

PLEASANT LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

the manchester mirror reflecting the community of Manchester since 2013
April 19, 2021 Marsha Chartrand

Consumers Energy commits to further safety updates at Freedom Township plant



Talking:

Announcing...

Installation of emergency communication siren in Freedom Township

- Located on Freedom Compressor Station site
- County will activate siren for weather and other emergencies
- Siren will be tested routinely with other sirens in county

An invitation to “learn how Consumers Energy is increasing safety measures in Freedom Township” led to an important announcement about a long-awaited safety improvement at the Compressor Station near Pleasant Lake that dates back to 1947.

John Broschak, vice-president of gas operations at Consumers Energy, introduced the virtual announcement last Friday by saying that the company has “a long history in Freedom Township and our team has worked very hard to make sure that the current major upgrade is effective, efficient, and will improve our service and reduce the impact on residents.”

Broschak continued that the \$200 million in construction upgrades to the compressor station are essentially complete, and the legacy equipment (the oldest remaining on site) will be phased out and demolished by 2023.

As a follow up to the Consumers Energy virtual open house, held on October 17, 2020, Broschak added that the company had listened seriously to input from residents, township officials, and Washtenaw County Emergency Management Services. “We looked at what we could do to be better partners, and good neighbors,” he said.

Consumers has partnered with Washtenaw County EMS to add its safety communications to the Everbridge emergency warning system, and in ongoing communications with residents over the past six months, has encouraged everyone to sign up for these messages at www.washtenaw.org/alerts. Alerts can be delivered to land lines as well as cell phones, and by email or even fax. All options will be provided when you sign up at the site.

The company has also added several new non-emergency contact points where residents can send messages to ask questions and alert Consumers if they see things they are worried about. In addition, a regular newsletter will be implemented in the coming weeks and months to keep residents informed of the activities at the plant and what Consumers is doing to support the community.

But the long-awaited news that Broschak delivered on Friday was the announcement that Consumers would be installing an emergency warning siren at its Freedom Township location by September of this year. Although owned and operated by Consumers Energy, the siren will be tied into the county's Everbridge system and will have dual ability to warn residents within a one-mile radius of the siren to go inside and check their Everbridge messages for further information and instructions.

The siren can be used not only for alerts from Consumers Energy, but also for weather, traffic, hazardous materials, and other emergency situations in the township.

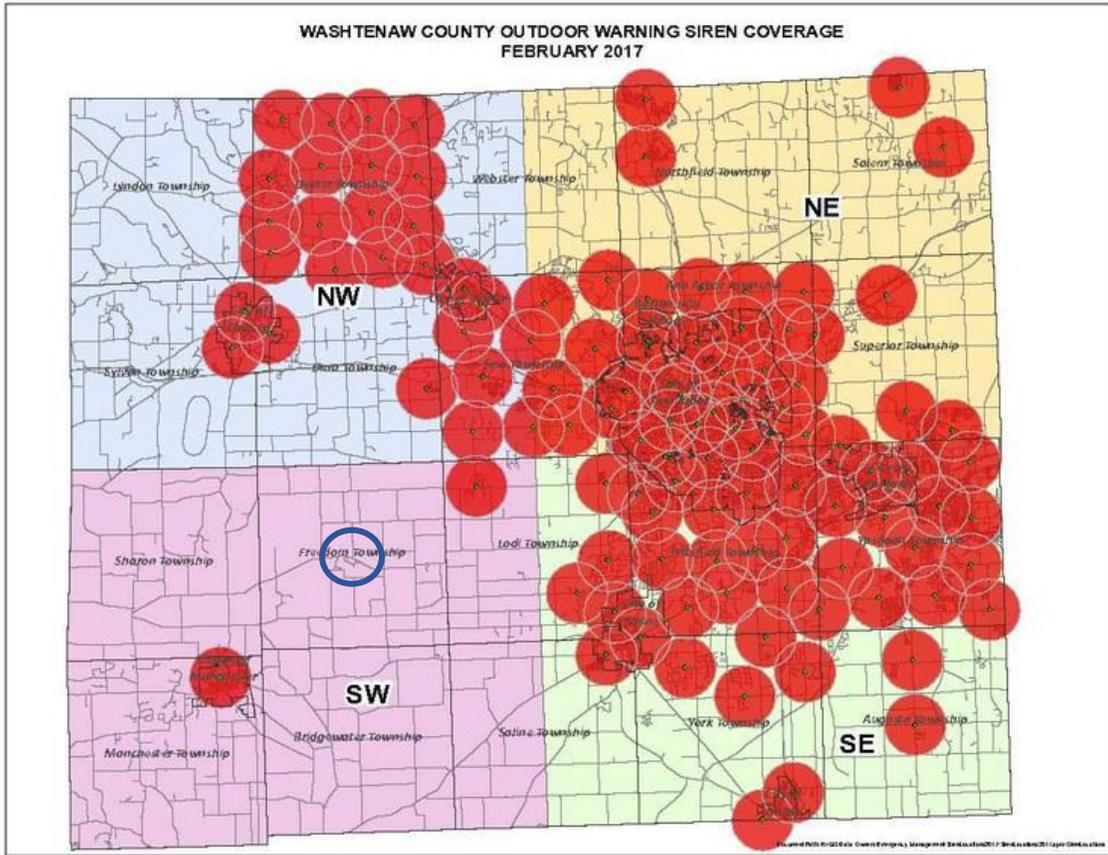
State Rep Donna Lasinski (D-55th District) was part of the panel on the zoom call and thanked Consumers Energy for the generous donation of a siren, as well as David Halteman of Washtenaw EMS for his participation in making it happen.

