



*Then &*

*Now*

The year was November 6, 1960, a long time ago in one's life. It is now November 6, 2020 and 60 years have gone in between. We were unable to take our 60th honeymoon cruise because of the pandemic. We spent it at home, Fred got me flowers and I made a cake. The best part was receiving so many nice cards. Amidst the confusing times—we made it through—on to the next 10 years.

Thanks everyone,  
—Fred and Darlene Field  
Fruitport residents since 1968

**Fruitport Township Public Safety**  
*Public Safety Director, Brian Michelli*

Like the rest of Americans, 2020 proved to be a challenging year for the public safety departments of Fruitport Charter Township. COVID-19 brought with it many challenges to both Police & Fire Departments. Due to the severity of the virus and illnesses that it brought with it, additional work policies were created, more than normal cleaning products required, and personal protective equipment was purchased. Extreme measures were taken to keep our citizens, staff members and their families as safe as possible, while responding to all emergencies, but more directly COVID-19 related emergencies.

As bumpy as 2020 was, the public safety departments were able to continue their mission to provide support to our community, through events and acts of kindness as listed below.

- **Trees for Tots** - The Fruitport Fire Fighters sold Christmas Trees. The money generated from the event is used to support our local children. We also received donations from local businesses and families which helped make the event successful. We would like to thank, The North Pole, Hazard Sawmill, Dave Gawlak, & Paul Schultz Trucking.

- **Shop with a Hero**- Even in the mist of COVID, our Fruitport Police wanted to continue the annual Shop with a Hero Program at Christmas where children shop for Christmas presents with a fire fighter or police officer. This

year, instead of Shop with a Hero Program, Fruitport Meijer graciously donated money to the event and gift cards were purchased. These gift cards were distributed to our local families to help provide gifts and other items they could not otherwise afford for their children's Christmas.

- **Spreading Christmas Cheer**- Fruitport Public Safety, along with a charitable donation from the employees of a local business, who wish to remain anonymous, were able to show what the season of Christmas spirit is truly about. The staff of the police and fire departments were able to bless local families, in hopes to lessen their worries during the Christmas Season. They were able to help provide a glimmer of hope to families that had recently experienced catastrophic life changing events.

- **Kick the Can**- Fruitport Township participated in the "Kick the Can" event. This event was a charitable event created to support Dancing with the Local Stars. Like all other events, COVID-19 caused havoc on local charitable organizations and their ability to generate funds to support our Muskegon area. In this event, a large can is delivered to the business or entity. To have the can removed and "kicked" to another unknowing participant, funds must be donated. This was a fun event and Township employees were able to generate over \$400.00 to support Dancing with the Local Stars Program. These funds are used to help support local food banks.

**Road Work Ahead!**

**How the Muskegon County Road Commission Maintains Roads**

*By Lin, Kate and Calvin Holtrop  
Art by Collin Holtrop*



Every year the Muskegon County Road Commission works hard filling potholes for the county's residents and motorists. But how does the Commission do this?

Over the course of winter, the freeze/thaw cycle damages roads, causing potholes. Potholes are usually bigger and more frequent in areas that have high traffic, and where there is more clay in the ground under the road's surface. Snow plows and other vehicles can add to the damage by

pulling up chunks of blacktop and concrete where there are cracks in a road.

Once potholes form, Road Commission crews prioritize the deepest and most dangerous holes on any roads, and places called "pothole hotspots". Next, holes on main highways and busier roads are filled. Afterward less dangerous holes, and holes in local roads, are patched.

Potholes can be filled with either a hot or cold patch. The hot patch is a more long-term fix, but cold patching works better when holes are wet. To prevent new potholes from forming, Road Commission workers use special seal-coating to close up small cracks, and then cover the sealed cracks with slag stone to give the new patch more traction.

Pothole repair and prevention can be done any time of year. The Road Commission and work crews do their best to keep roads repaired and safe. So always watch for road crews and be ready to slow down.

If potholes become a concern, you can reach the Road Commission by phone at: (231) 788-2381

When calling after business hours, you can leave a message. You can fill out a service request any time, that will be incorporated into the Road Commission's maintenance plan. Find the Road Commission's service request form at: [muskegoncountyroads.org/FormCenter/](http://muskegoncountyroads.org/FormCenter/)

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