

2008 SUMMER
NEWSLETTER

VILLAGE COUNCIL

John Luce, President
Sheila Stein, Pres. Pro-Tem
John Llewellyn Trustee
Patricia Carpenter, Trustee
Hillary Herbst, Trustee

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Village Office Hours

Monday thru Friday,
9:00 am— 5:00 pm EDT

Phone Directory

Hall 269-469-4600
Fax 269-469-3611
Police 269-469-1884
Water 269-469-1967

Council Meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm EDT Village Hall
villageofmich@comcast.net
www.michianavillage.org

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MICHIANA VILLAGER



Changes...

Philosopher Alfred North Whitehead once defined the art of progress as the ability “...to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.”

Over the past year, Michiana has witnessed many changes. One that should be especially noted is the retirement of Superintendent Forest McCance. Forest retired after nearly 38 years of service to our Village, and while his retirement was inarguably well deserved, there was some concern over finding a suitable replacement for such a devoted employee.

Our worries would be

short-lived, however, as Rick Reitz was hired as the new Superintendent for Michiana. Rick previously worked for the City of New Buffalo, and is certified by the State of Michigan to operate our water system. Rick began at the end of November, just as the worst winter Michigan has seen in many years was beginning. Rick’s “first day” on the job was actually at night; he came in to plow the Village out because the snow had begun to fall.

Trustee Bernie Spiregel stepped down in December in order to have more time to tutor students, but thankfully continues to assist us

with the NPDES program.

Former trustee Hillary Herbst was appointed to fill the vacancy, and we’re very happy to have her back at the council table.

We also have two new police officers: Scott Scaif and Tim Buse. Scott took on the position previously held by Terry Cornwell, and Tim is our new permanent part-time officer.

While Michiana has “changed,” we think you’ll find it is still the same wonderful community it has been in the past. So enjoy the summer, and say hello to all the new people in Michiana!

Clerk’s Corner

It’s beginning to be another busy summer! A few “summer” items to take note of:

- Permits are required for all beach bonfires on Michiana’s public beaches. They are available from the Michiana Police Department and from the Village Clerk’s office.

- **PARKING AREAS:** Please pay attention to the Village parking areas. Red parking stickers are for Red sticker parking areas *only*. If you park outside the designated areas, your vehicle may be towed.
- The Public Works Department is spraying for

mosquitoes. Numerous concerned residents have called regarding diseases. Information on West Nile Virus (WNV) is available online at www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases. In 2007, only 16 cases of WNV were confirmed for the entire state; none were in Berrien County.

Storm Water Management ~ Get Involved!

In accordance with the NPDES permit issued to the Village in March of 2007, a Storm Water Management Plan has been prepared. Copies are available



at the Village Hall during normal business hours; a .pdf copy is also available from the Village's website at michianavillage.org.

The Village Council is also looking for volunteers to serve for two-year terms on the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to encourage public involvement in all aspects of the Storm Water Management Plan and its implementation. The CAC's responsibilities will be:

- Meet in the summer of

2009 and at least annually thereafter, and prepare an advisory document after each meeting for the Village Council ;

- Organize bi-annual "White Creek Clean Up Days" beginning in 2009;
- Advise the Village Council of legislative and administrative actions which may be required;
- Meet with other storm-water organizations in the surrounding area

(communities in both Michigan and Indiana) to foster protection of White Creek and Lake Michigan's shoreline;

- Encourage public participation in the Stormwater Management Program.

If you are interested in serving on the Citizen's Advisory Committee, please submit a letter of interest by July 31st, 2008 to the Village Hall.

New Regulations For Yard Clippings

Public Act 212 of 2007 went into effect on March 26, 2008, and mandated that all municipal entities collecting yard clippings, leaves, and other landscaping waste register as a composting facility with the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Michiana is now a registered composting facility, and as such, we have

new regulations regarding the handling of all yard wastes picked up and disposed of within the Village.

To help out our street department, effective immediately, please consider doing the following:

- Keep various yard wastes in separate piles: leaves, sticks & limbs, and grass.

- Cut limbs down to no longer than 3' sections.
- Bag yard waste in biodegradable lawn bags, if possible. Both Ecoproducts.com and Biobagusa.com offer environmentally-friendly bagging solutions.
- Place all bags or sticks near the edge of your

property, but away from the road lanes.

- Leaf piles will still be picked up using the vacuum truck during the fall months and up until June 1st in the spring; please bag leaves for pick up during the summer months.

