



FALL LEAF DROP-OFF

The Fall Yard Waste Drop-Off Program will be from October 24th through November 24th at the drop-off site located behind the DPW Building at 13300 168th Avenue.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m.

The drop-off is only meant for leaves, grass and similar yard waste. There is no dumping of wood, limbs or brush allowed.

NEW WEB SITE

Grand Haven Charter Township's web site was unveiled in 2005 and was recognized as one of the best sites for local governments. Unfortunately, technology quickly changes and "award winning" became "outdated".

To provide the residents a more useful web site, the Board approved a project to create a completely new web site, which was unveiled on September 22nd. Please visit the Township's web site and share your thoughts on any improvements you would like added.

www.gh.org

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Clerk Sue Buitenhuis
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Trustee Laurie Larsen
Trustee Howard Behm
Trustee Mike Hutchins
Trustee Calvin Meeusen



We are on the web
www.gh.org • info@gh.org

developments and similar residential developments are not suitable for farm animals. Most residents in these housing developments do not want chickens, pigs or goats next door.

But, Grand Haven Charter Township has many residential lots that are not part of a subdivision and are at least one acre in size. And, some types of "livestock facilities" might be suitable on these lots. Chickens are currently allowed on one acre residential lots and horses are allowed on five acre residential lots.

The Planning Commission is examining these types of "rural" residential lots to determine the number and type of livestock (*i.e., cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, goats, chickens, etc.*) permitted.

For example, while the Planning Commission could determine that it is appropriate to have 100 chickens on

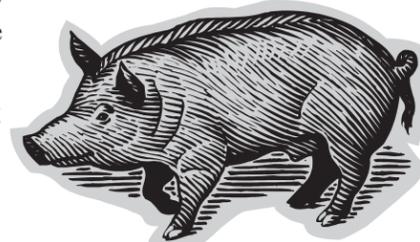
five acres, it could also determine that the manure management and odor from pigs would be such that pigs should not be raised on rural residential lots. And, if the Planning Commission does determine that 100 chickens are suitable, regulations such as the setback of the chicken coops or how chicken "poop" is managed becomes very important to neighbors.

If you would like to share your opinions on livestock facilities in rural residential areas with the Township's Planner (**Stacey Fedewa**), please email:

sfedewa@gh.org

or call:

(616) 604-6326



PATHWAYS SURVEY

Grand Haven Charter Township currently has about **26.7 miles** of non-motorized pathways.

The Township's pathways construction program began in 1990 when **voters approved a 0.9 mills** property tax to construct the initial **12.3 miles** of pathways.

The second phase began in 1998 when voters **approved a 1.7 mills** property tax to construct an additional **11 miles** of pathway. This second debt millage was paid off in 2008, which was in the midst of the so-called "Great Recession". Because of the economic downturn, the Township Board did not feel it appropriate to ask voters to fund a further expansion of the pathways.

In addition, another 3.4 miles of pathways were added either by developers or the Township's Downtown Development Authority.

Because of the new development that is occurring and because the region's economy has improved, the Township Board is examining a third expansion of the pathway system. Specifically, based upon various plans and input from residents, the Board is considering a ten mile expansion of the pathway system in 2016 at an estimated cost of about **\$4.1 million**.

Assuming that the Township voters approved a debt millage for this third phase of pathways, the cost in terms of a millage rate would be about:

- **0.67 mills** for a ten-year bond; or

- **0.45 mills** for a fifteen-year bond.

The following table shows the proposed segments of new pathway that might be added, the length of each segment, and the preliminary construction cost estimate. (*See Pathways Map on page 2.*)

Before moving forward with any proposal to expand the Township's pathway system, the Township Board will gauge voter support by having Epic-MRA conduct a telephone survey of 300 Township residents during November, calling both cell phones and land lines.

