



Driving while intoxicated most common offense

THE CITIZEN JOURNAL

BOYNE CITY, MICHIGAN SERVING BOYNE CITY, EAST JORDAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS SINCE 1896 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2006

COMING EVENTS

Read on the wild side

This summer, kids of all ages are invited to "Read On The Wild Side" at Boyne District Library.

The 2006 summer reading program is open to young people ages 18 months through high school. Registration (free) is required.

The Read On The Wild Side kick-off is Tuesday, June 27, at 10 a.m. with a performance by juggler Joel Tacey.

The event is open to registered summer reading kids and their families. Registration for the summer reading programs runs through June 26.

For more information or to register, call the library at 231-582-7861 or visit online at www.boynelibrary.org.

EJ Books Looking for books

The East Jordan Library summer reading program begins on the first day of July and ends on July 31. There will be special programs on Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., with these entertainers: July 5, Gordon the Magician; July 12, Joel Tacey, juggler and comedian; July 19, Pat Roan Judd, storyteller with puppets; July 26 Bugs on Wheels, entomologist Gary Dunn.

Registration for summer reading begins on July 1.

For more information, call the library at 231-536-7131.

Author to visit Boyne City

Friends and Family Fun Fair will be held Saturday, July 8, from 4 to 9 p.m. on the grounds of the Boyne District Library, 201 E. Main St., in downtown Boyne City.

Aaron Zenz, author of "The Hippopotamus," will be featured, doing a special reading at 4 p.m. in the Children's Room.

From 5 to 7 p.m., the fair will be outside, with games for kids, a used book sale, bake sale, food booth, cupcake walk, and a variety of raffles, music and entertainment.

At 7 p.m. join the crowd for a Fun Fashion Show, Boyne City Style.

For more information, contact the library at 231-582-7861.

WEATHER

Thursday, June 22 Hi: 77 Lo: 53 Condition: Partly Cloudy

Friday, June 23 Hi: 77 Lo: 52 Condition: Isolated T-Storms

Saturday, June 24 Hi: 75 Lo: 50 Condition: Sunny

Sunday, June 25 Hi: 79 Lo: 52 Condition: Partly Cloudy

Monday, June 26 Hi: 80 Lo: 55 Condition: Mostly Sunny

Tuesday, June 27 Hi: 80 Lo: 57 Condition: Sunny

Wednesday, June 28 Hi: 82 Lo: 58 Condition: Sunny

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Festival of Freedom

Kelly Rader and her daughter, Loagen, let out a yell on the way down a water slide at the carnival in East Jordan's Memorial Park during last weekend's Freedom Festival. For more photos, see page 12.



Photo by Vic Ruggles

On the agenda

County considers administrator post

BY B. J. HETLER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

CHARLEVOIX — The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners will meet in early July to continue discussions of whether to create a county administrator position.

A draft of the responsibilities of the position will be reviewed at that time.

At a meeting on Wednesday, June 14, commissioners OK'd a resolution to participate in a law enforcement agreement with 29 jurisdictions. The agreement provides mutual aid during emergencies. It is known as the Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Task Force.

The Charlevoix Senior Center opted years ago to accept only limited funds from the county's Commission on Aging. The reason, according to center volunteer Richard Tunison, is because it doesn't want government regulations to run its programs.

The programs include homemade meals served at the center and delivered to homes. The government requires centers to use prepackaged meals, Tunison said.

Tunison added the homemade meals taste better and cost less to prepare. The cook saved the center her yearly salary by making meals from scratch, he said.

Another regulation requires that a nurse visit the homes of those who want their meals delivered to verify that the residents couldn't travel to the center. Tunison said they want to be able to deliver meals to whoever wants them, without regulations.

Representatives of the Charlevoix Senior Center came before the commission to ask that the center be allowed more funds, but without the regulations. Of its \$136,000 budget, the center now receives about \$20,000 from the Commission on Aging. The center relies on grants and conducts fund-raisers for the remainder of its budget.

The request was sent to a committee for review. It is expected to be back before commissioners in July.

Area resident Bob Taylor asked the Board of Commissioners to have meeting notices placed where citizens may easily read them at any time of the day or evening.

BC commission considers access options for Avalanche Overlook

BY B. J. HETLER CONTRIBUTING WRITER

BOYNE CITY — The Avalanche Overlook improvements are completed and following the hike up Avalanche hill, visitors will have two new observation decks from which to view the city and countryside.

Volunteers donated time, labor and materials for the project. Along with the observation decks, landscaping was completed and a memorial placed on

the site for Justin Conklin. The improvements were headed up by local residents Hugh and Susan Conklin and their family.

The Overlook is accessible to senior citizens and those unable to trek to the top thanks to the efforts of resident Nord Schroeder and others. Schroeder brought his request to allow occasional vehicle transportation of seniors and others up Avalanche to the city commission at its Tuesday, June 13, meeting.

The city's Parks and Recreation Board had denied the request, based on a concern that vehicles may erode the area, said Jerry Douglas who serves on the parks and recreation board and on the city commission.

Schroeder said he and other builders who volunteered to help with the project thought about those who could not access the site.

In a June 8 letter to city commissioners, Schroeder stated that "this magnificent view is denied to some of our most important community members ... our senior citizens."

Dennis Jason, superintendent of the Department of Public Works spoke in favor of driving seniors stating that Avalanche is community property and for the benefit of everyone.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the transportation.

Commissioners will conduct a work session on marina options following the regular meeting at noon on Tuesday, June 27.

BC hosts 'Public Input' meeting

BOYNE CITY — The City of Boyne City and Boyne City Main Street program are organizing the second Public Input Meeting to discuss the coming infrastructure improvements project in downtown Boyne City.

The meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 29, at 5:30 p.m., at the City Hall Auditorium, is to unveil the current plans for the project including parking configurations and tree and lighting layouts among other details.

This meeting is a follow-up to the first public meeting held on April 18 when the project was introduced to the community. At that time, business owners and residents had an opportunity to share their thoughts about the project as well as suggest ideas for improving the overall streetscape.

Since then, representatives from the City, Main Street program, and engineers have met on a weekly basis to refine the project and discuss the feasibility of many of the suggestions given in April including parking configurations as well as streetscape and landscaping options.

In February, Boyne City received a \$1,000,000 grant for major downtown infrastructure improvements beginning this year. The grant, awarded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), is for sewer, water, and storm line replacements and upgrades, street reconstruction, and new streetscape elements on Water Street, South Lake Street, West Main Street, and Front Street.

Preliminary scheduling anticipates the first phase of the work beginning after Labor Day in 2006.

For more information on the Downtown Infrastructure Improvements Project contact Kelly Larson, Main Street Manager, at 231-582-9009.

Studying to sail

County 4-H boating program celebrates 25th year

By STEVE KLOOSTERMAN INTERIM EDITOR

BOYNE CITY — Mike Kelly of Lansing has been aboard the Charlevoix County 4-H Youth Sailing School Program for more than 10 years.

No, Kelly hasn't failed the class 12 summers running. It's just the sheer fun of being out on the water that keeps him coming back to the water. And, today, he's the head instructor of the program.

"It's just a fun way to do things during the summer, and they can just do these things throughout their life," said Kelly, who owns a cottage locally. "It's just a great way for kids to get out on the water and a great activity for them for the summer."

The sailing school has been operating out of Boyne City and Charlevoix's harbors since 1981. This Friday, June 23, they'll be celebrating their 25th anniversary picnic.

The Sailing Program operates out of Boyne City's harbor for three weeks in the summer before moving to Charlevoix for six weeks.

Children train on two-person

sailboats, and smaller, one-person boats that are harder to tip over.

"We like to get one sailor on there, so they feel like they can figure stuff out by themselves," said instructor Lindsey Carland.

Carland said that kids soon get over the fear of their boat tipping over.

"After they do it once, you can't keep the boats out of the water," she said. "And it's good practice for them to learn how to right the boat."

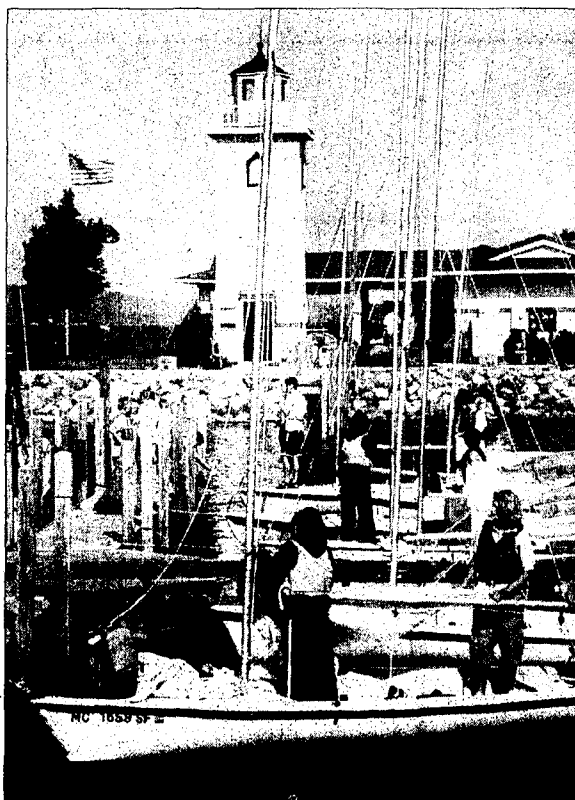
Katie MacKenzie, 12, of Boyne City has been in the sailing program for two years.

"I just liked the them the first year and I liked being on the water," she said. "It was just kind of fun."

MacKenzie said she was proud of learning to sail "without falling over" as she puts it. "And I can do the knots pretty good. That's kind of fun."

Instructor Lindsey Carland said what she liked most about her job is seeing "Their reaction and their expression when they finally get it. You can just see a big sense of achievement on their face when, like I say, they get it."

See SAILING, page 2



The Charlevoix County 4-H Youth Sailing School has been operating out of Boyne City and Charlevoix's harbors since 1981.

# Sheriff provides annual report

BY B. J. HETLER  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

**CHARLEVOIX** — Driving while intoxicated from alcohol is by far the biggest reason that people are escorted by officers to the Charlevoix County Sheriff's Office. The number of people arrested in 2005 was 357.

Probation violation arrests numbered 174, failure to appear in court accounted for 142, while 79 people were arrested for marijuana possession, and 76 arrests were for domestic assault. Total bookings for various offenses were 2,335.

These statistics and other information are contained in the 2005

annual report presented by Sheriff George T. Lasater to the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners at its Wednesday, June 14 meeting.

In 2005, snowmobile violations numbered 14 for no registration, down from 27 violations in 2004, and six violations for trespassing, up from two in 2004.

The annual report shows that among the 15 townships in the county, officers responded to 10,175 complaints. Boyne Valley Township with a population of 1,215 accounted for the most complaints at 1,505.

Officers responded to 1,245 complaints in Charlevoix Township

with a population of 1,697. Melrose Township's population at 1,380 had 1,177 complaints, and Hayes Township with a population of 1,893, had 1,121 complaints.

Peaine Township on Beaver Island had the least number of complaints at 43, with a population of 244, followed by Chandler Township at 98 complaints with a population of 230.

The population figures were taken from the 2000 U.S. Census.

Senior citizens benefit from a sheriff's office program that collects and distributes used cellular telephones to them for 911 emergency calls

only. During 2005, 57 cellular telephones were distributed.

The "Safety Light Bulb" program assists emergency vehicles when responding to a call. The unique bulb fits in an outdoor lighting fixture and when the switch is flipped twice, the bulb blinks on and off to designate the home that needs assistance.

Some of the other programs in the report are the Drug Abuse Resistance Education and the child fingerprinting programs.

Copies of the 2005 annual report may be obtained at the Sheriff's office, or by calling the office at 231-547-4461, to receive a report by mail.



Photo by Vic Ruggies

## Solemn ceremony

American Legion members (l-r) Dean Kleinschrodt, Arthur Cosier and Joe Gerant took part in the Boyne Area VFW ceremony for retiring old flags on Wednesday, June 14. Old and worn American flags were burned in a ceremony.

## COUNTY STATS

### District court

The following cases were decided in the 90th District Court for Charlevoix County, June 14:

**Brittany Jean Ward**, 18, of Charlevoix. Minor in possession of alcohol. Sentenced to pay about \$100 in fines and costs; 60 hours of community service work; attend class.

**Steven C. Murray**, 23, of Boyne City. Operating a vehicle without a license. Sentenced to pay \$200 in fines and costs.

**Beau Andrew Tillotson**, 26, of Walloon Lake. Operating with license suspended/denied. Sentenced to \$260 in fines and costs.

### DBAs

The following businesses recently applied for an assumed name from the Charlevoix County Clerk's office:

**J. Hunt Mobile Notary**, P.O. Box 248, 646 Boyne City Road, Boyne City, by Judith C. Hunt and John S. Hunt.

**Z & R Services**, 2266 S. Advance Road, East Jordan, by Kale Zimmer and by Mark Ruhling.

**Lee Erno Tile & Stone Work**, 01548 Sunterra Trail, Boyne City, by Lee Erno.

**Blue Coyote**, 220 S. Lake St., Boyne City, by BC IN BC, INC., and by Christopher James Thiel.

**The Barber's Construction Company**, 706 Division St., East Jordan, by: Irwin R. Pelton Jr.

**Hart's Services**, 210 Jordan St., East Jordan, by Shirley Hart.

**A & GH Enterprizes**, 334 Hannah St., Boyne City, by Sandra K. Argue.

**Michigan Landscapes**, 1515 Clark Road, Central Lake, by Joseph M. Reedy.

### Marriage Licenses

The following people recently applied for marriage licenses from the Charlevoix County Clerk's office:

**John Joseph Shulick**, 47, of St. Louis, Mo., and **Barbara Ann Hurley**, 51, of Boyne City.

**Ricky Lee Wynkoop**, 50, and **Vida Anne Leadabrand**, 43, both of Charlevoix.

**Randall Keith Moore**, 29, and **Melissa Lynne Charbeneau**, 26, both of Boyne City.

**Shad Franklin Bruce**, 33, and **Lynn Marie Closs**, 40, both of Ellsworth.

**David Wayne Suttle Jr.**, 25, and **Stephene Mishel Vallance**, 24, both of East Jordan.

**Keith Raymond McBee**, 33, and **Julie Elaine Fleming**, 29, both of Boyne City.

**Gerald Lee Marquardt Jr.**, 22, and **Valerie Mae Reiter**, 23, both of Boyne City.

**David Jacob Triplehorn**, 41, and **Heidi Lowell**, 36, both of Charlevoix. **Randall Keith Moore**, 29, and **Melissa Lynne Charbeneau**, 26, both of Boyne City.

**Adam Jeffrey Brege**, 25, of Millersburg, and **Heidi Marie Knapp**, 31, of Charlevoix.

**Jason Michael Roy**, 32, and **Sarah Lynn Warner**, 29, both of Chicago, Ill.

**Jason Matthew Clontz**, 27, and **Amanda Rose Revitzer**, 22, both of Charlevoix.

**William Robert Chambers III**, 26, and **Linda Marie Swart**, 21, both of Augusta, Ga.

**Daniel James Hinton**, 24, and **Cammie Lynn Knebl**, 21, both of East Jordan.

## Sailing

Continued from 1

Kid's faces may reveal the minute they've "got it," but Kelly says he gets real joy from seeing the children grow in their sailing skills.

"They come back every year," said Kelly. "They surely remember you better than you remember them."

He said that he's seen former students progress into competitive sailing and enter races. And as he and Carland both note, sailing's a skill that will stay with some students for most of their lives.

Asked how they keep kids on task and excited about sailing, Carland and Kelley were of one opinion.

"They really can't wait to get on the water," said Carland.

"There's nothing boring about the water," added Kelly.

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## Ellsworth Pig Roast



photos by Eugenia Rios



Photos by Eugenia Rios

Above, Bill Hufman of East Jordan pulls the first load of 15,000 lbs. on Saturday afternoon at the Ellsworth Pig Roast.

Left, Behind the scenes, Dave Harris, Tom Cooper and Brent Vanstedun (l to r) cut up the third of five pigs eaten at the event.

Below left, Yvonne Haschazel, Peter Wendling and State Representative Kevin Elsenheimer (R, Bellaire) (l to r) dish out the pork Saturday afternoon.

Below, Kylie Morris, 4, of East Jordan, devours her cotton candy while Mom watches.



### OBITUARIES

#### Barbara Ann Polinski

Barbara Ann Polinski, 72, of Boyne City, passed away Wednesday morning, June 14, 2006, at Northern Michigan Hospital.

Barbara was born on June 25, 1933, in Detroit, the daughter of Phillip and Magdalen (Derwick) Loeffler. On May 10, 1968, she married John Polinski.

Barbara worked many years as a treasurer for Detroit Testing Machine Company before moving with John to Boyne City in the 1980s. It didn't take long for Barbara to find her niche and quickly became involved in the community. She helped establish the Boyne City Historical Society, Boyne City Yacht Club and Charlevoix County Hospice. Barbara and John opened the White Horse Antique store, a business venture that led to Barbara joining the Boyne City Chamber of Commerce and serving on its board. Barbara then assisted in starting Evenings At The Gazebo in the old park. Around this time, she also served as chairperson for the volunteers at Northern Michigan Hospital Hospitality House. Barbara was a member of St. Matthews Catholic Church and served on the building committee board.

She loved to travel and prepare fine dinners. She enjoyed attending Rotary conventions and helping her husband, John, with Rotary barbecues.

Barbara is survived by her husband, John; sister, Dorothy Karns, of Ohio; and several cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; stepfather, Arthur Allport; brother, William Loeffler; and step-sister, Charolette.

As a close friend said, "Barbara was short on family and long on friends." Her warmth and smile will be missed by all.

A memorial Mass will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 21, at St. Matthews Catholic Church with the Rev. Duane Wachowiak as celebrant.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Northwest Community Health Agency, Benjamin Blum Hospitality House in Petoskey, or St. Matthews Catholic Church Building Fund.