2008 Summer Tax Information

No one actually *enjoys* paying taxes, but here is some information to make the tax season a little bit easier.

- The 2008 summer tax collection cycle begins July 1st and ends September 15th this year. All delinquent payments made after September

15th, 2008 must be sent to the Berrien County Treasurer's office in St. Joseph, Michigan.

- Tax bill payments must be made by check or cash only; no other forms of payment will be accepted.
- If you have an escrow

account and need your tax bill sent directly to your mortgage lender, please notify the office immediately.

- Those eligible may file tax deferment applications until September 15th, 2008. Applications are available from the

Treasurer's office, Village Hall.

- *New for 2008:* Postmarks will **not** be accepted for tax payments. All payments **must** be received by the Treasurer's office by the close of business on September 15th, 2008.

Tips On Water Pollution Prevention

Many activities in daily life affect our drinking water systems, such as fertilizing our lawns; washing our cars; and cleaning up after our pets. We frequently hear about illegal dumping polluting our waters, but did you know that indirect pollution sources may be washed into our local bodies of water by rain?

Several publications on water pollution prevention are available at the Village Hall.

The Southwest Michigan Water Coalition has the "7 Steps To Cleaner Water":

1. Do not dump anything down the drain;
2. Save water;
3. Use fertilizers sparingly;
4. Clean up after your pet;
5. Clean out your septic system regularly;

6. Take your car to a car-wash;
7. Dump Recreational Vehicle waste at a proper disposal site.

You can report illegal dumping and waste disposal into the storm sewer system to the Village Clerk at (269)469-4600.

Included with this newsletter is information from the Berrien County Resource Recovery, which recycles household hazardous wastes. Dates, times, and collection sites are listed on the flier.

Non-hazardous waste is picked up every Monday and recyclable waste is picked up every other Monday by Able Disposal; call (800)828-2253.

There are other things you can do to help prevent contamination of our drinking supply:

- Collect and bag all yard waste for the Village to pick up and dispose of;
- Do not exceed the application rates for agricultural and horticultural chemicals as listed on the manufacturer's packaging;
- Avoid washing your car at home to eliminate accidental discharge into the storm water system;
- Avoid using de-icing chemicals in the winter; sand is preferred.
- Native vegetation, such as Dune Grass, should be planted to the maximum extent on slopes to help prevent erosion and runoff.

Information on maintaining your septic system is available from the Berrien

County Healthy Department by calling (269) 927-5623.

To report evidence of pollution in White Creek or Lake Michigan Shore Line, call the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality at (269) 567-3578. To report soil erosion from sloping land into White Creek or Lake Michigan, call the Berrien County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Department at (269) 983-7111 Ext. 8255.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Fact Sheets are available from the Village Hall and also online at www.michianavillage.org

Election Time!

This is a busy election year; not only do we have Village and Township elections coming up, but the presidential election as well.

Make sure your vote counts. Voter registration forms are available from the Secretary of State's office, and also from the New Buffalo Township Clerk's office. Absentee ballots are available for all elections. For information on absentee ballots, call the Township Clerk's office

at (269) 469-1011.

Due to the Election Consolidation Act, all Village of Michiana elections are held at the New Buffalo Township Hall located at 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo.

The Village of Michiana has four seats up for election. Information is available from the Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

The Village may also be plac-

ing a millage proposal on the ballot to help offset ever increasing operating costs. Your taxes currently cover garbage and recycling pickup, street maintenance, public safety, and administration. The Village currently levied 7.5912 mills this tax season; due to the Headlee Rollback (a mandatory annual millage reduction to help offset increasing property values), next year will be even less unless a millage

proposal is placed on the ballot, and voted in by the taxpayers. The current millage rate (which is reduced every year) was originally voted on and established in 1977. For information on your property taxes, please contact the Clerk/Treasurer's office at (269) 469-4600.

Important Election Dates:
Aug. 5th - Primary Election
Nov. 4th - General Election

Area Services Contact Info

For all emergencies, call 911

Fire & ambulance non-emergency	269-756-1111
Able Disposal - garbage & recycling	800-828-2253
Indiana Michigan Power Electric	800-311-6424
Semco Energy Gas Co.	800-624-2019
New Buffalo Township	269-469-1011
City of New Buffalo	269-469-1500
Berrien County Administration	269-983-7111

Moving In or Out?

