

Macomb Orchard Trail News
Winter Jan. 2008
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For Better or Worse
By Dennis Tipsword

Things have been kind of slow as it relates to construction of the trail this winter. It has not been so slow as the Trail Commission and the contractors work out the construction issues that prevent the opening the final leg of the trail. The trail issues range from uneven surfaces, incorrect surfaces on the unpaved portion to flower boxes being constructed in road right of ways to the lack of signage. But for better or worse the trail is and will continue be a great addition to Northern Macomb County. I am sure that all of the construction issues as well as, what uses will be allowed on the trail will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

I will tell everyone that the email and phones have been ringing off the hook with their fair share of complements complaints and concerns. I have fielded calls about lack of clean rest areas, broken glass and kids partying on West road, flooded backyards to dumping on the closed portions of the trail. I have been in close touch with the Commission, HCMA and the Sheriff Department to resolve the problems as quickly as we receive them. All of the department heads as well as their employees are committed to the success of the trail and will respond as quickly as possible.

Budget cuts in the Northern Townships has caused cutbacks in the number of patrols available. The Sheriff and his staff assure the Friend's group that any complaint called into the department will be addressed as soon as they can dispatch a car. 911 calls will always take priority.

The Sheriff suggests that when making a call you should provide as much information as you can. A description of the vehicle, color, plates and a description of the occupants is helpful. Do not become a victim by accosting or arguing with the people abusing the trail. Just take down as much information and call 911.

Even with the county budget cuts, the Sheriff and his reserves continue to patrol the trail both on the ground and in the air. These deputies should be commended for committing their personal time and equipment to make our trail a safe place to travel. The next time you see a deputy on a bike, horse or a quad runner be sure to stop them and say thanks. Don't forget to wave at those low flying planes as well!

I am anxious to see spring in the headlights and I am looking forward to riding the trail both on my bike but mostly on my horse. Be sure to call me or drop an email on our website if you need assistance.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Romeo Washington Chamber of Commerce held its 6th annual EMMA awards and annual meeting on December 6 at the Greystone Golf Club. The EMMA (Extraordinary Member Merit & Achievement) awards have evolved since its creation to honor exceptional chamber members and for the members of the community. Six Community Awards were handed out to a citizens from the townships of Armada, Bruce, Ray and Washington as well as, the Villages of Armada and Romeo. Honorees were judged as to the level of their involvement with their respective municipality. Al Getzinger from Armada Township was awarded the EMMA for his involvement and volunteerism with the recreation department. Dennis Tipsword Chairman of the FMOT and WMTA of Ray Township was awarded his EMMA for his involvement with the Wolcott Trail Association and the HCMA.

Macomb County Commissioner Don Brown presented Al and Dennis with a Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Candice Miller for their service to the community. Way to go guys!

A POSSIBLE NEIGHBORING TRAIL? The following article was taken from the Macomb Daily. There currently is a fair amount of controversy in Harrison Twp. about the development of this trail. What do you think?

Bike-hike trail will offer security. Build the bike-hike trail at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Allow this natural connector of state DNR access at M59 and Metro-Beach Metropark to become a reality.

Sen. Carl Levin needs public support for this wonderful idea.

Concerns about potential terrorist threats from the trail are misguided. Research on trails nationwide conducted through the National Park Service and Rails-to-Trails show that increased public use actually improves security and safety.

Military planners and security experts likely have the know how to put proper safeguards in place through trail design features and management practices.

Using fear of terrorism to oppose the trail is wrong and un-American. Do not let the terrorists win by denying freedoms where we live, work, and play. We should not give in to fear.

Building this trail will improve the quality of life around Lake St. Clair and our Great Lakes. Trail users will appreciate their liberty by having access to these resources. They will be another level of security watchful of those who may do wrong.

All will enjoy the freedom to pursue happiness and pass on that certainty to future generations-free from fear.

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Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail meeting dates are on 4th Tuesday of the month. 7:00 PM at Camp Rotary building on 29 Mile Rd east of Wolcott Rd.

The Macomb Orchard Trail Commission meets there at 8:30 am on the 4th Tues of the month. <http://www.macomborchardtrail.com> Check the web site to confirm meeting days.

Call

Macomb County Parks & Recreation: 586- 979-7010 ext 2 to ask or report about the trail.

Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail

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www.orchardtrail.org
orchardtrail@yahoo.com

Membership Form

Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail membership expires in January
Please renew now if you have not done so this year.

One year membership \$10., families included

- New Member
- Renewal

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____ E-Mail _____

City: _____ Additional Family member names and e-mail _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ _____

Make check payable to and mail to Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail,
PO Box 385, Richmond, MI 48062. Or bring to membership meeting.