

June 1, 2012



To All Grand Beach Residents,

PLEASE HELP PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

The Village Council is concerned with protecting White Creek and Lake Michigan from storm water pollution. It is our job, as well as your job to help protect these waterways, not only for ourselves, but for future generations to come.

Storm water runoff occurs when water from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water runoff from naturally soaking into the ground, often creating an excess of storm water. This excess water can pick up pollutants such as yard waste, oil and grease, chemicals, fertilizers, pet waste and bacteria and flow into storm drains or directly in to the lake, streams, rivers or wetlands.

Polluted storm water runoff can cause harm to the water, plants, fish, animals and people. Please do your part to protect the water quality by taking special care to ensure that pollutants do not enter White Creek or Lake Michigan through the storm sewer drains, catch basins, ditches, parking lots, roads, or other man-made channels that are designed or used, singly or together in combination with one another, for collecting or conveying storm water.

The word pollutant includes, but is not limited to the following; solid waste, vehicle fluids, yard wastes, animal wastes, sediment, sewage, garbage, chemical wastes, hazardous materials, sand, and or any other contaminant or other substance defined as a pollutant under the Clean Water Act.

In order to help protect our waterways, you can help by doing the following:

- Do not pour anything down the storm drain, as it could flow straight into White Creek or Lake Michigan.
- Take unwanted chemicals, varnish, and oil based paint to a hazardous collection site.
- Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in your driveway. If you choose to wash your car at home, wash it on the grass or gravel, but not on a paved driveway or street that would allow the waste water to run onto the street or into any drains. Waste water from vehicle washing is prohibited from entering the storm sewer systems.
- Always pick up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly in the trash.
- Have your septic tank inspected and pumped regularly.
- Use low or no-phosphorus fertilizers and always follow the directions to ensure that you are using the proper application rate, and applying them sparingly.
- During the winter, use de-icing chemicals sparingly, with sand preferred for environmental reasons.
- Plant native vegetation, such as dune grass to the maximum extent possible on slopes.

The Village has adopted ordinance number 64 to regulate non-storm water discharges to the storm water drainage system in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process and to provide for penalties for violations of the ordinance.

Illicit discharge is defined as any discharge to a water body or a storm water drainage system that does

not consist entirely of storm water, and is not authorized by the terms of an NPDES permit, or that is not an authorized discharge as defined by ordinance number 64. The ordinance is available on our website at www.grandbeach.org.

Illicit discharges contain pollutants that will significantly degrade White Creek and Lake Michigan, thus threatening the health, safety and welfare of the citizens. Illicit discharges enter the storm water drainage system through either direct connections (e.g., wastewater piping either mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains) or indirect connections (e.g., infiltration into the storm drain system or spills connected by drain inlets). The Village of Grand Beach prohibits homeowners from tying any type of drainage system in to the Village storm drain system.

To report illicit discharges and improper disposal of materials to the storm sewer systems, contact the Village Clerk at (269) 469-3141.

To report evidence of pollution to Lake Michigan or White Creek, contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) at (269) 567-3578.

To report soil erosion from sloping land into White Creek or Lake Michigan, contact the Berrien County Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Department at (269) 983-7111, ext. 8255.

To obtain information on maintaining your septic system, contact the Berrien County Health Department in Three Oaks, Michigan at (269) 756-2008.

The next household hazardous waste collection drop off is scheduled for June 23, 2012 from 9-1 EDT at the River Valley Senior Center, 13321 Red Arrow Hwy, Harbert, MI and again on September 29, 2012 from 9-1 EDT at the New Buffalo **City** Fire Department, 35 N. Harrison Street, New Buffalo. For additional dates and locations, contact the Berrien County Resource Recycling Center at (269) 983-7111, ext. 8234 or visit www.berriencounty.org/recycle.

Non-hazardous wastes are picked up on Mondays year around and also on Fridays between July 1st and Labor Day, with recyclable wastes picked up on alternating Mondays by Able Disposal. Contact Able Disposal at (800) 828-2253 with any questions. Call them before placing a large item out for pick up so that they will be sure to pick it up.

The Village of Grand Beach will pick up yard waste for composting if it is left at the edge of the property near the street in biodegradable bags. Loose leaf pick up generally occurs during the month of November.

Storm water pollution prevention fact sheets are available at the Village Hall, and also on our website at www.grandbeach.org. For more information on water quality and storm water matters, please visit the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission website at www.swmpc.org/water.asp.

The Village of Grand Beach Storm Water Management Program is on file at the Clerk's office and can be viewed during office hours.

Thank you for your help and your cooperation in keeping our waterways clean. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (269) 469-3141.

Mary J. Robertson
Village Clerk-Treasurer