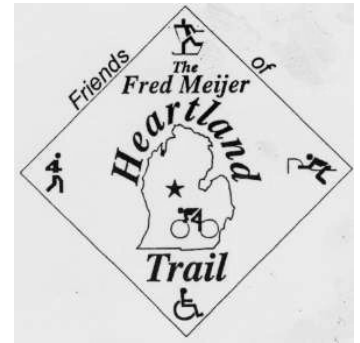


TRAIL TRACKS



FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER HEARTLAND TRAIL

TRAIL TRACKS

September 2011

Hermon Hoffer Harvest Adventure

The annual Hermon Hoffer Harvest Bicycle Ride will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011. Riders are asked to meet in Edmore at the big parking lot on the east side of town on Neff Road. Greeters will be there between 8:00am and 9:00am. Wear an HHA t-shirt from the past if you have one.

There is no registration fee, but please pre-register at oakwoods@net-link.net. You may decide at the last minute to ride, as well. Ride as many

miles as you wish and feel able on the newly completed section east as far as Alma or south to Greenville. Please meet back in Edmore around 1:00pm for a Dutch treat lunch at the Depot beside the Trail.

There will be a brief dedication ceremony at 11:00am at the Hermon Hoffer Memorial Rest Stop where the Trail crosses Pingree Road in Elwell.

Come and bring your cycling friends.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- SEPTEMBER 24, 2011, HERMAN HOFFER HARVEST ADVENTURE, EDMORE
- OCTOBER 15, 2011, RIBBON CUTTING

Ribbon Cutting

It looks like the long awaited completion of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail from Alma to Greenville is very near. The contractor has assured us that it will be completed by the end of September. Just recently the Trail was paved from Riverdale to Edmore and construction has begun on the Lake Road to Greenville segment. To celebrate this momentous event we have

scheduled a series of ribbon cuttings for Saturday, October 15. The times of the ribbon cuttings have been set for: 10:30 am in Riverdale, 12:00pm (noon) at the Vestaburg depot, 1:30pm in Edmore at the Trailhead on Forest Street and 3:30pm in Greenville. Please put this date on your calendar of events and plan to attend.



TRAIL TRACKS

Construction Progress

By creating a trail, we're doing a wonderful thing. Our children and grandchildren will be grateful for this legacy we are leaving them. The Trail will be a safe haven for families away from traffic."

- FRED MEIJER

Thanks to the hard work of Isabella Corporation, the County Line/Riverdale to Edmore section of the FMHT has been completed and is under constant use. This lovely, wooded section of our trail contains some lovely, huge oaks and maples which shade the trail well on hot days. Passing through the Vestaburg State Game Area, Trail users may see various wildlife and

many birds. Being able to find refreshments in Riverdale, Vestaburg and Edmore makes any Trail-use day a pleasure!

Crawford Construction is in the last of the preparations before beginning paving on Lake Road, Peck Road and the Trail right-of-way that leads to Waterworks Park in Greenville. Two Trail connectors will be built in Greenville to join the

FMHT and the FM Flat River Trail.

The Meijer Foundation has also given additional money for more Trail construction in the spring of 2012. This addition will continue south in Greenville to Grove Street and will include one bridge. This will give many Greenville residents easier access to the FMHT. Thank you, Meijer Foundation!!



L-R: Gale Burt, Ron Sorensen, Melvin Morford, Dave Curi, Ardyce Hoffer Czuchna-Curl, Nellie Lou Simmons
Photo by Sharon Sorensen

Hermon Hoffer Memorial Rest Stop

This new oasis in memory of Hermon Hoffer, installed by a crew of volunteers headed by Nellie Lou Simmons and Ron Sorensen, consists of a sturdy Landscape Forms bench and bike rack paid for with accumulated HHA registration

fees, supplemented by a contribution from Hermon's children, Ardyce Czuchna-Curl, Garold Hoffer and Barbara Verduin. The cement pad for the bench was donated by John Arnold and installed by John, and Ron Sorensen.

Hermon was an avid bicycle rider who was still "pedaling at age 92".

All are invited to attend the dedication at 11am on Saturday, September 24, 2011, at the Trailhead in Elwell.

TRAIL TRACKS

Vestaburg Depot Gets Facelift!

The old gray building on the back street of Vestaburg got a face lift this summer! Dealing with the "warmth" of summer 2011, and determined hornets, Larry Koutz, Rick Hyde, Lois Carver, and Matt Koutz gave the depot two coats of green paint. Thank you Peasley's hardware for your patience in finding that just right color.

In the past few years, the depot has received a new roof, structure repairs, new doors, shutters and window repairs. The inside of the depot is still in the original, well preserved condition. What an asset to the village....the newly paved Trail, a Trailhead parking lot, and this wonderful building. Drive by the

depot in the evening if you want a nostalgic moment!

The FFMHT hope to have more community events at the depot next summer. Suggestions for events are welcome.



Vestaburg Depot Before Painting



Vestaburg Depot After Painting

Thanks to 2011 Mower Volunteers

Thanks to the many volunteer mowers who give of their time and equipment, the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail has looked great again this season.

We would like to recognize the following mowers/trimmers who have helped us this year: Roger Hinton, Ken Mitchell, Tom Lanning, Jack Pearl, Kevin Arnold & Mici Bos, Bruce Basom, John Eisenberger, Jesse & Judy DeRocher, Dianne

Wilson, Cal Callison, Terry Clements and Dependable Mowing and Sweeping from Elwell.

Without these volunteers the Trail would be struggling to keep the well-maintained look for which it is known. We salute you and thank you again for all of your hours on your mowers!



www.montcalm.org/fmht.asp

FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER HEARTLAND TRAIL

Old Fence Rider Museum Supports Trail

The Old Fence Rider Museum in Edmore is located very near the Trail. They are now selling Trail t-shirts (\$10) and hats (\$5). They also have a supply of brochures from trails in the area. The museum is open on Saturdays from 9am to 3pm with displays of many items of local interest. More information can be obtained at 989-427-1032. Brochures are also available at the Depot in Edmore.

