

## To Highland Conservancy E-Folks and Members,

### HAPPY FALL!

Below is our latest Enewsletter and information on upcoming events:

**Our Mission Statement:** "To encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township."

**Discovery Hikes:** For those who missed the hikes they were a wonderful success! We explored many new areas of Highland and saw beautiful and pristine land, wildlife and water. THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME!

*"Each of us has a responsibility to be good stewards of our environment. Highland Township's Conservancy is a great way to fulfill that responsibility."* Triscia Pilchowski, Highland Township Supervisor

### **How you can Help**

The Conservancy is a new and quickly growing effort. If you would like to volunteer to help us in ANY capacity -- even if this is just contributing ideas -- please [contact us](#). You can help as little or as much as you like. There are many needs and areas in which we could use help, some of which could easily be done at home. Some immediate ways you could help out are:

- Donating property that can be classified as a conservancy
- Donating cash (TAX-FREE) that will be used to build the group's efforts
- Contributing ideas
- Performing specific tasks such as stewardship of land and easements
- Volunteering your efforts to help the group develop (publicity, membership)
- Coordinating educational events
- Providing feedback to the group (we welcome your ideas)

**We meet the first Tuesday of each month at Highland Station House, 205 W. Livingston Road at 7:00 p.m.** Our meetings are open to the public so please come join us. For more information click on the following link:  
<http://www.highlandconservancy.org/needs.htm>

**Controlling Exotic Species:** An important issue for everyone in Highland is the ongoing need to prevent the destruction of our native plants and animals. Exotic species are a major threat to our gardens, lawns, parks and all natural areas, second only to habitat loss. Do you know what purple loosestrife and glossy buckthorn looks like? I spent all day once trying to remove a huge ball of loosestrife roots only to learn I could have used an inexpensive weed killer for much quicker results. The scary part was I threw the root ball into a woodpile and they sprouted new growth two years later! You can be a part of the solution by knowing which plants are the biggest environmental threat in your area and learning their proper removal technique so you can remove them.

**Composting Yard Waste:** Yard waste, although organic, can harbor plant pests and seeds of undesirable species that can invade a natural area devastating its integrity. Plus, multiple large clumps of abandoned waste scattered around a natural area can look unsightly. Please consider starting your own compost bin. You can even add food and vegetable scraps (no meat products) and create your own inexpensive source of excellent “topsoil” to add to your garden.

**Kingsland:** There is currently under consideration a new 120 acre, \$300 million senior complex near M-59 and Hickory Ridge Road. This development will include up to FOUR 6-story buildings, a golf course, and more (though the latest proposal includes three story buildings). There is much debate over whether this development will change the rural character of Highland or whether it is actually good for the community. Some recent articles are available on [Highland-Live](#). Your comments and feedback are always welcome:

- [Announcement](#)
- [Find all articles](#)
- [Editorial against](#)
- [Editorial for](#)
- [Letter from former owners of the property](#)

Also, please be sure to let Beth Corwin or Eugene Beach in the Highland Township Planning Commission know your concerns or ideas about this project. Contact Mick Bell for information at 248-887-4643.

**Website:** Our website has some excellent information for new members and those interested in finding out more about what we are doing. Please visit it at: [www.HighlandConservancy.org](http://www.HighlandConservancy.org)

**Highland Live:** This is an excellent new online newspaper/blog here in Highland! We encourage you to read and/or write articles about environmental issues or make comments on issues of importance to you. Check it out at: <http://www.highland-live.com>

**Current Sponsors and Contributors:**

- [Web Juggler Internet Communications, Highland](#) (248-887-4253): This Web site
- [New Moon Visions, Milford](#) (248-684-8668): Design and graphics for printed materials
- [Allegra Printing, Highland](#) (248-887-2400): Printing of our fliers

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We could use your help! With your donation of \$25 you will receive this Enewsletter and a window cling and become a contributing member. With a donation of \$50 you'll also receive a tote bag. You can mail in your contribution using the form below.  
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please print out the form below to mail in your contribution today:

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Yes, I want to join the Highland Conservancy to encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township with

my donation.

Please make checks payable to: Highland Conservancy  
Mail to: 205 W. Livingston Road, Highland, MI 48357

\_\_\_\_\_ Call me regarding a gift of property or information on conservation easements.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$Other

Thank you for your Tax Deductible Contribution!

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Sincerely,  
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