



Internal Memo

July 7, 2016

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *MEM*

SUBJECT: July 2016 Information Update

1. West Michigan Regional Water Authority Organizational Meeting – The organizational meeting of the WMRWA will be held Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Norton Shores City Hall. Attached is an agenda for the meeting as well as the minutes of the February 25, 2016 meeting.
2. Official Designation of West Michigan Pike – Attached is an invitation to join the Michigan Beachtowns Association, Michigan Department of Transportation, and Travel Michigan for the official designation of the West Michigan Pike as the State's newest Michigan byway. The event will be held Monday, July 25, 2016 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Heritage Landing. The West Michigan Pike was the first improved highway along Lake Michigan, constructed in 1917 as one of the State's first trunk lines. It was designed to bring auto tourists from Chicago to Michigan to support the new resort industry that grew up when logging ended in the region. The original highway included Grand Haven Road and the bridge over Black Creek in Hidden Cove Park. Attached is a map of the highway. Note that our community was designated "Lake Harbor".
3. Michigan Municipal League Convention – The 2016 MML convention will be held on Mackinac Island September 14-16, 2016. If you are interested in attending the conference, please contact Shelly in the Administrative Services Department and she will be happy to assist you with registration.
4. Road Brining – I am pleased to report that the City's brine truck is finished (see attached photo). Crews were able to use it for the second brining of the season this week. It performed flawlessly.
5. Library Millage Ballot Proposal – The Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) millage will appear on the August 2, 2016 ballot. Attached is information regarding the millage. The question is for 1.249 mills for ten years. This includes renewal of the current .749 mills and an additional .5 mills. The District Library will cease to operate without voter approval.
6. Street Projects Update – Staff has now received the last of the State permits for the street improvement program. All projects will be completed this construction season.

Attached as a reminder is the list of street segments to be resurfaced or reconstructed. In a related matter, the Henry Street sidewalk from Seminole Road to Forest Park Road is progressing quickly. Construction should be complete this week, weather permitting.

7. Lakeshore Museum Center Accepts Donation of Lake Harbor Bridge Key – Attached is a photo of an antique key that was used to open the Lake Harbor bridge when it was a swing bridge. It has been in storage at the Public Works facility but now has a new home with the Lakeshore Museum Center. Previously the museum had passed on accepting the key but the museum is working on a future exhibit that will include at least one artifact from several local communities unique to their history. Also attached is a reprint of a Muskegon Chronicle article from 1952 regarding one of the last times the bridge was opened. It's an entertaining story.
8. City Council Requests List – An updated list is attached for City Council's information.
9. McCracken Street Lane Closure – The southbound lane of McCracken Street between Arbor Avenue and Norton Avenue will be closed from Monday, July 11th to Friday, July 15th. Southbound traffic will be shifted to the center turn lane while two broken water valves are replaced. Lawnel Avenue and Leif Avenue will be closed at McCracken Street during construction as well.

MCM/ss
Attachments

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

2016-2017 Organizational Meeting

Meeting Agenda

July 13, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: City Hall – City of Norton Shores

- A) Call to Order by Chair
- B) Adoption of Agenda
- C) Adoption of minutes from the February 25, 2016 special meeting
- D) Public forum/Public input
- E) Committee Reports
- F) Treasurer's Report
- G) Old/New Business
 - 1. Election of Chair
 - 2. Election of Vice-Chair
 - 3. Election of Secretary
 - 4. Election/Appoint Treasurer
 - 5. Set meeting dates
 - 6. Authority Audit
 - 7. Project updates
- H) Comments from the Board
- I) Adjournment

WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY
Minutes of February 25, 2016 Board Meeting

A special meeting of the West Michigan Regional Water Authority was called to order on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the Large Conference Room, Norton Shores City Hall, 4814 Henry Street.

Members Present: Board Members Jerry Bartoszek, Matt Farrar, and Brian Werschem

Members Absent: Board Member Mike Huston

Adoption of Agenda

The adoption of the agenda was accepted by consensus.

Adoption of Minutes

Vice Chair Jerry Bartoszek moved to adopt the minutes from the November 20, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded by Secretary Brian Werschem. The motion was carried unanimously.

