

Think Spring On a nice warm sunny day after the snow has melted would be a good time to go out and take a look at your landscape from across the street. Take note of what is overgrown and needs trimmed back for security purposes, bushes that block the windows or behind which a criminal could hide to gain access to your home. This would be a good time to trim down perennial plants that didn't get trimmed in the fall and pick up the plant litter around the plants. You want to do this before it gets warm enough for bugs to hatch as they hide for the winter under this debris.

(Continued on page 5)

Fat Free Sewers Fats, oils and greases aren't just bad for your waistline and your health; they're bad for sewers too. Just as fat can clog your arteries, it can clog your sewer tap and the public sewer lines making sewer overflows and backups more likely. Fort Wayne City Utilities spends an estimated \$400,000 per year to clean grease out of sewer lines and to prevent it from building up.

Grease is a by-product of cooking that comes from meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, food scraps, even baked goods. When these materials are washed down the sink, the grease sticks on the sides of the sewer pipes – both on private property and in the public sewer system. Over time, grease can build up to the point where it blocks the entire line. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. Products such as detergents that claim to dissolve grease may just

(Continued on page 6)

Where Does My Drinking Water Come From?

If you are a water customer of Fort Wayne City Utilities, the St. Joseph River is the source of your drinking water. Water flows into the St. Joseph River from a watershed area that covers more than 694,000 acres in north-east Indiana, northwest Ohio and a small portion of south central Michigan. The river is fed by springs, creeks and runoff from rain and snowmelt.

Each day Fort Wayne draws an average of 34 million gallons of water from the river. The water is treated and filtered at the Three Rivers Water Filtration Plant in downtown Fort Wayne before it is distributed to the 75,000 customers of the City's water utility.

Fort Wayne operates two dams on the St. Joseph River. The Cedarville Dam is located near Leo-Cedarville and impounds water in the Cedarville Reservoir. The reservoir is a popular location for water recreation and fishing. The St. Joseph Dam near the intersection of Anthony and Coliseum Boulevards on the north side of Fort Wayne also lets the City impound water behind it, helping to ensure that Fort Wayne has an adequate supply of water, even during the driest part of the

(Continued on page 3)

Water Leak Detection

Toilets: The toilet is the most common water waster, but a leaking toilet may be less noticeable than a dripping faucet. Still a leaking toilet could cost you up to \$500 dollars on a single water bill. There are several ways to determine if a toilet is leaking:

Look at the toilet bowl after the tank has stopped filling. If you see water continuing to run into the bowl or if you still hear water running, you probably have a leak. You may have a leak even if you don't see or hear water running. A way to check for a silent leak is to put a few drops of food coloring into the toilet tank. Do not flush, but wait about 10 minutes. If you see the color in the toilet bowl, you have a leak. The leak is probably around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. Check to see that the ball valve drops squarely into the drain opening. If it does not clean it out or

Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association Officers

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BloomingtondaleNAPrez@gmail.com

Robert Martin, **Vice President**

Connie Newman

Secretary

BloomingtondaleNASec@gmail.com

Jean Mendenhall

Treasurer

BloomingtondaleNATrea@gmail.com

Eddie Coble

Editor

BloomingtondaleNAEdit@gmail.com

Bloomingtondale Website

http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Bloomingtondale_-_Fort_Wayne/home

Meeting Information

**3rd Saturday of the month
Community Room (off Short St.)
Trinity United Methodist Church
609 Putnam Street
10:00 a.m.**

Your Vol:2, Iss:2 - Mar-Apr 2011

Bloomingtondale News

Where your little bit makes a BIG BIT



A Legacy of Service Generations of Community Support

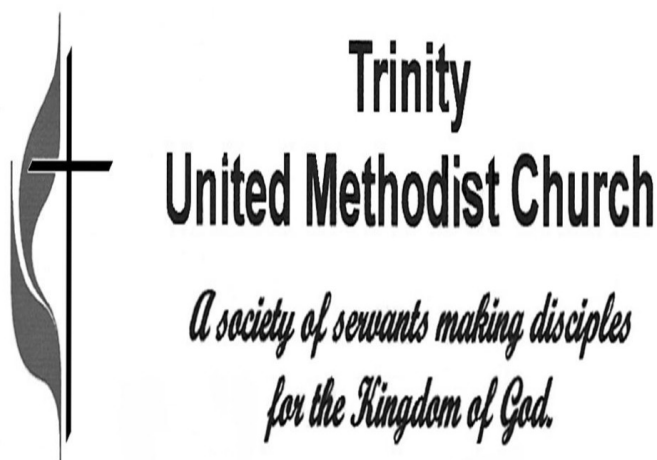


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Winter in Indiana

It's winter in Indiana
And the gentle breezes blow
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Oh, how I love Indiana
When the snow's up to your butt
You take a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Indiana
Cuz I'm frozen to the ground!

This poem was found on the internet. Author, Unknown

Continued from page 1:

Where Does My Water Come From

year.

Other municipal and private water utilities in the Fort Wayne, Indiana area rely on groundwater wells as their water source.

Each year City Utilities (and all other public water utilities) is required to provide a water quality report to its customers. The report shows the results of some of the tests that City Utilities performs on water before, during and after the treatment and filtration process. The water quality report for the calendar year 2007 was published in June 2008. As in past years, the City is pleased to report that its drinking water meets or is better than state and federal standards require. The water quality report may be viewed by visiting the City's web site at www.cityoffortwayne.org then clicking

The best way to lose weight is to eat everything you don't like.