"It is hugely important, with our broadband and cell phone issues in this area of the County, to have so many other avenues for information," Lasinski said. "There is never an easy answer, but the massive modernization by Consumers Energy has been a huge step to ensure safety in this community. We appreciate your involvement."

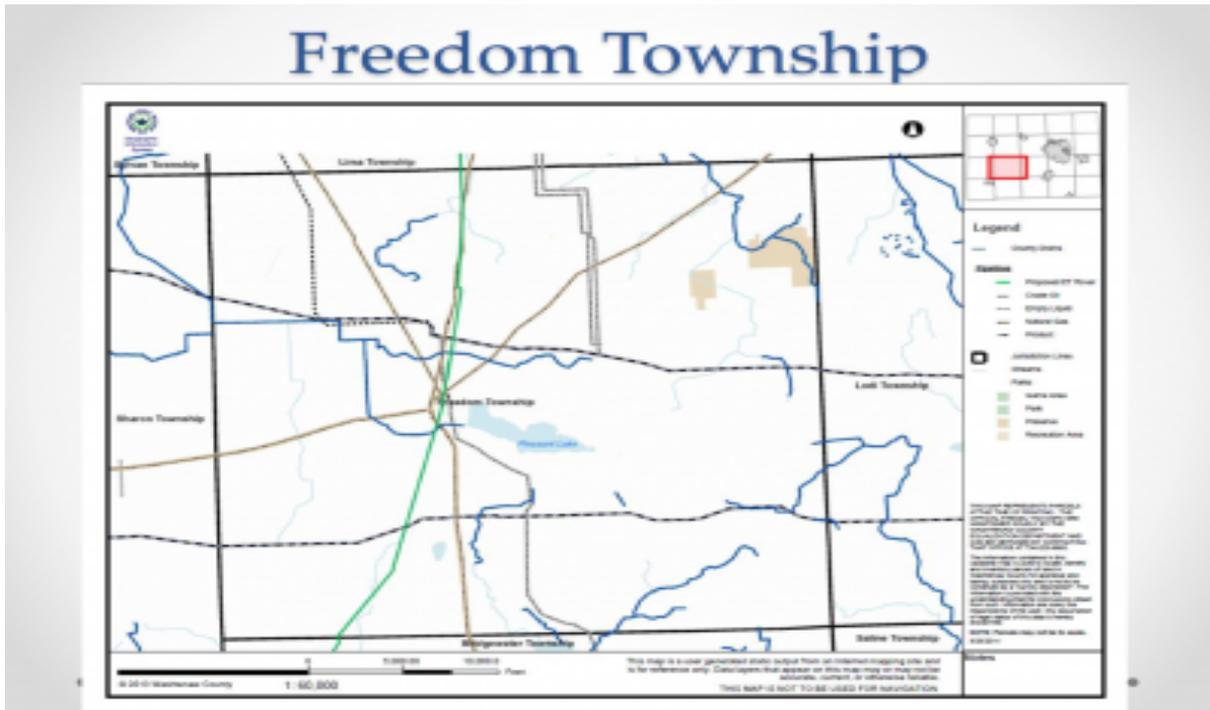
Halteman, also a panelist on the call, said he was "proud and happy to partner with Consumers Energy on this initiative," and added that it would be a huge improvement for the community to provide an extra layer of warning in the event of any type of emergency. Halteman added, in response to a question from a resident, that the siren signal would be as strong as FCC regulations allow, just like all other sirens within the county, covering a radius of about one mile.

