



# Nelson Township News

Summer 2013

## News you can use:

- Clerk and Supervisor information (Including Burn permits) page 2.
- Wellhead Protection area and internet access info page 3
- Dust layering FYI page 4
- Treasurer information (Including Tax Deferment info) 4.
- Assessing and Zoning page 4.
- If you missed any of 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 library 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 and TV's 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.
- Having a party? Need more room? Rent the beautiful community room located at the Sand Lake / Nelson Twp. Library! Contact us at 636-5332 for more information.
- **Nelson Township Fireworks Ordinance adopted:**  
On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 enacted the townships Fireworks Ordinance. The ordinance defines the permissible days and hours for the usage of Commercial (bought over the counter) fireworks within the township. It also defines the penalties for violations of the ordinance. The use of Display (professional) fireworks is not permissible with out a permit being issued. The ordinance also provides the information needed for obtaining the required permit. If you have questions please feel free to contact our offices for more information or for a copy of the ordinance. Please us them safely and with consideration for you neighbors.

## Holiday Closings...

The Township and Village offices will be CLOSED

Monday July 1 - Thursday July 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday September 2<sup>th</sup>

Monday October 14<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup>

Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday December 31<sup>th</sup> (Treasurer will be available one day during that week from 9am - 5pm to collect taxes)

### 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: Tom Noreen

Clerk: Laura Hoffman

Treasurer: Katy Austin

Trustees: Maureen Mahoney

Glen Armstrong

Assessor: Jason Rosenzweig

Zoning/Enforcement: Jerry Gross

### Township Board Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month- 7:00 pm

### Village of Sand Lake

P.O. Box 139

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: Judy Howard

Treasurer: Brenda Arnold

### Council Board Meeting

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month

at 7:00 pm

### Council Members

President: Kirk Thielke

Trustees: Dave Dewey, Tonia Parkhurst,

Carol Simpson, Billi Jo Thielke,

Duncan Rogers, Roger Towsley

## Township Clerk's Corner...

Laura Hoffman

### Health Notes

A Service of the Kent County Health Department

### June 2013-Don't flush or throw old medicine in the trash!!!

#### The Problem:

An estimated twenty to sixty percent of prescription medications go unused. For years, these expired or unneeded medications would be thrown into the trash or flushed down the toilet. Now considered environmentally dangerous, neither of these disposal methods are recommended. Putting unwanted or expired medicine in the trash leaves it vulnerable to being stolen and used, potentially resulting in illness or death. Throwing unused medication in the trash sends it to the local landfill, where it may seep into the surrounding water table. Flushing unused medications down the toilet sends these chemicals to sewage treatment plants, which don't screen for them. That means these chemicals often end up in rivers and streams, eventually making their way into Lake Michigan. The U.S. Geological Survey looked at 139 streams in 30 states in 2002. Testing found 80% of these waterways had chemicals from prescription and nonprescription drugs, as well as steroids and reproductive hormones.

#### So what can you do?

The Kent County Health Department is working with the Kent County Department of Public Works to share [www.wmtakebackmeds.org](http://www.wmtakebackmeds.org), a site that explains what you can do with unused or expired medications. You can search by zip code or city. The site will suggest Kent County pharmacies or other sites near you that accept:  
\*Prescription medications and medication samples (Except controlled substances e.g. Codeine, Ritalin, Vicodin, etc.)

\*Antibiotics/steroids

\*Cold and flu medications

\*Vitamins/herbal supplements

\*Pet medications

\*Medicated ointments/lotions

Just leave the medications in their original container. Block out any identifying personal information on the prescription label, but leave the name of the medication unblocked. The drop-off site will make sure the medication is disposed of quickly and properly. If you have a controlled substance such as Vicodin or Oxycodone, the Kent County Sheriff's Department and its Sub-Stations have drop boxes that will keep these drugs secure and away from the public.

