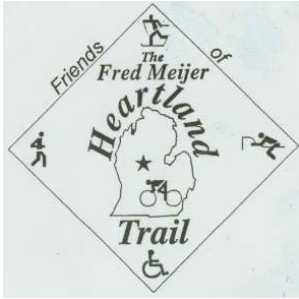


# Fred Meijer Heartland Trail Tracks



## Winter 2007

### Annual Meeting in February

The Annual Meeting of the Friends will be held on February 27, 2007, at the Montcalm County ISD on New Street, at 7:00 p.m. It is important that we receive your ballot for the election of the Board of Directors before this date. At this meeting new officers for 2007 will also be chosen by the elected Board. All members are invited to attend.

Your ballot is enclosed in this packet along with your 2007 membership renewal. The Board of Directors strongly encourages you to return both items before the Annual Meeting. Your participation and membership support are what make Trail maintenance, insurance, and general operations of the Trail possible. THANK YOU in advance!!

### Trail Mowing for 2006 and 2007

The Trail will be looking for volunteers to mow the Trail edges of the paved portions during the 2007 use season. If you feel that you could help in this effort, please contact **Dale Kane, 989-427-5555** or **Ron Sorensen, 989-352-6179**.

Many thanks to the dedicated mowers during 2006!!: Tom Lanning, Jack Pearl, Don Horrigan, Roger Hinton and Richard Verus

### Tree Removal Volunteers

Due to the many windstorms in 2006, the Trail was often blocked by downed trees. Dedicated members cleared and moved wood: Wayne Addis, Tom & Alice Lanning and Melvin Morford. **Many thanks to you all.**

### Coral Road to Edmore PAVING SCHEDULE 2007

After meetings with MDOT, the Montcalm County Road Commission, the City of Greenville and the Meijer Foundation, the Coral Road to Edmore section of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is on track to begin construction in May, 2007. The engineering review by MDOT for this section is completed and the project will go out for bid in March, 2007. The "bid letting", that is the awarding of the contract, will occur in April, 2007, with construction starting in May. The project cost is about \$540,000.00 and was sponsored by Rep. Dave Camp.

The delay in construction of this section was due to several factors – all of which were worked around through the dedicated assistance of Paul Kluwe, Village of Edmore Administrator. This delay has resulted not only in a major improvement to the Trail alignment in Edmore, but an important construction cost savings. The Village's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has

purchased the old Anderson (Bird) Fertilizer property and the FFMHT, working with the Village, have been able to purchase the old right-of-way which runs through the Anderson property, from the DDA. This is thanks to an additional grant from the Meijer Foundation. This means that the trail doesn't have to use roads and sidewalks to make the connection to the existing Edmore paved portion of the Trail, but rather can use existing right-of-way. This eliminates conflicts with auto and pedestrian traffic along Forest and Sheldon Streets. **A long wait, but well worth it in the end.**

**A warm Thank You to Paul Kluwe and the Village of Edmore!!**

### **Annual Banquet Preparations**

The Annual Banquet of the FFMHT will be held on May 5, 2007 in Edmore at the Curtis Building. Our usual tasty banquet will also be accompanied by a Silent Auction, a Raffle of various trips and items, and good times for everyone in attendance. **Please begin to make plans for the Banquet, donations for the Silent Auction, Raffle, and help in general.**

#### **WHERE YOU CAN HELP:**

- ◆ Ticket takers at the door
- ◆ Raffle ticket sellers
- ◆ Silent Auction cashiers
- ◆ Banquet ticket sellers
- ◆ Cupcake raffle monitors
- ◆ Setup and Cleanup
- ◆ Donations of Silent Auction items

### **Contacts for Silent Auction Donations**

- Lakeview: Phyllis Painter 352-6351  
-Six Lakes/Lakeview: The Sorensens 352-6170  
-Sheridan: Harold & Dot Springsteen 291-3248  
-Sheridan, Stanton: Dick Wenzel 831-5413  
-Stanton: Jan Russell  
-Edmore: John Heron 427-3478  
-Vestaburg, Riverdale: Dianne Wilson 268-5143  
-Alma: Mary Lou Byl 463-5946  
-Ithaca, Alma: Robyn Anderson 463-7159  
-Ithaca: Nellie Lou Simmons 875-4761

### **GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE**

Grants were submitted to the Michigan Dept. of Transportation in 2006 for major sections of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail. We are awaiting word on these submissions:

- ◆ Alma to Elwell, 4.5 mi. \$1.293 million
- ◆ Elwell to Riverdale, 5 mi. \$1.237 mill.
- ◆ Riverdale to Edmore, 9.4 mi, \$2.1 million

Funds for the portion of the FMHT that will connect with Greenville (Lake Road to Davis Park, Walnut Rd.) are anticipated for 2010. Costs are estimated at \$1.399 million.

These grant funds cover only construction costs for these projects. The Friends will continue to count on your most important support for funds to cover insurance, maintenance, signage and miscellaneous repairs.

**Any Questions??? Contact the Stearns' at 989-235-6170.**