Township Supervisor Larry Lindemann also thanked Consumers, saying this was something that "really needed to be done." He applauded the company supporting improved safety within Freedom Township.

Broschak concluded that despite significant restoration efforts, "Our work is not done. There was a big gap we needed to address, and we will continue to work toward that," he said. "This is a big step forward, but it is still just a beginning. We want to be good neighbors, and we continue to uphold safety as our highest value."



The blue circle on the map shows the approximate location of the new siren that will be on Consumers Energy property near Pleasant Lake. The southwest quadrant of the county has been under-represented with sirens compared to the rest of the county.
(The 4-19-21 Mirror article used with permission)



NOTE: PLPOA salutes the efforts of all parties that made this siren a reality. For years, area residents have been requesting enhanced safety measures – including sirens – to provide us with emergency warnings given our population density and location near the Consumers Freedom Compressor Station and seven pipelines. At last, a siren warning system! **Please THANK Consumers Energy: Call Stephanie Roehl Blatt at 734 513-6200, www.ConsumersEnergy.com/pipelinesafety**

Additional comments, resolution and letter of support:

- John Broschak- As a follow up to our Oct 17, 2020 virtual open house we listened to all of the inputs and have implemented several new policies--we will soon have an emergency siren system focused on safety for our facility and the local residents and other businesses. The County Everbridge emergency warning system is our major focus for safety alerts. But we also have the regular emergency planning and coordination with the state agencies, Washtenaw County as well as fire departments to plan and prepare for situations. We have also added several new non-emergency contact points where residents can send messages to ask questions and alert us if they see issues, they are worried about. In addition, soon we will be mailing a newsletter to keep all informed of our activities and what we are doing to support the community. He added: "We are nearly done with the phase 2 program but our clean up, removal efforts for the old systems and restoration will continue into 2023--so we have a lot more work to do! The siren will be the same type and design as Washtenaw County suggests and uses and its activation will be primarily led by the 911 command center but our team can also set off the siren if needed for local emergencies".
- **Freedom Township Board Resolution 2019-4** stated: *“Whereas, The Freedom Township Safety Committee had developed a comprehensive plan of action with the proper level of detail to maintain Freedom Township viability, emergency planning and preparation activities and various response options to protect Freedom Township citizens in the event of an emergency; and Whereas the Freedom Township Safety Committee is working as a team, to secure funding for safety improvements to the town hall and coordination with the pipeline vendors, CMS, Washtenaw County Emergency Services, local fire departments, the Red Cross and other groups, Therefore let it be resolved: That Freedom Township Board of Trustees supports the previous planning and preparation by the safety committee to seek grants and funding from a variety of sources communications systems and emergency planning efforts and activities to enhance citizen protection and preparations. Approved by vote of all Freedom Township Board-, 12-10-19*
- On March 26, 2021 the township clerk, a planning commission member and resident connected with the Michigan Public Service Commission who agreed to have its safety experts provide support and assist Freedom Township in connecting with Consumers Energy and the pipeline firms and emergency responders to improve safety planning and hold a public safety meeting and exercise in our township.
- We have had a tornado touch down and damage homes in 2016, and many other emergency situations, including a large grass fire in March of 2021.
- The PLPOA hopes Freedom Township, other governments, industry, residents and private groups will continue to work toward and invest to improve our safety planning and warning systems.
- The Freedom Board is developing its new capital improvement program and has committed to include various safety investments in this priority list.



April 10, 2021

TO: Freedom Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission:

SUBJECT: Township safety planning

On behalf of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group (Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Monroe Counties) I am writing in support of safety planning efforts for Freedom Township. You may recall that the Sierra Club, Huron Valley Group worked with Freedom Township officials, residents and local non-profit environmental groups in the past to support cooperative efforts to protect Pleasant Lake and surrounding wetlands, and wells from the impact of an expansion of a paving company mine. We believe Freedom Township's current threats require similar leadership, protections, and prompt cooperative action.

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department has identified Freedom Township as one of the most dangerous in the county, since it has the Consumers Energy Freedom Gas Compressor station and 7 oil/gas pipelines (ET Rover, Amoco Oil Co., Enbridge Energy, Marathon, Sun Oil Company, Wolverine pipeline and storage tanks) which intersect near Pleasant Lake and run through Freedom Township. Being able to alert residents immediately in the case of spills, fires or other dangers is crucial for safety planning. Additional threats include changing weather patterns with more active weather disturbances. Washtenaw County Emergency Services has set up a special version of their Everbridge warning network to provide alerts to local residents near the Freedom Township gas compressor station and local pipelines. However, Freedom Township has no warning sirens, limited funding for expanded emergency programs, and its rural community has weak telephone, cell coverage and internet service.

