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Library news that you can use...

Friends of the Sand Lake-Nelson Township Library recently donated \$18,000.00 to Nelson Township to help reduce the mortgage of the Library facility. The Friends have continued to raise funds since the completion of the facility in 2007 and contributions have totaled \$73,000.00 to-date. Major fundraisers were book sales at the VFW, Burley Park, the 4th of July Celebration and in the Library Book Loft. Funds also came from the Annual Plant Sale and Silent Auction; the Trash and Treasures Sale; the Christmas Craft Sale; and donations received from individual library patrons.

February brought the annual “Love Your Library” project that took place at the Library and the Sand Lake Branch of Independent Bank. Red paper hearts were available to supporters of the Library for a one-dollar donation. The hearts, which included the donor’s name, were displayed at the bank and library. Independent Bank also held a book sale at the bank during that time.

The Book Loft, which is the Friends’ ongoing book sale at the library, had a successful year in 2011 raising \$3,304.00 from books donated to the project. Book donations are always welcomed

The Sand Lake / Nelson Township branch opened KDLville on May 15th. Katie the Elephant greeted around 70 parents and children. KDLville features new play activities and manipulatives to promote early literacy for our youngest patrons through the following skills: talking, writing, reading, playing and singing.

Meet the Author-Jeffery Schatzer, national award winning author of picture and chapter books for children, including **The Runaway Garden** will speak to parents and children at 11 a.m. on **Saturday, July 13**. Sponsored by the Friends of the Sand Lake/Nelson Township Library.

For all the summer programs, go to www.kdl.org and click on events. Then choose the Sand Lake/Nelson Township Branch to see the fun activities or check us out on Facebook.



New law bans certain open burning-

In April, Lt. Gov. Brian Calley signed HB 4207, banning the uncontrolled burning of plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals and hazardous materials. The bill became Public Act 102 of 2012.

Rural residents can still burn yard waste such as brush and leaves and household waste such as cardboard and paper products.

Responsibility for enforcing the new state law is the County Health Departments (not the Township)

For additional information please visit www.michigan.gov/deq

Kent County Housing Rehabilitation Program

Kent County’s Housing Rehabilitation Program is administered by the Kent County Department of Community Development in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance for needed home repairs to low and moderate income households.

Eligible repairs include: Repair or replacement of major structural and mechanical systems, Disability access and ADA repairs, Pest and Hazard Abatement, Energy saving improvements, Connection to water and sewer lines.

Please contact Kent Co. Community Development at (616) 632-7400 or visit www.accesskent.com for more information and eligibility and income limits.

Changes to the Principal Residence Exemption - J. Rosenzweig



On May 1, 2012 Governor Snyder signed legislation changing the dates required for occupancy in order to qualify for the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE.) The PRE exempts those who own and occupy their home from the school operating portion of your property tax.

Previously, the statutory date to own and occupy to qualify for the exemption was May 1. The new legislation creates two dates. To qualify for exemption for the whole year, you may now own and occupy by June 1.

To qualify for exemption from the taxes that are levied on the winter bill, you must own and occupy by

November 1. The legislature did not however, make a provision for late filing of the forms. In order to qualify, you must file your form by the statutory dates. If you file the form late, it can not be applied. Filing of the PRE affidavit is only required when you first occupy the property. If you have previously filed the affidavit, the exemption remains for subsequent years.

In accordance with state guidelines stating that properties be re-inspected every five years, I am planning on visiting select homes in the township. I will have identification and will provide it upon request. If you are not home when I visit, I will leave a letter

explaining the reason for my visit and a pre-paid postcard you can fill out and send back.

If you plan on splitting your property, you must file a land division application with the assessor. Land division applications are available at the township hall or on the township website www.nelsontownship.org

Other forms available on the website include: Property Transfer Affidavit, Homeowner's Principle Residence Exemption Affidavit, & Request to Rescind Homeowner's Principle Residence Exemption.

The Assessor's normal office hours are: Mondays 9:00 to 3:00 and Wednesdays 9:00 to 1:00.

