

June 6, 2018

To All Grand Beach Residents,



PLEASE HELP PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

The Village Council is very 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.

You can help protect our waterways by doing the following:

- Do not pour anything down the storm drain as it could flow straight into White Creek or Lake Michigan.
- Never dump used oil, antifreeze, or other fluids on the ground or down the storm drain.
- Take unwanted chemicals, varnish, and oil based paint to a hazardous collection site. There is a collection date scheduled for Saturday, June 16th from 9 a.m. – 1: 00 p.m. EST, 8:00 a.m. – Noon CST at the New Buffalo Township Fire Dept., 17655 Clay St in New Buffalo.
- 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.
- 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.
- Native vegetation, such as dune grass should be planted to the maximum extent possible on slopes.

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

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