

Name: SCOTT A. KING
(Please print)

Home Address: 911 N. DETROIT BUCHANAN MI 49107
Street Address City State Zip

Telephone: (Home) [REDACTED] (Work) (N/A)

Cell Phone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

1. Office sought: City Commissioner- Appointed – Term ending December 2026

2. Are you a City of Buchanan resident?
(MCL 168.342) YES NO

3. Are you a registered voter in the City of Buchanan?
(MCL 168.342) YES NO

4. Are you presently delinquent or default on property taxes and/or
special assessments or city owned utility owed to the city?
(City Charter Section 5.1) YES NO

5. Have you been convicted of a felony?
(MCL 168.342) YES NO

6. Have you been a Resident of the City of Buchanan
for 2 years or more?
(City Charter Section 5.1) YES NO

7. Do you agree to abide by the City's Code of Conduct and
Ethics Ordinance
(City Ordinance Article V. Section 2-131) YES NO

Scott A. King
Signature

8/29/2024
Date

- 1) Please describe why you are interested in becoming a City Commissioner.

I care about the people of the City of Buchanan and their needs and concerns. Because of my experience, I think I can again help the commission make good decisions that impact people's lives. That is why I'm interested in being a commissioner. The people want transparency, accountability and civility in their interactions with the commission, and I can again provide it. I know because I did it as Mayor Pro Tem 1996-98.

- 2) Please list any community service and/or prior board service.

City of Buchanan Commissioner 1995-98

Mayor Pro Tem 1996-98

City Planning Commission 1990s

City Park Board 1990s

Tax Increment Finance Authority TIFA and Downtown Development Authority DDA

Founder and President of Friends of McCoy Creek

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission 2014

Awards:

Al Smith Stewardship Award, Friends of Saint Joseph River

Graham Woodhouse Inter-Governmental Effort Award

1992 President's Plaque, Keep Michigan Beautiful 1992

- 3) What is special about your personality or communication style that makes you a good fit to serve as a voice of the people representing citizens living within the City of Buchanan?

I was born and raised here in Buchanan. I try to listen twice as much as I talk. I am always thinking of the impact on the lives of the citizens by the decisions we make. Recently I spent hundreds of hours talking to our citizens so I can represent their voices in discussions about their present and their future.

- 4) What are some of the qualities that you possess that demonstrate you are capable of successfully leading a team towards success?

I can find and listen to common sense alternatives and work with others to find agreement to move forward on needed projects and improvements. Teamwork matters. Listening to all point is vital for success.

- 5) What is your personal philosophy?

Work on issues that impact our citizens, such as repairing streets and infrastructure, clean affordable water, fair property taxes, investment in our neighborhoods, insuring safety of our families, and working together to provide quality services such as snow plowing, leaf and brush pickup and asset maintenance. Much of this can be dealt with at budget time and in the discussion between the commission, the citizens, and the city manager.

- 6) Help us understand the type of leader you will be by discussing your highest priorities for the City of Buchanan both short and long term.

The commission is made up of five individuals who are equally important. We must work together and build consent to provide for the needs of the people while we limit the impact of crushing debt and taxes. We should explore help from other sources (state, federal, private) to help balance the impact.

- 7) Please see list of leadership positions in Q. 2. In addition, I worked in the late 1980s as part of management teams for major retailers earning notice of results by national leaders. I have worked on national and international projects, and was the first Michigan resident to win the Al Smith Stewardship Award in 2014.


- 8) Please see the enclosed recommendations.

Scott King asked me to write in support of his candidacy for a position on the Buchanan City Commission, and I am happy to do so. I have known him for decades and worked closely with Mr. King. He has a deep love for the City of Buchanan and its citizens. I worked with him when he was Mayor Pro Tem with Mayor Tom Hoetger while I was City Manager. Our focus was to make life better for the people with neighborhood improvements and services.

I also served with Scott on the Ad Hoc Committee to protect McCoy's Creek and improve the Mill Race which provides water to the Pears Mill. The Committee brought all appropriate groups together, and every vote was 7-0 following friendly discussions. The Committee obtained private funding, and we all worked together in a professional manner. This was amazing progress since the project had been talked about since the 1940s and nothing done.

Scott would be a great choice for the Commission as he brings years of experience, love of the community, and the ability to complete projects and make improvements that will benefit all citizens.

Sincerely,


Doyle Vergon
Former City Manager
Former City Commissioner
City of Buchanan

Scott King should be appointed to the vacancy on the City Commission.

I have known Scott for many years. He was serving on the City Commission when I was on the County Commission. We worked well together.

Scott served well on the City Commission for many years. You could count on Scott to make the right decision on important matters.

Scott was decisive and scrupulously honest. I have never known Scott to ever tell a lie.