Michigan Voter Information Center web site (www.Michigan.gov/vote): Allows voters to confirm their registration status, locate their polling place or local clerk's office and learn how to cast a ballot. Voters can also view the ballot they will vote on election day. Campaign Finance Statements Online: Offers access to campaign finance reports and data filed by candidates, PAC's and political organizations.

REGISTER AND VOTE! Last day to register to vote for August 7, 2012 Primary is July 9, 2012. Last day to register for Presidential Election on November 6, 2012 is October 9, 2012. Polls open at 7:00 am - close at 8:00 pm

2012 Election Dates—Laura Hoffman / Clerk

August 7, 2012 - State Primary

November 6, 2012 - State General Election

If you want to check to see if you're a registered voter, visit www.Michigan.gov/vote.

There you will find information about registering to vote. To register to vote, you must be **all** of the following:

- * A U.S. citizen
- * At least 18 years old by Election Day
- * A resident of Michigan
- * A resident of the township where you are applying to register

to vote

You must be registered to vote at least 30 days before the election.

You may complete a voter application at one for the following:

- * Your local Secretary of State branch office
- * Your local county, city or township clerk's office
- * Offices of several state agencies, like the Department of Human Services, Department of Community Health, and the Department of labor and Economic Growth

On Election Day, you will be asked

to present voter identification. If you don't have acceptable photo ID, you can vote by signing an affidavit. The affidavit can be used by:

- 1) voters who don't have acceptable photo ID or
- 2) voters who have photo ID – but didn't bring it to the polls.

Acceptable photo ID includes:

- * Michigan driver's license
- * Michigan personal identification card
- * Driver's license or personal identification card issued by another state.

Interested in becoming an Election Inspector? L.Hoffman



Contact Clerk Laura Hoffman 636-5332

Registered voters interested in serving as Election Inspectors must submit an Election Inspector application to the Nelson Township Clerk. In addition to their name, address and date of birth, applicants must include their political party preference and qualifications to fill the position such as education or

experience.

Qualifications for Election Inspectors: they must be a registered voter of the county, they cannot be a challenger, candidate, member of a candidate's immediate family, or a member of the local Board of Canvassers, and anyone convicted of a felony or an election crime may not serve.

The Nelson Township Clerk will be able to answer any questions about how to apply to become an Election Inspector. Why not consider helping your community and become more politically active by becoming an Election Inspector?

From Supervisor Glen Armstrong

Gordon Park Construction – By the time you receive this newsletter, construction will have already begun on the next phase of improvements at Gordon Park. Kent County Parks Department and Nelson Township have combined portions of their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds again this year, to pay for changes to the south parking lot and driveway at Gordon Park. Nelson Township will contribute \$22,000 of CDBG funds to provide paved pathways from both the North and South parking lots to the restrooms. The funding is a grant from HUD through the Kent County Community Development

Department. CDBG funding from the federal government has very limited uses allowed, and this project met their criteria. Deans Excavating from Sand Lake was the bid winner for the project again this year and the project should be completed about mid July.

Septic System Failures - Kent County has concerns that there are many private septic systems in our county that are failing, which could endanger our environment and drinking water quality. At one point they were considering requiring mandatory periodic inspections. As of now, they are just collecting more data

based on inspections done at the time a home is sold to a new owner.

Most residences in Nelson Township have their own private well and septic systems and many homeowners do not know what steps to take to maintain their septic systems. I have enclosed a pamphlet (if received on time) that gives you more information. At a minimum the recommendation is that septic tanks should be pumped out every 3 -5 years.

Supervisor Continued...

17 Mile Road Construction - the Kent County Road Commission will be reconstructing the intersection of 17 mile road and Meyers Lake Ave this summer. This work will be similar to the construction that took place two years ago at the intersection of 18 mile road and Pine Lake Ave. This construc-

tion was a result of the multiple accidents that have happened at this intersection. The main objective is to lower the hill east of the intersection that hinders visibility to the corner. There will also be a new retaining wall installed on the northwest corner to improve sight distance there as well. Town-

ship funds were not required for this construction (we paid to move a light pole), it was funded by MDOT and Kent County. The construction will start July 9th and it will be completed by August 31st. Deans Excavating from Sand Lake was the bid winner for the project.