Old/New Business:

1. Budget 2016-2017

Chair Matt Farrar presented a proposed budget for 2016-2017. He explained that the electricity portions on the budget were a little higher than last year's budget because this year the numbers were figured from actual usage over the past year. He also noted that the special projects portion of the budget could include recommended upgrades from the reliability study once completed. Secretary Brian Werschem moved approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jerry Bartoszek. The motion was carried unanimously. The approved budget will be presented to the Fruitport Township Board and Norton Shores City Council at each of their next meetings.

2. 2016-2017 Water Rates

Secretary Brian Werschem moved to keep the water rates at \$1.74/1,000 gallons. This motion was seconded by Vice Chair Jerry Bartoszek. The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Reliability Study Update

Chair Matt Farrar noted that all information for the reliability study has been provided to Prein & Newhof. The deadline for the study is July 1st. He expects to see a draft of the study in a month.

4. Project Updates

Chair Matt Farrar provided project updates. All contracts except for Contract A are closed. Contract A has little work remaining before it is closed.

5. Project Budget

Chair Matt Farrar said that the project budget fund balance is estimated at \$175,000.

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Brian Werschem, Secretary

*Join
Us!*



**OFFICIAL
DESIGNATION**

**MICHIGAN
BEACHTOWNS**

**MICHIGAN
BEACHTOWNS**

Join the
**Michigan Beachtowns Association,
Michigan Department of
Transportation, and
Travel Michigan**
for the Official Designation of the

West Michigan Pike
as our state's newest
Michigan Byway

*Monday, July 25, 2016
10:00 AM*

**Heritage Landing
1050 7th Street
(Business 31 at 7th Street)
Muskegon, MI**

Please RSVP to 231-724-3100
or
info@visitmuskegon.org

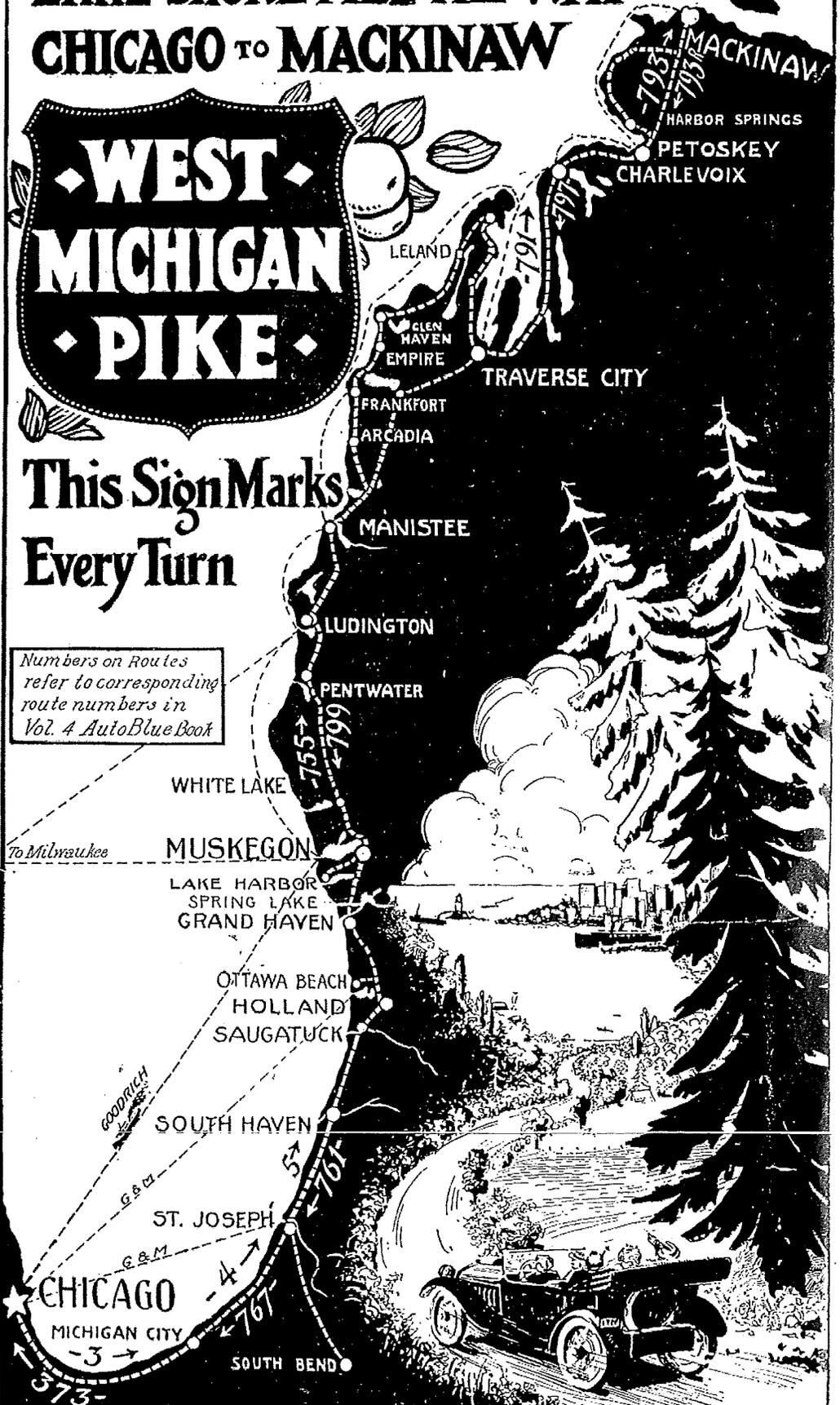
LAKE SHORE ALL THE WAY CHICAGO TO MACKINAW