Stackus Funeral Home of Boyne City is serving the family.

## Materials, wallets stolen from workplace

BOYNE CITY — Boyne City Police continue to investigate two burglaries from Great Lakes Energy on 1323 Boyne Avenue in Boyne City.

Stolen from Great Lakes Energy on June 7 and June 12 were several Rolls of copper wiring—very valuable because of high

copper prices, tools, employee's wallets, and miscellaneous items.

The perpetrators entered the yard by cutting the wire fencing that encompasses the service yard. The time of each theft was between 10:45 and 1:30 p.m. The rolls of copper wiring are on black

plastic spools and are coated with a black substance.

Anyone who may have seen unusual activity in the area, or who wishes to provide information on the identity of the suspects, may call the Boyne City Police Department at 231-582-6611.



Courtesy photo

Dan Steiner (right) of Bellaire testifies before the House Judiciary Committee while sitting next to state Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire, with his wife, Ann, listening behind him.

## House committee OK's stiffer penalties for drunk drivers

LANSING — The House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, June 14, unanimously approved legislation by state Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer that better protects the public from repeat drunk drivers by mandating a felony change on the third offense regardless of the time of their previous offense.

Antrim County Sheriff Terry Johnson, and Ann and Dan Steiner testified before the committee and spoke about the loss of Heidi Steiner, the bill's namesake.

House Bill 6009 was developed by the Bellaire lawmaker in response to an Antrim County case in which a convicted drunk driver was charged with a misdemeanor first offense crime although it was his third offense. Until recently, the man was in prison for numerous drunk driving offenses, including a crash that killing Heidi Steiner, a Bellaire High School student.

The name "Heidi's Law" has been

given to memorialize Heidi, whose family has been working with Elsenheimer to craft the legislation.

"I was honored to have Heidi's parents and Sheriff Johnson travel all the way down to Lansing to testify in support of this important bill," said Elsenheimer, a former assistant prosecuting attorney. "I am pleased with the bill's bipartisan support. Our state's criminal justice system should not be in the business of granting repeat drunk drivers special favors, no matter when previous offenses have occurred."

HB 6009 amends the Michigan Vehicle Code to eliminate the current 10-year statute of limitations between first and third, or subsequent, felony drunk or drugged driving offenses.

Under present law, a third offense is only a felony if it occurs within the 10-year time period.

HB 6009 is now before the full House for consideration.

### BCPD NEWS

The following reports are provided courtesy of the Boyne City Police Department:

**Monday, June 12** — Report of a homemade pipe bomb found, suspicious situation on Vogel Street, unlock in Glen's parking lot, driving complaint at Pleasant and Front Streets, domestic dispute on S. Park Street, trespassing at Parkview Apartments, stalking complaint, fireworks and loud people on S. Park Street.

**Tuesday, June 13** — Officer assisted with return of property, 911 check at Parkview Apartments, assault complaint from Old City Park area under investigation.

**Wednesday, June 14** — Unlock of vehicle on Boyne City-East Jordan Road, citation issued for left of center, officer assist in Boyne Falls.

**Thursday, June 15** — Suspicious person on East Main Street, noise

complaint at Water and Park Streets, one arrested for driving while license suspended, stalking complaint on Leroy Street, report of credit card fraud, one lodged for probation violation, motorist assist on Lake Street and West Michigan Avenue, speed citation issued, fireworks near Division Street and Pleasant Avenue.

**Friday, June 16** —

Report of wire down on Grant Street, non-sufficient funds check turned in from BC Pizza, unlock on North Park Street.

**Saturday, June 17** — Two speed citations issued, one arrested for domestic assault.

**Sunday, June 15** — Two arrested for minor in possession of alcohol, 2 citations issued for speed, 911 hang up on North Park Street.

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# OPINION

## WORD ON THE STREET

**Question of the week:**  
"What did you do with your father for Father's Day (Sunday, June 18)?"



"WE ARE visiting them, I guess. One lives in Ann Arbor and the other daughter lives in Cleveland, so we are getting together this week."  
— Juan Fayos, Miami, Fla.



"I PAID for a room for my ex-husband and my son to spend time together at Dickenson Lodge, so they could swim and eat pizza and play the arcade. They had the whole time by themselves ..."  
— Kim Ruge, Boyne City



"WE WENT shopping with him. He needed some new work clothes."  
— Lindsay Boger, Kalkaska



"WE HAD a barbeque at his house."  
— James Johnson, Kalkaska



"WE TOOK him out to eat and spent time with him on the boat."  
— Kyle Doran, Williamsburg



"WE CELEBRATED with my husband. My father lives in Leelanau County."  
— Lori Corcoran, Kalkaska



"I HAD dinner with him at my aunt's apartment."  
— Rusty Headley, Kalkaska



"WE WENT to the U.P. and went ATV-ing."  
— Nick Thompson, Elk Rapids

## THE EYE OF THE STORM



## The plastic bag: A modern-day obsession

Whenever I am standing in the check-out line at a store, I feel the need to protect the environment from a modern-day obsession: the plastic bag.

Wherever I go, a cashier cannot wait to put my purchases into a convenient bag. This problem has reached such a point that now I see cashiers as having a plastic bag complex. Even if I am only buying a single item, after being scanned my item immediately falls into a plastic carrier without question.

"Hello, I don't need a bag," has become the first phrase out of my mouth, and sometimes, "Paper, please."

After my announcement, half of the time my cashier insists that I need a bag either to prove that I have paid for my items or to ensure that I do not drop them in a puddle on the way to my car. I say that if I drop my yarn, shampoo, toothpaste or whatever I happened to buy that day, it is my fault for being so clumsy.

Of course, cashiers are not to blame. They are only doing their job by being helpful and trying to guarantee that the walk to my car remains hassle-free. In fact, they are doing what customers expect from

them. Customers love bags, especially plastic bags with handles that slip easily over wrists to keep hands free for catching scampering children or for scrounging through purses for those keys that we keep insisting are in there.

Perhaps it is not the cashiers who have a plastic bag complex but the shoppers. Regularly, I witness buyers carrying a milk jug or laundry detergent inside a plastic bag.

Why the extra layer? The containers already have a handle so why do we need two more?

One complaint I have heard countless times is that we always seem to leave a store with twice as many bags as necessary. My shampoo does not require additional packaging to prevent it from touching food that is already encased or protected by a rind or peel of some sort.

Furthermore, my 10 items can fit inside one bag instead of being split up into two.

Plastic bags can be recycled so why do I bother complaining? After all, if I do not like plastic I have another option. Paper. Unlike plastic, paper has

the ability to break down once it reaches the landfill — but even paper bags have their drawbacks.

Whether made of paper or plastic, in order for bags to be recycled they must be shipped to a center where they will be sorted, cleaned, shredded and re-melted if required. Only then will the material be used to generate new products.

As much as I love recycling, the entire process requires more energy and resources that can be easily conserved by cutting back on the need to recycle. Reusing is the simplest way to reduce energy and resource consumption.

Some people already reuse plastic bags in their homes to line waste baskets or they stuff them in a corner cupboard for future use when guests need to carry dinner leftovers back home.

Rather than obtain new bags during each shopping spree, salvage bags from the previous week and take them back to the store. Carter's Food Center in Boyne City offers 3 cents off your purchase per reused bag and Glen's Markets in Boyne City and in Petoskey offer a discount of 5 cents per bag.

Unfortunately, our busy, unpredictable lives do not always make recycling and reusing convenient. I know several people who consider recycling a hassle.

Common excuses are usually "I don't have the space," "I

don't have the time," or "I don't care." If a landfill is overflowing in some distant remote location rather than blocking our scenic views of lakes, rivers and sunsets then we do not consider it to be our problem.

Sure, pitching garbage into a trash bin and then forgetting that it ever existed is easy. Yet, I find recycling to be enjoyable and simple.

Reusing is another story, however. Washing certain types of plastic containers that cannot be recycled is unpleasant and so is finding room in my cupboards to store these containers. However, I do it because I take great pride in knowing that I am helping the environment with every scrub.

What I find difficult, though, is remembering to bring my old bags back to the grocery store. As a result of being forgetful, I usually end up juggling my purchases in my arms because I would feel guilty otherwise.

Now, I tend to leave a few bags in the back seat of my car, just in case. I urge those who share my poor memory to do likewise.

Perhaps one day we will conquer our forgetfulness and our indifference toward recycling and reusing. Better yet, perhaps we will overcome our plastic bag complex and become those commendable individuals who proudly carry canvas sacks into the supermarket over their shoulders.

### MAIN COURSE



By Louise Nelle

## YOUR VOICE

### Paved access isn't what the public wants

To the editor:  
Just returned from a walk along the footpath that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wishes to replace with a two-lane paved boating access road to Walloon Lake.

This is the very same boating access site that was closed in 1974 because of the inability of the MDNR to control off-road vehicle use, campfires, and van-

dalism. The labyrinth of two-tracks and marginally improved dirt roads leading to this proposed access site has not changed since 1974.

The 170 acres of 100 year old maple, beech, and hemlock, with the stunningly scenic views of Walloon has recovered since the closure. The public has always been welcome to hike, bike, hunt, swim, fish, kayak, canoe,

and camp.

So, what has changed? Seems the MDNR has come up with the cash, \$600,000 per appropriations bill HB4437. The June 7 "public" meeting, one of the final steps before approval, yielded precious few details. Trees cut, environmental impact, garbage removal, improvement of access roads, all were up in the air.

The MDNR's disconnect with the public's obvious disapproval, and desire for additional information was palpable.

As one bewildered citizen stated, "the MDNR seems to be a train screaming towards the station that no passenger wants off."

All aboard?  
— Michael Smith, Evangeline Township



Publisher/General Manager ..... Dennis Mansfield  
Interim Editor ..... Steve Kloosterman  
Advertising Consultant ..... Jayne Welsheimer  
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Office Manager ..... Jeannine Stetz  
Contributing Writers ..... Jane Booze, B.J. Hetler, Louise Nelle  
Production Coordinator ..... Aimeé-Gibbert



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# THE CITIZEN-JOURNAL

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C O M P A N Y



# All insult, no injury: Movie won't change what most people believe

Anytime a daily newspaper prints an op-ed as the lead story of an issue, it's time to sit up and take notice.

And anytime you see an op-ed dealing with religion above the fold of the front page, well, you'd better make sure you haven't folded it wrong.

So, when I saw Charles Honey's column, "Da Vinci Code" no threat to devout," on the front page of the Grand Rapids Press about a month ago, I gave the fistful of newsprint a shake and checked the page number (I was already standing up).

Hey, the folks at the Press weren't stupid. The Da Vinci Code (first the book, now the movie) is one of the more controversial topics in recent months — because of the things it says about Jesus Christ and because of some of the doubt it casts over Christianity.

Honey's point, if I read him right, was that Christians shouldn't be angry about "The Da

Vinci Code" because it poses no real threat to their faith. Here's an excerpt:

"Calling all angry Christians: Your church has nothing to fear from the movie version of "The Da Vinci Code ... In fact, if your faith is shaken by this movie or the book on which it's based, you seriously need to go back to Sunday school. It's about as theologically threatening as an Indiana Jones movie, though not nearly as exciting."

Before I jump in with both feet let me just say I can't speak for anyone but myself on this subject. I'm a Christian, but I'm not a minister, I'm not a leader and I'm not even a statistician.

This is only one man's opinion. To me, "The Da Vinci Code" is all insult and no injury. This story of Brown's is a slander of everything that many of us Christians believe. Christianity has survived plenty of fiction and lies in its day — one more won't sink us. All the same, you can't expect us to take such punish-

ment sitting down.

Here's where I agree with Honey. For me, "The Da Vinci Code" not so much threatens my faith as it does offend me. If it did threaten my faith, I'd probably be in an angry mob somewhere, shooting an AK-47 into the air, just like some Muslim factions seem to do every time they feel their beliefs have been slighted.

But my faith doesn't depend on movies, and it won't be broken by them. My faith depends on a nailed-shut, no-exceptions belief in the truth of every last word of the Bible and an ongoing dialogue I have with Jesus. I wasn't saved by "The Jesus Film" or "The Passion," and likewise I won't be lost by "The Da Vinci Code" or "The Last Temptation of Christ." If people like Dan Brown want to dream up outrageous fictions about Jesus, that will not affect my relationship with Jesus.

No movie will affect our relationship—but because of our relationship, I refuse to see certain movies. The reason I refuse to see The Da Vinci Code movie, and the reason I despise the book, is that they say some false things about my God.

I think Honey ignores the fact that we Chris-

tians are like most other people. Disrespect our historical traditions, contradict the most basic of our beliefs and invent stories about our God, and yeah, we get angry, same as everybody else does.

Now, working in the newspaper business has taught me that people can be offended at anything, if only they put their minds to it. Quite frequently, they are determined to be offended, even before they know to what specifically they are objecting.

But on days that I more or less manage to live up to my ideals (they don't come so often), I talk to Jesus before lunch, read his words before I go to bed and think about him throughout the day.

And I'm well aware this sounds like a cliché, but he's my best friend and my brother, as well as my "Boss." I believe Jesus was a real man who died on a hill so many years ago. But I don't think of him as a historical character, as fodder for somebody's stupid novel. I believe he's alive and well, because I believe that he rose from the dead, and because I believe I talked to him last night.

That's why I care what people say about Jesus, and that's why I'm offended by "The Da Vinci Code."

## THE SMIRK



By Steve Kloosterman

## NEIGHBORS

O.J. and Patty Adkins of Chicago, Ill. and Boyne City welcomed their first grandchild into the world May 3.

Their oldest daughter, Jennifer (Daryl) Michael, of Grand Rapids, gave birth to Eliana Grace Michael at 2:10 p.m. at St. Mary's Hospital.

Eliana weighed in at 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. All went well for both mother and daughter.

On a special note, O.J.'s and Patty's other daughter, Dawn (Damon) Davis, of Mt. Pleasant is also expecting her first baby in November.

A recent ultrasound revealed that they too could expect a little girl. I'm told that the proud grandparents have yet to stop smiling.

Wanda (Heaton) Hill



By Nancy Northup

of Charlevoix passed away a short time ago and it brought together much of the Heaton Family. Vivian and Hylon Heaton, who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in a few months attended along with their family members Wanda, Hylon, and Wendel and their spouses.

Emilie (Heaton) Kosa of Florida sent her regards. Wilma Heaton of Boyne City also attended along with family members

Petey and Michael and their spouses. They all came together at a reception put on by the Charlevoix United Methodist Church and later at the home of Wanda and Hal Hill. Julie and Hal (Bunker) Hill hosted the reunion.

In sadness they all found reward for the years of happy fellowship provided by our Heaton heritage.

Are you preparing a swift moving raft?

You should be, as the raft race event of July 4th is rapidly approaching. The more entries there are, the more exciting it is.

The Boyne City Class of 1958 is a busy one — they always meet once a month for

lunch somewhere in the Boyne City area. Their next lunch will be next June 21 at Water St. Cafe and Doug and Danya (Bryan) Liverance (Williamston) will be stopping in on their way back from a few days stay on Mackinaw Island. They welcome all Boyne City alumni.

The congregation of the United Methodist Church in Boyne was delighted to have former pastor Rev. Gary Bondarenko and wife, Lisa, as guests this past Sunday. All enjoyed hearing Lisa sing again. The family now has three children and the family was well received, having pastored the local congregation for nine years.

Jennifer Witer and her five daughters plus

one dog came up from Anna, Ohio, to see Louisa and Nels Northup. They stayed for a week and really enjoyed Boyne City, the water, the streets and the restaurants.

Merle and Mary Carson of Boyne City drove to Kissimmee, Fla., last week, joining daughters Linda and Connie and their families for a week of fun in Disney theme parks.

Merle and Mary enjoyed watching the three granddaughters, Jenna, Alissa and Kaylee see Cinderella and all the rest of the Disney characters. Grandson Brandon was off doing "guy things" with his dad. En route home, they visited Savannah, Ga.

They then went on to

Dawson, to visit daughter Karen and help out at the high school food concession, as they were holding a cancer relay, raising over \$20,000 for research. The Carsons had a great time, but are glad to be home.

Brenda Thompson hosted a successful party on Friday afternoon in the community room at Litzenger Place.

With good health as the party theme, she introduced delicious multi-flavored vitamin enriched energy boosting drinks. All enjoyed free samples as well as a good time. Good job, Brenda.

Ruth Shaver of Boyne City was pleased to have a visit from her granddaughter Debby

and husband and son of Camp Michigan this past week.

The BCHS class of 1947 met on Thursday for lunch. The six attending had a great time getting caught up on things, and making plans for another lunch at BC Pizza on July 29.

The summer is flying by, but an August picnic is being planned.

Check out the Boyne City Historical Society Museum. There are many interesting things to see, especially in commemorating Boyne's 150th birthday. The museum is now open Saturdays, from 1 to 4 p.m., or later.

— Items for Neighbors may be called in to 231-582-9174 or e-mailed to neighbors@gtlakes.com before noon Friday.

## LETTER POLICY

The Citizen-Journal encourages and welcomes its readers to submit letters or emails expressing their opinions.

Letters will be published on a space available basis and will receive priority according to potential interest, timeliness in connection with other events, or whether similar letters from other authors have been published previously.

The Citizen-Journal reserves the right to edit all letters for length, grammar and clarity, as well as the right to reject any letter.

Deadline for letters to the editor, as well as other community news items, is noon Friday.

Contact the editor at 231-582-6762 or via e-mail at citizen@voyager.net for details.

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Best Image Possible

**STUDENT NEWS**

**Kyle Barnes**, grandson of Boyne City's Caroline Barnes, graduated Cum Laude from Hope College on May 7.

Kyle earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and is certificated to teach physical education and biology.

