

WARDCLIFF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.

East Lansing/Okemos, MI

www.wardcliff.org / www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA



Summer, 2017

BWL Solar Project in East Lansing Park

The first Lansing Board of Water and Light solar park is being built on the retired landfill site at Burcham Park, at the corner of Park Lake and Burcham.

Built by Patriot Solar Group of Albion, the park will have 1,800 solar panels.

Each panel is rated at 300 watts. Annual electricity production from the array will be about 385,000 kilowatt-hours which is enough energy to power 55 average households for a year.

Leasing of the panels will allow BWL electric customers to obtain solar power energy without having to install panels on their homes or businesses.



Participants will need to sign a 25-year lease and pay an upfront cost of \$399 per solar panel. They may also lease more than one panel.

Construction will begin in East Lansing once 80 percent of the panels have been leased. Credits will be issued to individuals' electricity bills. The panels are expected to pay for themselves in 10-16 years, according to an article by the Lansing State Journal.

Anyone in the Wardcliff area interested in leasing a solar panel can pre-register online at micommunitysolar.org/sign-up or call 517-337-0422, ext. 4.

Notice:

A coyote killed a neighborhood cat on Saturday, June 24 at about 2:00AM. Three people verified that it was a full grown coyote. The coyote was described as being as big as a small chocolate lab.

The attack happened on the corner of Wardcliff and Rockwood. Please be aware of this predator and bring your cats indoor overnight.

WNA Neighborhood Garage Sale Success

The weather was perfect for the WNA neighborhood garage sale event held June 2-3. Homeowners said traffic was fantastic, thanks to the multiple sites used to advertise the event. Flyers were printed listing all locations holding a sale, with some of the available items, which also helped guide traffic.

Surveys sent to the participating homeowners were returned with responses that were very positive. Some suggested ideas for next year's sale.

Many thanks to Esther Onaga for orchestrating this great event, and to all those assisting.

Whistler Drive Repave is Complete

The Ingham County Road Department has finished repaving Whistler Drive and rebuilding the crosswalk entrances.

Many thanks to the ICRD for its rapid response to citizen reports.



Whistler Drive looking west from Park Lake.

Visit from Old Friend

Cheryl Rogers, a founding member of the WNA, visited her old neighborhood this month. She was in town to speak at a forum in Lansing on Title IX, and visit with her former friends and neighbors.

About five years ago, Cheryl moved to Massachusetts and is the Director of Human Resources at Springfield Technical Community College. She was very happy to see

Continued in next column:

WNA President on Transportation Commission

At the Township Board Meeting held on August 1, 2017, Christine Beavers was nominated by Supervisor Ron Styka and approved unanimously by the Township Board to become a member of the Meridian Township Transportation Commission.

The seven-member commission meets monthly to consider a wide range of transportation-related issues including improvements in the Redi-Ride service and other forms of public transportation, updates in the pedestrian/bicycle pathway system, the need for audible traffic signals, and the possible creation of Quiet Zones for railway crossings, just to name a few.

Christine's experience working in state government, and her many years of active engagement with Township government, will make her a great addition to the Transportation Commission. We thank her for accepting this important position on behalf of all the citizens of Meridian Township.

First Rabies Case in 2017

The first case of rabies this year in Michigan has been confirmed in Ingham County in May.

Authorities say a brown bat tested positive for the disease, which can be fatal to humans.

Rabies can be transmitted through a bite or scratch from an infected animal. Bats and skunks are the most common carriers. There were 41 cases reported in 2016.

State authorities claim that pets and domestic livestock should be vaccinated for rabies. If your animal is bitten, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, seek immediate medical attention.

For more information about rabies: www.michigan.gov/rabies.

Old Friend, *continued from previous column:*

Wardcliff school back in use, the garden and grove, and hearing about the many new, young people and families moving into the neighborhood.

Neighbors gathered at Esther Onaga's for Saturday brunch, to catch up with each other, and share plenty of laughter and hugs. It was a lovely day for everyone.

The Grove

On June 1, 2017, the neighborhood and invited guests gathered together to celebrate The Grove at Wardcliff.

Led by Esther Onaga, participants included the Wardcliff Abilities Center, Okemos Schools, the Wardcliff Neighborhood Association, and MSU Tree Research.



The celebration included a parade of decorated umbrellas, children's games, educational displays, food, and music.

The Grove is the vision of Esther Onaga as a place for neighbors to meet, remember neighbors who have passed, honor those who have been supportive of the neighborhood, using the Abilities Center, and Wardcliff School as the center of neighborhood activities.



Dr. Catherine Ash.

This year we honored retiring Okemos Schools superintendent Dr. Catherine Ash and retiring Director of Facilities, Steve Lathrop.

Without the support of Dr. Ash and Mr. Lathrop, our community garden and tree grove would not have become a reality. We wish them both a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Michigan

In May, officials from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that the West Nile virus was identified in a **turkey** in Barry County, a **crow** in Kalamazoo County, and a **crow** in Saginaw County. Warnings have been issued to try and prevent mosquito bites which can transmit the virus.

Symptoms of West Nile virus include fever, confusion, muscle weakness, and severe headache. More serious complications include neurological illnesses, such as meningitis and encephalitis.

Last year, the state says there were 43 serious illnesses and three deaths related to West Nile virus in Michigan.