This Sign Marks Every Turn

Numbers on Routes
refer to corresponding
route numbers in
Vol. 4 AutoBlue Book

To Milwaukee



WEST
MICHIGAN
PIKE

LELAND

EMPIRE
HAYEN
GLEN

TRAVERSE CITY

FRANKFORT

ARCADIA

MANISTEE

LUDINGTON

PENTWATER

WHITE LAKE

MUSKEGON

LAKE HARBOR
SPRING LAKE
GRAND HAYEN

OTTAWA BEACH
HOLLAND
SAUGATUCK

SOUTH HAVEN

ST. JOSEPH

CHICAGO

MICHIGAN CITY

SOUTH BEND

MACKINAW
HARBOR SPRINGS
PETOSKEY
CHARLEVOIX

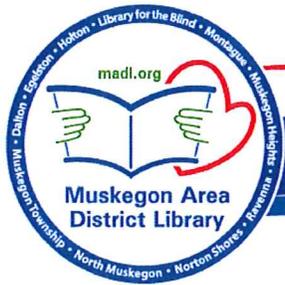
BOOKLET AND MAPS

ON APPLICATION TO THE PUBLICITY BUREAU

WEST MICHIGAN PIKE ASSOCIATION

MUSKEGON - MICHIGAN





2016 Millage Election

Muskegon Area District Library

Millage Election Tuesday August 2, 2016

On Tuesday, August 2, 2016, Muskegon County residents will vote on an operating millage renewal and increase. The proposed 1.249 millage proposal will renew the current 0.749 mills with an additional 0.5 mills and provide funding for a period of 10 years through 2026. The existing millage provides funding through December 31, 2016. The Muskegon Area District Library will cease to operate without voter approval of a millage.

WHAT WILL THE MILLAGE FUND?

The Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) property tax millage provides 83% of the operating funds for extensive services offered at 10 community branches. Services include on-line and in-branch materials, programs, technology and staff. A millage renewal will provide:

- **Early Literacy Outreach** — MADL provides educational and reading programs for the community's youngest learners through extensive summer reading and story time programs. Plans are being made to add more computers and create new learning spaces for children.
- **Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** — The LBPH provides talking books and playback equipment in digital format for individuals with a visual or physical disability. MADL will develop an assistive technology lab to include computers with programs designed specifically for the disabled and include limited mobility furniture.
- **Lifelong Learning Opportunities** — MADL will enrich the lives of thousands of residents in the community through reading, cultural, recreational and educational programs. MADL provides access to information in a variety of ways, including computer-based, e-books and materials, and serves as a well-known community gathering place. Additional programs, electronic materials, technology and increased hours of operation will be offered.