It is our understanding that the Freedom Township Safety Committee is developing and executing a coordinated safety plan with county, state, and federal officials, fire departments and emergency responders, as well as with township residents and groups, oil and gas businesses, and nonprofit entities to create funding for improved safety and operational systems such as warning systems, sirens, and safety planning to address any safety risks and threats – before such risk or threat materializes. The Sierra Club is aware that hazard mitigation efforts integrated with local, regional, and industry networks and emergency services, are critical to reducing risks to Freedom Township's residents, natural resources, farms, and infrastructure. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal, state, county and private associations have in the past awarded grants focused on improving warning systems, long term safety mitigation and planning in other jurisdictions. Private funding initiatives have successfully led to the installation of warning systems clusters and enhanced safety programs in a variety of urban, suburban and rural areas around the county. With federal, state, county and private focus on infrastructure investments, homeland security, and environmental protections, Freedom Township is in a unique position now to secure funding to financially support your new safety plans. The Sierra Club Huron Valley Group fully endorses your efforts to carry out these safety plans.

Yours truly, Jason Frenzel,
Chair Sierra Club Huron Valley Group
P.O. Box 7802 Ann Arbor, MI 48107 A2jasonfrenzel@gmail.com

CC: Washtenaw County, State, Federal elected officials, Consumers Energy, local Freedom Township groups
Senator Debbie Stabenow
Representative Tim Walberg
State Representative Donna Lasinski
Washtenaw County, David Halteman, Director of Emergency Management
Katherine Lancour, Consumer Energy Safety Planning
Lon Nordeen, Pleasant Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA)
Senator Gary Peters
State Senator Lana Theis
Shannon Beeman, Washtenaw County Commissioner District 3,
Beth Heuser, Citizens Respecting our Waters (CROW)

2021 Lake Management Plans for Pleasant Lake **start in early/mid-June!**

2021 LAKE TREATMENT, PLEASE STAY OUT OF THE LAKE FOR TWO DAYS!!

We need your support to make sure our lake management investment is effective. First, we have the assessment to determine how the lake is doing after the winter. Then the treatment. The chemicals need to mix and drift to the bottom to do their work! No boats, fishing, jet skis, paddle boats, kayaks or swimming for two days! Signs to inform of the planned treatment date will be posted on your property and at the town hall. Let's work together to protect our lake and be safe!

Theo Eggermont, Washtenaw County Public Works Director, eggermontt@washtenaw.org

The effects of the global pandemic are expected to linger through much of the summer. While there will be some minor impacts to the way we provide services, surveys and treatment will continue to provide the same level of service residents are used to on Pleasant Lake. Kieser & Associates will take over the contract for lake consulting services. The prior lake consultant, Dr. Doug Pullman, will still be working for Kieser & Associates, so you will see him on the lake. As part of a larger team, we anticipate more resources to be available to support Pleasant Lake residents. With the earlier warm weather this spring, we're expecting conditions to be conducive to weed growth and our team will respond accordingly. Any time that the special assessment pays for treatment, the whole lake will be posted with notifications.

Lauren Koloski, Washtenaw County Environmental Supervisor koloskil@washtenaw.org

Washtenaw County is excited to be back out on Pleasant Lake for the 2021 season. We encourage all residents to do their part by protecting the valuable resource we have in Freedom Township. A simple action you can take: make sure you pick up your pet waste! Pet waste when washed into the lake will add unneeded nutrients to an already nutrient rich lake! We are encouraging residents to look into their own backyard to see what they might be able to do to improve lake water quality. Added nutrients into the lake promotes plant growth. Take a moment to become a MI Shoreland Steward! Additional information can be found here www.mishorelandstewards.org. This year we will continue to work on invasive and nuisance plant growth on Pleasant Lake. Maintaining ecological health and recreational use is our goal and we will continue to provide that to Pleasant Lake residents. Washtenaw County in partnership with Keiser & Associates are presenting at the Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference on 4/30. We will be talking all things Public Act 185 (the act that allows the setup of Special Assessment Districts.). We hope to see you there!