9/11 WTC Memorial Quilt Project Presentation

Please join us for a public viewing of the 9/11 World Trade Center Memorial Quilt Project which is coming to Meridian Township for the first time.

The quilts will be on display at the Meridian Mall in the southeast wing through the Food Court entrance during the following four days.

Viewing Hours:

Fri. & Sat., Sept. 8 & 9: **10:00 am - 9:00 pm**

Sunday, Sept. 10: **12:00 noon to 6:00 pm**

Monday, Sept. 11: **10:00 am - 9:00 pm**

Visitors will be able to match each quilt block to a September 11th victim.



The magnitude of this project can only be appreciated in person. The enormous contribution of time, effort, and compassion to organize and complete this project is amazing.

Any donations to view the quilt project are welcomed and appreciated.

Sponsors include the Capital Area District Libraries, Al-Lin's Floral and Gifts, Fire Fighter Union Local 1600, and the 9/11 WTC Memorial Quilt Project.

Shaping The Avenue

Join Meridian Township residents for an informal, hands-on open house where you can provide feedback to building design mock-ups, share where you think sidewalks and crosswalks can be improved, and express ideas in which planners, designers, and transit officials can shape the avenue.

SHAPING MERIDIAN

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Meridian Township Municipal Building

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

Refreshments will be provided.

Meridian Township is finalizing the 2017 Master Plan, which represents the vision, values, and future goals of the township which also helps guide policy-making decisions focused on preserving and enhancing the best characteristics of Meridian Township.

Come share your input on how regulations can be shaped for future development along Grand River and in downtown Okemos.

Wardcliff Neighborhood Assn.

P.O. Box 65, Okemos, MI 48805-0065

www.wardcliff.org

www.facebook.com/WardcliffNA/

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2017-2018

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WNA website board contact page:

www.wardcliff.org/contact/

The Wardcliff neighborhood is in Meridian Township, and borders the City of East Lansing to the west, Grand River Ave. on the south, Park Lake Rd. on the east, and Burcham Dr. on the north.

Links:

[Copy and paste text into your browser.]

www.wardcliff.org/links/

- Meridian Township
www.meridian.mi.us/
- Meridian Township Police
 - MTPD on Twitter
twitter.com/MeridianTwpPD
 - MTPD on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD
 - MTPD Blog
meridiantwppolice.blogspot.com/
- Nixle – Local Community Alerts
www.nixle.com/
- Crime Mapping
crimemapping.com/map/agency/452

Emergency Preparedness

- Ready.gov: www.ready.gov/
- Do1Thing: www.do1thing.com/

A Reminder to Walkers, Joggers and Bikers

Walkers/Joggers: Remember to walk and jog **AGAINST traffic**, on the left side of the road if not using the sidewalk.

Bikers: Remember to ride bicycles **WITH traffic** on the right side of the road.

We want our neighbors to be safe.

New Superintendent of Okemos Schools

Alena Zachery-Ross has begun her first year as Superintendent of Okemos Schools.

Formerly, Mrs. Zachery-Ross was the Superintendent of Schools for the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy, the



first public charter school district in the United States, where she served for five years. She is recognized as being responsible for turning around the entire district profile, including student

discipline, student and staff attendance, dropout rate, and graduation rate.

In her spare time, Mrs. Ross enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family.

The Wardcliff Neighborhood Association Board welcomes Mrs. Zachery-Ross to Okemos in her role as superintendent. We will be inviting her to attend one of our neighborhood events to meet the wonderful people in the Wardcliff Neighborhood.

Fall Fun Fest 2017

This year's Fall Fun Fest has been scheduled for Sunday, October 15, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

There will be lots of wonderful food, fun games for the kids, and a bonfire to roast marshmallows for our famous s'mores.

We also expect the township Fire Department will bring some equipment and help us celebrate the arrival of Fall.

Code Enforcement Issues?

If you are concerned about something in your neighborhood, but don't know how to check on it, Meridian Township's Code Enforcement website is available to help.

To report a potential violation, go to the Township website at www.meridian.mi.us then click on Code Enforcement on the left, which will open a form to fill out to make a report.

There is also a link to common code violations, and contact information for the department.

The full township ordinance list is at the following link: www.ecode360.com/ME3541

Copy and paste into your browser for a complete set of ordinances for the township.

2017 National Night Out/Ice Cream Social Fun for All

On Tuesday, August 1st, the Wardcliff Neighborhood Association helped the Meridian Township Police and Fire Departments celebrate the 2017 National Night Out.

Along with the staff of the Wardcliff Abilities Center, the WNA greeted over seventy neighbors and friends throughout the evening on the lawn outside the Wardcliff School. There were fun activities for the children, lots of interesting conversation for the adults, and as usual, the WNA served several varieties of MSU Dairy Store ice cream.

During the course of the evening, an ambulance crew, led by Captain Bill Richardson and his firefighter/paramedic partner, stopped by to allow kids and adults alike to greet our first responders and to see the equipment they use in dealing with many types of emergencies.

A motorcycle police officer also stopped by, as well as Chief of Police Dave Hall, who enjoyed some ice cream and answered lots of questions from residents both old and young.

All in all, the 2017 National Night Out and Ice Cream Social was a great success and provided a wonderful opportunity for neighbors to greet old friends and make new ones.