Treasurer - Katy Austin

The Township has made it easier for you to access your Tax and Assessing information. On the home page of the Township website, www.nelsontownship.org, you'll see "Click here to view Assessing & Tax Information online." Simply "Click here for more information" and access your parcel information. You will be required to register in order to retrieve your informa-

tion. You create your logon; the software creates your password and emails it to you. Once you have created an account, you simply click the "LOGIN" button in the upper right corner of the screen; enter your logon and password. You will be able to view tax payments with the ability to print the payment information to complete your IRS 1040, and other tax and assessing

data. You can look at YOUR data free of charge. If you want to look at someone else's, it will cost you \$2.00 for each inquiry. The fee is charged by the software firm that developed this site, enabling Township residents' free usage.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are sold at the Township from December 1st—March 1st.

Treasurer

Treasurer's Hours:

July – March = Mon. – Thurs. 9am – 3pm

April – June = Mon. – Wed. 9am – 3pm

Deferred Payments: For those who qualify for Deferred Payment of their 2012 Summer Taxes, applications are now available at the Nelson Township Treasurer's office. Filing of this form is voluntary. However, your tax due date will not be extended unless it is certified each year with the Township Treasurer by September 14

Nelson Township www.nelsontownship.org

2 E. Maple Street

Sand Lake 49343

Office Hours Monday-Thursday

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Telephone (616) 636-5332

Fax (616) 636-4452

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Public is welcome

Township Board Members:

Supervisor: Glen Armstrong - supervisor@nelsontownship.org

Clerk: Laura Hoffman - clerk@nelsontownship.org

Treasurer: Katy Austin - treasurer@nelsontownship.org

Trustee: Tom Noreen

Trustee: Maureen Mahoney

Assessor: Jason Rosenzweig - assessor@nelsontownship.org

Zoning / Enforcement: Jerry Gross - zoning@nelsontownship.org

Village of Sand Lake www.villageofsandlake.org

2 E. Maple Street

Sand Lake, MI 49343

Office Hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:30 am—2:30 pm

Telephone (616) 636-8854

Fax (616) 636-4564

Clerk: Judy Howard - clerk@villageofsandlake.org

Treasurer: Brenda Arnold - treasurer@villageofsandlake.org

Council Board Members:

President: Kirk Thielke

Trustees: Dave Dewey

Duncan Rogers

Carol Simpson

Billi Jo Thielke

Jim Ward

Roger Towsley

COUNCIL BOARD MEETING 3rd Monday of each month

****For Village events and information visit the Sand Lake Chamber of Commerce website at www.sandlakechamber.com****

Zoning / Enforcement - Jerry Gross

Avoiding Neighbor problems with **QCC**

Why do our lives sometimes have to be complicated by those people representing us? Or why don't they do something about this? I am certain that all of us have uttered those words in one form or another at some time. The only thing that can be said in response to that is that most rules are generated by the concerns and desires of people who are faced with situations that can or are affecting them. The rules are to assist in controlling events and actions that are undesirable to some but are considered to be an individual right by another person. Within these rules a conflict brews between individual rights and the welfare and desires of the majority. Some of those conflicts can be avoided by asking the right Questions, by Communication and by Consideration.

Questions, ask them, don't assume that it is alright just because you want to do it. There may be some additional information or restrictions that you need to be aware of. And yes the asking of the questions could result in the denial of your being able to do what you want to do, but it is better to know this in advance than waiting until money, time and effort have been spent on the task.

Communication between yourself and anyone that may be affected by what you are doing is important. This would apply to anyone who is proposing to do anything that would be out of the normal scope of being a home owner. And remember that the noise level of what you are doing could affect people well beyond your next door neighbors.

Consideration should be used when determining what you are preparing to do, if it is permissible. Determine if there is the flexibility to do it in a manner that will least affect your neighbors and the surrounding area.

These three letters should also be applied by those who believe that their rights are being infringed upon. Ask question, is it acceptable. Communicate with the person that is causing the problem. Using consideration as to whether the problem is as large as you think it is or can it be something that can be accepted.