



Nelson Township News

Summer 2009

Ewaste and Compact Fluorescent Bulb Collection

If you missed the township clean-up days, it is not too late to recycle any electronic equipment. You can drop off your unwanted electronic items (minus TVs) at the township office during business hours. Most any thing that has a cord or uses batteries, can be recycled (see the list of acceptable items posted on the township website under Ewaste Recycling Cleanup). These items can also be dropped off at the Rockford transfer station on 10 Mile Road across from Meijer. Just ask for the Ewaste drop box location.

As energy-efficient lighting becomes more popular, it is important we dispose of compact fluorescent bulbs (CFB) correctly. Unlike incandescent or halogen bulbs, CFBs contain small amounts of the toxic metal mercury. The bulbs should not be thrown in your trash. Once broken, the mercury can either enter the atmosphere or our water supplies.

Properly disposing of electronics and CFBs will help reduce the potential environmental hazards caused by putting them in landfills. These items contain hazard compounds that are known to cause several medical conditions. Please dispose of them properly. If you have questions call the township at 636-5332.

Township Website

Are you looking for township information? You can find it on our website at www.nelsontownship.org. This site is updated regularly with any new information.

Boy Scout News...

Boy Scout Troop 222 placed US flags in honor of all veterans in East Nelson and Punches Cemeteries as one of their annual service projects. Life Scout Levi Velting led the patrol, consisting of the troop's youngest scouts, in this project. According to Township Clerk Laura Hoffman, "The Boy Scouts did an awesome job." The scouts will remove the flags from the cemetery after Veterans Day in the fall.

Holiday Closings...

The Village and Township offices will be CLOSED Monday, June 29th- Friday, July 3rd.

Nelson Township

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 Members

Supervisor: Glen Armstrong
Clerk: Laura Hoffman
Treasurer: Kathy Reed
Trustees: Maureen Mahoney,
Tom Noreen
Assessor: Jason Rosenzweig
Zoning/Enforcement: Jerry Gross

Township Board Meeting

2nd Tuesday of each month- 7:00 pm

Village of Sand Lake

2 E. Maple Street
Sand Lake 49343
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Telephone (616) 636-8854
Fax (616) 636-4564
Clerk: Beth Miller
Treasurer: Brenda Arnold

Council Board Meeting

3rd Monday of each month

Council Members

President: Kirk Thielke
Trustees: Dave Dewey, Tonia Parkhurst,
Carol Simpson, Billi Jo Thielke,
Dave Tibbe, Roger Towsley

From the 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.

From the Clerk's office...

Laura Hoffman

East Nelson and Punches Cemetery Rules

1. Cemeteries are open only during daylight hours.
2. No vehicles shall be driven on other than established drives.
3. Please place refuse in receptacles provided.
4. Summer decorations must be removed by **November 15**.
5. Winter decorations must be removed by **April 1**.
6. The Township will remove decorations remaining after those dates.
7. No planting of permanent shrubbery, plants or trees.
8. Nelson Township reserves the right to trim or remove any planting or other materials.
9. For complete information regarding the cemetery please contact Nelson Township clerk at 616-636-5332.

Punches Cemetery activity does not warrant a refuse receptacle. Please dispose of your refuse properly.

Pool Note...

With the approach of warmer weather frequently our minds wonder into the area of ways create family fun and to cool off during the hot days. Visions of relaxing in or around a family swimming pool are one of those appealing remedies for relief and enjoyment during the summer. To make these visions come true we venture out and purchase a pool or begin to contract for the installation of one before we do the preparatory work of finding out what is acceptable and what regulations will apply either at the local government level or by state codes. We would like to remind you that a building permit is required for any pool that contains water 24" deep or deeper as well as hot tubs or spas. Nelson Township currently uses the 2006 Michigan building code to determine the requirements when a pool is installed. Those requirements can be found in Appendix G of that code. Although it seems to be harsh to require people to meet the codes for all pools whether it is an in-ground, above ground, or inflatable pool, irregardless of whether they are permanent or removable to comply with fencing, access protection or electrical codes as well as all other applicable codes, we would like to remind you that your safety, your guests safety and the safety of those that might live around you is the goal.



Kent District Library - Valuable Community Resource in Challenging Economic Times

The Sand Lake / Nelson Twp. Branch library began providing library services to the community as part of the Sand Lake Women's Club in the 1920s. Before finding a permanent home in the Nelson Township Hall in 1978, the library collection was shelved in a general store, auditorium, church and even the librarian's own home. On May 18, 2007, a brand new 8,350 square foot library opened at 88 Eighth Street. This library building is reminiscent of a beautiful old red barn with a clerestory, an impressive stone fireplace comfortable seating, and all of the materials and services you've come to expect at the Kent District Library..

Today the Sand Lake / Nelson Township branch of the Kent District Library continues the legacy of the Woman's Club by providing a robust offering of programs and services that support and enhance the health and vitality of the residents of Nelson Township (and surrounding areas).

According to Glenda Middleton, branch manager, "the community is very supportive of our library and the services it provides. In our beautiful building and comfortable surroundings it's easy to provide the services that our community wants and needs. Since moving into the new library, circulation and program attendance have increased dramatically."