Scott keeps continued close touch with what each of the Buchanan residents is thinking. He talks to them all, including the poorer ones economically. He is eager to help the ones in trouble.

Scott wants to reduce the high water bills and taxes to reduce these burdens to what the poorest of can afford.

Scott has the many years as a City Commissioner to help the Commissioners work this out.

I believe Scott will work well and civilly with the other Commissioners to accomplish what we most need now.

Scott will continue to regularly talk with all of the citizens to find out how they currently see things. He will not fly blind. He

Scott King asked me if I would write in support of his candidacy for a position on the Buchanan City Commission and I am happy to do so. Scott and I served on the McCoy Creek Watershed Advisory Committee from 2009 to 2012 during which period the committee developed a plan for both remediating the Creek as well as restoring the flow of water in the mill race of historic Pears Mill. It was a challenging task to construct a plan acceptable to the Michigan Departments of Environment and Natural Resources regulatory agencies as well as to the City, the Preservation Society, the Friends of McCoy Creek and those who fish and desire to protect the quality of Michigan designated trout streams. That we were ultimately successful in presenting a plan to the City that balanced the demands of all parties and that also received State permitting is a tribute to the hard work of the committee members. As evidence, this project received the Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award from the Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission in 2014. This award recognizes outstanding intergovernmental cooperation by local units of government and non-profits.

One of the hardest working members of our committee was Scott King who, although he represented the Friends of McCoy Creek and the fishermen, showed by his cooperative attitude, positive suggestions and work ethic that he had the best interests of all parties with vested interests in the watershed at heart. This fact suggests he would bring the same attitude and effort to the City Commission if elected. Although I left Michigan two years ago because of age, if I did reside in the City of Buchanan, he would receive my vote. He has previous experience on the Commission as well an admirable track record in looking out for the best interests of this fine community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Fehlner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas P. Fehlner
Holy Cross Village
Notre Dame, IN

July 2, 2024

Friends of McCoy Creek are 1992 recognized for cleanup efforts

by Jane Peterson

BUCHANAN — When two friends went canoeing down the St. Joseph River two years ago, they decided to take a shortcut through McCoy Creek. It took them six hours to wade through all the trash.

This experience prompted Scott King to begin Friends of McCoy Creek, a volunteer group dedicated to cleaning the creek. Their efforts were recognized Oct. 15 when the organization was awarded the President's Plaque from Keep Michigan Beautiful Inc. Four other groups from around the state shared the distinction. An awards banquet was held in Grand Rapids.

"It's a great honor for the group," said King, who serves as president. "We've had a lot of good people come down and work. Everybody earned this award."

Students from Buchanan High School, Andrews Academy and Clay High School in Indiana contributed their time in the effort. King said the students had great enthusiasm and energy. He hopes to work with them again.

So far, Friends of McCoy Creek have cleaned 10-12 miles of the waterway. In one and one-half years, they have pulled 12 tons of junk from the water, including fork lift axles, bed springs and washing machine agitators. King estimates that most trash dates between 1940-60. He said most is metal and 80 percent of the stuff is being recycled. "Things need less talk and more doing about it," said King.

He said they are working on the bread and butter of the future — tourism. According to King, wildlife, trout and salmon do well in McCoy Creek. The group wants to begin fish habitat improvement, as suggested by the Department of Natural Resources, and soil erosion control measures in the future.

Friends of McCoy Creek currently has 50 active members from

southwest Michigan and northern Indiana representing 20 communities. King said the city of Buchanan has been cooperative in their cleanup campaign, and area businesses such as Harding's, Food Specialties and Southwestern Michigan Volunteer Center have been supportive.

"It's been a real coming together of people in the community to work on a problem that affects all of us," said King. "This award is a reflection of everybody. They should be proud

of what they've done."

The organization's next project is expected to be the mouth of McCoy Creek — hopefully in 1993. They will also continue the never-ending maintenance of areas already cleaned but have had trash blown in.

Other officers of the group are: Dave Young, vice president; Kent Spoke, treasurer; and Ken Priest, secretary. To join Friends of McCoy Creek call City Hall at 695-3844 to be placed on a list. A membership drive will be held in the spring.



Members of Friends of McCoy Creek travelled to Grand Rapids to accept the President's Plaque. Pictured, from left, are: Kim Priest, secretary; Scott King, president; and David Young, vice president.

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Press Release:

McCoy Creek mainstay honored for Conservation Efforts

Buchanan, MI – There is one name associated with conservation efforts surrounding McCoy Creek, a coldwater tributary to the St. Joseph River. That name is Scott King. King, a long-time resident of Buchanan, MI, was presented with the 2014 “Al Smith Watershed Stewardship Award” at the 7th Annual Watershed Council meeting hosted by the Friends of the St. Joe River (FotSJR). This prestigious award honors volunteers and conservation professionals who work in all or part of the 15 counties in Indiana or Michigan that drain to the St. Joseph River. The award, named in honor of FotSJR founder Al Smith, represents individuals that go above and beyond the call of duty in maintaining a healthy St. Joseph River Watershed. The unique handmade award which is in the shape of the St. Joseph River Watershed will be on display starting May 6 at the Buchanan Public Library, 128 E Front St, Buchanan, MI.