## Notes from the Supervisor - Tom Noreen

### Burn Permits

Open fires in a pit or cover an area that is bigger than 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft are considered bonfires and must have a permit. For any fire in a pit or fire ring that is smaller than 3 ft x 3 ft x 3 ft and is being used to cook on or sit around for fun does not require a permit.

While burn barrels are still legal, they can only be used to burn untreated wood, paper and cardboard. It is illegal under Act No. 102 of the Public Acts of 2012 for a person to "conduct open burning of household waste that contains plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals or hazardous materials. Offenses are punishable by a civil fine up to \$300. Additionally they must be made of metal or concrete and have a wire mesh screen on the top with holes not to exceed 3/4 inches.

Because Nelson Township contracts fire services from Cedar Springs, Sand Lake and Spencer Township, you must request the permit from the municipality providing your fire service. A copy of the map located below. Additionally, to qualify for a permit:

- You must be the property owner or have written permission from them to burn.
- You must be a minimum of 18 years old to request one and be in attendance of it.
- You must have a water source at the base of the fire.
- You must have the fire a minimum of 25 feet from any structure or woods and 10 feet inside your property.
- You can only burn from 8 AM to midnight.

Prior to lighting any fire, please familiarize yourself with [burning regulations](#) established by the Michigan DNR. We understand that sometimes a tame fire can get out of control, call 911 right away

You will need to provide the following information at a minimum.

- Address of where you are going to be burning
- What you will be burning
- What date you are going to start
- For how many days (up to 4 days max)

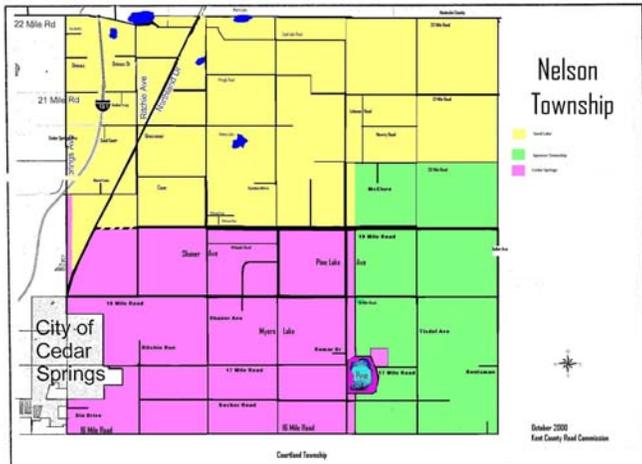
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**Supervisor cont...**

City of Cedar Springs: Call 616.696.1221 and leave a detailed message. Fire Department staff will return a call to you in timely fashion. If you do not receive a return phone call within 24 hours, it may be because you do not live within our fire jurisdiction.

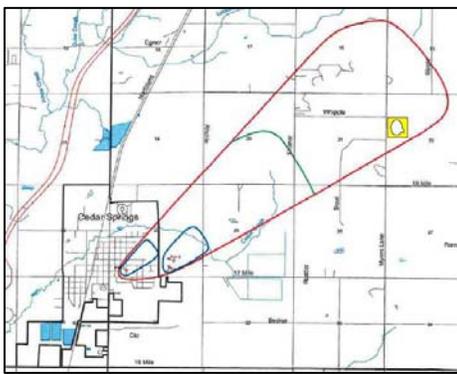
Spencer Township Fire Department: Call 616-984-2200, if you get the answering machine, you must wait 24 hours to start burning. This gives us time to collect the information and call it in to our dispatch.

Village of Sand Lake Fire Department: Call 616-799-5538 or email [fire@villageofsandlake.org](mailto:fire@villageofsandlake.org)



**Cedar Springs Wellhead Protection Area**

Driving north and east of Cedar Springs along 17, 18 and 19 Mile Roads and Ritchie, Shaner and Myers Lake Avenues you may have seen a sign with a map similar to the one below. This map depicts an oblong plume that represents the Cedar Springs Wellhead Protection area. Water in the form of rain, snow melt, and excess irrigation that soak into the ground in this region slowly percolates down through the soil and into the aquifer that the City draws its drinking water from. Surface water from this and adjacent areas also flows into the headwaters of Cedar Creek.