KEY FACTS

The Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) is a public library system with 10 area branches and includes a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In 2015, over 420,000 people visited MADL for its programs and services, including early literacy and summer reading programs. MADL is comprised of 20 local Muskegon County governmental units and residents are currently taxed .749 mills.

- The Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides free digital and audio materials for special populations in the community.
- Each year, the demand for programs and services increases—from 2014 through 2015, the number of visits increased by 9%.
- MADL circulates over 630,000 physical and digital items per year.
- In 2015, over 8,000 children and teens attended summer reading programs.
- MADL has been fiscally responsible and has operated under the same millage rate for over 10 years.
- Since the Muskegon Area District Library is funded primarily by millage revenues, without voter approval of the millage, MADL will close.
- Upon a millage approval, a household valued at \$100,000 will pay the equivalent of \$5.20 per month for library services. Compare this to the average cost of a new book at \$17 and a monthly subscription to Netflix at \$8.99 per month.

Muskegon Area District Library
2015 Operating Income



The millage proposal will provide operational support for the Muskegon Area District Library and its 10 community branches. The Muskegon Area District Library will cease to operate without voter approval of a millage.



Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped & Administration
4845 Airline Rd., Muskegon
231 737-6248



Dalton Branch
3175 Fifth Street, Twin Lake
231 828-4188



Egelston Branch
5428 E. Apple Avenue, Muskegon
231 788-6477



Holton Branch
8776 Holton-Duck Lake Rd, Holton
231 821-0268



Montague Branch
8778 Ferry Street, Montague
231 893-2675



Muskegon Heights Branch
2808 Sanford St., Muskegon Heights
231 739-6075



Muskegon Township Branch
1765 Ada Avenue, Muskegon
231 760-4329



North Muskegon Branch
1522 Ruddiman Drive, N. Muskegon
231 744-6080



Norton Shores Branch
705 Seminole Road, Muskegon
231 780-8844



Ravenna Branch
12278 Stafford Street, Ravenna
231 853-6975

For additional voting information, visit www.michigan.gov/vote



KEY FACTS

OPERATIONS

- MADL serves over 420,000 visitors annually.
- The Library was established in 1938 and operated under the County of Muskegon for 66 years.
- In 2006, the Muskegon Area District Library, (MADL) was formed to serve the community at 10 local community branches -- six days a week.
- MADL is comprised of 21 local governmental units throughout Muskegon County; residents are taxed .75 mills for a ten year period, ending December 31, 2016.
- MADL offers **free** programs, services and activities for all county residents.
- In 2015, 16,000 children through sixth grade attended **early literacy** and children's programs.
- MADL manages the **Library for the Blind** and Physically Handicapped for Muskegon and Ottawa county residents.
- **Lifelong learning** opportunities through reading, cultural, recreational and educational programs are offered year-long for children, teens, adults and seniors.
- Thousands of resources including computers, CDs, DVDs, Internet access, music, the newest books, including e-books, enrich lives by providing access to knowledge, culture, history and entertainment.
- MADL circulated 637,532 physical and digital items in 2015.
- MADL has operated efficiently on a decade-old budget while costs and expenses for operations continue to rise.

MILLAGE

- The Muskegon Area District Library property tax millage provides 83% of the funding for services at ten branch locations and online services, including all library materials, technology, staff and programs.
- A MADL millage proposal will appear as the last item on the August 2, 2016 ballot.
- Residents will be asked to vote on a 1.249 millage proposal for ten years through 2026. The proposal will be a renewal of the .749 mills and an additional 0.5 mills.
- If approved, the average household will pay \$5.30 per month for library services, a \$2.08 per month increase.
- Revenue generated from this millage will be used for operating expenses at ten community branches.
- The proposed millage rate will allow MADL to offer more convenient hours, additional materials and necessary technology upgrades.
- Centralized administrative support staff provide financial, training, scheduling, human resources, purchasing and processing of digital and physical materials, daily deliveries to all branches, programming, information technology, marketing and a Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.
- The MADL millage does not include residents of the City of Muskegon and the Muskegon Public School District, which is served by Hackley Public Library, or the City of Whitehall and the Whitehall Public School District, which is served by the White Lake Community Library, and Fruitport Township and Village.
- The Muskegon Area District Library will cease to operate without voter approval of a millage.