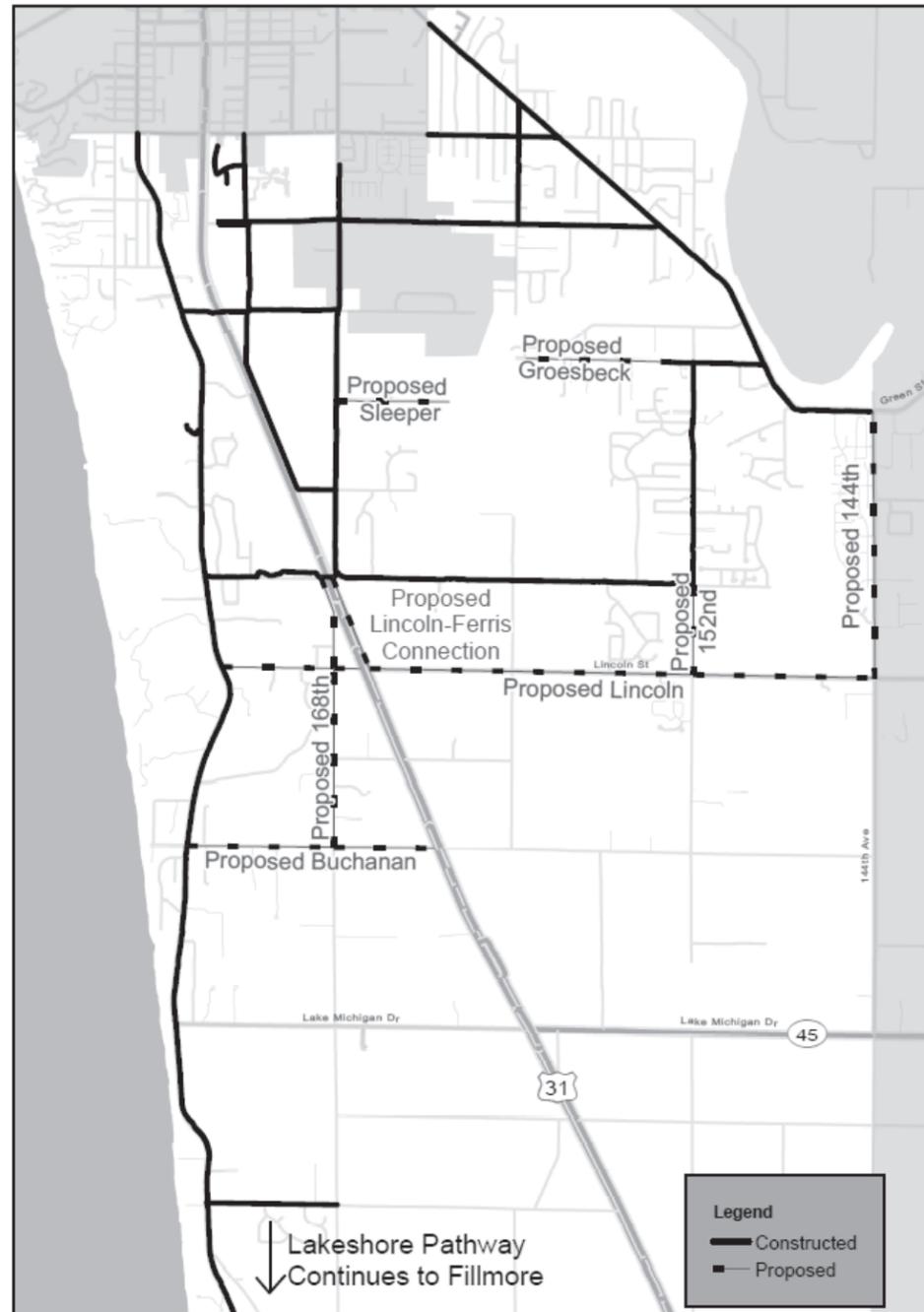
The phone survey will last about 12 minutes and will provide the Township Board with results that will have less than a 6% margin of error.

If the survey indicates that there is support for expanded pathways to be constructed in **2016**, the Board will consider completing preliminary engineering and preparing ballot language to allow the voters to decide.