This year, the call for nominations for the award resulted in a surprise and an easy decision for the FotSJR Board of Directors. All nominations received named Scott King for his tireless efforts to protect and improve McCoy Creek.

King, an avid fisherman, has been the principal and sometimes sole organizer of annual clean-up events for not only McCoy Creek, but also the St. Joseph River from the Niles dam to the Berrien Springs dam. He has recruited Boy Scouts, fishermen, high school students and local residents to participate. King explained, “What we’re trying to do is restore the stream so it’s great for the trout and salmon to live and the ducks and the wildlife around it to not have to eat and survive in a lot of garbage.”

King has recently gone beyond river clean-ups by leading the development of a collaborative, watershed approach to a problem in the City of Buchanan. The problem began when the water supply to the historic Pears Mill in downtown Buchanan began to decrease to the point where it could no longer operate the waterwheel. King worked with the City and the Historical Preservation Society to devise a solution that would not only supply water to the historic mill, but also protect the cold water of McCoy Creek. His determination, positive attitude, ability to work with partners and his strong but non-confrontational manor led to substantial improvements to the creek.

The Harper

BY, FOR & ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF
BUCHANAN, MICHIGAN

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FREE

RESTORING THE 'ESSENCE OF THE CITY'

by Jan Wieszorek

Some may think the bubbling millrace at Pears Mill sounds like applause. Maybe it's for all those Buchanan citizens who planned for millrace and watershed restoration ten years ago. Among the many participants, three residents—Tom Fehlner, Scott King and Randal Peart—met recently at the mill to reminisce on the 10th anniversary of the founding of the nine-member McCoy's Creek Watershed Project Advisory Committee that planned improvements to the millrace and watershed. City residents may remember that ten years ago the mill was not operational because there was not enough water to run the wheel.

So, from 2009 to 2011, the committee of residents reviewed the situation and determined three problems—(1) silt in the millrace needed to be removed, (2) erosion along McCoy's Creek had to be reduced and the creek cleaned for fishing, and (3) narrowing of the duck pond and removal of its dam were necessary.

"Instead of simplifying the project, we made it more complicated. People had tried to restore the millrace before, but we put it altogether, and it worked," Fehlner says. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission so admired the three-prong effort that, in 2014, it awarded the city the Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award, now displayed inside Pears Mill, which is listed on the register of Michigan State Historic Sites.

But getting permits and funding for the watershed project was no easy matter. "We kept coming across these problems. They'd pop up," Fehlner says. "It was like a pinball machine. We just never got knocked over because we had a good plan."

To address these problems, King says, "We tried to have everybody come on board and add their concerns. The advisory committee addressed the concerns."

Others who guided the committee were Jay Wesley and Brian Gunderman of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Marcy Colclough of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Matt Meersman from Friends of the St. Joseph River Association, Joseph Mitchell of River Tenders, and John Trapp and Peter Lysy from the watershed committee.

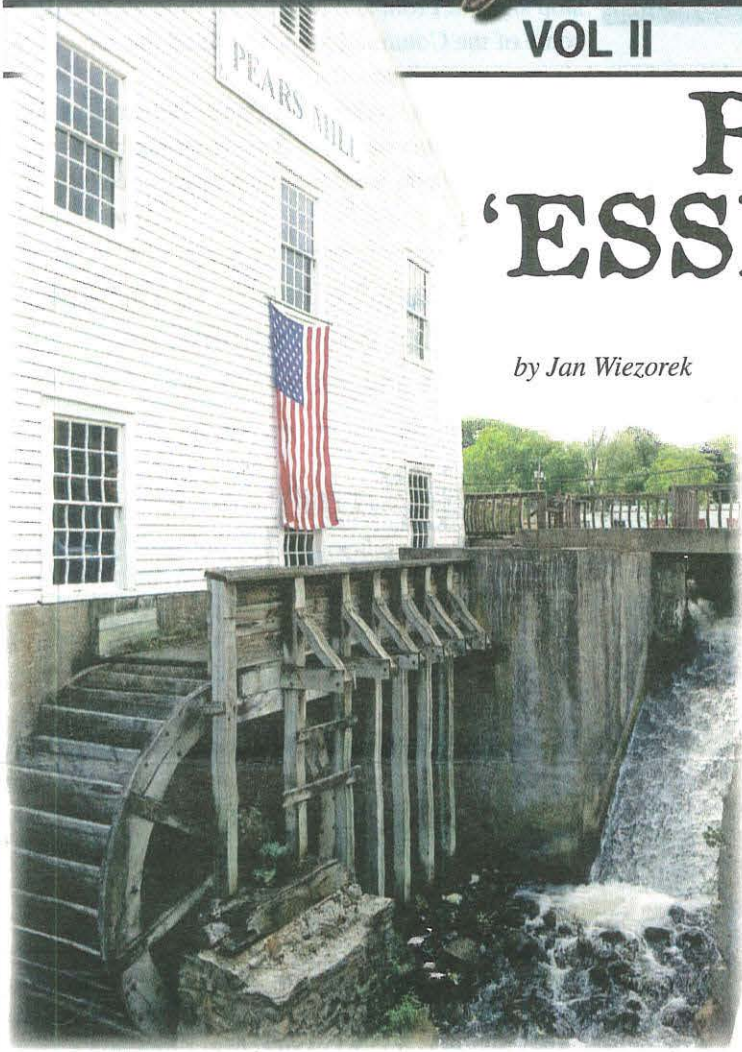
Most memorable for Fehlner was the vote for proposal approval and receipt of a permit for the watershed project from the Department of Environmental Quality—which, along with the Department of Natural Resources, had opposed prior attempts to restore the millrace.