Kyle is also one of four graduates receiving the William and Mabel Vanderbilt Sr. Family Award in Kinesiology. He was active in cross country and track all four years at Hope College receiving varsity letters in each sport and being captain of the cross country team in his junior year.

**Rebecca Sue Hoesli** recently completed her student teaching with at risk students in Grand Rapids' inner city and then with English as a second language students in Guadalajara, Mexico.

She flew home just in time to graduate from Cornerstone University, in Grand Rapids. Rebecca received her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a mathematics, Spanish, and a science studies group minors, Summa Cum Laude.

Rebecca is a 2002 graduate of Harbor Light Christian School and the daughter of Doug and Susan Hoesli of Boyne City.

Two hundred seventy-eight students graduated from North Central Michigan College this school year.

Among the graduates were the following:

From Boyne City:

**Jamie Wise, Christine Baxter** (distinction), **Brandon Carey, Zachary Compton, Christina Evans** (Ddistinction), **Michelle Fish** (distinction), **Adam Friedrich** (Distinction), **Sarah Hall, Mary Hancock** (highest distinction), **Dianne Heins, Melisa Hickerty, Shari Hofbauer** (high distinction), **Stephanie Hull, Jonathan Mauchmar, Michelle Metzger, Sherry Shannon, Tucker Simpson, Jessica White** (high distinction) and **Corey Wise**.

From Boyne Falls: **Elisabeth Barber, Jennifer Bard** (distinction), **Misty Cichoracki, Robert George** and **Megan Pernicano** (distinction).

From East Jordan: **William Beavers** (high distinction), **Lucy Cornell** (distinction), **Choral Decker, Janelle Doebel, Lori Gee** (distinction), **Amanda Haney, April Hayden, Tina Hosler, Amanda Kline** (high distinction), **Adam Landis** (distinction), **Chad Muma, Jessica Murphy, Donna Murray, Jacquelyn Pinney, Donna Ruhlning, Elliot Shay, Angela Thayer, William Tison Jr. and Tamara Weaver**.

The following local students have made the dean's list at Kettering University for the winter 2006 semester: **Matthew Koteskey** of Boyne City and **Matthew Juszczyk**, also of Boyne City.

Juszczyk is pursuing a bachelor's in electrical engineering. Koteskey is pursuing a bachelor's in

mechanical engineering. The dean's list at Kettering University is an honor earned by students, who in a given term, have attained a minimum weighted grade average of 92.0 out of a possible 100, have received no grades below 85, and have earned a minimum of 16 credits.

Several local students have earned the distinction of being included on the Lake Superior State University dean's list for the spring semester 2006: **Aaron Westrick** of Boyne City, senior, criminal justice; **Kyle Leese** of Charlevoix, senior, history; **Natashia Kleiber** of Charlevoix, junior, elementary education; **Nickolas Moes** of East Jordan, senior, business management; **Lori Olson** of East Jordan, a senior, business management; and **Lacey Taylor** of East Jordan, senior, fire science.

To make the dean's list, students must achieve a 3.5 GPA for the semester on a 4.0 scale.

More than 130 Alma College students participated in Alma College's 10th annual Kapp Honors Day program on Thursday, April 6.

The day provides a forum when traditional classes are canceled and students share their original research, creativity and talents with an audience of their peers.

Sophomore **Benjamin Place** of Boyne City gave a presentation titled "Environmental Chemical Analysis of U.S.-Mexico Border

Soil and Water." A 2004 graduate of Boyne City High School, he is the son of Andrew and Cindi Place of Boyne City.

Alma College has named over 375 students to the Dean's List for outstanding academic performance during the 2006 Winter Term.

Among those achieving this honor are:

• Sophomore **Benjamin Place**, a 2004 graduate of Boyne City High School, the son of Andrew and Cindi Place of Boyne City;

• Sophomore **Jordan Voice**, a 2004 graduate of Boyne City High School, the son of Steven and Becky Voice of Boyne City;

• Junior **Nicole Wallesverd**, a 2003 graduate of Boyne City High School, the daughter of Randy and Lisa Luebke of Boyne City; and

• Freshman **Thomas**, a 2005 graduate of East Jordan High School, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Krause of East Jordan.

Central Michigan University's spring semester honors list includes students from this area who earned a 3.5 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) or higher.

They are: **Sarah E. Ferree**, senior, **Cory M. Handy**, senior, **Sheryl L. Sturza**, junior, and **Bobbie J. Zavesky**, junior, all of Boyne City; **Kayla A. Reynolds**, junior, and **Adam C. Utley**, senior, both of Boyne Falls; **Kimberly**

**N. Beauvais**, sophomore, **Meghan A. Dovick**, senior, **Anna L. Olson**, senior, and **Bethany N. Wilson**, senior, all of East Jordan; and **Leonard S. Hershberger**, senior, of Walloon Lake.

The spring semester ended in May.

North Central Michigan College has announced the president's and dean's lists for the winter 2006 semester.

The president's list requires a 4.0 GPA; the dean's list requires a 3.5 GPA.

Students on the president's list include: **Lydia Cosier** and **Ashleigh Dawn Wiltjer** of Boyne City; and **Christine Ann Brooks** and **Tina M. Hosler** of East Jordan.

Students on the dean's list include: **Kathleen Margaret Adkison**, **Amy Marguerite Berns**, **Wilber James Espey**, **Christina Kay Evans**, **Sydney Lynden Fish**, **Adam Reile Friedrich**, **Melisa K Hickerty**, **Margaret Frances Kelley**, **Zachary Alan Slate** and **Corey Allen Wise** of Boyne City; **Jennifer Anne Bard** and **Megan Ivy Pernicano** of Boyne Falls; **Michael Joseph Anderson**, **Donald Dale Kirk**, **Victoria Lynn Sevigny**, and **Joseph James Sievertson** of East Jordan; as well as **Jessica L. Crozier**, **Hayley Marie Marzec**, and **Jillian Rae Vratanina**.

**Mark C. McKenney** of East Jordan, a senior majoring in computer network and system ad-

ministration, was among more than 1,300 students who were placed on the spring 2006 dean's list at Michigan Technological University, earning GPAs of 3.5 or higher.

Northern Michigan University has announced the dean's list for the winter 2006 semester. The following students qualified with a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99: **Beau D. Detcher**, **Megan M. Keiser**,

**Geoffrey K. Martin**, **Melinda J. McCutcheon**, **Raechel L. Percy** and **Aurora L. Ryan**, all of Boyne City, and **Jeremy L. Penzien**, **Jessica N. Vallance**, and **Deanna L. Walter**, all of East Jordan.

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**HAPPENINGS**

**DDA holds brick sale**

The East Jordan Downtown Development Association, is selling custom engraved brick pavers that will be installed during the reconstruction of M-32.

Custom bricks can be purchased for \$40 each. Orders can be placed at Busy Bridge, The Quilt Shop, Cafe Casa, or the EJ Chamber of Commerce.

The sale will go through July 30.

Inquiries can be directed to Sharon Jackson at 231-536-3511.

**Garden club potluck slated**

The Boyne Valley Garden Club is holding its annual potluck and plant exchange at 1 p.m., June 22, in the Community Room of the Boyne City Library.

Club members are asked to bring a dish to pass, serving spoons, and any plants they'd like to share.

For details, call club president Gary Francis at 231-582-1129.

**Show, fund-raiser set for June 23**

The Boyne City Sesquicentennial Planning Committee is hosting a variety show and auction at the Wolverine Dilworth Hotel at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 23.

The event will consist of a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and an extravaganza of local talent, including a bagpiper, a rendition of "Old Ragged Flag," and appearances by Patsy

**Boyne Area Senior Center Schedule**

Attend the Boyne Area Senior Center on Thursday, June 22, and enjoy a lunch with soup, salad bar and sandwich. Lunch is served at noon. At 9 a.m. Sit and Be Fit exercise will begin. Cards will follow lunch at 12:45 p.m. Tai Chi class will begin at 1 p.m.

On Friday, June 23, the planned menu is a stuffed pepper and mashed potatoes. Friday is music day. Come and enjoy the entertainment by the "Tag a Longs." They will begin playing at 11 a.m.

June 26, Monday, lemon pepper cod will be served. We will also have a bake sale, craft sale and a 50/50 drawing. Bingo will follow lunch on Monday.

Chicken ala king will be served on Tuesday, June 27. Sit and Be Fit will begin at 9 a.m.

June 28, Wednesday, goulash is on the menu. Line dancing will begin at 10:30 a.m. Bingo will follow lunch.

Cline, Boyne Area Senior Steppers, Robin Berry, and a group of children performing "Who's On First."

Auctioneer Scott MacKenzie is taking bids for items such as a canoe tour of the Boyne River, a handmade patriotic quilt, antique butter churn, and handcarved birds.

**Free HIV testing available**

Planned Parenthood Northern Michigan will offer free HIV counseling and testing on Friday, June 23.

Tests will be available, subject to availability, at PPNM's health center located at 1003 Spring St. in Petoskey.

Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins will be accommodated if possible. Testing will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To schedule an HIV test or for more information, call PPNM at 231-347-9692.

**Friske's to salute strawberries**

Friske Orchard's Farm Market will hold their annual Strawberry Social on Saturday, June 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activities will include a strawberry pancake breakfast at the Orchard Cafe, u-pick strawberries at the farm on Doctor Road, a large handicrafts show, wagon rides, feeding the barnyard animals, completing the rope maze and enjoying live music both in the cafe and outdoors.

Friske's Farm Market is located 10 miles south of Charlevoix, right on US-31 at Atwood and is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Art exhibition opens at JRAC**

On Sunday, June 25, the Jordan River Art Center Board of Directors will host the Annual Invitational Art Exhibition at the JRAC facility, 301 Main St., East Jordan.

More than 40 area artists will exhibit paintings, drawings, prints, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, and jewelry. Most of the work will be for sale.

The invitational runs from June 25 through July 14 and is open daily from 1-4 p.m.

For more information call 231-536-2152 or check the web site: jordanriverarts.org.

**Auditions for kid's theatre begin**

The Missoula Children's Theatre will be at East Jordan High School on Monday, June 26, for auditions for the summer performance of "The Frog Prince."

Any students in grades 1-12 that are interested in being involved in the performance can audition.

About 50-60 students are needed to participate. Auditions will be held at 10 a.m. on June 26, in the high school gym.

Rehearsals will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the East Jordan High School Auditorium during the week of June 26-30.

Performances for the community will be held at 3 p.m. and 7

p.m. on Saturday, July 1.

For more information, contact Kim Brown at 231-536-3131.

**History of ferry to be explored**

The Charlevoix County History Preservation Society will hold its membership meeting Monday, June 26, at 7 p.m., at the Eveline Township Hall, 08525 Ferry Road, East Jordan, about a mile southeast of the Ironton Ferry.

The program will be "The History of Ironton and the Ironton Ferry."

The public is always invited to our programs and we value their sharing of information on the history of the area.

For more information contact president Carol Goodenough at 231-582-7042 or charlevoixchps@yahoo.com.

**Arts camp announced**

Crooked Tree Arts Center announces the Gerber Music Education Program Summer Strings Camp.

Camp dates begin July 5-27, and there are one-day and three-day-a-week options.

Participating students have the opportunity to perform in the Charlotte Ross Lee Concert in the Park on July 27.

For registration and information contact Crooked Tree Arts Center at 231-347-4337 or www.crookedtree.org

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# Fun scheduled for BC 'Stroll the Streets' events

**BOYNE CITY.** — Boyne City's downtown will again be filled with music and fun during this summer's Stroll the Streets of Boyne every Friday night from June 30 to Sept. 1, 6-9 p.m.

The Boyne City Main Street program is organizing entertainment to create a vibrant and enjoyable atmosphere for residents and visitors to relax and "stroll" through downtown.

This is the third year for Stroll the Streets. Music will range from traditional folk artists to jazz and rock bands.

Special activities in-

clude magicians, caricature artists, gymnastics clubs, face-painting, and balloon-twisting. Some of the bands coming include Horton Creek, Brigg Day & His Barn Mountain Boys, Kristie Glasgow, Coldwater and Straight Forward Bluegrass Band.

"It's amazing how many people have come up to me and told me how much they enjoy the event," said Kelly Larson, Main Street manager. "We have had people tell us that they make sure they leave their house downtown by a certain time just so

they can get to Boyne City in time for Stroll the Streets."

One of the major goals behind the Friday night Strolls is to improve the overall image of Boyne City as a fun place to spend quality time and gain more exposure for local businesses from potential customers.

"We want people to know that if you come to Boyne City you are going to have fun and you are going to see something new," Larson said.

For details on Stroll the Streets or the Main Street program, contact Larson at 231-582-9009.



Joey Edmonds (left) and Dylan Ruehle from Jane Young's class take center stage for their string performance. Joey and Dylan, as well as other Orion students, developed their talent and passion for string instruments through Beginning Strings lessons offered through Crooked Tree Arts Center. Courtesy photo

## Talent show highlights Orion students' skills

**BOYNE FALLS.** — American Idol has nothing on these kids. Exceptional abilities were showcased at the

Student Talent Show just before the end of school at Orion School in Boyne Falls. The alternative edu-

cation program operated by Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District hosted the show to allow students to show their abilities on stage in front of their peers and school faculty. Besides musical presentations, the Orion School Student Talent Show including drawing demonstrations and comedic acts.

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# Lancers fall in Div. IV semi-final

By PHIL TROMBLEY  
SPORTS WRITER

**BATTLE CREEK** — Exciting! That was the word that head coach Jack Danbert kept using to describe the Ellsworth girls varsity softball team's first ever trip to the Division IV state semi-finals, held in Battle Creek on Friday, June 16.

"It was exciting," Danbert said. "The kids were excited, the community was excited and it was a great opportunity."

The Lancers left on noon Thursday and arrived in Battle Creek in time to find a field and get in 1 final practice before Friday's 1:30 p.m. matchup with Petersburg-Summerfield.

After a good night's rest the team hit the Bailey Park field eager to play and ready to go, but unfortunately the Lancers were not able to advance to Saturday's championship game as Petersburg-Summerfield (30-5) eliminated Ellsworth with a 4-1 victory.

Both teams entered the game with 29 victories for the season and both squads fielded hard-throwing starting pitchers in Jordan Ratliff and the Lancers' Andrea Hoeksema.

Ratliff tossed a 1-hitter to earn the win with 7 strikeouts and no walks, while Hoeksema took the loss, striking out 4 without surrendering a walk.

Despite the season-ending defeat, Danbert expressed his feelings as his squad finished with a 29-5 record.

"It doesn't get any

better than that and I think we represented Northern Michigan very well, considering the size of the school we played against," he said.

Big-game jitters were a factor when some early Ellsworth miscues led to 2 Petersburg-Summerfield runs in the opening inning and the Bulldogs jumped on top by a 3-0 score before the Lancers could settle in.

"The kids were just a little nervous," Danbert said. "The mistakes we made were in the first inning and that led to a couple of runs. But we played even with them the rest of the game."

Ellsworth scored its run in the second inning when Hoeksema singled to get the rally started and Emily Kearney came in as a pinch-runner. Kearney advanced to second on a fielder's choice by Hannah Boss and reached third on another fielder's choice from Kellee Drenth. Kearney then scored on a misplayed ball off the bat of Christine Vincent.

Allen Park Cabrini claimed the state championship trophy, defeating Petersburg-Summerfield, 2-0, in the final game.

The game marked the final appearance in uniform for seniors Hoeksema, Boss, Vincent and Bolser, who all drew the praise of their coach.

"All these players did an excellent job for us all year," he said. "They were wonderful, they were a pleasure to coach and they had a great attitude all season long."

# Local athletes garner post-season honors

By PHIL TROMBLEY  
SPORTS WRITER

**BOYNE CITY** — With the spring high school sports season coming to a close last weekend, the Lake Michigan Conference and the northern Michigan district selection committees have released the 2006 spring all-conference and all-district teams.

Local athletes receiving post-season honors for baseball are Dallas Dougherty (all-conference, all-district), Matt Pater (all-conference, all-district), Josh Cooper (all-conference, all-district), Eric Hansen (all-conference, all-district), Shane Gardner (honorable mention all-conference, all-district) and

Andrew Streufert (honorable mention all-conference, all-district), all of East Jordan; Tyler Kruzel (all-conference, all-district), Robbie Jensen (all-conference, all-district), Will Brown (all-district), Sean Mills (honorable mention all-conference, all-district) and Kirk Smith (honorable mention all-conference), all of Boyne City.

Local athletes receiving post-season honors for softball are Sierra Roberts (all-conference), Andrea Chew (honorable mention all-conference) and Jessica Roberts (honorable mention all-conference), all of East Jordan; and Haili Friedrich (all-conference, all-district), Molly Hausler (all-conference), Allison Aown (all-

conference, all-district), Holly Stanek (honorable mention all-conference, all-district) and Stephanie Woodward (honorable mention all-conference, all-district), all of Boyne City.

Local athletes receiving post-season honors for soccer are Katherine Rowley (all-conference, all-district) and Melanie Hillaker (honorable mention all-conference, all-district), both of East Jordan; and Lindsay Baic (all-conference, all-district), Amy Anderson (all-district), Kristin Moody (all-district), Sam Dunwoody (all-district), Savannah O'Brien (all-district) and Emilce Moeke (honorable mention all-conference, all-district), all of Boyne City.

# Strong athletic heritage present here northern Michigan

Within the Up North Publications (which consists of the Boyne City Citizen-Journal, Elk Rapids Town Meeting, Kalkaska Leader and Antrim County News) coverage area there are 11 high schools that compete in sports through the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Our coverage area includes roughly 2.5 counties (Kalkaska, Antrim and part of Charlevoix County). And when you consider the fact that there are about 740 high schools in the state which compete in organized athletics, it is a relatively small number that we cover.

But anyone who peruses the MHSAA historical records will find that the 11 schools in our little area of northern Michigan are anything but small in terms of success.

When most think of state championships and great success in Michigan high school athletics, their thoughts will turn to the Detroit or Grand Rapids area.

