

December 2005

To Highland Conservancy E-Folks and Members,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Thanks to everyone who contributed in 2005!

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

Woodlands Ordinance: Recently the Highland Conservancy presented a comprehensive Woodlands Ordinance for Highland Township. The ordinance went through several revisions and drafts and has been a focus project of the Highland Conservancy this past year. The recent survey of township residents pointed to the overwhelming desire to preserve woodlands and green space in Highland. The need for such an ordinance became even more apparent with the two new Foley developments in Highland. Though the developer promised to keep a pristine, natural area called a conservation easement, nearby residents were shocked to discover that these important easements were being completely ignored. Once the bulldozers arrived, all the trees were removed and the land was completely stripped of topsoil as well. The conservation easement that was supposed to provide a beautiful swath of green shade trees and natural beauty around both of these developments, soon became gaping, muddy scars in the earth. We are recommending that the township review the Woodlands Ordinance and adopt it as soon as possible to protect what remains of our forests in Highland. For a complete copy of the ordinance, please contact Jim Lloyd at 248-887-3952.

Proposed Highland Oaks Park:

One of our dedicated members, Ron Flannery, has worked hard (along with Sharon Greene of the Highland Equestrian Conservancy) to obtain grant funding for a new 260-acre park in Highland Township. Ron has been diligently working on this project behind the scenes since November of 2004 and now, finally, the grant has been approved! The next step is to obtain approval from the legislature and Governor Granholm. We are very excited and hopeful now that this beautiful park is one step closer to becoming a reality for Highland! For more information, click on the link below to read the full article in the Spinal Column:

<http://www.spinalcolumnonline.com/leditorialbody.lasso?-token.folder=2005-12-14&-token.story=146987.112112&-nothing>

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:

- Working on additional new ordinances for Highland such as Wetlands and Lighting
- 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>

Kingsland: This proposed senior citizen complex involves a beautiful rolling piece of property that is about 120 acres in size, north of M-59 off Hickory Ridge Road. The revised proposal for this development involves senior living facilities and a golf course (the latest proposal now proposes 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

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!

There is still time to make a tax deductible contribution. 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 beautiful 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:

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!

Sincerely,
Katheryn Krupa
Editor, E-Newsletter
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