

Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter April 18, 2010

Earth Day Family Festival

This event is being held **this coming Sunday from noon-4pm at Carls Family YMCA**, 300 Family Drive, Milford. Come and bring bikes so that afterwards you can ride the new bike trail to Kensington and back! There will be art activities, music, races, crafts, snakes to hold (if its warm enough), examples of invasive plants, etc. The Y will have the Sneaker 500 where kids can build their own race car from boxes and recycled materials. Email hurongreen@yahoo.com for more info or call the Y at 248-685-3020.

Earth Day Poster Contest

The Highland Conservancy sponsored a poster contest for elementary students in Huron Valley to promote earth day and the family fun festival this Sunday. The theme was Protecting Animals and their Habitat for a more diverse, ecologically healthy earth. The first place winner was Shaina Parks of Kurtz Elementary, second place was Andrew Kovanda of Spring Mills and third place went to Alaina Maxwell of Kurtz. CONGRATULATIONS!



First Place Winner Shaina Parks



Second Place Winner Andrew Kovanda

Frog and Toad Survey

Dave Pollard and Ron Flannery started the first go round of this important survey a few weeks ago. They visited 12 different sites and had a lot of fun listening to wood and chorus frogs, spring peepers and other noisy male amphibians calling from bogs, ponds and marshes around Highland. The data collected will be sent to the DNR and included in a statewide survey of these ecologically important creatures.

Community Garden

Plots are again available in the community garden for Highland in front of the Highland United Methodist Church. Anyone is welcome to set up a plot and grow their own vegetables, strawberries, etc. A section will again be devoted to growing food to be

donated to Community Sharing food bank. There are many local churches starting up community gardens. What an awesome way to grow our food locally. Kudos go to all the hardworking volunteers. Email Teresa Smith for info: BRANDDEX@comcast.net

Natural Features Section of Highland's new Zoning Ordinance

The current version of this important section has removed specific requirements for tree preservation, requirements controlling topsoil removal and penalties for non-compliance. Please take a moment to send your opinion on the new Natural Features Ordinance for Highland asking that these requirements be included. THIS IS MOVING SOON TO A FINAL VOTE. There will be one more opportunity for discussion of revisions during the Planning Commission's May 6th working session at 7pm at the township hall. The public hearing we urge you to attend is set for Thursday, May 20th. Our concerns are:

- Stop total topsoil removal by requiring it ONLY for construction of roads and public utilities in all new developments.
- Stop total clear cutting of trees by allowing it ONLY for construction of roads and public utilities in all new developments.
- Establish penalties for non-compliance.

To read the full ordinance, go to:

<http://www.highlandtwp.com/page/Twp+PlanningZoning-130.html>

For a more detailed discussion, visit this blog article:

http://highlandconservancy.typepad.com/my_weblog/2009/11/wheres-the-beef-by-katheryn-krupa.html

PLEASE LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD. E-MAIL, CALL OR WRITE our Highland reps below:

Call our Township Supervisor Triscia Pilchowski at 248-887-3792 or E-mail: pilchowskit@twp.highland.mi.us

E-mail Planning and Development Director Beth Corwin: corwinb@twp.highland.mi.us

Write a letter to the planning commissioners:
Alexandra Stellas, Planning Commission Chairperson
Highland Township Offices
205 N. John Street
Highland, MI 48357

It has been a totally awesome spring so far. I hope you are enjoying it as much as my family and art students are. See you Sunday!

Katheryn Krupa, Editor
Highland Conservancy E-News
www.highlandconservancy.org