But if you ask me my mind will recall reading about some teams from way up north. Teams that deserve to be remembered just as much as any downstate champion.

Totaling up the state-level athletic achievements of our 11 high schools, there are 9 state championships and 17 state runner-up finishes in 9 different

## RISING & CONVERGING



By Andy Taylor

sports.

Wow.

And every single one of them has an incredible story to tell. I'm sure. Like the state championship won by the 1916 Kalkaska boys basketball team. Think of how much the sport has changed over the past 90 years and how interesting it would have been to sit down and talk about the big game with one of the players from that Blazers squad.

Or how about the East Jordan boys tennis team that won a state title back in 1955. How interesting to discuss the sport with those players, especially considering East Jordan High School no longer has a boys tennis team.

And there were mini-dynasties at some of the high schools — teams that won more

than 1 state title. Like the Elk Rapids boys soccer team that won 2 state championships in 1997 and 1998. Or the Boyne City boys track team that won 2 titles in a row in 1957 and 1958. Or the East Jordan boys cross country team that won state titles in 1998 and 2000.

If anyone can remember the Central Lake girls softball team of the late 1970s and 1980s, they will remember what it means to be consistent winners. The Trojans won a state championship in 1980 and made it to the final game in 1978, 1984 and 1986.

And for those members of teams that struggled last season, just remember your past and realize that your team's time will come again. The Elk Rapids boys basketball team of 2005-06 fought through a difficult season, which saw them end the year at 3-17 overall. But chin up Elks, just think about your counterparts from the 1929 season who advanced all the way to the state championship game. Your time will come

again. Yes, I realize winning is not everything. In fact, it is those individual and team achievements which are done out of the spotlight which matter far more than a trophy.

But those teams from our past which went far and did the improbable deserve to be recognized. Not because they were the best or because they brought back a huge trophy, but because they are part of our past and showed the rest of us that the improbable and unlikely can be done.

We have a number of "Hoosiers"-like stories within our own little area that are just waiting to be told. The

rest of us just need to listen a little better.

Because when it comes down to it sports are more than just a ball going through a hoop or a puck going into a goal.

— Readers may

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contact sports writer Andy Taylor via e-mail at [staffwriter@1orchlake.com](mailto:staffwriter@1orchlake.com).

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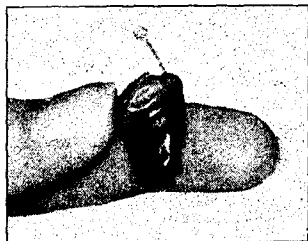
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**MORTGAGE SALE** - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Christine M. Wacholz, to Argent Mortgage Company, LLC, Mortgagee, dated February 12, 2003 and recorded February 25, 2003 in Liber 520, Page 530, Charlevoix County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty and 89/100 Dollars (\$73,980.89) including interest at 10.38% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made as provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the main lobby of Charlevoix County Courthouse in Charlevoix in Charlevoix County, Michigan at 11:00 a.m. on JULY 21, 2006.

Said premises are located in the City of Boyne City, Charlevoix County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot 219, Block 15 of Nicholl's and Morgan's Second Addition to South Boyne (now City of Boyne City), Excepting Therefrom, a strip of land 15 feet wide off the South side of Lot 219, also: The West one-half of the vacated alley as recorded in Liber 395, Page 633 and corrected in Liber 416, Page 304, Charlevoix County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Dated: June 21, 2006

Oriens Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Servicer P.O. Box 5041 Troy, MI 48007-5041 (248) 457-1000 File No. 213.0716

**Notice Of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale**

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**ATTN PURCHASERS:** This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

**MORTGAGE SALE** - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Michael B. Webb and Heather M. Webb, husband and wife, original mortgagor(s), to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated January 23, 2003, and recorded on January 28, 2003 in Liber 514 on Page 247, in Charlevoix county records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventeen Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Seven And 88/100 Dollars (\$117,137.88), including interest at 6.25% per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made as provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue, at the Main lobby of the Charlevoix County Courthouse in Charlevoix at 11:00 AM, on June 30, 2006.

Said premises are situated in City of East Jordan, Charlevoix County, Michigan, and are described as: The West 1/2 of Lots 5 and 6, Block 10, Nicholl's Addition to the Village of South Lake, now City of East Jordan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Charlevoix County Records

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: May 31, 2006

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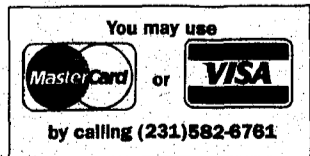
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# THE CITIZEN-JOURNAL



# COMICS & CONUNDRUMS

## su|do|ku

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9, but only once in each. No number is repeated in any row, column, or box.

Tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com). For solutions check 'JRC Publications' on the solutions page of [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com).

4				9	6	7		
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3		1	5					4

V. EASY #31

## Super Crossword COMPLETE THE THOUGHT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Skilled
  - 5 1492 vessel
  - 9 Proclaimed pompously
  - 15 With 103
  - 18 Flynn of films
  - 19 Tart
  - 20 Texas city
  - 21 Flat hat
  - 22 If at first you don't succeed ...
  - 25 Actress Gardner
  - 26 Long-running Western
  - 27 Ed of "Lou Grant"
  - 28 Actor Young Turner or Cole
  - 30 "Yo!" at the library
  - 33 Triangle type
  - 37 — Na Na
  - 40 Build
  - 42 Cartoon cry
  - 45 Nitrous —
  - 48 Save the whales ...
  - 51 Conductor Doral
  - 52 Magle or Mineo
  - 53 — the Sheriff (74 hit)
  - 54 Spiked the punch
  - 58 Keanu of "Speed"
  - 60 Forsaken
  - 62 Erwin or Gilliam
  - 63 Night noise
  - 64 No-nonsense Athenian
  - 65 Musical finale
  - 67 Poem of praise
  - 69 "My Favorite" — (82 film)
  - 70 He who laughs last ...
  - 75 Type of pear
  - 78 Mine find
  - 80 Act like a Crabbe
  - 81 Sample the
  - 85 Activist Medgar
  - 87 Unwell
  - 88 Italian rumbler
  - 91 California town
  - 93 Robert of "The Citadel"
  - 94 Insomnia cure?
  - 96 Tritic of tennis
  - 98 Tales
  - 99 A penny saved is ...
  - 103 See 15 Across
  - 105 Maestro de Waart
  - 106 More appealing
  - 107 It may be white
  - 108 Grisham characters
  - 110 — "Shame" (70 song)
  - 111 Excellent
  - 114 Citrus cooler
  - 115 Eventual oak
  - 119 Returns from a trip
  - 123 Sundial numeral
  - 124 Honk if you ...
  - 129 "Cheers" prop
  - 130 Negative terminals
  - 131 — Spumante
  - 132 Travis or Quaid
  - 133 — blond
  - 134 "The —" (81 film)
  - 135 Competition
  - 136 Incites Rover
  - 5 Out-of-this-world org.
  - 6 Hoop. area
  - 7 Pen point
  - 8 Commotion
  - 9 Auto pioneer
  - 10 Eaves dropper?
  - 11 "Rule, Britannia" composer
  - 12 "The — of a Clown" (70 song)
  - 13 PA hours
  - 14 Buck's beloved
  - 15 Put on
  - 16 Deep gorge
  - 17 Persona
  - 18 Peter out
  - 23 Montezuma, for one
  - 24 "The Wind in the Willows" critic
  - 30 Fanny part
  - 31 Junk
  - 32 Sault — Marie, MI
  - 34 — Cob, CT
  - 35 Jumps on the ice
  - 36 Catalogue
  - 37 Trauma aftermath
  - 38 Sharpened a skill
  - 39 Change
  - 41 Certain line-men: abbr.
  - 42 Surprised sounds
  - 43 Reacts to fireworks
  - 44 "Martha" composer
  - 47 89 Across output
  - 48 Vote in
  - 49 Like some beaches
  - 50 Practice piece
  - 55 Runner Sebastian
  - 56 Age
  - 57 Augsburg article
  - 58 Manhattan area
  - 61 Writer MacDonald
  - 66 Disembarked
  - 68 Punta del —
  - 71 Coming from Cork
  - 72 Nervous —
  - 73 Literary collection
  - 74 Roberts or Tucker
  - 75 You can retire on it
  - 76 "Ab —" (from the start)
  - 77 DC figure
  - 78 Nook's companion
  - 82 Strike-breaker
  - 83 Innsbruck's locale
  - 84 Boredom
  - 86 Tend the fire
  - 88 Expect back
  - 90 Major artery
  - 92 Word form for "bone"
  - 95 Conceal
  - 97 Dunces denial
  - 100 Pine product
  - 101 UN Day month
  - 102 Splendid
  - 103 "Good Night" — (1853 song)
  - 104 USNA anthem word
  - 108 First dog in space
  - 109 Relish
  - 110 Claire or Bain
  - 112 Alphabet sequence
  - 113 Neighbor of Cahu
  - 116 Surrender
  - 117 Ready for business
  - 118 Be still
  - 119 Component
  - 120 Pres. Bush, e.g.
  - 121 Converse competitor
  - 122 Pig's digs
  - 124 Fold over
  - 125 "Sat —" suffix
  - 126 Machine part
  - 127 Language suffix
  - 128 Tackled a taco

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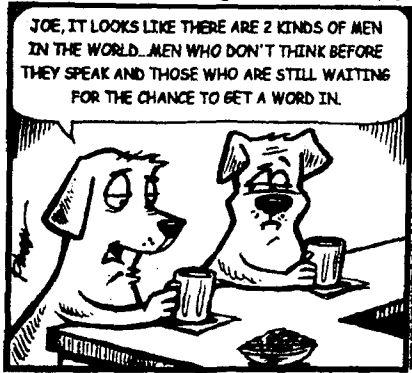
### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

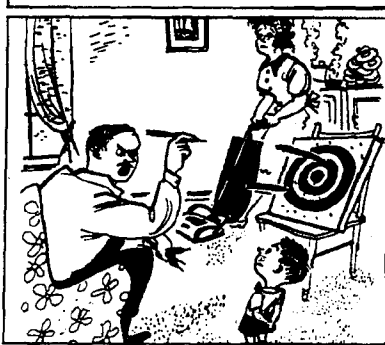


### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



### LAFF-A-DAY



"Ask your mother. Can't you see daddy's busy?"

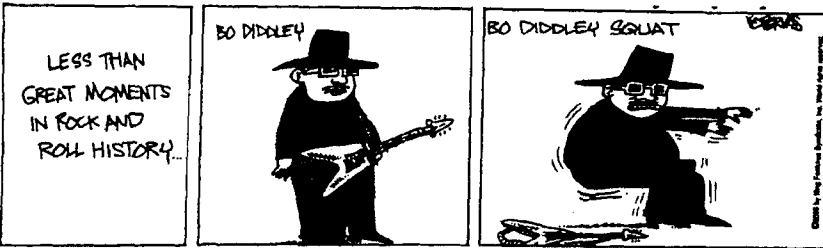
### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### Mama's Boyz

by Jerry Craft



### Amber Waves

by Dave Phipps



### Sudoku Answers

4	5	8	2	3	9	6	1	7
2	9	3	6	7	1	5	4	8
1	7	6	4	8	5	9	2	3
5	3	2	1	4	6	7	8	9
6	1	9	7	5	8	4	3	2
8	4	7	9	2	3	1	5	6
9	6	4	8	1	2	3	7	5
7	2	5	3	6	4	8	9	1
3	8	1	5	9	7	2	6	4

### Super Crossword Answers

A	B	L	E	N	I	N	A	O	R	A	T	E	S	R	I				
E	R	R	O	L	A	C	I	D	L	A	R	E	D	O	T	A	M		
B	L	A	M	E	A	S	U	B	O	R	D	I	N	A	T	E	A	V	A
B	O	N	A	N	Z	A	A	B	S	O	R	N	E	R	G	I	G		
N	A	T	P	S	T			B	C	A	L	E	N	E					
S	H	A		E	R	E	C	T	O	O	F	O	X	I	D	E			
C	O	L	L	E	C	T	T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E	R	E	T		
A	N	T	A	L	S	A	L	I	S	H	O	T	L	A	C	E	D		
R	E	E	V	E	S	L	O	R	N	B	T	U	S	N	O	R	E		
D	R	A	C	O		C	O	D	A	O	D	E	Y	E	A	R			
T	H	I	N	K	S														
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Best Image Possible



Many children dream of being firefighters one day, but Marrisona McWaters, Jacob Hudspeth and Hailey Gardner (l to r) may be weighing their career options after trying on these uniforms.



Above, Don Dakoske of East Jordan gave his daughter a helping hand in the youth parade Saturday morning. Below, the city harbor was one of the best spots for viewing the fireworks Saturday night.

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THE CITIZEN-JOURNAL

# The Fun of Freedom

Photos by Vic Ruggles



Above, Sierra Roberts assisted a junior fire-fighter. Right, Molly and Granger Kitson, "Duchess and the Dude," shared a carriage in the kids' parade.

The East Jordan Freedom Festival got going the night of Thursday, June 15, and lasted until Sunday afternoon.



Courtesy Photo  
Pictured are (l to r) Kevin King, BCHS counselor; Susan Mattox, Worthy Matron, Evangeline Chapter #95 OES; Robert Startzel; Shirley Crozier, Past Grand Organist, Scholarship Committee.

## Startzel named for scholarship

EVANGELINE TWP. — The Evangeline Chapter #95 of the Order of Eastern Stars is pleased to announce Robert Startzel as the 2006 recipient of the 1st Annual OES Vocational Education Scholarship.

Robert is an excellent candidate for this award having shown an interest and aptitude in service to others.

After graduation, Robert plans to attend Mid-Michigan Community College to pursue a degree in hospitality and food management. His long-term goals include the operation and general management of a foodservice operation in northern Michigan.

For two years Startzel has been involved in the Boyne City High School Hospitality class. Mr. Dennis Crissman, director of the hospitality program at Boyne City High School, has been instrumental in assisting Robert to learning his craft.

In this capacity, Startzel has participated in about 140 various class functions including several catered functions and has shown very good effort in all areas.

Startzel has shown a good work ethic and he will be a good representative for the scholarship provided by the Evangeline Chapter #95 of the Order of Eastern Stars.

## LEGION NEWS

At the regular meeting of Ernest Peterson American Legion Post 228, held on May 4, the following items were heard or acted upon: the Make-A-Wish Foundations donation request for \$50 was honored by the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron and the commander and sgt-at-arms represented the post at the state convention in Lansing.

The honor guard participated in interment ceremonies for Francis K. Fuller; Donald Junior Kile Sr.; Raymond Ecker; Dwight Allen Kolodgy; William Nelson Grimm.

A graveside service was conducted for Michael Alan Moore and Veteran of the Month Ceremonies were conducted for Grimm and Chanda.

The following publications appeared in the Citizen-Journal in April: Legion News, March meeting; Veterans Appreciation Day announcement, article on protesters at military funerals; Veteran of the Month for Grimm; article on local soldiers update; Legion News, April meeting.

Chaplain Cosier reported on area veterans who are sick, disabled,

shut-in or have answered the final call. He also provided three new veterans at Grandvue, Robert Schots, Galen Seiler, Marshal Neymark, with flags and holders from their branch of service. Adjutant Mathers reported membership stands at 155 and bingo is doing well. The SAL reported the squadron officers purchased uniforms and patches for dual members.

Troop Support Officer Hough will conduct the Fudge For Troops Program and report on active duty members. The nominating committee reported only one nomi-

nee for each office. The commander called for nominations from the floor three times and being none, it was moved, that the nominations be closed and the adjutant instructed to cast one vote for the candidates presented by the nominating committee.

The commander stated we are still accepting items, at the post, to be sent to our troops, Tuesdays between 3-10 p.m. and Blue Star Banners and troop support ribbons are also available to the public.

Amanda Thomas  
EJHS Class of 2006

**Class Reunion Photos  
Senior Portraits • Weddings  
582-9539**

Vic Ruggles

**recycle**

**WEEKLY Health Tips**

By Steve Czerkes Pharmacist

**EXERCISE MAY HELP IBS**

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) affects 20% of Americans and can cause abdominal pain, cramps, diarrhea, bloating and/or constipation. According to a new study involving overweight people, exercise was more effective at reducing symptoms of IBS than changes in diet. Relaxation techniques may also help because stress is thought to trigger IBS symptoms. Exercise also reduces stress which may account for its beneficial effect. Avoiding gas-producing foods and getting enough fiber in your diet for control of diarrhea or constipation is important.

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# Water

# Northwest Michigan Onsite Wastewater Task Force

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# To Waste

## Water is

our most precious resource - the basis of all life on Earth. Every day we consume, and waste more - especially in the USA.

Here in Northwest Michigan this collaborative Task Force seeks to ensure that water is not 'wasted'!

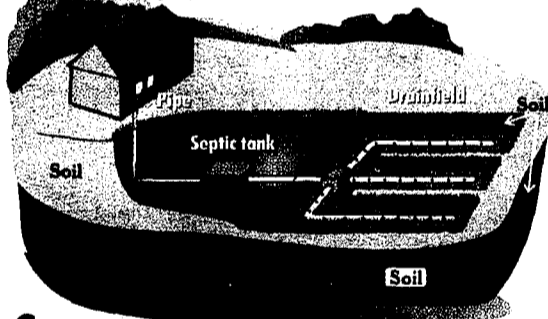
Plain common sense, a small change in how we use water, and some basic knowledge of the technologies available can return clean, recycled water to the environment.

Are you a property owner, a developer or a community leader? In this Annual publication our goal is to create an awareness of the connection between clean drinking water, safe recreational and surface waters with appropriate application and implementation of sound wastewater treatment solutions.

