



Highland CONSERVANCY

Highland Conservancy
205 W. Livingston Road
Highland MI 48357
Phone: 248-887-4643
Email: artfingers@comcast.net

Visit our Website:

www.HighlandConservancy.org

Our mission is to encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township.

What the Highland Conservancy is all about by Katheryn Krupa

The mission of the Highland Conservancy is to "encourage and facilitate the conservation of land and natural resources to preserve the rural character of Highland Township." Our mission reflects our dedication to protecting the horse farms, greenways, natural areas and habitat for wildlife throughout our beautiful township.

Some of our current initiatives include:

- Facilitating the development of conservation easements, wildlife corridors and green spaces in Highland.
- Educating the public about preserving and protecting Highland's lake, streams, parks, and natural areas.

- Partnering with other conservancies and organizations to protect land identified as "hubs" and wildlife corridors on Highland's Greenway Plan.
- Working with the township to create guidelines and update ordinances to protect land and critical habitats.
- Assisting in stewardship of local parks and land held in conservancy.
- Ongoing clean-up of roadside litter in Highland via the Adopt-a-Road program.
- Working with local citizens, organizations and area churches to encourage planting of community gardens, new trees in our parks and other areas in Highland, and

native seed collection.

- Working to raise awareness of environmental problems and concerns that affect our community and its citizens.
- Participating in yearly stewardship and clean-up of invasive plants at Highland Oaks Park, our newest park with a total of 265 beautiful acres. This park was opened in October of 2007 through the combined efforts of the Highland Conservancy and others.
- Maintaining a blog and website to report on local issues, environmental news and other important events around Highland.

Visit the Highland Conservancy Blog to read and comment on local issues, environmental news, and important events that are happening around Highland. Go to:

www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com



Senior Living Complex Again Proposed for Highland by Katheryn Krupa

On September 17, Cleve King returned to the Planning Commission requesting rezoning of his 120 acre property and an additional 60 acres off Susan Drive and Tipsico Lake Rd. He plans to provide a "continuum of care" in the complex not to exceed 225 units. The current configuration includes 76 condos, 180 apartments, 150 units in assisted living and 75 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. At the meeting, nearby 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 ma-

ture woodlands as possible, inclusion of quality open space not just wetlands, 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 lot lines of residents along Dunham Road. A sewer treatment plant is included in the plan which could have both a positive and negative impact on the area (it might encourage more development).

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.