Municipal Road Fund

- Brookwood Drive HIR & Overlay, Rood Road east to cul-de-sac
- Davis Road HIR & Overlay, Brookwood Drive to Hile Road
- Cherry Avenue HIR & Overlay, Thompson Road to east end
- Grand Avenue HIR & Overlay, Grand Haven Road to East Byron Road
- Hendrick Road/ Stanwood Street Reconstruction, Henry Street to Churchill Drive
- Lakeshore Boulevard Mill & Overlay, Green Street to cul-de-sac
- Norton Hills Road Mill & Overlay, Applewood Lane to Applewood Lane
- Norton Hills Reconstruction, Norcrest Drive to Applewood Lane
- Oak Hollow Court HIR & Overlay, Treeline Drive to cul-de-sac

TIFA Fund

- Mt Garfield Road Mill & Overlay, Grand Haven Road to US-31

Capital Improvement Fund

- Lake Harbor Bridge Joint Replacement and Deck Sealing
- Norton Avenue Mill & Overlay, Seaway Drive to Seminole Road
- Summit Avenue Mill & Overlay, Bailey Street to Stratford Street
- Summit Avenue HIR & Overlay, Getty Street to Bailey Street

MDOT (TIP) Fund

- Harvey Street Reconstruction, Ellis Road to Hile Road
- Merrill S. Bailey (Henry Street) Bridge Joint Replacement and Deck Sealing
- Sternberg/Porter/Martin Roads Intersection Improvements

Re-graveling (Capital Improvement Fund)

- Columbia Avenue
- Dee Road
- Fairfield Street
- Sheffield Street

In addition to the streets projects, the Capital Improvement Fund includes appropriations to repair existing sidewalks as well as construct new sidewalk along Henry Street between Randall Road and Forest Park Road.





Lookback: Opening Lake Harbor Bridge becomes 'venture' for Wilfred D. Hoffman

lake harbor bridge.jpg

The original Lake Harbor swing bridge as it appeared in 1887. (*MLive.com file photo*)

Dave LeMieux By **Dave LeMieux**

on August 11, 2014 at 9:16 AM, updated August 11, 2014 at 9:17 AM

This month 62 years ago ...

In the summer of 1952, Wilfred D. Hoffman, captain of the pleasure boat "Venture," boldly went where no man had gone before.

In August 1952, The Chronicle said,

BOAT OWNER WAITS FOR BRIDGE TO OPEN

Lake Harbor Bridge may swing open one of these days.

And then again, it may not.

If it does, Wilfred D. Hoffman, owner of concessions at Mona Lake Park, will be ready to slip through into Mona Lake with his 34-foot cabin cruiser, Venture.

The boat may be aptly named for Mr. Hoffman's undertaking.

The to-do about the bridge opening started simply enough about 7 p.m. yesterday. Mr. Hoffman, with a party of friends aboard, came from Lake Michigan, up the channel to the Lake Harbor Road Bridge which spans the channel at Maranatha. He blew the horn on the boat as a signal he wanted it opened so he could pass to Mona Lake.

Nothing happened, just as Mr. Hoffman knew it wouldn't. He waited and waited, long after his last guest departed -- via the bridge. He didn't become impatient even though the bridge remained in position after hours of waiting.

He knew it couldn't open by itself and there hasn't been a bridgetender there for decades. Not since the days when little boats used to go into Mona Lake to get loads of strawberries to transport to other ports along Lake Michigan.

He tied the boat to the bridge and settled back for a long wait. He blew the horn again this morning just in case there had been any overnight developments.

