, Tim also has the equipment he needs to take care of the flag, as he has a tree service.

The flags last about one year, and Tim maintains a commercial sewing machine in the family garage for repairs. Two flags are purchased at a time to save money and to make sure the flag is always flying.

Tim and Jan met when they were students at what is now Cornerstone University. Tim is originally from Pennsylvania and Jan is from our area. The couple has three children, six grandsons, and one granddaughter, with another grandchild on the way.

As their children grew, the family was busy with church and school activities, naturally. Tim coached youth wrestling and assisted with the Beach Recreation League and Beach football.



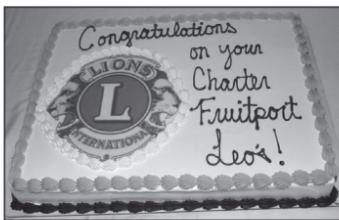
The couple is active in their church, Olivet Evangelical Church, where their son, Justin (Stephanie) serves as youth pastor. Jan plays the piano there and assists with youth and adult drama programs. Their daughter Angie and her husband Tracy Breen live in Ravenna, and son Jason (Cassie) is a teacher in Lowell. They live in Belding.

As of September 1, 2014, both Tim and Jan are retired. He from Consumers Energy and she from the Consumers Power Credit Union.

(Donations toward keeping the flag flying are still being accepted. Call Carol Hulka at the Fruitport Township Hall, 865-3151.) •

High School in room 130. Elizabeth Grimm and Kim Smith are the current Leo Club Advisors for Fruitport Schools, and Lions Heidi Tice and Debbie Wagonmaker are the current Leo Club Advisors from the Fruitport Lions. Young people, ages 13 to 18, who would like more information about the Fruitport Leo Club can contact Lion Heidi Tice at (231) 366-4406.

Lions Clubs sponsor approximately 5,800 Leo Clubs in 140 countries. While helping others in their community,



man, "We are excited to give back to our community. Through this important work, we plan to make a difference in our community."

The Fruitport Leo Club will meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 2:45 at Fruitport

Leos develop leadership skills and experience teamwork in action. For more information about the Leo Club program, visit the youth programs section of the Lions Web site at www.lionsclubs.org. •



Lee A. Beaton, Eagle Scout

Lee A. Beaton obtained the rank of Eagle Scout January 25, 2015. He is a member of troop 1127, which is sponsored by the Fruitport Lions Club. His Eagle service project was cleaning out the drainage ditch and installing new drain tile at Farr Field, Fruitport.

Lee is a senior at Fruitport High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society. He will again be a counselor at Gerber Boy Scout camp this summer before attending CMU in the fall. Lee is the son of Julie Beaton and AI Beaton, both of Muskegon. Grandparents are Vicki Beaton of Muskegon and Roger and Betty Barry of Jackson/Michigan Center.