

Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter October 3, 2009

Tree Planting

On Sunday, October 11th at 10:30am we are inviting families and volunteers to join us in planting trees along White Lake Road between Rose Center and Eagle Roads in Highland. Bring a shovel, gloves, pails (if you have them) and a gallon of water and join us in planting tree seedlings. Children are welcome! For more info please contact Jim or Mary Lloyd at 248-887-3952.

Huron River Canoe Cleanup

On Sunday, October 11th from approximately 9am to 12:30, families and volunteers are invited to join others in canoeing and cleaning up the Huron River. Meet at Heavner's Canoe Rental and bring drinking water, garbage bags, gloves and a net or "grabber" (if you have one) to help retrieve items from the river. Life jackets will be provided. To reserve a canoe and for more info, please contact Sabina Persons at 810-623-1999.

The above events are sponsored in conjunction with the Highland United Methodist Church's Faith in Action project, and Heavner's Canoe Livery.

Senior Complex again proposed for Highland

On September 17, several HC members attended the Planning Commission meeting when Cleve King returned requesting rezoning of his 120 acre property along with an additional 60 acres off Susan Drive and Tipsico Lake Rd. King stated he plans to provide a "continuum of care" in the complex not to exceed 225 units. The current configuration he presented includes 76 condos, 180 apartments, 150 units in assisted living and 75 units in a nursing home. Previously, the township did a micro-analysis of the area and recommended leaving the zoning unchanged for the area. Now, King has done his homework changing his overall plan to include lower density, access in and out of the complex via a road through Susan Drive to Tipsico Lake Road, and additional planting of trees providing more buffer for adjacent properties including Dunham Lake Estates. King is filing his request under a provision called "conditional zoning" which means the zoning is approved conditioned upon specific requirements for the development that are worked out and agreed to ahead of time. Some possibilities include requiring financial guarantees, stipulating specific areas as green space, or requiring phased development. Local residents voiced concerns about the impact the development would have on nearby low-lying homes already prone to flooding, the need to protect as much mature woodlands as possible, need for a provision to keep it from being sold and then turned into a trailer park or apartment complex, and units being placed too close to the lot lines of residents along Dunham Road. Go to www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com for the full article.

There will be a public hearing on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. In addition, concerned citizens are welcome to mail in their comments or concerns to the Planning Commission, or attend upcoming Planning Commission meetings. For upcoming agendas (or minutes) of meetings, go to the township website at www.highlandtwp.com and click on Government, then click on Planning Commission, etc.

Roads Clean Again in Highland

Two weeks ago, volunteers and conservancy members joined others in the "adopt-a-road" clean-up throughout Oakland County. Thanks to a strong turn-out of volunteers, several stretches of road in Highland are once again litter free. Last year, the Highland Conservancy adopted Harvey Lake Road leading from M-59 to our new Highland Oaks Park. It has been a busy summer keeping up with litter bugs but once again, the road is clean. Thanks to all who helped out this year!

Hazardous Waste Disposal Day – Saturday, Oct. 10th 8-noon

The Highland Township Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Tire Drive is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Highland Middle School, 305 N. John Street.

Don't pour your Paint, Oil or Chemicals down the drain or dump them in the trash. The township will accept hazardous waste and ensure proper disposal at no charge for you (except there is a \$2.00 per tire drop off charge for passenger tires--off the rim). Computers will be accepted but TV's will not. (Freedom Work Opportunities, 2880 N. Milford Rd. 248-887-1597 also accepts working TV's and computers).

Please--One trip per household. No commercial vehicles. Carpooling is encouraged as the Township pays per trip. Please note, we encourage you to save up your waste and make one trip since the township is charged roughly \$50 a vehicle and we have seen folks drive in with one can of paint! Visit the township website for a complete list of what items will be accepted: www.highlandtwp.com

5K Nature Run Winner

The winner of the Highland Conservancy's 5K Nature Run held during the Horsin' Around Highland days was *Marv Zurek from Highland, with a time of 23:57*. Congratulations, Marv, for a great run on a challenging course! And thank you to [Houston Fitness Consultants](#), a Highland-based Fitness studio, for their contribution of *Breakin' Down the Barriers*, a fitness book co-written by Dan Houston.

We plan to make the 5k an annual event, with more promotion and more challenges in the future. Based on the date of Horsin' Around in Highland, the probable date of the next 5k will be September 25, 2010.

Katheryn Krupa, Editor
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www.highlandconservancy.org