It's **very important** to keep our Tax, Water, and Voting records up-to-date. Please notify the Village office if you are a new Resident, or if you will have a different mailing address in the winter.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Berrien County Resource Recycling provides opportunities to manage solid waste with the most environmentally sound methods available. Please see the enclosed flier for dates, times, locations, and accepted items.

Refuse and Recycling Information

Trash pick-up is on Mondays, year round. Please have trash at the side of the road by 8 a.m. EST in animal-proof containers. In the interest of health and sanitation, containers must be securely enclosed. Non-compliance may result in discontinuation of pick-up services. This will keep Michiana aesthetically pleasant for all.

Able Disposal will pick up one bulk item per week. Items containing Freon require special pick-up. Please contact Able Disposal to make the necessary arrangements.

Curbside recycling is on alternate Mondays. Recycling Mondays are indicated on the enclosed calendars. Many people have questioned exactly what they can and cannot put in the Able Disposal recycle bins. According to Able, the following applies:

What can I recycle?

- **Paper:** Corrugated Cardboard, Paperboard (such as cereal and tissue boxes), Newspaper, Mixed Paper, Catalogs, Phone Books, Junk Mail, Paper Grocery Sacks
- **Glass:** Clear, Brown or Green glass food and drink bottles and jars

- **Metal Cans:** Aluminum, bi-metal and steel cans
- **Plastics:** Plastic Bottles and jugs #1 through #7

What CAN'T I recycle?

- **Glass:** window glass, plate glass, dishes, ceramics, light bulbs, mirrors
- **Hazardous Waste:** Motor Oil, paint, automotive batteries, antifreeze, liquids of any kind
- **Wood:** pallets, construction lumber, tree or plant branches
- **Yard Waste:** Grass, leaves, tree or plant branches
- **Metal:** Scrap Metal, Appliances
- **Automotive:** Tires, Engine Parts, Body or Interior Parts
- **Garbage:** Garbage and Food Waste
- **Plastics:** Styrofoam, Vinyl Siding, Swimming Pool Liners, Children's Pools

Toxic waste disposal information is available from the New Buffalo Police Department.

Additional recycling facilities are available on Clay Street in New Buffalo, one block south of the Red Arrow Highway / US-12 intersection. They will accept newspapers, corrugated cardboard, plastic bottles and jugs, glass bottles and jars, and metal cans.

A Day At The Beach

Our beaches and trees are our greatest assets. Beaches are groomed by the maintenance department, but all of us should take the responsibility of keeping them safe and clean.

Lake water is tested periodically for E. Coli by the Berrien County and La Porte County Health Departments. When testing shows high levels of bacteria, warnings will be posted at each beach stop. These warnings will be retained until a satisfactory result is obtained.

THERE ARE NO LIFEGUARDS ON VILLAGE BEACHES

Beach Safety Tips and Rules:

1. Read and obey all signs pertaining to beach safety.
2. Rip currents can kill; familiarize yourself with the information posted at each stop. Do not overestimate your swimming abilities. Each beach area has two swim-area buoys. Swim only between these buoys.
3. No alcoholic beverages or glass containers of any kind permitted on the beach.
4. All children 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian.
5. No water craft in designated swim areas. Load and unload passengers outside of swim areas.
6. Any and all litter must be properly disposed of.
7. No unauthorized vehicles on beaches.
8. No fires allowed without a permit.
9. Dogs permitted only during designated hours (May 1st thru Oct 1st, 6 p.m. - 11 a.m. EDT)

Reminder: All boats must be removed from Michiana beaches by October 15th

Law Enforcement Information

Police Information Sheet: The Michiana Police Department needs to know whom to contact in case of emergency, break-in, or damage to your home. If you have not previously filled out a police information sheet, or if your information has changed, please fill out and return the enclosed form.

The Michiana Police Department does an excellent job of protecting and patrolling the Village. Please give the officers complete cooperation and help make Michiana a safe place to live and play.

The following are reminders of some of the laws they will be enforcing:

- **No parking signs** are posted and violators will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.
- No person is to discharge any **firearm or air rifle** within the Village. All hand guns must be registered with the Michiana Police Department. Penalty for violation of this ordinance is a fine, imprisonment, or both.
- No **fireworks** of any kind are allowed in the Village. Violators will be fined, imprisoned, or both. State law prohibits alcohol consumption on public roads, while driving or walking, and underage drinking.
- New Public Nuisance Ordinance pertaining to property maintenance is in effect. Violators may be fined up to \$100 per day for each day the violation(s) exist.
- **Radar enforced speed control** is used in the Village. Citations will be issued for violations of the State of Michigan and Village of Michiana laws. The speed limit is **25 m.p.h. on Village streets; 15 m.p.h. in the Village Park area.** All motorized vehicles (golf carts, mopeds, etc.) must be licensed in Michigan. Failure to come to a complete stop at a stop sign will result in a citation.