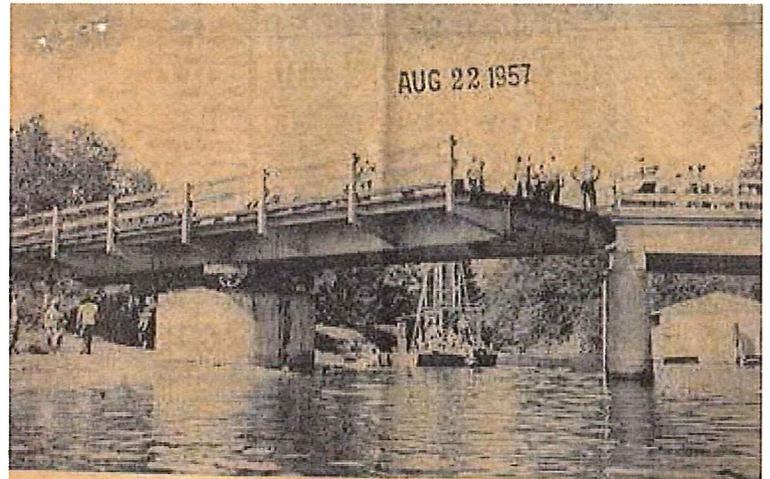
There hadn't been. He was still tied there this noon.

But things may happen. A bridge expert from the Lansing headquarters of the Michigan Highway Department was to inspect the bridge this afternoon to see if opening it would be feasible. He was requested at the suggestion of Road Commissioner Anton Seifert. Mr. Seifert will be there during the inspection and Road Commission Chairman Earl Deremo is expected. The federal government was brought into the picture also when it was sought to determine whether the channel is considered navigable waters.

Sidney Drew, of Grand Haven, area engineer for the district officer of the Army Corps of Engineers at Milwaukee, said, "It is reasonable to assume that when a swing bridge was required, the channel is considered navigable."

The bridge hasn't been opened since it was widened and improved in 1940. But when it was improved, a space was left in the pavement separating the span from the approaches so the bridge could be turned.

The span, 80 feet long and 27 feet wide, is turned by hand. There is a slot in the floor of the bridge into which a large key with a T-shaped handle fits. The key is turned by two men. That operates some gears under the bridge which in turn operate wheels fitted with teeth which mesh into the gears.



It Still Works! . . . A lot of people have never seen the Lake Harbor bridge open. And small wonder. When it swung wide today to permit passage of a barge, it was only the third time in 27 years that the ancient span had opened. The barge, owned by Fricke Construction Company, was moving into Mona Lake to do some private dock construction and dredge work. County Highway Department workers winched the old bridge open at 10 a. m. Built as a movable span, the bridge hadn't opened for more than 20 years when, in 1952, a private boat owner insisted it swing free to permit passage and made the issue stick. A year later it opened again to permit access of a dredge hired by Muskegon Heights to deepen Little Black Creek. Today, the old strip groaned open again. (Chronicle Staff-Photo).

MLive.com file

County Highway workers were looking for the key today. William S. Antisdale, a former road commissioner who was in office when the bridge was improved, was asked if he knew where the key is.

"I know, but I'm not telling," Mr. Antisdale said. "That bridge wasn't made to open. Since it was widened, it's too heavy. It might tip or fall and I'm not taking any responsibility for that. The bridge wasn't made to be opened and closed to allow pleasure craft to go through. It would cost between \$200 and \$300 to open it just once."

While all this has been going on, Mr. Hoffman has remained calm, simply stating, "I want to take my boat through."

It was suggested he take off the footings from the top of the cruiser, weight it with ballast and go under without opening the bridge. He doesn't think that would work. "I had 16 people on board last night and it still wouldn't go down enough to pass under the bridge."

At noon the roof of the cruiser was about 5 inches higher than the under part of the bridge.

He wants to get the boat through the bridge so he can dock in Mona Lake where it would be convenient for his use. "I have had it at Bear Lake, but I don't like to drive 10 miles every time I want to use it," he explained.

If he can get through the Lake Harbor Bridge, he can go under the Henry St. Bridge. Then he can go to the other end of Mona Lake, near where he leases the concession stand and lives.

Through last night Mr. Hoffman kept up his vigil. He spent most of the night on his boat, being relieved for a few hours by friends. He was back there early this morning. The sight of a large cruiser tied to the bridge is an unfamiliar sight to motorists driving the heavily traveled road. Many have stopped to see the craft in such a strange setting.