Image courtesy of Jupiterimages ©2006

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

## So what exactly IS a septic system?

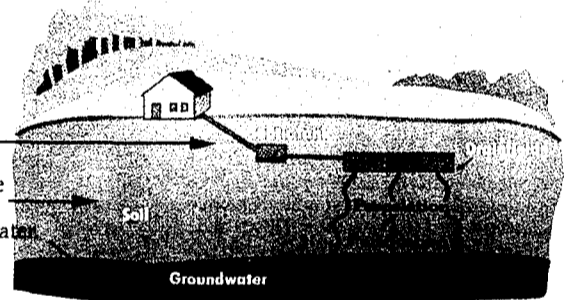


### Components

A typical septic system has four main components:

a pipe from the home, a septic tank, a drainfield, and the soil.

Microbes in the soil digest or remove most contaminants from wastewater before it eventually reaches groundwater.



#### Septic system aliases:

- On-lot system
- Onsite system
- Individual sewage disposal system
- Onsite sewage disposal system
- Onsite wastewater treatment system

#### Pipe from the home

All of your household wastewater exits your home through a pipe to the septic tank.

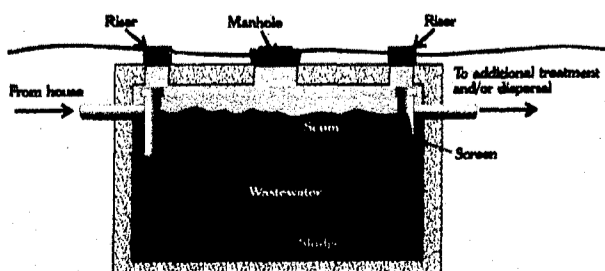
#### Septic tank

The septic tank is a buried, watertight container typically made of concrete, fiberglass, or polyethylene. It holds the wastewater long enough to allow solids to settle out (forming sludge) and oil and grease to float to the surface (as scum). It also allows partial decomposition of the solid materials. Compartments and a T-shaped outlet in the

septic tank prevent the sludge and scum from leaving the tank and traveling into the drainfield area. Screens are also recommended to keep solids from entering the drainfield.

Newer tanks generally have risers with lids at the ground surface to allow easy location, inspection, and pumping of the tank.

Typical single-compartment septic tank with ground-level inspection risers and screen



To prevent buildup, sludge and floating scum need to be removed through periodic pumping of the septic tank. Regular inspections and pumping as necessary (generally every 3 to 5 years) are the best and cheapest way to keep your septic system in good working order.

#### Drainfield

The wastewater exits the septic tank and is discharged into the drainfield for further treatment by the soil. The partially treated wastewater is pushed along into the drainfield for further treatment every time new wastewater enters the tank.

If the drainfield is overloaded with too much liquid, it will flood, causing sewage to flow to the ground surface or create backups in plumbing fixtures and prevent treatment of all wastewater.

#### Soil

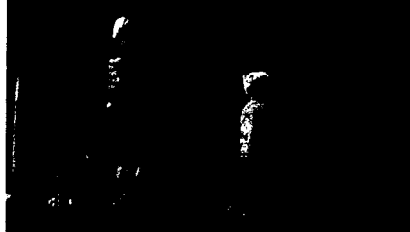
Septic tank wastewater flows to the drainfield, where it percolates into the soil, which provides final treatment by removing harmful bacteria, viruses, and nutrients. Suitable soil is necessary for successful wastewater treatment, or an alternative treatment media can be considered.

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- 5: Installing For O&M: How you build a system will say a great deal about how easy it is to maintain, thus how long it lasts and how well it performs. *Healthy Tanks, Healthy Systems* By Jim Anderson, Ph.D., and David Gustafson, P.E. From 01/02, 2006 issues of Onsite Installer magazine, by COLE Publishing, Three Lakes, Wis. Reprinted by permission.
- 6: Finding The Best Fit: Community options for innovative wastewater systems.
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- 11: Knowledge, Maintenance and Management IS the key to saving money!
- 12: Information, Assistance, Reference, Training. Who We Are & What We Do.

## WATERSHEDS ARE THE FUTURE OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: WILL WE BE READY?

Richard J. Otis, Ph.D., P.E., DFF



It seems like only yesterday that the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) declared in their 1997 Response to Congress on Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Systems that onsite and cluster treatment systems are appropriate and permanent components of our waste water infrastructure. It was a long

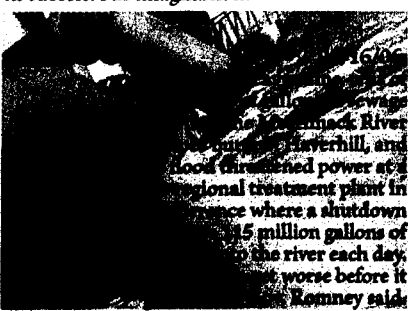
desired and much needed step that gave credibility to onsite and cluster systems as effective alternatives to cases where traditional sewerage is unaffordable. The Response to Congress went on to identify five barriers that still exist to impede broad acceptance of onsite and cluster treatment:

- Lack of knowledge and misperceptions of onsite systems by the public
- Statutory and administrative rules that limit technologies and applications.
- Lack of effective management programs to ensure sustainability.
- Lack of familiarity and comfort with onsite designs and practices by the engineering community.
- Lack of financial assistance programs similar to those for conventional sewerage.

The identification of these barriers stimulated remarkable new activity in the field of onsite treatment. NOWRA drafted a Model Framework for Unsewered Wastewater Infrastructure (NOWRA, 1999; Walsh, et al., 2001). In progress is a model performance-based code that states and counties can use to replace their prescriptive codes (<http://www.nowra.org>). EPA drafted a program strategy to promote better decentralized wastewater practices and improve their performance (EPA, 2005). As part of this strategy, EPA published its Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual, which promotes a performance design approach for onsite systems, and the Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems, which encourages proactive management of all onsite and cluster systems (<http://www.epa.gov/owm>). EPA also established the Environmental Technology Verification Program, which tests treatment equipment against the manufacturers' claims (<http://www.epa.gov/etv>). Other organizations have also worked to overcome the barriers - see Page Twelve for contacts.

Although this body of notable work has helped the industry progress, it has been nearly ten years since USEPA submitted its Response to Congress and still the full potential of decentralized wastewater in helping to achieve our public health and water quality goals has yet to be realized. And we won't fully realize its potential until we stop regarding it merely as an alternative to central sewerage.

We must acknowledge it as an integral component of our wastewater infrastructure that has parity with central sewerage, which together, provide safe and effective wastewater treatment services to all residents and establishments in a watershed. We won't realize the potential of decentralized wastewater until we recognize and overcome the greatest barrier to its success: our imagination!



### WHAT IS "DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER"?

Decentralized wastewater is a misunderstood concept. It is not a group of treatment technologies! It is not synonymous with "septic system," "aerobic treatment unit," "drip dispersal," or some other treatment technology. It is a concept for managing a group of wastewater treatment facilities by one responsible management entity (RME). The treatment facilities are strategically placed throughout the jurisdiction of the RME to provide every resident and establishment effective, affordable wastewater treatment.

The treatment facilities could be any combination of municipal treatment plants, clusters, individual onsite systems, and holding tanks. Another term for this concept is "distributed treatment." Understanding that decentralized wastewater is a management concept rather than small-scale wastewater treatment technologies can open a whole new world of ideas and opportunities!

If we were to fully embrace decentralized wastewater as a management concept, our wastewater treatment planning and implementation would change significantly. Imagine how decentralized wastewater planning could impact watershed management?

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

I believe that decentralized wastewater management has a very large role to play in the protection of our water resources. I believe that this role must be more than regulation of onsite systems lot-by-lot. I believe this role will be larger than any of us can imagine today. And that's our problem. Our existing paradigms are stifling our imaginations!

We have made some progress in positioning for the future as the various initiatives made by the many different organizations in the last ten years attest, but it still lacks the necessary credibility to have parity and be integrated with centralized wastewater. Just consider that nearly every, if not all, of our program rules require that onsite systems be abandoned and homes connected to sewers as soon as they become "available"! What does this tell us?

What should it tell us?

It tells me: The public (and infrastructure professionals) lack awareness about capabilities and benefits of onsite wastewater treatment and it is perceived as unable to solve problems.

### Public Awareness

Public awareness of wastewater treatment is poor and particularly decentralized wastewater. If the public is unaware of the value of wastewater treatment, how can we expect them to take interest and become involved? Yet, if we are to develop and administer credible and effective wastewater planning and regulation, we need their understanding and support.

Regulations are only effective if the rules are accepted by the regulated, because they are perceived to be legitimate (Nagel, 2005). We need to do a better job reaching out to the public on a consistent, frequent basis. We need to focus on what the public values rather than the "bugs and alchemy" of wastewater treatment, which we all know most find disgusting! Sewers are accepted and desired, but onsite system are more often considered by property owners as just a costly expense and an obstacle to building a home outside of a sewer service area.

I suggest we emphasize to the public how decentralized wastewater treatment can enhance things they value, e.g., securing their well-being and welfare, preserving their property values, preserving the character of their community, and offering the potential for community economic development.

### AN ACTION PLAN

Decentralized wastewater management should have a large role in water resource and watershed management. In fact, I believe the time could come when decentralized wastewater is considered the first choice solution over central sewerage.

I have listed ten sequential steps below, which, in my opinion, are necessary to demonstrate the value and gain the credibility that decentralized wastewater needs to fulfill the potential of its role in water resources management:

Develop and implement a public awareness program that is carefully crafted to dispel the public's misperceptions and appeal to its' values. Commit to our current programs and demonstrate that commitment.

If we don't respect our programs enough now to effectively enforce them, why should the public provide them any respect? If any rules are inappropriate, we should change or eliminate them. We shouldn't ignore rules we don't want to enforce. It only suggests that the rules don't really matter.

Inventory all onsite and cluster systems so we know what types of systems are installed and who is responsible for them. We can't begin to manage systems well if we don't know where or whether they exist.

Establish clear roles and expectations for regulators, owners, and practitioners. We must be able to trust each other to be responsible for our work and perform it competently in accordance with the expectations of our respective roles.

Demand accountability from regulators, owners, and practitioners.

We need to trust each other, but we also need to verify that trust is warranted.

This includes implementing an owner operating permit program that requires

owners to operate and maintain their systems appropriately, requiring certification and/or licensing of all practitioners and regulators, and avoiding political influences on our programs. Perform regulatory program audits periodically.

We should insist that stakeholders convene program audits to review the regulatory program administration to see that the goals of the program are being met or worked on.

Replace prescription with performance-based codes that set performance requirements based on assessed risks of each receiving environment.

We must change to performance-based rules if we are to ensure protection of water quality and public health. This is a critical requirement in finding suitable systems for every platted lot.

It is also a critical element to be acknowledged for proactively protecting water quality.

Develop tools to track system permits, system performance, and practitioner certifications/licensing status to ensure compliance is achieved.

We need effective and reliable tools to reduce administration time and demand on limited financial resources, and improve compliance. Without them, performance programs will not be successful.

Include planning functions in regulatory programs.

We need to include planning and assessments to determine the effectiveness of technology applications.

Continued On Page 12:



Dr. Richard Otis is a National Onsite Wastewater Recyclers Assoc. Board Member & Technical Advisor to NWMOWTF.

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# Small Sewer Systems: "One size doesn't fit all"



Selecting an on-site treatment system for wastewater is a critical part to the overall project design typically not given enough credence. Routinely, the on-site wastewater treatment system and its design is considered after all the project components are completed. With ever changing regulations and requirements, and the increased site constraints, wastewater treatment options need to be considered at the forefront of the project development. To help explain its importance, we will describe how the process went with the new YMCA summer camp in East Bay Township.

It was the intention of the YMCA to construct a new lodge to service the existing summer campground. The new lodge would provide a modernized kitchen and food service, replace the age-old rest rooms and have the potential for some limited winter use. EC&S Engineering was retained to provide the site engineering, including the design of an on-site wastewater treatment system.

The new lodge was to be located on Arbutus Lake and preservation of groundwater quality and the watershed was of primary importance. The project was mostly funded by local donations, and as is the case with most projects, financial constraints were a significant factor in the design of the new sewer system for the facility.

The lodge was planned to be a functional, yet impressive building, which was designed by the architects of AAI, Inc. The lodge was envisioned to be a centerpiece of the camp, and the design approach was to blend materials and colors into the natural rolling pines along the Arbutus Lake shoreline.

The larger size and functions of the proposed new lodge would generate in excess of 10,000 gallons per day of wastewater. The sheer amount would, therefore, necessitate either a wetlands treatment system or a mechanical alternative treatment system. Initially, it was believed a wetland treatment system would be the best option, as in addition to providing a high level of treatment, it could also serve as a learning tool for the young campers. However, the wetland treatment system would require a large cleared area for the constructed wetland ponds and the effluent disposal area. Since the site was heavily wooded, a significant number of trees would need to be removed and the scenic rolling nature of the site would now require significant earthwork.

The wetland treatment option was deemed less than the optimum solution because of the scenic views that would be lost and because of the high construction costs. As a result, mechanical treatment systems were evaluated, as it is known that mechanical systems would provide a high level of treatment. Value engineering, conducted during a project team meeting with the architects, revealed that there were also budgetary issues impacting the building design. As a result of the team effort, it was found that by slightly reducing the size of the facility, the amount of wastewater flow would be reduced to less than 10,000 gallons per day and allow the use of a large conventional, septic tank and drain field treatment system.

The conventional system met the budget restraints; however, finding locations for the primary and the reserve infiltration areas remained nothing less than a challenge. The requirements needed for setbacks from lakes, wetlands, and steep slopes limited the locations of the drain field and a reserve area of the same size.

The options evaluated during the project included wetland treatment, advanced mechanical treatment, both with the original sized facility, and the conventional system with on-site and off-site disposal. Although any of these systems could have been made to work, downsizing the lodge with a conventional system was best suited to meet the client's needs.

An on-site, but remote, disposal site was chosen, as it was suitable for the drain field but had minimal impact on the camp. The reserve field was to be located in yet another area, currently in use as the shooting range. Locating the disposal sites remotely from the construction project met the concerns of the camp managers and protected the campers and other lakefront property owners' views of the property, by minimally removing the trees, and provided an excellent environmental solution for the needs of the project.



Garth Greenan P.E.  
President  
EC&S Engineering

In any project, it is important to weigh all the options and consequences carefully  
~ and listen to what is important to the client!



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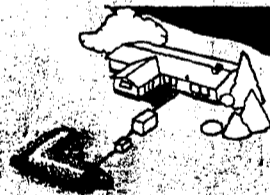
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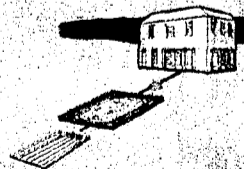
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# Keeping Crystal Lake Crystal Clear

National Onsite Demonstration Program Sites in Benzie County, Michigan

by Cathleen Falvey

Northwest Michigan's scenic Benzie County has long been a popular summertime destination. Located along Lake Michigan, the land shaped by glaciers and shoreline dunes is quite hilly and dotted with in-land lakes. Many vacation homes around the lakes have been in the same families for generations.

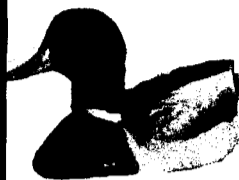
Beginning in the late 1970s, lakeside residents began to notice changes in water quality. Algal blooms due to excess nutrients (phosphates) were becoming more common in late summer. Although phosphates can enter lakes from many sources, most residents blamed septic systems serving lakefront homes.

"The soils in our area are generally sandy, which don't do well at removing phosphorus from the wastewater" explained Bill Crawford of the Benzie-Leelanau County Health Department. "Placing onsite systems on a combination of sandy soils, high groundwater, and small, shallow, waterfront properties was degrading water quality."

Residents of Crystal Lake, one of the area's largest lakes, first investigated building a conventional sewer system, but this idea was rejected due to the cost of the project (estimated at \$17 million in 1979). Homeowners also worried that sewers would lead to further development. The community needed a solution that would protect both the environment and the quality of life.

## National Onsite Demonstration Program

In the 1990s, the National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC) at West Virginia University received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate the National Onsite Demonstration Program (NODP). The program assisted several small communities in funding, installing, and monitoring model onsite wastewater treat-



ment systems. The NODP's goal was to demonstrate new technologies and show that onsite systems can be cost-effective, viable alternatives to conventional systems for some communities.

"We made a presentation to the NODP about our situation in Benzie County and were chosen for seven demonstration sites," said Crawford. "Systems were installed on Crystal Lake, Platte Lake, and Herring Lake."

Crawford says five of the seven NODP systems were designed with the goal of advanced phosphorus removal. Some systems used alternative media, such as high iron sands, to remove phosphorus from effluent.

Faculty from Michigan State University and the University of Waterloo in Ontario contributed technical support and design expertise to the project, helped install the systems and educate homeowners. In addition, NSFC staff helped conduct the initial planning and site evaluations, provided technical support, and helped install and monitor the systems during periodic site visits.



NSFC staff helps install an alternative onsite system in Benzie County, Michigan

## Lessons Learned

According to Crawford, not all of the alternative systems were equally effective at removing phosphorus from the wastewater, but there were many useful project outcomes.

"Two of the systems seem very effective at phosphorus removal," said Crawford. "But we learned almost as much from the problems

we encountered during the project. For example, we learned a lot about how seasonal occupancy affects onsite systems and homeowners' ability to maintain them."

Crawford credits the passage of performance-based onsite system regulations in the county in part to lessons learned from the NODP. The regulations apply to new construction and replacement systems on sites that don't meet conventional standards for setback distances, soil type, and other criteria. Based on the concepts introduced in the NODP, the county now requires that systems for these homes meet standards that protect water quality.

"Our lakes are real jewels," said Crawford. "There wasn't much opposition to the new regulations because residents who lived here for 10, 15, or 30 years have witnessed changes and realize the regulations are needed."

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# Installing for O&M

How you build a system will say a great deal about how easy it is to maintain, thus how long it lasts and how well it performs

By Jim Anderson, Ph.D., and David Gustafson, PE.