Home Alarms: If you have an alarm system in your home, please check to make sure it is functioning properly. Repeated false alarms will cost the homeowner a fine.

Siren: The emergency siren is tested the first Saturday of each month at noon EDT. If you hear the siren at any other time,

Park Dedication & Retirement Party

Forest McCance's Retirement Party & Park Re-Dedication

August 2, 2008 at

5:00 p.m. EDT

Michiana Village Hall

On November 5, 2007, Village Superintendent Forest McCance retired after nearly 38 years of service.

The Village Council adopted a resolution on November 12, 2007, formally renaming the park next to the Village Hall. It is now known as Forest McCance Park, in

honor of the man who gave so many years of his life in order to provide us with drinking water, good roads, and clean beaches.

Please join us for our Park Re-Dedication Ceremony and Forest's Retirement Party on Saturday, August 2nd, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. EDT

at the Village Hall. If you would like to help with the festivities, please call Mary at (269) 469-4600.

So mark your calendars for August 2nd; come and offer Forest congratulations on his retirement, and share a story or two. We look forward to seeing you there!

Water Authority Improvements & Information

The Michiana Water Authority has been very busy this spring. There are two major projects which are just finishing up: the Lake Shore Drive Water Main Project, and the Booster Station Project. Smaller projects are also being reviewed for feasibility.

- In order to increase water pressure to residents and ensure better water flow to the hydrants for fire protection, the Lake Shore Drive water main is being replaced by a larger diameter pipe.
- The Booster Station project is in the final stages, also. Older water pumps

are being replaced; a new generator has been installed which will power the water pumps during power outages; and new monitoring equipment has been installed. The Booster Station upgrades will also help with the water pressure to our customers, as well as ensure the water available meets the demands of the system.

- The Water Authority is also looking into meter replacement. The new meters will be electronically read, which will provide for faster & more accurate meter

readings, which will save on both time and manpower. Further information on meter replacement will be included with the August billing.

- The tap-in fees for new water applicants has been increased for the first time in over 10 years. The new fee for a single 3/4" tap is now \$2,200.
- The Village of Grand Beach wants to amend the current contract with the Village of Michiana to allow for increased usage; the contract amendment is on

hold until the Booster Station improvements are completed.

- The 2007 Consumer Confidence Report is included with this newsletter. The State of Michigan and the EPA is continuously increasing standards for water testing. We are happy to announce that the Michiana Water Authority complies with all standards, and has not had any water quality violations to date. For that, we give a big THANK YOU you to Rick, Tim, and Bob for all of their hard work!

Michiana's Website: www.michianavillage.org

Did you know that a great resource for Michiana information is our website?

Updates are continuously added to the site, such as meeting minutes, special an-

nouncements, and other pertinent Village information.

This year, our goal is to have all of the Village's ordinances available on the website.

Our Master Plan and Zoning

Ordinance are also currently available on the website, as well as voter registration information.

We'd like to thank our webmaster, Kathy Roberts, for

maintaining our website throughout the year.

Suggestions for our website? Email your comments to us: Villageofmich@comcast.net

POLICE EMERGENCY FORM

Name: _____

Michiana Address: _____

Other Address: _____

Michiana Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Do you have an alarm system? YES / NO Will your alarm reset automatically? YES / NO

Name of Alarm Company: _____ Phone: _____

Do you use your home during the winter? YES / NO

Please list all vehicles & their license numbers, normally at your house: _____

In case of damage to your home (due to the weather or crime), who should be contacted?

Name: _____ Phone: _____

**ALL INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS CONFIDENTIAL AND FOR OFFICIAL POLICE
USE ONLY**

Curbside Recycling Dates

2008

July 7th & 21st

August 4th & 18th

September 2nd, 15th, & 29th

October 13th & 27th

November 10th & 24th

December 8th & 22nd

2009

January 5th & 19th

February 2nd & 16th

March 2nd, 16th, & 30th

April 13th & 27th

May 11th & 25th

June 8th & 22nd