

# Beautification Council of Southeastern Michigan

Area 1 of Keep Michigan Beautiful

September, 2018

Number 2

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September 20, 2018

Inkster

December 13, 2018

Keep Detroit Beautiful

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KMB Annual Awards

Oct. 11&12  
Frankenmuth

December 13, 2018

Keep Detroit Beautiful

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Newsletter  
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## President's Message by John Darin

As I stand in my vegetable garden, I'm reminded a bit of the 1986 classic comedy/fantasy film, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, which stars a carnivorous plant with an insatiable appetite. This creepy alien plant, named Audrey II can speak. When it is hungry, it commands the meek flower shop assistant Seymour to "Feed Me, Seymour!" The connection here is that all plants get hungry, feed them, or else!



My veggies seemed to be holding back a bit last year. I performed soil testing on my vegetable garden this Spring. I purchased a soil test kit from Michigan State University Extension bookstore at [www.bookstore.msue.msu.edu](http://www.bookstore.msue.msu.edu). The cost of the soil test kit is \$25, plus shipping and handling fees. A zip-lock bag for your soil sample and a postage-paid mailer box are included with your order. Test results come back within a couple of weeks. You can use the soil test kit to test any home soil sample, including vegetable gardens, lawns, perennial flower beds, and shrub or tree plantings. It's real easy to do. Simply collect 10-15 trowel-sized soil samples from the area of interest, dump them all in a bucket, stir the mix, and scoop out 1 trowel-full sample for analysis.

The benefit of soil testing is that you can optimize the soil conditions necessary for maximum benefit for what you are growing. Soil test results provide specific information on soil type (clay, sand, loam, etc.), soil pH (a measure of the soil acidity/alkalinity), percent organic matter in the soil (a measure of soil fertility), and the levels of a variety of nutrients (18 nutrients are required for a healthy soil environment). You are all familiar with the acronym used to describe fertilizer nutrients – the NPK ratio. Nitrogen (N) is most commonly associated with leaf and stem growth. Phosphorus (P) is associated with root growth and flower development, and Potassium (K) is associated with overall plant vigor and stress resistance.

The soil test results revealed Phosphorus level at 200 parts per million (above optimum), Potassium level of 145 ppm (optimum), and Magnesium (Mg) level at 220 ppm (above optimum). Soil type was classified as Mineral/Sandy Loam, with a soil pH of 7.5 (slightly alkaline). Organic matter was 5.5%.

The soil testing recommendations were to fertilize at an NPK ratio of 3:0:2. This translates to adding Nitrogen at 3-4 lbs per 1000 sq. feet, adding no additional Phosphorus, and adding Potassium at 2.2 lbs per 1000 sq. feet. The trick is to find a commercially-available fertilizer that approximates this ratio. Current thought is to limit the amount of phosphorus applied to lawns and gardens, to avoid the deleterious effects of high-phosphorus runoff into our streams, rivers, and lakes, which contributes to algae blooms. PH levels in Southeastern Michigan are typically alkaline, which inhibits nutrient intake by plants. It is desirable to reduce pH to below 7.0, to improve nutrient uptake by plants. Liming soil is generally NOT indicated. I added soil sulfur per recommendations to decrease pH to 6.5, an optimal pH for nutrient uptake.

You can make a cocktail of various fertilizers, or find a commercial product that matches or comes close to the fertilizer recommendations. After much searching, I found a /packaged fertilizer that was close. I amended the garden per the soil test

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# A Wonderful Day in Southfield

