

participate via the Zoom meeting.

If a community member wishes to provide a document for discussion at the meeting, it must be submitted to Village Administrator [John Wenzlick](#) no later than June 22nd.

[Zoom Meeting Link and Information](#)

## HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Village offices will be closed on Friday, July 3rd in celebration of the holiday. **Recycling** for the week will be moved **UP one day** - Thurs pick up on Wed, Fri pick up on Thurs. There will be no Wednesday box pick ups due to the short week.

## PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS

Summer has arrived and so has gardening season! Adding native flowers, shrubs and grasses to your garden or landscaping is a great way to enhance your personal piece of the environment. These plant species provide many benefits, from acting as food sources for important pollinator species (e.g., bees and monarch butterflies), to helping to reduce stormwater/pollution runoff into our rivers and streams. Even better, native plants are typically very easy to care for. Because native varieties are naturally adapted to our Northwest Ohio climate, they do not require as much watering, pest control and/or fertilizing as non-native species often need. In short, these plants can save you time and money!

There are many beautiful varieties to choose from and you may find that the real challenge is simply picking your favorite. See the list below for resources regarding plant selection and plant sales/sources.

- Toledo-Lucas County Rain Garden Initiative – [Plant Selection](#)
- Wild Ones Oak Openings Region Chapter
  - [Plant Selection](#)
  - [Plant Sources](#)

You may also gain inspiration from one of the [Toledo Zoo's Wild Toledo](#) native prairie patches located at the Talmadge Rd. and Evergreen Rd. Ottawa River road crossings. A third patch is located on the hillside (a.k.a., sledding hill) between Brookside Rd. and the River.

If you are searching for more ways to improve the quality of habitat on your property, you may also be interested in signing up for the [Green Ribbon Initiative's Oak Openings Landowner Registry](#).

To read about the many ways that the Village of Ottawa Hills is planning for and investing in environmental quality, take a look at the Village's [10-Year Environmental Strategic Plan](#).



## POOLS

The Village has experienced an increase in pool installation requests, likely due to this year's unusual circumstances. Several residents have asked about above-ground pools, which are prohibited by Village zoning regulations. A residential swimming pool is any "...receptacle for water, or an artificial pool of water having a depth at any point of more than two (2) feet, intended for the purpose of immersion or partial immersion of human beings..."

A permit is required prior to installation of any pool and, for safety, it must be enclosed by required fencing. If you have any questions about pool requirements and permits, please feel free to contact Village Administrator John Wenzlick.

## INCOME TAX INFORMATION

**TAX OFFICE DIRECT PHONE 419-536-6502**

### **Tax filing & payment deadline - July 15th**

- Tax documents and payments can be dropped off at the front entrance of the Municipal Building (enter near columns)
- Watch for a drive up drop box coming soon!
- Taxpayers can call the number above to schedule an in-person appointment on a limited basis. Tax meetings will be by appointment only. NOTE: As we approach the new due date of July 15th it will become more difficult to get an appointment. Please plan ahead.

transitioned to an email alert system that individual residents can request. Below is a link to the simple request form to set up email notifications when TASD will be spraying in your area.

[SIGN UP FOR MOSQUITO SPRAY ALERTS](#)

## GREAT BLACK SWAMP

You may know the Great Black Swamp as the large expanse of marsh and wet forest that used to cover approximately 1,500 mi<sup>2</sup> of land from Indiana across Northwest Ohio, but do you also know of the role it played in the health of Lake Erie? Although the Swamp was not the most hospitable human habitat, it provided a valuable ecosystem service. The Swamp's wetlands were responsible for filtering/cleaning staggering amounts of water as it flowed toward and into Lake Erie. When humans began to populate the region in the 1800s, almost all of the swamp was drained to make way for community developments and agricultural lands.

Today, Lake Erie lacks the benefits of this massive natural filtration system, and pollutants like nutrients (e.g., nitrogen and phosphorus) flow from the surrounding landscape, directly into the Lake, unimpeded. This increase in nutrient availability is what fuels the algal blooms that we see each summer in Lake Erie's western basin. The short video from MidStory Media at the link below does an excellent job of summarizing the history of the Great Black Swamp, explaining the importance of regional wetlands, and showcasing projects that are being designed and implemented to restore this area. Take a look!

*Hidden In Plain Sight: The Great Black Swamp of Northwest Ohio:* [www.midstory.org](http://www.midstory.org)



## BULK ITEM PICKUP PROGRAM

to showcase the beauty of our Oak Openings Region and inspire home-based and collaborative conservation. Visit [www.oakopenings.org/blue-week](http://www.oakopenings.org/blue-week) for more information. This year, nature lovers of all ages have an opportunity to learn more about this unique region through online programs and firsthand experience guided do-it-yourself adventures.

