Help Us Nominate Next Year's OFD King and Queen!

A Fruitport King and Queen are chosen every year to lead the Old-Fashioned Day Parade. The OFD King and Queen Committee review nominations forms sent to us from residents who are nominating those who give back to the community and play a part in making Fruitport Township a great place to play and live.

If you have someone you would like to nominate please email rdillon@fruitporttownship.com for a form. Once completed, the form can be returned to anyone on the committee; Carol Hulka, *hulkacarol@gmail.com*; Marcia Musil, *marciamusil@gmail.com;* or Rose Dillon, *rdilllon@fruitporttownship.com*.

Jennifer Fellinger Named President of Muskegon Catholic Central

submitted by Nicole Spangler, Director of Enrollment and Marketing

The Muskegon Catholic Central Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to name Ms. Jennifer Fellinger as the next president of Muskegon Catholic Central. She was hired following a national search process.

Jennifer currently leads institutional strategic initiatives at Hope College. She has served as vice president of multiple departments at Hope College since 2014. Her leadership has shaped and impacted many areas including student success, enrollment and retention; student health and wellness; faith formation; athletics; planning and strategy; and marketing/communications. The ability to work collaboratively in numerous areas of student life will provide a strong foundation for her work at Muskegon Catholic Central which serves PK-12 students.

"What set Jennifer apart from every other interviewed candidate is her passion for and commitment to the Catholic faith combined with her truly exceptional leadership. Jennifer also brings the professional credentials of 15 years of Christian and Catholic educational leadership," said Tom Ladd, chair of the Muskegon Catholic Central Board of Trustees.

"For the last few years, I have felt God calling me to a vocational shift toward Catholic faith formation," said Fellinger. "As a graduate of Catholic schools — from elementary school through college — I know firsthand the lifelong impact of Catholic education, and I'm grateful for the ways that Catholic school educators changed my life and shaped my path."

Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree in fine art from Xavier University and a master's degree in art history from The Ohio State University.

She will move into her new role this month, working alongside current President Ken Rasp who will be helping with the transition ahead of his retirement. Ken has served as president of Muskegon Catholic Central since 2016.

Jennifer's headshot is available here.

About Muskegon Catholic Central

The mission of offering a Christ-centered education for children began in 1871 when three members of the IHM Sisters established the first school at St. Mary's Parish, Muskegon. Their shared vision thrives more than 150 years later at Muskegon Catholic Central, which was founded in 1953. The school continues to educate young men and women with Christ as the focus and role model. Muskegon Catholic Central educates each student in Preschool through 12th grade in Spirit, Mind and Body by fostering personal excellence within the Catholic tradition.

Adventure Begins at the Library Winter and Spring Break Edition!

by Matt Lubbers-Moore, FDL Director

During the Winter Break we were so excited to welcome Santa Claus to the library!! With almost 100 people wanting to sit on his lap!! Our staff and Friends of the Fruitport District Library had crafts and treats for the good little boys and girls while they waited to see the Jolly St. Nick!!

Even the staff, including our director, climbed upon his knee to tell Santa what they wanted!

During the 2024 Spring Break Holiday between April 1st to April 6th the Fruitport District Library was full of families having a great time. We had face painting, creating book marks, reading to a dog, playing with Legos, learning how to use a typewriter, and more!!

The Fruitport District Library is grateful to its staff, the Friends of the Fruitport District Library, and the many volunteers it took to plan, set up, run, and clean the community room.

We are also incredibly thankful to the community who showed up to have fun! Almost 400 people came to play! We had little ones less than a year old, lots of toddlers, kids, parents, and grandparents having as much fun as their grandkids!

Ultimately the most rewarding part of our jobs at the library is making people happy and Candyland did just that. Watching kids, parents, and grandparents playing and bonding all the while laughing and smiling was worth all the hours of planning and setting up.

Fruitport can be assured that the staff, Friends of the Library, and volunteers are already planning something big for next year's spring break!!

To get involved with the Friends of the Fruitport District Library you can attend one of their monthly meetings which are usually on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 in the community room, by liking their Facebook at *https://www.facebook.com/FruitportFOFL*, or emailing them at *fruitportfofl@gmail.com*.

Stay up to date with fun crafts, programs, and events throughout the year with our monthly community calendar available in the library!!

Taste of Muskegon Announces Restaurant Row

Muskegon, MI – Taste of Muskegon is returning to Hackley Park for this year's festival June 7-8. The 18th year of the event will feature 30 local restaurants and food trucks.

Restaurant Row will have several of the Taste of Muskegon 2023 Taste Plate Award winners, including:

- Frostbite Shaved Ice - Best Taste, Best Dessert, Best New Bite Runner-up
- Hamburger Mikey - People's Choice, Best New Bite, Best Booth, Best Taste Runner-up
- Melt Gourmet Sandwiches - Best Budweiser Beer & Links
- She's Divine Cuisine - Best Fresh Bite
- Smokin on the Lakeshore - Best Budweiser Beer & Links Runner-up
- Wonderland Distilling Co. - Sustainability, People's Choice Runner-up, Best Fresh Bite Runner-up
- Yodels Frozen Yogurt - Best Dessert Runner-up

New this year to Taste of Muskegon, though not all are new to Muskegon:

- 794 Kitchen & Bar
- Colby's Cafe & Brew
- Greekshore
- Pilar's Empanadas Argentinas
- Sanders Mobile Shop
- Select Auditorium
- Socibowl/Brewer's Lounge

There will be many Taste favorites back in the park:

- Aloha Hawaiian Shave Ice
- Amanda's Frosted Dreams
- Baby Suga's Cheesesteak Shack
- Big Tuck's Food Truck
- Carson's Almonds
- Corine's Cakes and Catering
- Curry Kitchen
- Dakidd Bar-B-Que & Catering
- Happy Matt's Kettlecorn
- Navarro's Mexican Takeout
- Oh Brothers/Little Brothers Trailer
- OVK BBQ
- Sutton Concessions
- Thai Cottage Cuisine
- Tiki Boiz
- Unruly Kitchen

"Etouffee, turkey knuckles, gyros, quinoa, empanadas - and that's just from the Taste rookies!" said Lisa Kraus, Marketing Director of Taste of Muskegon. "As Muskegon continues to grow and evolve so does our culinary scene. There's no better place to discover your next favorite meal than at Taste of Muskegon."

Taste of Muskegon, produced by the Downtown Development Authority, will take place on June 7th and 8th in Hackley Park. Awards for Taste of Muskegon's best plates takes place Saturday afternoon and include both judged and public votes. To learn more about the restaurants and events at Taste of Muskegon 2024, visit their website at *www.tasteofmuskegon.org*.

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