Proposed Pathway Segment	Miles	Cost
Lincoln Street (<i>Lakeshore to West of US-31; East of US-31 to 144th and connector to Ferris along East side of US-31 easement</i>)	3.7 Miles	\$1,638,727
144th Avenue (<i>Mercury to Lincoln</i>)	1.4 Miles	\$656,938
Buchanan Street (<i>Lakeshore to US-31</i>)	1.3 Miles	\$610,090
152nd Avenue (<i>Ferris to Lincoln</i>)	0.5 Miles	\$334,765
168th Avenue (<i>Buchanan to Ferris</i>)	1.5 Miles	\$576,177
Groesbeck Street (<i>152nd to West end</i>)	0.8 Miles	\$192,654
Sleeper Street (<i>168th to Hofma Preserve</i>)	0.8 Miles	\$136,885
Total	10 Miles	\$4,146,236

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NEWSLETTER



PRECINCT CHANGES

A link to election information, including new precinct locations, can be found on the new www.gh.t.org web site or at:

<https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>

Any questions can be directed to Deputy Clerk Kristi DeVerney by calling (616) 604-6343 or by emailing:

kdeverney@ght.org

RESILIENT GRAND HAVEN

It is time for Grand Haven Charter Township to review its Master Plan. This review is required every five years by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act.

Because the City of Grand Haven is also reviewing their Master Plan, the Township and City are collaborating on this project as both Planning Commissions evaluate, and possibly update, our

respective Master Plans with a project that is entitled “Resilient Grand Haven”.

The Township and City are fortunate to work with the Land Information Access Association (LIAA), who obtained a \$100,000 grant from Michigan’s Coastal Zone Management Program to assist both communities with the Master Plan review process. Additional funds were contributed by the Township, City, Kresge Foundation, Americana Foundation, and the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation.

Our two communities are reviewing our ability to be “resilient” in the face of a changing economy, statewide recession, energy consumption, employment fluctuations, and extreme weather events that impact agriculture, infrastructure and human health.

This review will enable the Township and City to identify the areas we excel as a “resilient community” and the areas that need improvement. As areas of improvement are identified, the Township will begin the process of updating and amending the Master Plan.

The goal is to make sure the Township is prepared to “bounce back” and be prepared for future challenges — we call this “planning for resilience.”

LIVESTOCK FACILITIES

A few Township residents are interested in raising livestock for their own use, or in some instances, to sell for a profit. Due to questions regarding the so-called “Right-to-Farm Act,” animals that were once relegated to farms were being considered for certain residential areas.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) recently updated their Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Facilities. These GAAMPs help determine the suitability for livestock facility sites in both agriculture and residential zoned areas of a community.

The Right to Farm Act (RTFA) and GAAMPs protect farmers against someone moving next to an existing farm and taking them to court over nuisances such as noise and odor. However, some citizens believed that these rules allowed farm animals to be raised in any residential zone.

The updated GAAMPs attempt to mitigate this controversy by establishing a category that will be clearly controlled through local zoning.

COMMUNICATION

Grand Haven Charter Township strives to ensure the residents understand what is occurring and that our operations remain transparent by providing a variety of communication tools, including the following:

- ◆ A website that is available 24/7—www.gh.t.org that contains general information, all forms used by the various departments, telephone numbers and email links for key staff and elected officials.
- ◆ Two (2) newsletters that are mailed to all addresses each year.
- ◆ All agendas, minutes and board packets for each of the Board’s bi-monthly meetings can be accessed through the Township’s website under the “Events Calendar”.
- ◆ A one-page tax insert for both the Summer and Winter taxes that provides Township updates.
- ◆ A “Dashboard” on the Township’s website to give residents a one page snapshot of how we are doing in the major areas of interest — www.gh.t.org/township-board/financial-dashboard.
- ◆ Numerous public hearings and open meetings at which residents can express their opinions and share their thoughts.

So-called “Category 4” sites may not be acceptable for new and expanding livestock facilities because the location is “primarily residential” and local zoning ordinances do not allow agricultural uses “by right” in these residential zones. A site is “primarily residential” if there are more than 13 non-farm residences within 1/8 mile of the site, or have any non-farm residence within 250 feet of the livestock facility.



Now that this fourth category has been added to the GAAMPs, local governments are tasked with identifying the appropriate areas within their boundaries that livestock facilities can, and cannot, be located.

Grand Haven Charter Township had previously determined that subdivisions, condominium

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