The Lake Harbor bridge road serves Maranatha Conference Grounds, Pontaluna Golf Course, Elks and Norton Parks and a large residential area. Opening and closing of the bridge would have a great effect on traffic. If it were to be in operation 8 months of the year a new expense, estimated at \$10,000 a year, would be added to the county highway operation.

OPEN SESAME

At first, Wilfred D. Hoffman's efforts to navigate the unnavigable seemed, at best, a quixotic crusade.

But there was method in Hoffman's madness and the concessionaire had a powerful trump card up his sleeve.

Unreported in those first dispatches covering what turned into a five-day standoff was the fact the 16 "passengers" aboard Hoffman's yacht were likely there to help him drag the craft over the sandbar then blocking the mouth of Mona Lake Channel.

Barely more than 2-feet deep along much of its length, savvy maritime locals had not considered Mona Lake Channel anything like navigable since about 1916 when the original wooden structure was first improved. The federal government, however, was another matter. According to County Road Commission Attorney Elmer R. Kuck, Hoffman had the county over a barrel due to a technicality. "Mr. Hoffman had the Secretary of War in his corner when he first appeared at the bridge with the request he be given access to Mona Lake," The Chronicle wrote.

"Federal statutes state that any swing bridge must be open to craft desiring passage and reasonable service must be provided. The channel is considered federal waters because it provides access from Lake Michigan to an inland lake."

Reasonable or not, the road commission rummaged through its possessions, eventually locating the bridge key in the paint shop. Much slathering of lubricants on the bridge mechanism followed before eight burly road workers gave it the old heave-ho and promptly snapped the key in half. Just how the bridge was eventually muscled open some 9 hours after that went unreported in contemporary accounts.

Hoffman later indirectly shed some light on what was perhaps the real motive behind his theatrical attempts at opening the bridge. "He declares clearance of the channel will benefit the entire Mona Lake area from the standpoint of health and sanitation and will improve fishing and swimming in the lake," The Chronicle related. Beyond manifesting such civic-minded sentiments, opening of the bridge would perhaps also benefit the largest concessionaire on the lake, one Wilfred D. Hoffman.

Hoffman was back at the bridge demanding passage once more almost exactly one year later, towing a barge and crane and headed outbound for Lake Michigan. County officials heaved the bridge open and gratefully watched as Hoffman sailed

off into the sunset one last time.

The bridge would only open once more, to let a construction barge pass in 1957, before being replaced by a new structure in 1982.

In summer 2011, some 22,000 boat passages of Mona Lake channel and, presumably, under the new bridge, were recorded.

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City Council Requests – July 2016

Date Requested	Requested By	Received Via	Request	Action Taken	Date Completed	Completed By
03/25/14	Council Member Jurkas	Email	Reconsideration of Rental Inspection Program.	<p>The City Attorney was asked to research and render a legal opinion. He presented options to the City Council at the April 22, 2014 work session. At the September 22, 2015 work session Council Member Martines requested the subject be brought back for reconsideration. It was placed on the October 2015 work session agenda and City Council directed staff to research it further. Muskegon Township staff presented their experience with implementing a rental inspection program at the January 26, 2016 work session. City Council had questions that staff will follow up on and this item will be placed on a future work session agenda for further discussion. Staff met with landlords to discuss a potential program on June 21st.</p>	Pending	City Administrator
05/26/15	Council Member Ostrom	Email	Explore opportunities to assist the City of Muskegon Heights with their boat launch facility.	<p>Initial contact has been made with Muskegon Heights staff who appear willing to discuss the topic. Our staff met with the interim city manager on April 22, 2016 and identified some areas where we can work together to improve service related to the facility. Season passes to the launch are now available for purchase at our City Hall.</p>	Pending	City Administrator and Parks & Rec Director
06/07/16	Council Member Moulatsiotis	Verbal	Speed Study on Grand Haven Road from Sternberg Road to E. Byron Road.	<p>Staff will conduct a study.</p>	Pending	DPW Director

* Revisions since the last update are highlighted