Two years after opening, Glenda and her staff are still receiving compliments on the amazing library building and services. "Folks are always telling me what a wonderful library this is. A patron mentioned recently how her two teenage daughters are constantly begging to come to our library."

Especially during these difficult economic times, the services and resources provided by KDL's Sand Lake / Nelson Township Library are invaluable to area residents of all ages. A recent NBC News report by anchor Brian Williams reported that "libraries offer free relief from tough economic times", and pointed to the dramatic increase in library usage across the country over the past year. According to the story, "more Americans have library cards than ever before" and are accessing the variety of services and programs offered by the library.

This increase in usage is also true not only for the Sand Lake / Nelson Township Branch but also throughout Kent District Library. Overall materials circulation has increased by almost 8% in the past year and program attendance is up by 40%.

KDL feels very fortunate to have the support of the communities we serve. The residents of Nelson Township and the Friends of the Library have generously and tirelessly supported their library for many years and have been instrumental in raising funds for the new library building. And for this KDL is extremely grateful.

Kent District Library is a millage-supported system. Current millage levels sustain existing programs and services, but it does not allow for growth. In order to adequately address the needs and challenges of our community, new sources of revenue must be cultivated.

In 2007 the KDL Fund was created to support KDL's role in preserving and growing an excellent library system. The KDL Annual Fund is used to strengthen programs and initiatives aimed at the youngest learner. The KDL Endowment Fund (managed by the Grand Rapids Community Foundation) is a lasting legacy to meet the future needs of our library, citizens, and community.

Kent District Library is committed to insuring that a vibrant library legacy remains in our community for generations to come.

For more information about KDL and how you can support your community library, visit us online at www.kdl.org or call us at 616-784-2092.

Treasurer's Tidbits...

Kathy Reed

Treasurer's Hours:

Monday- Thursday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
and Monday, September 14, 2009 from
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. September 14th is the last
day to pay summer taxes without penalty.



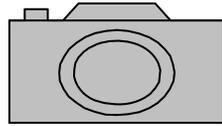
You may go to the township website and get your millage rates and estimate your taxes.

The website will also give you all the information you need to pay your property taxes with your credit card. There is a convenience fee charged based on the amount of your transaction.

Deferred Payments:

For those who qualify for **Deferred Payment** of their **2009 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.

From the Assessor's Office...



Jason Rosenzweig

Last year, the Assessor's Office began work on digitally photographing each dwelling within the Township. That work will continue and hopefully be completed in 2009. The photographs are used for assessing purposes and are maintained as part of the property record card system as we continue to shift to an all digital record system. Any person photographing buildings will have picture identification with them.

Also, in accordance with state guidelines stating that properties be re-inspected every five years, I am planning on visiting those homes in the following areas: Evergreen Hills, Fieldstone Meadows, Carolyn Drive, and Wildwood Lane and Court, and will be visiting select homes in the Metes & Bounds description properties in the township. I will have identification and will provide it upon request.

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 Monday's and Thursday's from 9:00 to 3:00.

The Community Development Department of Kent County Housing Rehabilitation Program

The Community Development Department of Kent County, with the U.S. Department of HUD, offers home repair assistance for homeowners in Kent County. If your home is in need of repair, you could be eligible for this program.

To be eligible, you must...

Live in Kent County, but not in Grand Rapids or Wyoming, own the home or be purchasing it, be no more than one year behind with property taxes and meet income guidelines.

Income Requirements

Household income is determined by adding the gross income of all persons residing in the house who are 18 years of age or older (excluding most full-time students).

Household Size	Low Income	Moderate Income
1	0 - 21,700	21,701 - 34,800
2	0 - 24,800	24,801-39,750
3	0 - 27,900	27,901-44,750
4	0 - 31,050	31,051- 49,700
5	0 - 33,500	33,501- 53,700
6	0 - 36,000	36,001- 57,650
7	0 - 40,950	40,951- 61,650
8	0 - 40,950	40,951 -65,600

Improvements

Improvements are limited to those that will result in making the home decent, safe, and sanitary. When the work is complete, your home will be in compliance with HUD Housing Quality Standards (Section 8) and local codes as required.

Examples of Eligible Improvements

Heating Replacement windows and doors, Plumbing, Roof repair or replacement, wells, Kitchen and bathroom repairs, Septic systems, Accessibility improvements, Electrical Energy conservation, Siding, and Structural repairs.

Two Types of Loans

Deferred

- Low-income households.
- No interest and no payments.
- Becomes due when owner moves or sells.

Installment

- Moderate-income households.
- 3% interest, monthly payments, 20-year term.

All loans are secured with a mortgage on the property.

What to Expect

1. Inquire by calling 632-7411 for a 10-minute telephone intake.
2. Application and approval process.
3. Loan closing.
4. Project Manager inspects the home, and prepares construction specifications.
5. The specs are approved by the homeowner.
6. Specs are sent to pre-approved contractors for competitive bids, project goes to lowest qualified bidder.
7. Homeowner and contractor sign an agreement.
8. Project Manager monitors the construction process to assure quality work.