



COUNTY OF  
**MIDLAND**  
MICHIGAN

*August 2019 Newsletter*



### **WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN MIDLAND CROW**

This year's first indication of West Nile virus (WNV) in Midland County has been observed. A crow collected July 30th in city of Midland tested positive for the virus. There have been no human WNV cases reported from Michigan so far this year. West Nile Virus activity in Michigan often peaks in August or September so residents should maintain vigilance and protect themselves from mosquito bites.

West Nile virus has been in Michigan since 2002 and is detected in Midland County most years. The virus is maintained in the environment in a cycle that involves birds and mosquito species that feed on birds. Humans, horses and other non-typical hosts can become infected when bitten by a mosquito that has picked up the virus by biting a WNV positive bird.

*Continued on page 3*

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

West Nile Virus Found in Midland Crow

Pinecrest Farms Pig Roast

Fall Tire Collection

Pinecrest Welcomes new Activity Director

Midland River Days and Balloon Festival

Midland County Fair

Canning Mistakes to Avoid

Tips for Preventing Mosquito Bites

Protect Yourself on the Great Lakes

Hazardous Waste Collection

# Join Us for Pinecrest Farms' Annual Pig Roast Wednesday August 14th, 5-7 pm

All are welcome!

Enjoy roasted pig, turkey and sides  
Music by the Sunshine String Band.

413 N. Homer Road, Midland



## FALL TIRE COLLECTION

Clean up and remove mosquito breeding habitat by recycling old tires!

When: Saturday, September 7, 2019 8 am to noon

Where: Midland Recyclers, 4305 E. Ashman Street, Midland

Who: Midland County Residents

What: Up to 10 passenger car size tires

Appointments required - call (989) 832-8677 and be prepared to provide name, address, phone number and the number of tires you wish to bring (up to 10).

[Click for more info](#)



## NOTABLE DATES

August - National Water Quality Month

Aug 1 - Tax Foreclosed Property Auction

Aug 1-3 - River Days

Aug 4 - U.S. Coast Guard Birthday

Aug 7 - National Light House Day

Aug 11-17 - Midland County Fair

Aug 15 - Pinecrest Farm0's Annual Pig Roast

Aug 29 - Hazardous Waste Collection

Sept - National Preparedness Month; Food Safety Month - MSU Extension

Sept 2 - Labor Day (County Offices Closed)

Sept 7 - Fall Tire Collection

Sept 7-8 - Sanford Founders Day

Sept 8 - Parkapalooza, Sanford Lake Park

Sept 23 - First Day of Fall

Sept 24 - National Voter Registration Day

## WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN MIDLAND CROW - CONTINUED

Enhanced surveillance of mosquitoes and Ultra Low Volume fogging to control adult mosquitoes will be conducted around the area of this crow's death and will continue throughout the County as necessary. Catch basins, which can be an important source of WNV carrying mosquitoes, have been treated in the area of the positive bird. Midland County Mosquito Control will continue testing dead birds and adult mosquitoes from throughout the County. Crows and blue jays are most susceptible to West Nile virus so they are the most useful indicator of possible virus activity in an area. Residents are asked to call Mosquito Control at 989-832-8677 to report any dead birds observed.



The Culex mosquitoes that transmit West Nile virus often develop in container habitats around the home. Where possible, discard or empty water from flower pots, clogged rain gutters, swimming pool covers, scrap tires and similar sites where mosquitoes can lay their eggs.

See [page 6](#) for tips for reducing your risk of acquiring West Nile Virus and find more information from the State of Michigan [online](#).

The MCMC fogging schedule is updated daily and available [here](#).

## PINECREST WELCOMES NEW ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Amario Payton-Rice is Pinecrest's new activity director! He is a native of Flint, MI and a 2016 graduate of Alabama State University. He earned his Bachelor's of Science as a Certified Recreational Specialist (CTRS). Amario has extensive experience working in activities ranging from: hospitals, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation units and parks systems. Amario is a lifelong learner and will pursue his Master of Science in Administration at Central Michigan University this fall.

Amario plans to apply his experience and education towards improving the daily lives of Pinecrest residents. His approach as Activity Director includes providing one-on-one individual activities and group events. Amario has already implemented new activities and parties as he connects with the residents.



## MIDLAND RIVER DAYS AND BALLOON FEST

Celebrate summer! The Midland Riverdays Festival + Midland Balloon Fest is August 1-3 in Downtown Midland. It's three days of great fun: Music, food, entertainment, hot air balloons, and activities for all ages. It's kayaking, zipline, concerts, a beer tent and so much more. This annual event is presented by the Midland Area Community Foundation.

For more information go to [River Days online](#).



# August 11-17, 2019



## MIDLAND COUNTY FAIR

Horses, pigs, goats, 4-H Cafeteria, Rodeo, fast rides, slow strolls, whatever your pleasure, you'll find it at the fair!

### Carnival Specials:

Special Pricing is available on Tuesday, August 13, for Children's Day with an unlimited ride bracelet available for purchase and use from Noon to 5:00 p.m. only for \$15.00. (Not valid any other day)

Special Pricing is available on Thursday, August 15, for Family Day with an unlimited ride bracelet available for purchase and use from 1:00p.m. to 5:00 p.m. only for \$15.00. (Not valid any other day).

Purchase wrist bands in advance online for \$20 , prices increase to \$25 on August 12th.

Plan now to make a day of fun at the Midland County Fair!

## Fair Grand Stand Events

### SuperKicker Rodeo

Monday, August 12, 7:00p.m. and

Tuesday, August 13. 7:00 pm

### Michigan Monster Truck Shootout

Wednesday, August 14, 7:00p.m.

### Figure 8/Burnout by USA Demolition

Thursday, August 15, 7:30p.m.

