

Hey Granger Community, THANKS!

By Ken Lindsay, Harris Township Trustee

Four new benches and two flower beds at a township park are the most recent examples of people pitching in to make Granger a better place to live.

Thank you, Granger Sunrise Rotary, for purchasing metal park benches now installed near the playground and pickleball courts at Harris Township Park at Elm Road. Thanks also to Clay Granger Lions Club for designing and installing flower beds along the central walkway. These two local service clubs saw plans for the creation of the Elm Road park and wanted to help. Their efforts are much appreciated.

Over the almost four years I've served as trustee, I've seen person after person, group after group, come forward with a desire to help Granger - the place where they live - while asking nothing in return.

In January 2015, volunteers of the South Bend - Elkhart Audubon Society and I tramped through the snow at the township's Brummitt Road park and other township locations. Based on their comprehensive recommendations and with their help, bird boxes were installed and other low-cost improvements made to improve wildlife habitats. At the township website, www.HarrisTwp.com, you can see pictures of the first eggs and bluebirds that resulted.

Volunteers with Granger Community Church's #4Michiana program spread much-needed mulch at the Brummitt Road playground. They also installed 100 new trees at the park. The mulch was acquired at a discount thanks to the Penn lacrosse organization.

Eagle Scout candidate Eric Baker and his dad designed and installed seating near the park's playground and soccer fields, meeting a need frequently expressed by visitors.

As the township evaluated using land it owned on Elm Road for a new park, the good people of Good Shepherd United Methodist Church offered their building for a community meeting. Today, they invite park visitors to cross the street to use their playground (geared for smaller children), and their parking lot when the park's lot is full.

The design for the Elm Road park was as a destination on a growing network of sidewalks. The Friends of Granger Paths organization worked since the early 2000s to make them a reality, because Granger is not a city and therefore has no such requirement. They supported the idea of the park, and now offer connected paths from one Granger Martin's to the other - with more plans in the works. The path winds right through Harris Township Park at Elm Road.

The Granger Business Association also supported the park, like they supported the development of the back fields at Harris Township Park at Brummitt Road years ago. That expansion enabled a lease with the Michiana ECHO Soccer Club, who had been playing "home" games as far away as Lakeville, and now calls the park home.

To encourage people to learn and play, Michiana Pickleball Association volunteers taught classes at the Elm Road courts. Those who want to try the sport on their own can check out paddles and balls at no charge from the Harris Branch Library.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Toscana Park off Gumwood just north of SR 23

(Continued from Page 14)

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Earlier this year, PHM teacher-of-the-year John Gensic and Penn High School students planted another 100 trees at the Brummitt Road park. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management also supported the effort with trees and guidance.

Individual volunteers have tended to the bird boxes, evaluated the township website, and helped make technical changes to it. The township welcomes volunteers. Some opportunities are listed online, but all suggestions will be entertained.

Lastly, the support of the local *Granger Gazette*, this publication, helps the township stay connected to the community.

History Museum offers Cabin Days to schools

The History Museum's annual school program Cabin Days will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9 to Friday, Oct. 12. Overseen by Travis Childs, director of education, Cabin Days is held at the Navarre Cabin in South Bend's Leeper Park. Pierre Navarre, who built the cabin, is considered to be the first European to settle in the area.

More than 1,000 fourth graders from schools in surrounding communities, including South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Goshen, Lakeville and Plymouth, will visit this annual living history program depicting life in the area in the 1830s. At Cabin Days, students interact with staff and volunteers who, dressed as pioneers, demonstrate cooking, recreation and trades of the 1830s. A blacksmith and woodsman are some of the portrayals that are part of Cabin Days.

The Navarre Cabin, owned by The History Museum, underwent an extensive restoration that was completed in June 2006. The project included repair and replacement of original logs and reconstruction of windows.

Interesting Tidbits:

- In ancient times doctors used spiderwebs to make bandages for their patients.
- Bees must collect nectar from 2 million flowers to produce one pound of honey.



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