Township Trustee Seeks Involvement in Efforts to Improve Granger Community

By Christine Parkhurst

Since taking office as Harris Township Trustee in January, Kenneth E. (Ken) Lindsay has been drafting improvement plans for the township, and is now welcoming others to join the process. Kerry Byler, publisher of the Granger Gazette, said she is on board with the vision to improve Granger and looks forward to becoming involved.

"Granger isn't a city, but much of it sits in Harris Township, a local government unit," said Lindsay. "If you're passionate about your community and want to be part of positive change, join the effort."

The township owns 30 acres near Brummitt and Beech roads, operating as Harris Township Park.

"If you've been to a Michiana Echo Soccer Club event, chances are you've visited that park," said Lindsay. He points out that the township also owns property at the corner of State Road 23 and Elm Road, near the Harris Fire station, which is close to the Harris Branch Library and the Granger Path.

"These green spaces are front-and-center in my vision for a better Granger." said Lindsay. Lindsay asks anyone with the gift of vision to come forward and become part of planning for a better community. The trustee is seeking a small group of dedicated people to attend in-person meetings, share ideas, and become action-focused during the upcoming months - and beyond as plans move into the implementation phase.

Short and long term plans will be more fully formed with a focus on outdoor activities, sport and recreation, wildlife and families. Resulting projects might be related to playing fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, community events, walking, bicycling, planting of native trees and shrubs, and wildlife habitats.

On a related note, two near-term projects offer opportunities to get involved:

1. In a joint venture with South Bend-Elkhart Audubon (SBEA) Society, the township recently started a bluebird trail at Harris Township Park. Eight new bird boxes need periodic monitoring.

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- 1. Absolutely no experience is needed. This is a great opportunity for families with children to get outdoors while learning about wildlife. Volunteers should be able to walk about half a mile in the outdoors. Please contact SBEA Conservation Chair Laura Fuderer at lfuderer@nd.edu for details.
- A pilot 'unity' garden starting this spring: The township has land, but no staff to lead the effort and is therefore seeking a volunteer leader to coordinate a fast-track plan, manage volunteers, and lead the ongoing planting, growing and maintenance effort. The local Unity Gardens organization is willing to assist that leader. Supporting expertise, tools, seeds and funding would be available.

Even if vision, birds and gardening are not for you, anyone willing to offer their unique skills is invited to contact the trustee. Eventually there will be a need for people with expertise ranging from administration to physical labor. If you have marketing communications experience, your help is needed right away. Ken Lindsay can be reached at 574-272-2371 or via email at HarrisTrusteeLindsay@gmail.com.

Summer driving instruction available at Penn

Premier Driving Institute, Inc. will offer Driver's Ed this summer at Penn High School, with two classes available, 9 a.m. until noon during the weeks of June 8-19 or July 6-17. Free pick-up and drop-off is available to students.

Certified instructors will offer driving instruction in all road conditions, so that any student can learn how to drive on county roads, narrow city streets and multi-lane expressways. Instructors take great care to reassure even the most nervous of drivers. For more information and to register online, visit premierdrivinginstitute.com.









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