**President:**

John Darin

**Past President:**

A. Pat Deck

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Open

**2nd Vice President**

Open

**Rec. Secretary**

Flo Jagielski

**Treasurer/  
Membership**

Dorothy Wood

**Historian**

Open

**2018-9 Directors**

Henrietta  
Baczewski  
& Jerald Stone

**2017-8 Directors**

Lois Adams &  
James Keehn

**Committees****ISA Awards**

John Darin

**Travel Trophy**

Lois Adams

**Raffle**

Henrietta Baczewski

**Parliamentarian**

A. Pat Deck

**Facebook/Website**

James Keehn

**Newsletter**

Sandie Fischer

The City of Southfield has a place in the history of architectural design, retail innovation, homes, and businesses not only in our country but in the world. Mayor Ken Siver gave a brief history of the city. In the 1950-60s, Southfield was a fast developing area. With a new highway coming, increased population and business growth, the Hudson-Webber Company had a vision that would revolutionize the concept of shopping. They hired the architect, Victor Gruen, who created the plan for the Northland Center. This amazing new approach to shopping drew more businesses into the area. Among them were headquarters for IBM, Standard Oil, and Standard Federal Bank. A housing boom of midcentury modern style buildings focused on modern but compact care free homes. Southfield was well on its way to become the place to shop, do business and live.

Along with these cutting-edge ideas came the notion of adding art to public places. Northland Center embraced this and purchased 18 pieces of art to add to its amazing building. Among this art is The Peacock by Walter Kraft and Boy and Bear by Marshall Frederick. Sadly, in 2015 Northland closed its doors and needed to sell its art collection. The City of Southfield was able to acquire the art and now displays it in locations scattered throughout the city.

Our next speaker, Dr. Tom Mannino, a "secret" full time dentist, shared his experiences in saving the Brook's Farm Barn on 12 Mile Road. The farm originally was in use from the 1880s. In 1942 it was purchased by others and then by Tom in 2015. While the house was not savable, the barn became his focus. Tom has tirelessly restored, replaced, and repurposed materials for the floor, beams, and stairwell. He used humor and incidents that kept use laughing throughout his presentation. The work continues. This *Speakers: Tom & Ken* roject, and Tom is certainly up to the task.

Thank you, Southfield, for a great meeting place in the Burgh Historical Park and such excellent speakers.



*Boy and Bear*

*by Marshall Frederick*

## OUR NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, September 20, 2018 ~ City of Inkster  
INKSTER VALLEY GOLF CLUB

2150 Middlebelt Road

Registration and Hospitality begin at 9:30 a.m.

*Surprise winner announcement and presentation of the highly coveted Individual Service Award!*

Speakers: Councilman Steve Chisholm, Greenway Project  
& Inktown Pedal Push

Abe Hachem, Midwest Recycling

Questions call Toni Bailey 313-520-2571

# Michigan's Proposed Approach to Recycling

Submitted by: Kathleen Klein reproduced from State of Michigan website



## GOVERNOR'S RECYCLING COUNCIL SOLID WASTE AND SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY PANEL

Recommendations shift focus on Sustainable Materials Management to double Michigan's Recycling Rate

### WHAT ARE THE GRC AND THE SWSAP?

The purpose of the Governor's Recycling Council is to advise the Governor and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on implementing the Governor's Residential Recycling Plan and other related issues so that the state will achieve a 30% municipal solid waste recycling rate within 2 years. The purpose of the SWSAP is to take a comprehensive look at Michigan's current solid waste laws to determine ways to more effectively drive sustainable management of waste and end of life materials, rather than just disposal. Both groups are comprised of industry experts such as environmental groups, consultants, academia, and business and industry with knowledge and experience in these fields.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS?

Both groups address the need to develop a sustainable materials management infrastructure, such as recycling, composting, and anaerobic digestion. The SWSAP recommends a new, revitalized solid waste law that focuses on including these materials management options as a focus for waste rather than just disposal. They recommend creating a level playing field for oversight of materials management infrastructure, ensuring adequate funding for state and local implementation of responsibilities, and revamping the county solid waste planning process. The Governor's Recycling Council (GRC) has developed recommendations that use this new materials management planning process to establish measurable county recycling goals and to promote access and incentives to recycling. They recommend education and outreach, market development, technical assistance, funding, and leadership methods at multiple levels to achieve these goals.