2020 highlights include:

- **Regional DIY Adventures:** Week-long opportunities to explore regional parks and preserves and **win prizes**. Adventures include a Photo Scavenger Hunt and Fact Finding Game.
- **Virtual Learning:** Daily nature-centered programs for kids at 10 a.m. and adults at 7 p.m.
- **Meet the Experts:** May 16 and 17 local native plant and habitat experts will answer questions about landscaping and backyard management virtually.

[2020 Full Schedule of Activities](#)

## CARING FOR YOUR LAWN AND WATER

As summer approaches we are all looking forward to time outdoors in our yards and community green spaces. Unfortunately, a lot of traditional lawn care practices that result in lush green yards inadvertently turn our rivers and lakes green too. Not all fertilizer applied to a lawn stays put; a portion of what is applied can runoff off into nearby waters (e.g., the Ottawa River and Lake Erie) or migrate through the soil into ground water. When introduced to a waterbody, fertilizer can increase aquatic plant growth (algae) just as it speeds the growth of your grass. A prime example of the results of excess fertilizer within a waterbody is our now annual Lake Erie algae bloom.

Fortunately, there are some simple practices that homeowners can do to reduce the amount of fertilizer running into our waters. If you hire a lawn company, you can make sure they understand and follow these practices as well. *Several tips are summarized below, but for even more information, visit the Clear Choices Clean Water-Greater Toledo Lake Erie website [here](#).*

**Mowing:** Mow high and keep your lawn at a height of three inches. Taller grass means deeper roots and a lawn that needs less fertilizer and water to stay healthy and green. Less fertilizer and water also mean a cost savings for you!

**Fertilizing:** [4 Rs of Fertilization](#)

1. **Right Type** – Have your soil tested to determine fertilizer needs and **use a phosphate-free fertilizer**. Contact the Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District for testing information.
2. **Right Rate** – Soil test results will provide you with the appropriate fertilizer rate; don't exceed this rate and never apply more than 1.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 feet. **Use mulching blades on your mower and leave the grass clippings on the lawn; this returns valuable nutrients to the soil.**
3. **Right Time** – May and September are the best times to fertilize lawns when cool season grasses are actively growing. **Don't apply fertilizer when rain/or and wind are in the forecast.**
4. **Right Place** – Proper fertilization techniques save money and protect waterways and wildlife. Avoid fertilizing near streams (e.g., the Ottawa River), ditches, hard surfaces, and slopes. If fertilizer granules are accidentally spread onto hard surfaces, make sure to sweep them up. **Incorporate native plantings near stream, ditches, and slopes to better intercept pollutants before they enter our waterways.**

## **BULK ITEM PICKUP PROGRAM**

**Saturdays - \$100 per pickup**

**6/20, 7/18, 8/22, 9/19, 10/24, 11/14**

- NOTE: Some reservations are still available for May 16th - call 419-536-1111 for info

## ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

Did you notice a group of Ottawa Hills students walking through neighborhoods around the Jr./Sr. High School while carrying paint and tools last fall? Rest assured, these youth were not skipping class but were doing their part for a healthy watershed! The students were members of the Ottawa Hills School Environmental Club, and opted to use their lunch break to mark neighborhood storm drains with the phrase, "Drains are for Rain, Flows to Waterway" and to distribute information flyers as part of Partners for Clean Streams' [Storm Drain Marking Program](#) and Ottawa Hills' ongoing efforts to improve its environmental sustainability.

Storm drains are a necessary part of urban infrastructure as they help to prevent flooding in buildings and roadways, but it is important to remember that the water that passes through these drains does not receive cleaning/treatment before flowing into nearby surface waters. Because of this direct route, any trash or pollutants (oil, antifreeze, paint, etc.) that flow into storm drains generally end up in our streams, rivers and lakes. This pollution can lead to water that is dangerous to both wildlife and people.

Storm drain marking efforts, like those of the Ottawa Hills Schools Environmental Club, help community members understand the importance of keeping storm drains clear of debris and pollutants. According to the Club's faculty sponsor, Mr. Paul Genzman, "the students were so excited to be a part of something as tangible and meaningful as the storm drain marking program. They understand the value of freshwater resources and are thrilled to be a part of such preservation efforts." If you are interested in helping, [register](#) here to plan an event! You can also visit the [Clear Choices Clean Water](#) website to learn more about the importance of clean storm drains and about many more ways you can help keep your community waterways healthy (e.g., [Adopt a Storm Drain](#)). Did you notice a group of Ottawa Hills students walking through neighborhoods around the Jr./Sr. High School while carrying paint and tools last fall? Rest assured, these youth were not skipping class but were doing their part for a healthy watershed! The students were members of the Ottawa Hills School Environmental Club, and opted to use their lunch break to mark neighborhood storm drains with the phrase, "Drains are for Rain, Flows to Waterway" and to distribute information flyers as part of Partners for Clean Streams' [Storm Drain Marking Program](#) and Ottawa Hills' ongoing efforts to improve its environmental sustainability.

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