As we learn how onsite treatment systems work, it becomes ever more obvious that they need monitoring, management and maintenance if they are to deliver long, reliable performance.

An installer plays a large role in making sure a system gets the care it needs. If we realize from the start that a service provider will need to access parts of the system and perform regular maintenance, we will be more likely to build that access into systems from the very first.

## Two perspectives

When we talk with service providers around the country, the conversation often turns to how installation quality and practices affect their ability to inspect, maintain and manage systems. The comments usually focus on poor



Inspection ports for tanks and at the ends of sewage treatment trenches enable service providers to monitor the biomat.

## Healthy Tanks, Healthy Systems

If you want effective onsite wastewater treatment, you have to choose the right septic tanks and install them as recommended

By Jim Anderson, Ph.D., and David Gustafson, PE.

Proper septic tank installation is a key component of effective onsite wastewater treatment. If the septic tank does not work properly, the rest of the system typically struggles to perform.

A properly operating septic tank separates solids by allowing heavier materials to sink to the bottom and by capturing floating materials in a scum layer. In between is a clear zone that is released from the tank to the next process component — treatment unit or soil absorption system. When the septic tank is not operating properly, it will discharge water that is not clean enough to allow the next component to work as designed.

There are three critical considerations in installing a septic tank:

- Choosing the right tank for the situation.
- Making sure the tank will stay underneath the ground.
- Making sure the tank is watertight after it is installed.



If a plastic riser is used, it is important that it be installed watertight. Usually the connection is cast inside the tank.

installation practices that make it difficult to take care of the system. They remark, "If only the installer had done things this way, life would be easy."

When we talk with installers, the comment generally is: "Doing things that way will cost more, and the client doesn't want to pay for it." While this may be true, both installer and service provider must emphasize that providing easy system access will reduce the customer's costs over the long run.

How can we design systems for ease of maintenance? Let's look first at a conventional system and start with

ally have one manhole over each compartment. If tanks are set so that the top and manholes are deeper than a foot below the surface, a riser or set of risers should be installed to bring tank access to grade.

This does two things for service providers. It helps them quickly locate the tank, and it lets them gain access with minimal digging and effort. All this saves time and, by extension, money.



This tank provides easy service access, but its location next to the driveway makes the system vulnerable to damage from traffic.

When we talk with service providers around the country, the conversation often turns to how installation quality and practices affect their ability to inspect, maintain and manage systems.

the septic tank. A septic tank can have a single compartment or double compartments. Proper cleaning of the tank requires the ability to remove all solids and liquids, including the sludge and scum layers. Service providers pump tanks through the manhole access points.

In single compartment tanks, pumping is usually done through a manhole located at the center of the tank, allowing the hose to reach all corners. Dual-compartment tanks usu-

## Filtering effluent

One item increasingly required by regulatory agencies is an effluent screen at the outlet of the septic tank. These screens protect the soil treatment part of the system from excessive solids, which cause physical plugging. Of course, an effluent screen needs to be removed and cleaned at some regular interval.

The deeper a tank is installed, the more difficult it becomes to reach and remove the effluent screen. If the effluent screen also serves as the outlet baffle, then access has to be provided over the outlet baffle to enable the service provider to get at the screen for cleaning. This is where a dual-compartment tank provides some advantages: A screen at the outlet of the second compartment will take longer to plug, and will need maintenance less often.

In the soil treatment area, as discussed in previous columns, a biomat develops at the infiltrative surface. To evaluate and manage this development, the service provider needs to be able to monitor the biomat's progress. One approach is to install observation or inspection ports at the ends of the treatment trenches.

These ports usually consist of 3- or 4-inch PVC pipes that extend from the infiltrative surface to the ground level. The service provider then can look inside and evaluate whether sewage is ponded in the trench, and to what depth. Based on these observations, the provider can make decisions about system management.

There are a number of ways to install inspection ports so that they will stay in place and not be removed. The most common is to tie them into the 4-inch gravity distribution pipe at the end of the trench. This is done simply by using a tee with a perforated pipe extending from the tee to the bottom of the trench.

Some installers use a toilet ring at the bottom of the 4-inch PVC pipe and anchor it into the soil at the bottom of the trench. Another method specific to rock-filled trenches is to run a half-inch rebar through the PVC pipe under the rock.

## Front-end inspection

It is also important to provide access to the front ends of the trenches in the soil treatment area. You can do this through the distribution or drop boxes where effluent is distributed between the trenches.

Inspection tubes can be brought to the surface through the covers of these boxes — this also makes the boxes easy to locate. The service provider or inspector can look into the boxes to determine whether effluent is ponded in the trench or if there is evidence of excessive solids in the drainfield.

If necessary, outlets to trenches can then be capped periodically, allowing the trench to rest. This lets the biomat break down and so allows the trench to recover its infiltrative capacity. If using inspection tubes at both ends of the trench is not desirable, then a piece of metal attached to the top of the drop or distribution box will allow service providers to find them easily with a simple metal detector (as long as the boxes are installed close to the surface).

By using some of these simple installation tips, you can make service providers' lives easier, help ensure that the system receives proper maintenance and management, and reduce overall cost to the homeowner. We will address installation tips for above-ground systems and pressure distribution systems in an upcoming article. ■



A series of inspection and access ports for treatment trenches allow for the management of effluent distribution between trenches.

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Jim Anderson and David Gustafson are with the University of Minnesota, with a widely recognized education in water treatment education program. Anderson is Director of the university's Water Resource Center and Gustafson is the university's Extension Outreach Director. For more information, <http://www.pwrc.umn.edu>

Continued Page 6

"Small cities, townships and counties are required to face many complex issues when it comes to wastewater treatment (Pinkham et al., 2004). Although centralized sewers are perceived as the preferred solution to wastewater problems, communities that have centralized sewers discharging to surface waters have been identified as source of numerous pollution problems (U.S.EPA, 2004). Loss of community identity due to the urban sprawl that follows the sewer is another challenge faced by these communities (Sparks, 2005). Cluster systems have proved to be an invaluable method to provide communities with high quality, cost-effective wastewater management while protecting the character of the community.

There are many barriers to cluster onsite wastewater treatment systems such as uninformed public, regulatory, and design communities. However, in retrospect, the biggest barrier may have developed due to the Clean Water Act itself. As a result of heavy federal funding under EPA's construction grants program, the whole wastewater industry has been geared toward the big treatment works and sewer networks. The resources, regulations, permits, and design knowledge have all been directed to expand and maintain this infrastructure model (Kreissl and Suhrer, 2005).

While this effort has been very effective in reducing point-source pollution, many communities in the United States still do not have sewer service (Wallace et al., 2005). A paradigm shift has begun in the industry realizing that there are other alternatives (Hallahan and Wallace, 2001). This shift is due to many reasons the biggest of which is economic; the "free lunch" is over. The construction grants program that went along with the Clean Water Act is gone; today's grants are of much smaller amounts and revolving fund loans that are required to be paid back. Another factor is the advent of technological innovation that is allowing small-scale treatment facilities to treat to a high standard and associated products, which allow more efficient infiltration. When these innovations are combined with a reliable entity to provide quality management, operation and maintenance (MOM), cost-effective, environmentally responsible wastewater systems can be implemented. [Ref: Lake Elmo project, MN]

### COST EFFECTIVENESS OF CLUSTER SYSTEMS IN USE TODAY

by Scott D. Wallace and Dennis F. Hallahan. <http://www.nawe-pa.com/tech/pp.asp>

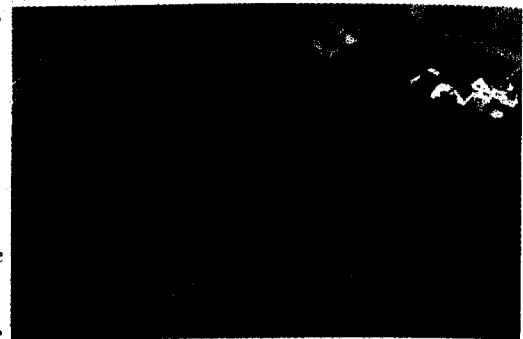
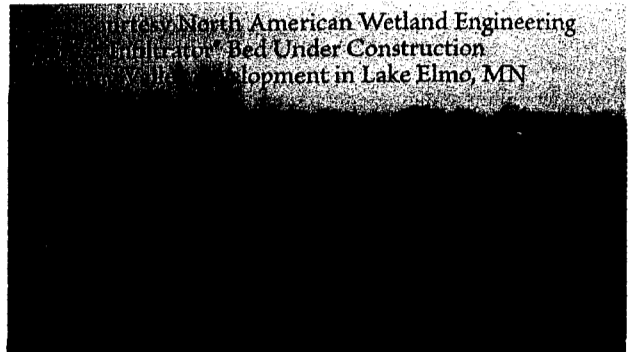


Figure 1. Constructed Wetland Treatment Facility at the Fields of St. Croix development in Lake Elmo, Minnesota.



## Community Options ~ Sewering Narrow Lake, MI

The small lakefront properties of Narrow Lake are typical of many rural MI communities. Septic systems were too close to shallow drinking water wells and the Lake. A cost effective solution was needed for 99 homes and 2 businesses which had already turned down a proposed central sewer as being unaffordable.

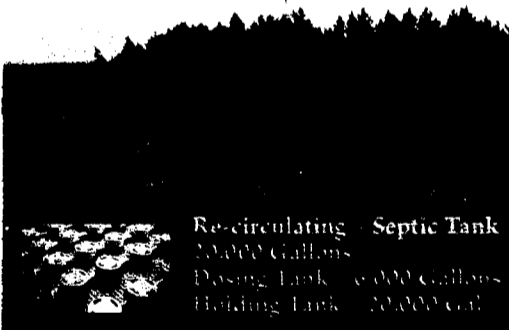
The County Health Dept. deemed that 94% had unsuitable soils. Toilets backed up. Laundry was a constant issue. Building permits were hard to obtain.

The solution? Property owners with small lots

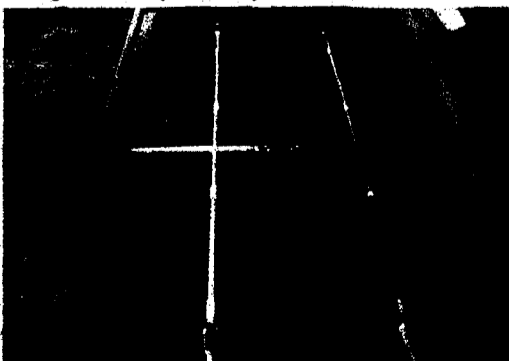
shared collection in high density plastic tanks, chosen for their ease of installation. A S.T.E.P collection system sent effluent to a Geo-Textile filter which pretreats before piping to a lagoon system. This allows for seasonal discharge avoiding recreational periods and provides opportunity for additional treatment, sampling and monitoring. In March 2006, MDEQ announced a \$2,860,000 loan to Eaton Co. for constructing the system and wastewater treatment facility to serve the residences of Narrow Lake allowing failed on-site systems to be taken out of service. Work is scheduled for completion by the end of 2006. Stephens Consulting Services, 1549 Haslett RD., 708. Haslett, MI. 48840. \* 517-339-8692

## Blackberry Lane ~ Shears Crossing, MI. Sierra Consultants.

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## Otter Tail: 20 years of Responsible Management, MN.

Sara Christopherson and Jim Anderson: <http://septic.umn.edu/scwep/organizational/index.html>

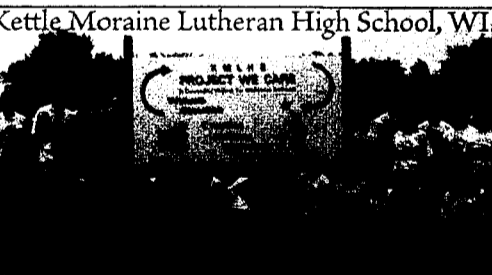
The Otter Tail Water Management District was formed in 1984 as a mechanism to assure the proper onsite treatment of wastewater in a 55 square mile area experiencing decreasing lake water quality and population growth. It is in West Central Minnesota, two and a half hours from Minneapolis - St. Paul. Initially the District served 1200 homes, cabins and businesses and has expanded to cover 1545 connections. Within the District are 6 lakes, 4 townships and portions of the City of Otter Tail, all using an individual system or are connected to one of sixteen cluster systems. The District has the ability to levy taxes and write and enforce ordinances. The District has an inspection and monitoring program to track performance.

To maintain these systems, residents can choose to be either on an active or passive maintenance program. For those on the active program, the District provides maintenance, repairs and replacement of the systems. Those on the passive plan are under the jurisdiction of the District, but maintenance, repair and replacement costs are the owner's responsibility. User fees are assigned based on the type of system and level of maintenance program chosen. The District has the ability to issue compliance orders and has the capability to levy costs to the property tax statements. When the District was formed, the Board of Managers was required to install ground water monitoring wells around the cluster systems and to monitor domestic wells. These wells have been sampled since 1984. The District has monitored the health of the lakes through secchi disk readings and phosphorus measurements. The data shows very little impact on groundwater and improved water quality in the lakes. System failure rates have been less than 2% over 20 years which equates to replacement of an average of 1.6 systems per year. The District is comprised of three types of users:

- 1160 seasonal residents (75%)
  - 390 permanent residents (25%)
  - 48 resorts or businesses (3% of total, 75% seasonal)
- Seasonal and permanent residents are further broken down by the type of system which treats their wastewater which is the main factor in determining the user fees. To maintain these systems, residents can choose to be either on an active or passive management program. All owners regardless of program enrollment receive these minimum services from the District:
- Regular inspections of systems (interval based on system type and use)
  - Maintenance records/history of system

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The District maintains the system for those on the active program and pays for all repairs. In the passive program, the owner pays for the repairs, maintenance, and replacement but is still under the District's jurisdiction. User fees are assigned based on the type of system and the type of maintenance program. Program enrollment includes both new and existing development. Existing properties can go on the active program based on a sliding scale. The system is inspected and the tank cleaned at the start of the program. The sliding scale is over a 10 year period where the district picks up 10 percent more of the repair costs each year. At the end of the period the system is covered 100 percent unless there is an owner abuse issue that causes a problem.

## Healthy Tanks, Healthy Systems

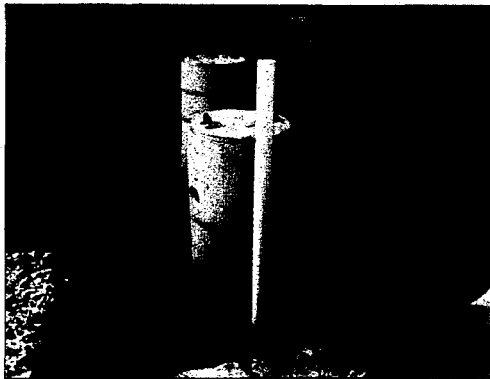
The safe handling of concrete tanks is critical — they need to be placed carefully into the excavation to avoid cracking or otherwise damaging their integrity.

### Keeping it down

All septic tanks are designed to stay buried, but in some areas, a high water table creates a situation in which the tank — especially a lightweight one — has a potential to float to the surface. In these cases, some type of tie-down into the soil is appropriate.

A tie-down system can be as simple as a set of rods driven into the soil and attached to bands around the tank. The option that seems easiest is to use concrete tie-downs — essentially concrete curbs buried at the bottom of the excavation to which the tank is banded.

Proper backfilling is also important in keeping the tank in-ground and

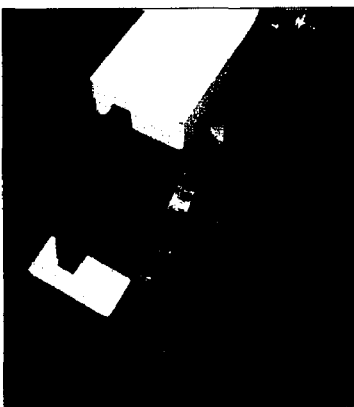


Watertight concrete risers require use of the proper mastic. The depth of the tank makes this more critical.

**The biggest septic tank pitfall to avoid is leakage. Water entering the tank from the outside will ultimately leave through the discharge port and may hydraulically overload the rest of the system.**

properly performing. If there is excessive settling around the tank, water will tend to fill that area.

To make settling less of a problem, you can backfill with a granular material and do some compaction around the tank. While you compact the soil, you might consider filling the tank with water to give it additional support. This can be critical for maintaining the



A cast-in-place watertight boot for the inlet and outlet connections.

tank's watertightness and structural stability — it keeps concrete tanks from cracking and plastic tanks from losing their shape.

The strength of the septic tank lid is important, particularly when tanks are buried deep. You can avoid this problem by installing a riser to bring the tank access to the surface. If your tank will be buried deeper than 4 feet, or in an area where there is potential for traffic over the top, talk with the manufacturer to make sure the tank meets the strength requirements for the application.



Nothing is worse than a septic tank lid or tank that has been cracked by the weight of vehicles. Check with the manufacturer for the maximum allowable buried depth and the type of materials to use as cover. Then, follow the recommendations with care.

### Avoiding leaks

The biggest septic tank pitfall to avoid is leakage. Water entering the tank from the outside will ultimately leave through the discharge port and may hydraulically overload the rest of the system. If there is a pump in the system, the entire yard becomes a sump tank if the septic tank or pump tank leaks.

Watertight tanks start with good design and good materials used by a quality manufacturer. The second piece of watertightness is to make sure

during installation that nothing is done to damage the tank.

In particular, make sure the bottom of the excavation is level and free from rocks. These rocks — or lack of support underneath — can create abnormal stresses that can cause a concrete tank to crack or split when it is full. Other sources of leaks include improper joints and penetrations. Make sure that all penetrations and joints are well sealed.

In situations where the soil is saturated around the tank, you would be well advised to test for watertightness as part of your installation procedure. This testing can take two forms: vacuum testing and water testing.