### WHY DO WE NEED THESE RECOMMENDATIONS?

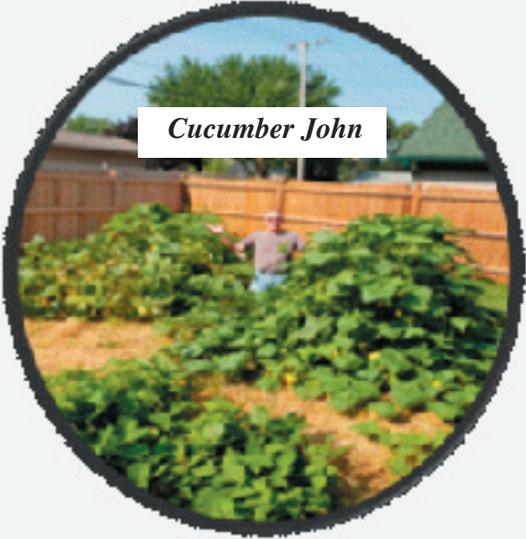
Currently, Michigan's solid waste laws are relatively silent on promoting other materials management options such as waste reduction, recycling, composting, and anaerobic digestion, which has contributed to a relatively low municipal rate within the state. These groups envision a dynamic and robust materials management economy that addresses these issues and benefits a wide variety of individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses. They shift the focus to seeing solid waste as a resource that promotes economic vitality, ecological integrity, and improved quality of life for all throughout Michigan.

### WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN FOR...?

- **Local Governments:** Less focus on regulatory requirements to ensure disposal capacity, siting of landfills, and managing import/export of waste. Fewer resources needed for materials management facilities. An increase in tools for local governments in partnership with private recycling service providers to establish recycling collection systems using industry best practices. Valuable materials will remain circulating in our local economies, creating economic opportunities and stronger communities.
- **Individual Residents:** Development and expansion of recycling opportunities for residents, which ultimately leads to more job opportunities and a stronger economy. Increased oversight of materials management activities can additionally lead to decreased occurrences of nuisances and risks to people and the environment.
- **Businesses:** Additional options for managing waste, as well as greater ability to achieve recycling and zero-landfill goals, increasing public perception in terms of corporate responsibility. More recycled and utilized materials available to Michigan manufacturers. Freer markets from the deletion of restrictive import/export provisions in materials management planning. Minimum disposal capacity requirements. A more level playing field for businesses interested in investing in waste utilization facilities, equipment, and technology.

### WHAT DO WE NEED YOU TO DO?

As legislation is developed with assistance from DEQ, GRC, and SWSAP members, it will be extremely important for representatives from a variety of interest groups and sectors to not only support the recommendations of the GRC and SWSAP, but to help share outreach materials within your organization, encourage legislators to adopt the legislation, and continue to keep up with the progress of the development of this process.



*Cucumber John*

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recommendations, and the results have been unbelievable! Our vegetable crop this year is amazing, and is overwhelming our kitchen! I highly recommend getting your garden soil tested, and re-testing every 5 years. BTW, anyone need any cucumbers or squash? Now, I'm not recommending that we grow creepy alien plants. But, if you wish to increase the vigor of your plants, and dramatically increase your harvest, I highly recommend soil testing. To read more on soil testing, check out the MSUE web site <http://www.msusoiltest.com/>. Good Luck and Happy Gardening!

### **KMB News and Updates**

On July 12 & 13 the Keep Michigan Beautiful Board of Directors held their summer meeting in Bay City. Speakers included Chuck Martin head gardener for Dow Gardens who spoken on "Phenology", the study of the relationship between climate and the biological order of nature. Also Speaking was Roger Gauthier a retired engineer from the US Army Corp of Engineers who spoke on "Protecting Michigan Waterways" with an update on Enbridge Line 5 ([www.straitsalliance.org](http://www.straitsalliance.org)).

On Oct. 11 & 12 KMB will host their Annual Conference and Awards Program at the Bavarian Motor Inn in Frankenmuth. EVERYONE is invited to attend this event. You do not need to be a KMB member. The event showcases those programs, projects and individuals who have contributed to the beautification of Michigan and as such is an excellent resource for ideas you might implement in your community. If you want more information contact Pat Deck or Jim Keehn or visit [KeepMichiganBeautiful.org](http://KeepMichiganBeautiful.org).

### **BCSEM Newsletter**

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Grosse Pointe, MI 48230