In 2011, the advisory committee disbanded. "Once all the permits and funding were available, we didn't have anything to say," Fehlner says. King recalls, "The city and the city manager took over."

But in retrospect, the advisory committee members helped to restore the millrace at a historic mill and to improve a significant trout stream. "McCoy's Creek is known to be a monster trout stream," King says. In the 1980s,

King and volunteers removed more than 200 tons of garbage from the stream and recycled about 80 percent of it.

"The city was founded here because of the creek. It's part of the essence of the city. Apparently, there were 13 mills around the creek," Fehlner says. "It was the main power source before electricity. People from all over the U.S. and Europe come to the mill."



For example, one problem was a FEMA requirement for computer simulations prior to plan approval. Fehlner says the committee needed to know "what would happen if these improvements were made. If they raised [water] to a 100-year flood level, they wouldn't be allowed." He says the computer models alone cost \$25,000 out of a proposed \$250,000 project.

Fortunately, the skills of these three committee members were complementary in solving problems. Fehlner, who is emeritus professor of chemistry at the University of Notre Dame, wrote funding proposals and reports, garnered about \$90,000—and chaired the committee.

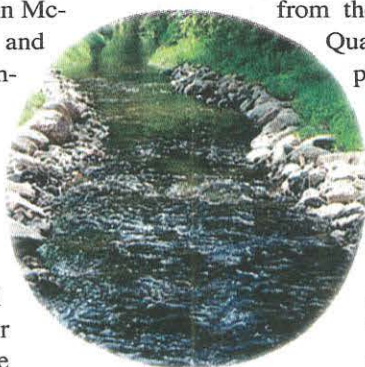
King represented individuals who fished for trout in McCoy's Creek, and, as a former city commissioner and mayor pro tem, knew the political waters—and important state government contacts.

Peart, a Licensed Professional Engineer, researched the history of the mill, reviewed topographic maps of the creek and millrace, took photographs and requested proposals from companies that removed silt.

The millrace is the flow of water diverted from McCoy's Creek that turns the Pears Mill waterwheel and powers the gears, belts and pulleys to mill flour and corn. "The millrace keeps itself above the base of the creek and drops down again where it joins the creek. But the contours along the millrace had decayed or were plugged up," Peart says, which reduced the flow of water.

Fehlner adds, "The millrace doesn't have much of a slope, and so the current is slow and it's a natural depository for silt. Most of the silt comes from farmland up on the prairie. Millraces are not compatible with natural streams, so there had to be something to balance that, and removing that dam was the biggest factor in improving the banks of the creek."

King notes other concerns with McCoy's Creek. In the past, "The creek was blocked to push more water into the millrace. The fishermen did not appreciate the creek being diverted."



The millrace is the flow of water diverted from McCoy's Creek that turns the Pears Mill waterwheel and powers the gears, belts and pulleys to mill flour and corn.



Randal Peart, Tom Fehlner and Scott King participated in the McCoy's Creek Watershed Project Advisory Committee that planned millrace and watershed improvements ten years ago.

Peart says it is also important to acknowledge the Buchanan Preservation Society that restored the mill in the 1980s. "The Buchanan Preservation Society rebuilt the mill from a pile of sticks, basically. It didn't have some of the essential parts, but there are quite a lot of mill recovery people around the United States who will help, and that's apparently what happened here. The Preservation Society put the pieces together and contacted some of these recovery companies. So they got parts to make the mill work again."



Pears Mill and millrace are open for free tours every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Labor Day. For additional info see page 5.