The plume is subdivided showing how many years it

takes for the water to reach the wellhead. As an example, it takes ten years for water to travel from the corner of Sipple Avenue and 19 Mile Road to reach the wellhead while it only takes one year for water to migrate from where Ritchie Avenue dead ends at Cedar Creek.

While we may feel that this doesn't affect us, it does. Cedar Springs' water is used at our schools, restaurants, grocery stores, businesses and by our friends and neighbors in the City. As property owners in and around this wellhead plume, we are responsible to ensure we do not do anything that will jeopardize the water supply. Actions we can take to protect this water supply include keeping our septic systems pumped; the proper disposal of hazardous materials (paints, oil, fuel, chemicals, medicines, etc.); the judicious application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides; and ensuring that any spills of fuel, oil, chemicals, paints, etc. are cleaned and the residue disposed at one of Kent County's hazardous waste sites.

**Internet Access**

Broadband internet access is almost a necessity of life for banking, purchasing, communicating, school and looking for a job. Broadband is available in most areas of Nelson Township but there is not an easy task to determine the best internet service provider (ISP). Access all depends on where you live along with your choices of ISPs. One of the aids available to help determine what ISPs serve your address is the [www.connectmi.org](http://www.connectmi.org) website. Connect Michigan, in partnership with the Michigan Public Service Commission, is committed to "to ensure that all can experience the benefits of broadband. Technology, especially widespread access, use, and adoption of broadband, improves all areas of life."

The Connect Michigan website provides an interactive map that will take you to your location and give you a list of possible ISPs and links to their websites. Even though an ISP is listed, does not mean that its service is available. Two good examples are Charter Cable and AT&T DSL. Both of these ISPs have limited coverage within the Township. Charter is limited to short runs along 17 and 18 Mile Roads and Sand Lake. To get AT&T DSL, you must live within three miles of either Cedar Springs or Sand Lake. Services from Casair, AT&T Wireless and Verizon Wireless are line-of-site services that only work if your home has visibility of one of their  
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**Supervisor cont.**

transmission towers. One provider not listed as an option is Excede Satellite.

In addition to cost, one must look at speed, data usage, equipment rental or purchase requirements and contracts. Not all broadband provides the same level of service and some limit the amount of data that you may send and receive each month. Some ISPs rent terminal equipment while others make you buy it. For some of the services, there are priced options. What looks like a good option in the short term may cost you significantly more in the long run.

**Dust Layering**

The Township budgets for three applications of calcium chloride each year. These are applied by a contract that is administered by the Kent County Road Commission. We typically have them applied prior to Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day. Since the majority of the Board lives on gravel roads, we can appreciate the inconvenience that comes when conditions are dry. The amount of dust can be significantly reduced by everyone driving slower. Driving slower also decreases the formation of washboards. While neither can be eliminated, they can be mitigated by taking our time when we drive.

**From the Assessor's Office...**

**Jason Rosenzweig**

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](http://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.

**Treasurer's Tidbits...**

**Katy Austin**

**Treasurer@Nelsontownship.org**

24/7 access for Tax and Assessing information: 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](http://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 information. 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 starting December 1<sup>st</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Treasurer's Hours:**

**July - March = Monday - Thursday 9am - 3pm**  
**April - June = Monday - Wednesday 9am - 3pm**

Deferred Payments: For those who qualify for Deferred Payment of their 2013 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 Zoning & Enforcement...**

**Jerry Gross**

Some Peoples Treasure:  
Just a reminder of the old saying One mans trash is another mans treasure. I am frequently called with complaints that pertain to: junk vehicles and parts and/or trash that are left in the yards or on the property of some of our residents, both of which are violations of ordinances within Nelson Township. You personally may believe that the items laying about your property are of great value but it may not be seen that way by others. Taking the time to learn what is acceptable can save problems in the future.