Gabby Metzner-Gustafson gmetzner@kieser-associates.com

It is an honor to work with and support the residents of Pleasant Lake with Aquest Corp. and Washtenaw County again in 2021. One pre-treatment survey, two in-depth aquatic vegetation surveys, and one follow-up survey were conducted on Pleasant Lake. All of these results are detailed in the 2020 Pleasant Lake Annual Report on the Washtenaw County lake management website. During our surveys we found that Pleasant Lake continued to exhibit abundant native aquatic plant growth and good biodiversity. Ecological nuisance species detected include Eurasian watermilfoil hybrid (ebrid), Curly leaf pondweed, and Starry Stonewort. We look forward to coming out to Pleasant Lake to review lake conditions as soon as the weather and lake conditions permit. If you have any questions, please call 269 344-7117.

DALE WEIDMAYER, FREEDOM TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR REMEMBED BY COLLEAGUES

At the regular meeting of the Freedom Township Board on March 9, the board paused to remember the life and service of their former supervisor, Dale Weidmayer, who passed away on February 26 at the age of 76, just three months after ending his term in November 2020.

“A moment of silence was held in memory of former Supervisor and Trustee Dale Weidmayer who faithfully served Freedom Township for 44 years,” according to the board minutes. “He was a dear friend and a dedicated member of this community. Our sincere condolences are extended to Dale’s family, friends, and all who knew him.”

A life-long resident of Freedom Township, Weidmayer was a graduate of Manchester schools, and worked the family dairy farm with his father, Erwin; partnering later in life with his son, Keith. He was also a lifelong member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Bridgewater. Weidmayer became a Freedom Township trustee in 1976 and then became supervisor in 2007, serving Freedom Township for a total of 44 years.



PLPOA Perennial Sale
Saturday May 22- 9AM-1PM
Freedom Town Hall
Please contribute your plants, come buy and volunteer for the event.
Contact Beth Heuser if you have questions at 734-428-8040

RENO ROAD BOAT LAUNCH SITE - Many of us use the lake property on Reno Road to launch and remove our boats. Melanie and Evan Nau own this property, and gracefully allow Pleasant Lake residents to use this launch site. They have asked the PLPOA BOARD to manage opening the chain for lake residents—please respect their wishes and do not call them regarding this task. Our goal is to reduce more aquatic invasive species in Pleasant Lake! Call Beth 428-8040, Stan & Helen 428-0208 and Lon 428-0530 to use this site. THANK YOU

COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM BACK IN 2021 - Due to state level budget cuts we had to halt the CLMP lake monitoring program in 2020, but it is now reconfirmed for at least 5 years! A team of volunteers at Pleasant Lake has taken water clarity and other measurements since the 1970’s and it is good that we can perform these tasks again to track how things are changing on our lake!!!

PLPOA LOOKS FORWARD - We hope you will join the PLPOA!

PLPOA needs your involvement, ideas and support to maintain the health of Pleasant Lake and Freedom Township. This includes the possible threat of a state/local boat launch, lakeside development, runoff and industrial/pipeline/natural emergencies, noise and neighborhood disturbances. All Michigan lakes face the threat of invasive species including zebra mussels, Starry Stonewort, blue-green algae, and other AIS brought in by unclean boats. Let’s work as a team to protect our environment!!

Please keep this newsletter for reference.

PLPOA Board: Beth Heuser-President, 734 428-8040; Lon Nordeen-VP, 734 428-0530; Stan & Helen Parker, 734 428-0208; Jan Davis, 734 428-3823; Kevin Walker, 734 323-6418; Catherine Moore-Secretary, 734 428-8687

PLPOA Goals

- 1. Continue efforts to protect Pleasant Lake-this includes the threat of invasive species, other natural and man-made dangers, including the possibility of a State/County boat launch, sewage and water runoff, industrial, pipeline, road emergencies, dangerous development, and other challenges.**
- 2. Continue the Pleasant Lake Special Assessment District and Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program to accurately determine and track the condition of Pleasant Lake, manage invasive species, measure results, and prepare to react to other dangers to the lake.**
- 3. Support cooperative resident, business, organization, and government education, outreach, encourage updates to the Freedom Township Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances to help protect the lake, its residents, the watershed, and R-3 lake district from planning and future development threats. We must be prepared for other challenges which could negatively impact Pleasant Lake, Freedom Township and our environment!!**

Cut and return form with payment

(PLPOA) Membership/Dues Form-(which includes the MI Riparian Magazine)

\$50 Checks payable to: PLPOA for a 1-year membership (Jan 1 to Dec 31-2021—PLEASE Pay by June 1)

Complete this form and mail it with a check to: PLPOA, P.O. Box 447, Manchester, MI 48158

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Other-Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail address (for faster communication and updates) _____

Additional contributions to support PLPOA lake monitoring, education, outreach and lake management are always appreciated! Annual fee \$50 _____ + Contribution _____ = _____