If you need a lift: Become an answer to someone else's prayer. Visit a sick relative or friend, call someone and encourage them, mow a neighbor's yard, give your spouse a back rub, write a check for a local charity, compliment a coworker, volunteer at a shelter for the homeless. Lift your spirits by lifting someone else's load.

Source: Tracy Mullins and Ann Spangler

Events and Dates

"Preservation of Records at the Local Level: Using and Preserving Local Historical Records" - George R. Mather Lecture Series with support of the Dunsire Family Foundation. Sunday, April 3, at 2 p.m. in the Shields Room at the History Center, 302 E. Berry St. Cost: Free. Parking is free in the lot east of the History Center or at Berry & Barr. The guest speaker is Margery Graham. For more information: (260) 425-2882

Annual Open House at the Historic Swinney Homestead. Sponsored by the Settlers. Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft Wayne, Friday, May 6 at 10 am to 4 pm. Cost: Free. Parking by the tennis courts. The Historic 1844 Thomas and Lucy Swinney Home was willed to the City of Fort Wayne by Thomas Swinney and has been part of the City Park System since 1923. Settlers, Inc. members provide maintenance and restoration of the Homestead through their fundraising activities. For more information, phone (260) 637-6692.

Settler's Annual Herb and Perennial Plant Sale at the Historic Swinney Homestead. Sponsored by the Settlers. Swinney Homestead, 1424 W. Jefferson Blvd., Ft Wayne, Friday, May 6 from 10 am to 4 pm. and Saturday, May 7 from 8 am - Noon. Cost: free with free parking by tennis courts. Settler's Inc. Annual Plant Sale is one of the fund raising activities members hold to provide for maintenance and restoration of the City of Fort Wayne's Historic 1844 Thomas and Lucy Swinney Homestead. The basement of the Swinney House will be open for walk-through during the plant sale. For more information, phone (260) 637-6692.

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(Continued from page 1) **Water Detection**

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Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association**2011 Membership Dues Application**

January 2011—December 2011

Business Card Size Advertisement \$60.00

[] Residence **\$5.00** – [] Business **\$10.00**

[] \$_____ Donation to help with neighborhood projects

NAME: _____

(First Name/Names) (Last Name)

Address: _____

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Please list 3 neighborhood concerns you have

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

I would like to volunteer for:**Send check made payable to:**

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(Please cut out and enclose with your payment)

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Neighborhood
Association**Thank You for your support!*

The ingenious Jean Mendenhall sat down and made this Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association membership card. Jean and husband Bud personally delivered the new cards to each of the new members.

Thank you Jean and Bud for loving Bloomingtondale!

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Think Spring -

Once the snow has melted, you can get a head start on planting your spring vegetable garden under cloches made from taking clear two-liter soda or 48 oz juice bottles and cutting the bottoms off. Place the seed on top of the soil and cover with soil-less seed starter mix according to package directions. Cover with the cloche and once it begins to warm up and the plant has sprouted, you can remove the bottle lid during the day and replace it before nightfall. By starting the seeds in these mini cold-frames, you can get the plants started to grow into their place in the garden and can reduce the stress and delay from transplanting starts later.

Once the soil temperature is above 60 degrees and is dry enough that when you pick up a handful and squeeze it crumbles then you can plant your summer flowering bulbs. The easy way to determine if the soil is warm enough for summer plants would be to sit down. If the soil makes your bottom cold, it will be too cold for the plants.

Master Gardener

Source: Lisa Sexton,

The Mug

Our custom of referring to the human face as a mug is relatively recent origin. Many beer mugs of the eighteenth century were shaped to represent grotesque human heads. A person not particularly noted for beauty of feature might bear a more-than-superficial resemblance to faces on such mugs. Consequently, he would receive much joshing about his ugly *mug* from friends and associates.

Source: "What's In A Word", page 122

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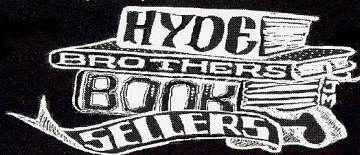
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(Continued from page 1) **Fat Free Sewers**

pass it down the line and cause problems elsewhere. And while hot water may appear to make grease go away, it just melts the solids which can harden again when they hit a cold sewer pipe.

How can homeowners help reduce the chances of backups caused by oil and grease buildup in sewers;

- Never pour grease down the drain, into the toilet or into a storm drain.
- For a large amount of oil, pour the cooled liquid into a milk jug. Fill the jug about half full, then add kitty litter to absorb the liquid. Put the lid on the jug and place it in the trash.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into the trash and wipe greasy dishes and pans with paper towels before washing them. Dispose of the paper toweling in the trash.
- Place baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids then empty the strainers into the trash.

Family Jewels are costly but you do not have to spend an arm and a leg for cleaning.

Commercial cleaning product can run from five to fifty bucks and they all performed about the same. Soak plain gold jewelry and pieces with diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, amethyst, or amber in mild dish washing liquid in warm water. Be sure to use a bowl and not in your sink. (Northside Plumbing is an expert for retrieving jewelry) Use a soft toothbrush to remove dirt and dry item off with a dry cloth or a chamois cloth.

Remember to buff pearls, opals, or turquoise with a soft, dry chamois. NEVER use water on them as it could damage the stone. Apply makeup, perfume and hair spray before putting on pearls as they can change color over time.

Clean Silver with silver polish or a little non-gel toothpaste. Apply it gently with damp sponge, rinse and then buff with a soft cloth. (Source: Consumer's Report, Feb. 2011)



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