Vacuum testing applies a vacuum to the sealed tank. If the tank maintains vacuum for a specified short period of time, the tank is considered watertight. The advantage of this test is that it can be run relatively quickly. The disadvantage is that vacuum testing equipment adds cost, and if the tank is not structurally sound, the vacuum test may actually cause it to fail.

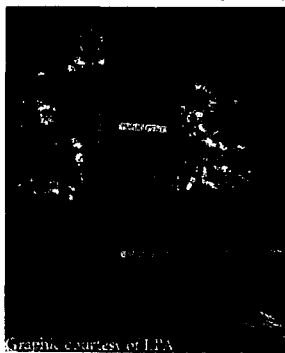
Whichever test you choose, either one will give you the assurance that the tank is watertight, provided you follow proper installation methods.

### Go with the best

As an installer, it is critical that you evaluate your sources to make sure your materials and equipment are of high quality to assure system performance. By knowing your manufacturer, using high-quality materials and doing quality excavating, you will greatly enhance the performance of the tanks you install and the quality of the onsite systems you provide for customers. ■

## Leave it to the professionals!

Although we may joke about 'the beast in the back yard,' the onsite wastewater treatment system you have on your property performs a serious job.



Graphic courtesy of EPA

Not taking maintenance and safety equally as seriously can prove deadly. The tank contains hazardous and noxious gases. Fluids and solids in the tank and drainfield contain pathogens which can cause serious illness. When it comes time for maintenance, this is one mess you should certainly leave to the professionals.

A constantly overflowing toilet, a backed-up pool in the basement can, and has led to illness. A poorly maintained onsite sewage system will almost certainly lead to diminished property value and buyer concerns when you decide to sell. An older and poorly maintained system has the capacity to take a life as in the case of small children who have tragically fallen into septic tanks through cracked, broken or improperly secured tank covers.

*As a property owner, taking responsibility to ensure the safe operating condition of your system is of paramount importance. You are operating your personal wastewater treatment facility which protects the environment, your health and property value as well as those of your neighbors and community. By investing a little time and money for regular inspections and routine maintenance, property owners reap big returns in the future.*

When you consider who to choose to do routine or major maintenance of your system ask for references. Will they treat your property with respect? Do they pay proper attention to good sanitation, use their own tools, practice safe hygiene if they need to use your hose, remove any septic tank residue from your lawn, ensure your children and pets are kept well away from the work in progress? Do they wear suitable gear to protect their own safety?

A reputable service provider will be conscientious about giving professional advice, a report of the job done, and will be licensed by the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality having completed a continuing education requirement. For more information about how the State of Michigan regulates and oversees septicage and land application go to their web site at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313\\_3682\\_3717--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3717--,00.html)

They may also be a member of a professional association. To find a licensed certified waste hauler in your area go to MDEQ's registry at:

[http://www.deq.state.mi.us/shr/hauler\\_directory.aspx](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/shr/hauler_directory.aspx)

or contact:

Michigan Septic Tank Association

Secretary: Madeline Houdek

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### The Case for a Statewide Sanitary Code for Michigan.

Of all the States in the Union, MI stands alone as not having a uniform statewide regulatory process in place to oversee onsite wastewater systems.

On January 20, 2004, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, in a special message to the Michigan legislature, unveiled a comprehensive plan to protect the waters of the state.

One component of this plan was the development of a statewide code for on-site wastewater treatment. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was asked to provide leadership in developing a code and assemble a task force to formulate potential legislation. Twenty six organizations, including NWMOWTF, representing a variety of interests involving the on-site wastewater industry were invited to name a representative to serve on the task force. The first meeting of the task force was held on March 2, 2004. Over a two month period, the task force discussed what critical issues needed to be addressed in a proposed code. The resulting whitepaper represents consensus among the task force as to the critical issues and how to resolve them.

#### Background

It is estimated that there are over 1.2 million on-site wastewater systems in Michigan that generate 264 million gallons of liquid waste per day. Included in this total, it is estimated that there may be in excess of 30,000 commercial and community subsurface disposal systems treating sanitary wastewater with flows up to 10,000 gallons per day. Data supplied by the Michigan local health departments (LHDs) confirm that approximately 33,000 individual permits are being issued yearly for new and replacement on-site wastewater treatment systems.

Whereas in 1990, it was suggested that approximately 28 percent of Michigan housing units were served by on-site systems, data now suggests that over 50 percent of new single family homes utilize on-site wastewater systems. The reliance on on-site wastewater systems to serve as the permanent means for wastewater treatment will continue to expand.

Historically, in Michigan as well as nationally, on-site systems were viewed as temporary solutions subject to failure eventually to be replaced by public sanitary sewers. Today's attitude is that on-site wastewater systems can serve very successfully as the permanent and appropriate solution. In the 1997 USEPA "Response to Congress on Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems" it concluded that

"Adequately managed decentralized wastewater treatment systems are a cost-effective and long term option for meeting public health and water quality goals, particularly in less densely populated areas. This vision is also shared in Michigan.

Given reductions in state and federal grant and loan programs supporting the expansion of municipal sewer systems, the ability of local governments to extend sewer service to new areas has been significantly curtailed since the 1970's.

Our understanding of soil treatment and the availability of advanced treatment technologies make it possible to properly treat and dispose of wastewater in many soils that are unsuitable for conventional septic systems. Proper use of these treatment technologies will require properly trained soil evaluators, system designers, regulators, and system service providers along with effective management programs.

Available technologies must be evaluated and approved for Michigan conditions.



Advanced treatment technology requires periodic maintenance that must be done to assume continuing performance. Effective management programs designed to assure proper maintenance must be in place before we begin to use these technologies. Implementation of changes in the way Michigan utilizes and regulates on-site wastewater treatment can best be done by adopting a uniform, well conceived statewide approach.

Amendments to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act in 1990 encouraged states to develop programs specifically addressing coastal non-point source pollution and seek federal approval of the programs from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Section 6217, Coastal Non-point Source Programs (Section 6217) is subject to joint federal oversight by the NOAA Coastal Zone Management Program and the EPA Section 319, Non-point Source Program. Michigan is working toward full approval of our Section 6217.

It should be noted that under Section 6217, Michigan must meet specified requirements to receive federal funding and to avoid program sanctions. It receives approximately \$2.9 million in federal funds annually, and nearly \$1.6 million is passed through as cost-share grants to coastal communities and non-profit organizations. Michigan's Section 6217, does not have full federal approval.

This means that there are outstanding conditions/ management measures that we have not met. One of the biggest hurdles to getting full Section 6217 program approval is the lack of a statewide sanitary code addressing septic tanks and other on-site disposal systems. Had Michigan's program been fully approved in the last fiscal year, the state would have received \$275,000 in bonus federal funding.

It is recommended that enabling legislation supported by administrative rules establish regulatory requirements for inspection of conventional systems at a minimum frequency not less than once every 10 years with reporting at the time of each maintenance event. It was further suggested the enabling legislation address solutions when the system is failing.

By far, conventional systems represent the vast majority of existing systems currently in use and/or the foreseeable future, are expected to be relied upon for the majority of new home construction. In terms of the volume of such systems, providing a statutory mechanism that will result in an enhanced minimum level of management of these systems statewide presents the greatest challenge. To the typical homeowner their conventional septic systems have functioned amazingly well with little or no maintenance. In large measure they get attention only when they cease to work.

It was the general consensus that a statute that required frequent mandatory routine inspections of conventional systems would not be politically palatable.

Other options or combinations thereof that may result in the inspection of the vast majority of systems over time include:

**Point-of-Sale Inspections** - Inspections mandated by Local Health Departments or the local governing body at the time of home sale have been established in a number of counties statewide.

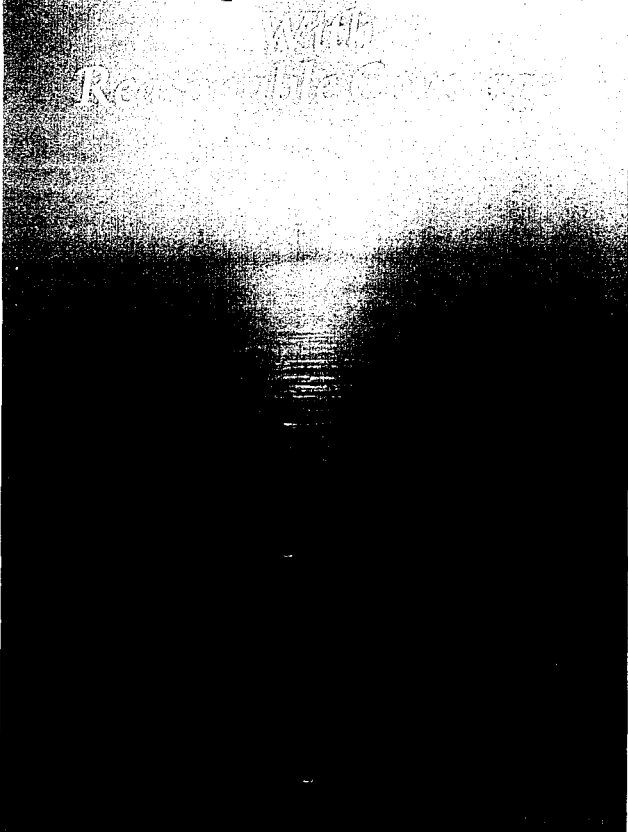
**Change In Use Inspections** - As a condition of issuance of a building permit for modifications to an existing home, some LHD jurisdictions require a review of the existing on-site wastewater system by the LHD. The overall average frequency of inspection resulting from this approach is unknown.

**Mandatory Inspection Reporting at Time of Maintenance Event** - Statutes requiring the inspection of a system at the time of pumping or other maintenance activities are in place in a number of counties statewide.

**Local Health Department**

MDEQ: Whitepaper on the Statewide Code for On-site Wastewater Treatment. October 19, 2004 is available for view on NWMOWTF web site.

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Best Image Possible

There are numerous onsite wastewater treatment systems available that are often called "alternative" systems because they may be used if a conventional septic tank and soil absorption system, (i.e. drain field) is not expected to perform adequately in the conditions of a particular location.

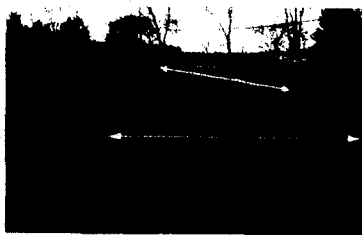
A better term for these might be "advanced" systems because they provide an advanced, increased level of treatment. Advanced systems usually involve an additional treatment device placed between the septic tank and the soil absorption system. They are typically used where the soil is either not permeable enough to accept septic tank effluent that contains some solids and the tendency to produce a clogging layer within the soil absorption system or for very coarse soils where there is a shallow water table or nearby surface water that must be protected.

Sometimes these may be referred to as "engineered systems." This term is typically applied to pressure dose mounds that involve placing a selected grade of sand fill over the natural soil to provide filtration prior to the wastewater entering the natural soil.

All advanced treatment systems require regular maintenance by a trained service provider.

General classes of advanced systems include mounds, packed bed filters, aerobic treatment units (ATUs), and constructed wetlands. Within the general class of packed bed filters and ATUs there are proprietary products that are rather easily installed without a lot of on site construction required.

## Mounds

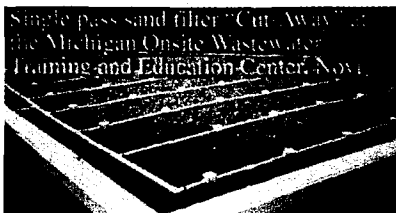


Mounds are the most common alternative system used in most of Michigan and in some areas are no longer considered "alternative" because they are used routinely and designed by the local health department. The Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality has developed specific guidelines for mounds. (\* See Page 12 reference.)

They require a pump and small diameter perforated pipe for distribution of septic tank effluent within the mound. Pressure distribution assures uniform distribution of the wastewater and slow, unsaturated flow through the coarse sand of the fill to achieve good filtration and biological treatment. Mounds are typically used over slowly permeable soils or any soil that has a shallow water table. They have been used for over 30 years in some areas and have a good record of reliability and performance. They typically cost \$10,000 to \$20,000 to install, depending on how common they are in that area and the availability of correct fill materials. Pumps used are typically effluent pumps that are very reliable and cost less than \$1.00 per month to operate. For best results, mound systems should be serviced at by a knowledgeable service provider every couple of years.

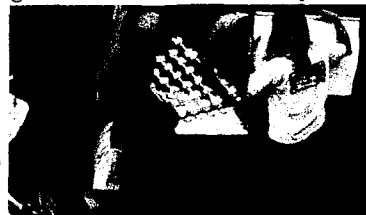
## Packed Bed Filters

Packed bed filters are containers of a specific media or material chosen to provide an environment where aerobic microbes can grow on the surfaces of the media and decompose contaminants that are filtered out as septic tank effluent passes through. Sand filters are one option.



There are numerous proprietary products that fall into this category and all operate in about the same way. Septic tank effluent is accumulated in a tank and pumped in small, frequent doses distributed uniformly over the surface of As the water moves slowly through the media, virtually all the organic matter and a high percentage of the pathogens present in the wastewater are removed by the combined processes of filtration and biological decomposition. If nitrogen removal is a goal, the effluent is recirculated through the media numerous times prior to discharge to the soil.

Examples of proprietary packed bed filters used in Michigan include: AdvanTex™ - A Geosynthetic textile based filter consisting of hanging sheets of 3/8" thick Geofabric in a prefabricated container from Orenco Systems Company.



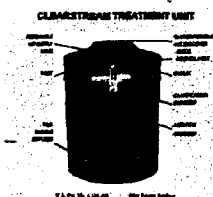
Waterloo Biofilter™ - An open cell foam based filter in a prefabricated or locally fabricated container from Waterloo Biofilter Systems, Inc., available through Clarke Construction in Traverse City.

SCAT™ - an open cell foam filter in a prefabricated container similar to Waterloo Biofilters.

In addition to these units there are proprietary packed bed filters that use peat or peat fiber as a treatment medium. Packed bed filter systems usually have to be designed by a professional engineer or soil scientist. All have been tested by third party testing agencies and have been proven to provide very high quality effluent with lower pollutant concentrations than some municipal treatment plants. All require regular maintenance. Some can be set up so that they can be checked on over a phone line but at least an annual visit by a trained maintenance provider is needed. Power costs are low, typically less than \$1 per month to run the feed pump. The necessary maintenance contract will add \$150 to \$300 per year to the cost of operation.

## Aerobic Treatment Units

Aerobic Treatment Units consist of an added tank or chamber usually following a septic tank to treat sewage using naturally occurring aerobic bacteria. The units pump air into the tank, thus providing an environment in which a population of aerobic organisms grow and decompose contaminants in the wastewater. The effluent quality from an ATU is much improved over septic tank effluent but not quite as clean as from a packed bed filter. There are numerous aerobic treatment units on the market across the country. At least four are actively marketed in Michigan:



Clearstream - a concentric chamber suspended growth unit.

BioMicrobics FAST - a combination fixed growth and activated sludge process

Norweco - a suspended growth system.

Pirana - a system of added bacteria and moderate aeration to improve the treatment in a septic tanks.

ATUs should be serviced by a trained maintenance provider about every 6 months if not set up for remote monitoring over a phone line. Power costs for operation of the air blower and perhaps a pump can run \$15-\$30 per month. As with packed bed filters, the maintenance contract will add \$150 to \$300 per year to the cost of operation.



## Constructed Wetlands

Constructed wetlands used for small wastewater treatment systems are typically submerged flow wetlands. A shallow excavation is lined with an impermeable liner and filled to a depth of 1.5-2 feet with coarse rock. Wetland plants are transplanted into the rock bed. Continued on Page 12.

## Effluent Quality

Effluent from any of these advanced treatment systems requires less natural soil to complete the treatment process than is required for septic tank effluent. Therefore it can be applied to soils with less vertical separation to groundwater or some other limiting layer and can be applied at a higher rate, thus requiring somewhat less total soil absorption area. Effluent from these systems produce much less clogging within a soil absorption system, so the soil system is destined to have a much longer useful life.

In fact, if highly treated effluent from any of these systems can be discharged to a soil absorption system that has failed due to clogging with the result that the soil system will become unclogged over a relatively short period of time and then accept treated wastewater for a long time. This may provide an option for failed systems that were initially large enough to function for several years.

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**Nibbler Unit (one of many types of ATUs)**  
Designed and manufactured by Northwest Cascade South

**Process Description**  
Kitchen and bathroom waste is first commingled in a 6,000 gallon tank where the majority of fats, oils and grease (FOG) are removed. From there the wastewater, as influent, flows by gravity to a 6,000-gallon surge tank. The surge tank evens out the flow rates so that the Nibbler treatment system is evenly and consistently dosed. The Nibbler treatment system is an aerobic system that utilizes microorganisms to digest the wastewater with the help of air and mixing from two blowers. From the Nibbler treatment system, the wastewater flows to a sand filter and a disinfection chamber.

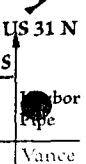
**Site Details:**

- Capacity of 3,000 gal/day average flow of commingled wastewater flows.
- 20 Nibbler pods capable of digesting 32.5 lbs/day BOD<sub>5</sub>.
- 6,000 gallons first pre-aerated commingled wastewater tank.

Oliver's Restaurant  
Traverse City, Michigan  
Alternative Treatment System  
Manufacturer: Northwest Cascade South (NCS)  
Start up: December 2001

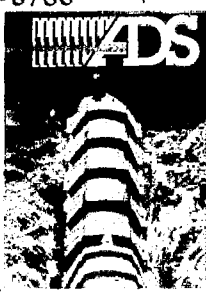
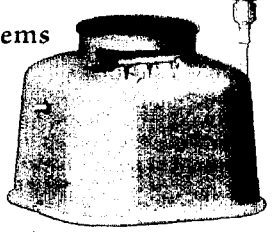
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In 2004 a research report by MI Tech University rated BLHD's Onsite Sewage Program the strongest in the Great Lakes.

MICHIGAN'S PREMIER WASTEWATER ORGANIZATION

### Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department

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Mary Pitcher, Secretary/Treasurer  
Melinda Laumer  
Dr. Richard Nelson  
Jim Houder

**Administrative Team:**  
Health Officer/Assistant Health Director  
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Michelle Miller, M.D., M.P.H.  
Jennifer Murray, R.N., M.P.H.  
Dodie Potney, B.S.

**Our Mission:**  
The Mission of the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department is to continually and diligently endeavour to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote public health.

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**Leelanau Office:**  
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Lake Leelanau, MI 49651  
Phone: 231 256-0200  
Fax: 231 256-0225

A copy of Dr. Halvorsen's report is available at [www.michigan-onsitewastewater.org](http://www.michigan-onsitewastewater.org)

# Northwest Michigan Council of Governments

## Regional Planning Services

## Local Government Project Support

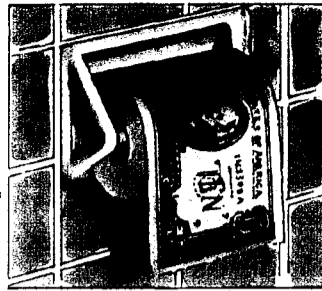
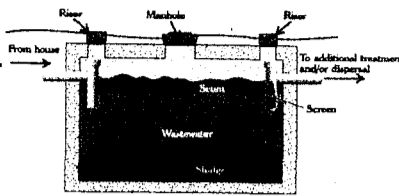
NWMOWTF Wastewater Infrastructure Survey Partner

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[www.nwm.org](http://www.nwm.org)

# Clean Water Starts at Home

## Laundry Day

If it's been several years since you bought your washing machine, and you're thinking of replacing it, your septic system will thank you and you will save



## Toilet Training...

Neither the toilet bowl or the kitchen garbage disposal is a suitable substitute for the garbage can!

If you can't digest it, neither can your wastewater system. Consider, for just a moment, if you stacked together all the rolls of toilet paper you use in one year? Try a simple experiment of placing in a quart mason jar and handful of your

favorite brand, cover with water and let it sit for an hour or two. When you shake it, does it break down into smaller pulp particles? Although some of that paper pulp will break down in the tank, most will settle to the bottom - which is why the phrase "I've lived here over xx years and I've never had to have my tank pumped" makes septic professionals cringe. How often you need to have your tank inspected and/or pumped does depend on the amount of useage - but over time all tanks reach a capacity of solid levels which need to be removed for good tank efficiency.

Would you dream of running your car for 10 years without changing the oil or having the tires checked? Isn't your wastewater system just as costly an investment? Remember, hell hath no fury like a backed up septic system!

There are new guidelines for the safe disposal of unused medications.

It is now known that it is not safe to flush unwanted prescriptions. Some can destroy the beneficial bacteria in your wastewater system - many can pass straight through the treatment process directly to groundwater - even from municipal treatment facilities. It is particularly unwise to overuse antibacterial products for precisely these reasons - especially considering the grave concerns the medical profession has about the development of antibacterial resistant strains of pathogens. Antibiotics can't distinguish between beneficial and harmful bacteria.

Likewise the jury is still out on the claims of various tank additives. Concerns have been raised by wastewater professionals on the effects of water softener chemicals and bowl cleaners. For more info see Page 12.



## Plain Talk About Septic Systems

We often hear the phrase "Out of Sight ~ Out Of Mind" used to describe the mindset of the average property owner. We flush, 'it' goes away and 'it' doesn't come back so who cares? It's our belief that's simply not true. If property owners realize the value of proper care of their investment, if we can prove how unnecessary, out of pocket expenses can be avoided, if we can show the link between safe recycling of wastewater and how that eventually returns as safe drinking water, if we all remember that we all live upstream, or downstream, from someone we all win!



One of the basic factors which has a direct bearing on how well your system performs is what you put in it in the first place! The tank has a limited capacity - usually 1000 - 1500 gallons for a basic residential setting.

How much water you use, for what purposes, in what volume and at what frequency will have a significant effect on what happens inside the tank and, ultimately how long a useful life your system will have.

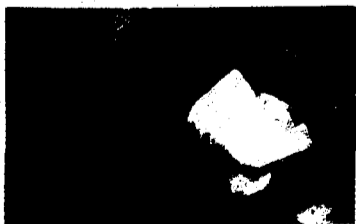
Anyone unfortunate to be restricted to using a wastewater holding tank, well knows how to conserve their use of water. Most of us consider water an unlimited resource and happily forget everything most 5th graders learn about the Water Cycle.

Practicing some basic water conservation habits serves dual duty of being a responsible property owner.

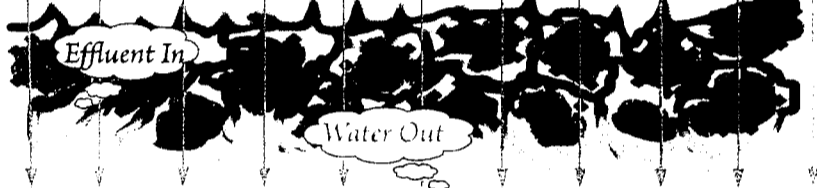
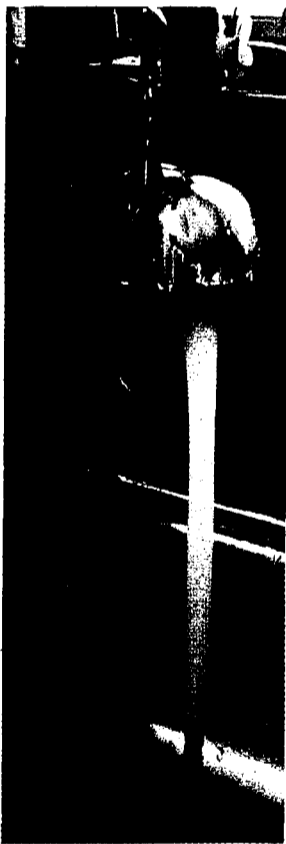
### In The Kitchen:

Modern faucets restrict water use to a trickle for rinsing or peeling produce, or incorporate an aerator which provides pressure without volume. If you need to wash off mud or soils do it outdoors not in the sink. Use vegetable prep water for your houseplants.

Think, for just a minute, about what you are about to flush down the drain and whether there isn't a better way to dispose of it?



Fats, oils and grease, can clog pipes and will rise to the scum layer inside the tank. Simply wipe out most of the gunk and dispose of it in the garbage. Or, when cool, drain excess oils to a disposable container and refrigerate until garbage collection day.



## Outstanding In Your Drainfield

Most of us closed Chemistry/Biology 101 text books many years ago. So, without getting too technical, the drainfield performs both simple and complex chemical magic with little more than some basic help from Mother Nature. Conventional drainfields are constructed of gravel and plastic perforated piping. Gravity and water pressure help fluids flow. Oxygen and nitrogen fuel beneficial bacteria which canibalize harmful waste byproducts. Air spaces between gravel and soil particles act to distribute fluid over the maximum possible surface area to allow those beneficial bacteria and organisms to do the work of filtering. However misuse or poor maintenance can clog the system. Too much fluid and solids will saturate those air spaces and deprive the active bacteria of the oxygen they need to survive.

Good system management will greatly prolong the useful life of your drainfield. A solution could be to let the system rest, ideally by having 2 drainfields and alternating between each annually. Make July 4th Drainfield Liberation Day!

You can do permanent damage to a drainfield by compaction. Think of the drainfield as a sponge - squeeze it and it loses its ability to hold moisture - however, unlike a sponge, a drainfield has a poor chance of reinflating. Packed down, it is deprived of both the air bacteria need to work and the ability to retain water long enough for treatment. Compacted drainfields also suffer from deeper frost levels - and remember bacteria need to stay above freezing to work.

So ~ some drainfield "nevers" are NEVER:- park a vehicle on top of it, for all the reasons listed above plus it can leak oil and automotive fluids; never plow snow on top of the drainfield - think of the snow melt and the weight of the pile; and never allow someone to work on your drainfield who doesn't know how to do so safely.



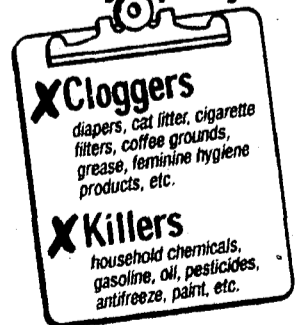
## The Grass Grows Greener Over The Septic System!

An Old Wives Tale or Trusism? From the information on this page, you can see that the individual, 'onsite' wastewater collection and treatment system is designed to collect, retain, treat and recycle nutrient rich liquid byproducts. Food in = food out. Human and animal waste is the oldest form of fertilizer used to grow crops. The trick, as any good gardener knows, is to use only as much as you need, the surplus can poison a crop or lead to unwanted growth.

In dry weather conditions it's quite possible to see the greener outline of your system but if you start to see continual green lush growth and the ground seems spongy and damp those are signals that it's time to have a service provider come and at least do an inspection. The issue may be simply addressed by practising wise water use habits. Or it could be clogging in the tank or drainfield from invasive plant roots. Planting of vegetation can help the system work well as the plant roots will take up some of the effluent nutrients. But water loving, root seeking species such as willows will look on your drainfield as the fast track to a deli take out! For more information on landscaping your septic system see Page Twelve.



## Not in My Septic System!



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## Water To Waste

## Onsite Wastewater Task Force

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(231)233-1806 | FAX: (231)882-2204  
michigan-onsitewastewater.org

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### Watersheds Are The Future: Continued From Page Two:

assess the performance of practitioners, and identify areas where collective treatment solutions should be organized.

At a higher level, onsite and decentralized wastewater provides advantages over central sewerage, which collects the wastewater in sewers that drain to the bottom of the basin where the water is discharged from the watershed after treatment.

Onsite and decentralized wastewater instead disperses treated wastewater throughout the watershed to recharge groundwater, helping to maintain base flows in streams and preserving wetlands.

The scattered treatment systems also make better use of the environment's assimilative capacity because smaller amounts of pollutants are discharged.

The pollutants are usually discharged to the soil, which provides excellent treatment protecting groundwater quality. Also, be aware, malfunctions of onsite and decentralized wastewater systems pose lower risks and are easier to repair because they are smaller and easier to manage.

Is the public aware of these advantages? Shouldn't it be? We need a consistent information campaign to get the public to notice and care.

Provide assistance, including planning and financial help to system owners, unsewered communities, and housing settlements in implementing effective solutions.

We need to assist small, rural, unsewered areas in finding effective wastewater treatment solutions. Currently, such areas are not well served by either the onsite or NPDES programs. These residents cannot be left on their own.

Local onsite programs are in the best position to provide this service.

Also financial assistance programs need to be available to assist system owners under financial hardships to repair or renovate existing systems that are not in compliance.

These ten actions may not be the ten most important, and they may not be in the appropriate order. But, what is important is that we develop a vision of what our onsite programs can be and then develop a plan on how we can help to actualize the vision.

Changes such as these take many years. We need a good plan and then commit to it!

Dr. Otis's full article is available at: [www.michigan-onsitewastewater.org](http://www.michigan-onsitewastewater.org)

## Who We Are

**Mission Statement:**  
To increase awareness that water quality is directly linked to the use of appropriate wastewater systems and their management.

Our organization serves 15 NW MI Counties and represents a collaborative of organizations committed to water quality and environment sustainability through comprehensive education, sound land use planning and cost effective wastewater strategies.

We act as an independent, impartial, education clearinghouse and community resource for those seeking information on wastewater technology, research, financing, planning and public outreach.

NWMOWTF is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose Board includes, health department officials, Township planning and zoning regulators, representatives of state agencies, realtors, Wellhead Protection and human services advocates as well as environmental agencies. A full Current Board List is available on our web site.

NWMOWTF was formed with the direct support of the Joyce Foundation, based in Chicago, in response to an immediate need to address preservation and sustainability of water quality and resources within the Great Lakes Basin.

NWMOWTF is charged to conduct activities which: a) lead to a change in attitude and thinking of how we, as both individuals and communities, use and recycle water; and b) educate and disseminate information on wastewater infrastructure options and best management practices.  
Chair: William Crawford R.S. MSA

## Education Resources

Michigan State University:  
ONSITE WASTEWATER TRAINING:  
[www.egr.msu.edu/age/news\\_events/index.htm](http://www.egr.msu.edu/age/news_events/index.htm)

Institute of Water Research:  
[www.iwr.msu.edu/](http://www.iwr.msu.edu/)  
Michigan Groundwater Stewardship:  
[www.mgsp.org](http://www.mgsp.org)  
Michigan Rural Water Assoc.:  
[www.mrwa.org/](http://www.mrwa.org/)  
Great Lakes Water Studies Inst.:  
<http://www.nmc.edu/wsi/news/>  
Michigan Land Use Institute: [www.mlui.org](http://www.mlui.org)  
Tip Of The Mitt Watershed Council:  
[www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org)

Onsite Sewage Treatment Program (OSTP)  
Water Resources Center U of MN:  
Information for Small Communities  
Small Community Wastewater Education Program:  
<http://septic.coafes.umn.edu/SCWEP/index.html>  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD5980.html>  
and Onsite System Landscaping Tips:  
[www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu)

## What We Do

Education Workshops for children, communities & local government.



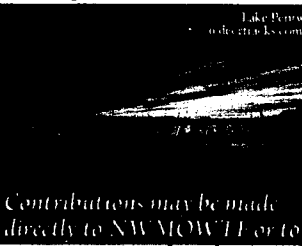
- Reference Services via our web site, email and professional associations.
- Research & Project Support.
- Collaborative facilitation for community support services.
- Web based training programs.
- Showcase case studies of innovative, decentralized, wastewater collection, treatment and management systems.

Copies of both 2004 and 2005 Annual Reports are available on our web site.



## Ways To Help

Become A Partner ~ if you have a land use, environmental or public education project in the planning stage which has relevance to wastewater issues - call us. Most funding agencies give a higher priority to collaborative efforts. Make A Contribution ~ NWMOWTF is wholly independent and is only able to offer services if we receive public or private funding.



Contributions may be made directly to NWMOWTF or to our Agency Fund at the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation: [www.gtrcf.org](http://www.gtrcf.org)  
Sponsorships & Underwriting - We would like to thank all the generous organizations and individuals who made this publication possible, but support is needed for other future public education, training & research projects. Call us for more details.

- Ground Water & the Rural Home: [http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/gw\\_ruralhlo/owner/](http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/gw_ruralhlo/owner/)
- National Environmental Services Center: [www.nesc.wvu.edu](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu)
- The Groundwater Foundation: <http://www.groundwater.org/>
- National Groundwater Assoc.: <http://www.ngwa.org/>
- National Precast Concrete Assoc. Best Management Practices Manual: [www.precast.org/certification/qc\\_manual.htm](http://www.precast.org/certification/qc_manual.htm)
- American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC): [www.acec.org/](http://www.acec.org/)
- Michigan Society of Professional Engineers: [www.michiganspe.org/](http://www.michiganspe.org/)

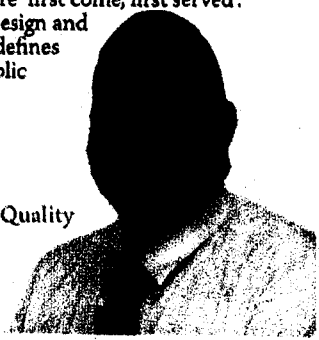
A Special Section has been created on our web site which contains a full listing of articles referenced in this publication plus other local case studies such as the innovative HTI Inc. system at Black Bear Farms in Traverse City. We are also conducting a brief survey to see what future publications or training workshops you would like us to conduct.

## DEQ Strategic Water Quality Initiative Fund [SWQIF]

The Strategic Water Quality Initiative Fund, (SWQIF), is a low interest (approx. 1.6% over 20 years) loan program to assist communities help residents upgrade or replace failing septic systems and mitigate clearwater inflows to sewer leads. As part of the SWQIF program a new \$2 grant is available on a first come, first served basis, which will fund 90% of a community's cost for planning & designing a State Revolving Loan (SRF) or SWQIF wastewater construction loan project. The \$2 Grant Application is now available for download at: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-essd-mfs-s2-application.pdf> [This requires Adobe Reader.] A FAQ sheet is also available at <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-essd-mfs-swqif-questions.pdf> \$40 million is available for planning & design of SRF & SWQIF projects. More than one grant application can be made by a community, but the total of all grants cannot exceed \$1,000,000. Grants are "first come, first served". The STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF) provides funds to municipalities to plan, design and build publicly owned projects for water pollution control. Part 53, Section 5301(h) defines 'municipality' as a city, village, county, township, authority, Indian tribe, or other public body authorized by state law.

For more information please contact:  
Michael A. Cox, Senior Project Manager, Project Management Unit - West Revolving Loan and Operator Certification Section  
Environmental Science and Services Division - MI Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, MI 48909-7957  
Phone: 517.373.4757 \* Fax: 517.335.0743 \* Email: [Coxm@michigan.gov](mailto:Coxm@michigan.gov)

NWMOWTF also can provide a CD of a SWQIF DEQ presentation with audio.



The tank conducts business in an anaerobic environment ~ i.e. without oxygen being present, continuing what takes place within the human gut. The main role of the tank is to retain its contents long enough for solids, fats and oils to separate out and begin to decompose. The process produces noxious and potentially life threatening gases such as methane, hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, sulphur dioxide - that unmistakable smell of sewer gas.  
These gases are usually vented through a roof pipe but should you start smelling them inside your home leave the premises and call a service provider.  
An interesting bit of historical trivia is that one of the first indoor toilets was built for Queen Elizabeth I of England in the 16th. Century. However it would be almost another 300 years to the invention of the 'U' bend which traps water to prevent sewer gas from venting back to the toilet bowl. The smell was apparently so overpowering she refused to use it!