### SuperCross by SJO Productions

Friday, August 16, 7:00p.m.

### Autocross/Demolition Derby by USA Demolition

Saturday, August 17, 7:30p.m.

[Buy Wrist Bands](#)

[Fair Schedule](#)

[Grand Stand Ticket Info](#)



# Canning Mistakes to Avoid

Preventing these mistakes can save you time, money and your life

## Using outdated/unsafe methods

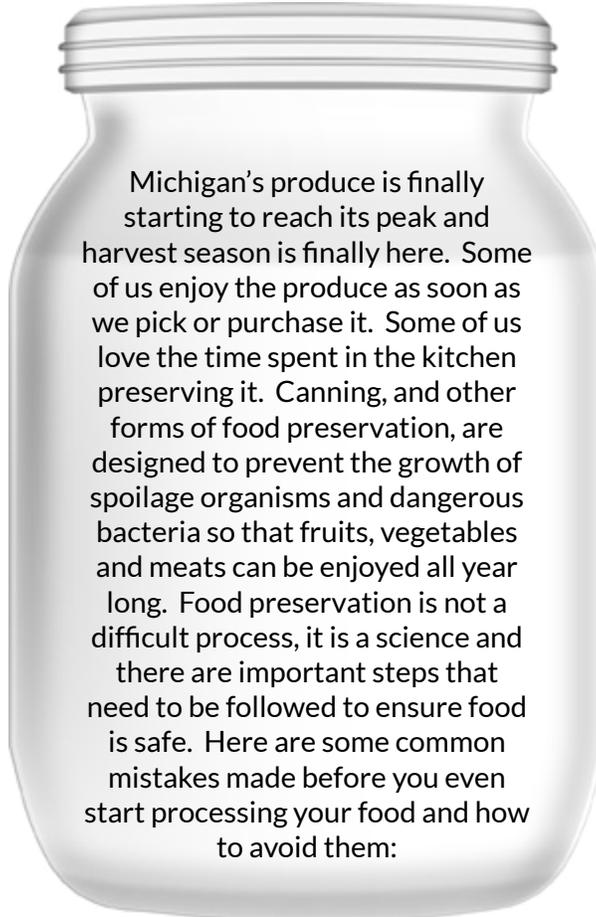
Canning in ovens, microwaves or dishwashers – thanks to the internet, blogs and old books, folks are sometimes led astray that these methods are safe. They are not. These three methods are safe – boiling water bath, pressure canning and steam canning, depending on the type of food you are preserving.

## Using outdated or unapproved recipes

MSU Extension encourages people who want to preserve to use current research tested recipes. A recipe grandma used many years ago, may no longer be safe. There are updates to processing times, how ingredients can be mixed etc. It may seem insignificant, but it can mean the difference between spoiled food and safe food. Avoid internet blogs, random posted recipes unless you can determine they are from a safe source like a university (ending in .edu), the USDA, the National Center for Home Food Preservation or Ball. If you have a Ball Blue Book, make sure it is current (no older than 5 years). Don't make up or alter recipes, you can change the acidity or pH and no longer have a safe recipe.

## Not maintaining a sterile environment

Bacterial and spoilage organisms can enter your food at any time while you are canning. All jars and equipment should be sterilized during use. If food is only processed 10 minutes or less jars have to be sterilized. Wash your hands frequently, avoid sneezing or coughing over your work area. If you or someone in your home has been sick with a gastrointestinal illness, avoid handling food for 24 – 48 hours after your last symptom.



## Failing to properly cool

Jars need to be pulled from the canner, left in a non-drafty area and left untouched for at least 12 hours. This allows the sealing compound to safely adhere, and the processing to finish. Let the jars rest. After 12 hours, wipe clean, remove the rings, label and store away from light and extreme heat.

It is important to avoid these common mistakes to ensure you preserved food will be safe to consume all year long. For more information on food preservation, or to learn about classes being offered, contact your local Michigan State University Extension office. MSU Extension has a Food Safety Hotline should you have questions while canning, call 810-285-9565, or contact Lisa Treiber MSU Extension Food Safety Educator, located in Midland County, treiber@msu.edu or 989-832-6643.

## Proper headspace, does it matter?

Headspace is the space between the food in the jar and the underside of the lid. The headspace will vary depending on what you are preserving. Following the directions on the recipe you are using. Headspace will vary from ¼" to 1". If you leave too little headspace, the product may boil out of the jar and the lid might not seal. If you leave too much headspace there might be too much air to fully expel, leaving oxygen behind for bacteria or other organisms to grow. Measure the required headspace on each jar before wiping the rim and placing the lid and ring on.

## Re-using lids

Canning lids should not be re-used. The compound makes an imprint on the jar and adheres, creating a seal. Re-using rings is fine, but not the lids.

## Using improper equipment

Re-using jars from the grocery store is not a safe practice, they were designed for a one time use, and the lids were only meant to seal once. Canning in pots that were not designed for canning can lead to problems, related to physics. You get into issues with water heating up more quickly, cutting down on processing time, leaving your product "undercooked". Also, there is a big issue with electric pressure cookers, these cannot be used for pressure canning. They are not designed to safely can low acid foods safely. Some of the major reasons include: the thermal process, temperature vs. pressure, power surges, and cooling.

This article was originally published by Michigan State University Extension, authored by Michelle Jarvie. It was updated by Lisa Treiber 7-17-19.

# Preventing Mosquito Bites and Arboviruses: Tips for Michigan Residents

The most effective way to avoid arboviruses is to prevent mosquito bites. Be aware of the West Nile virus and other arbovirus activity in your area and take action to protect yourself and your family.



## *Use Insect Repellent*

Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents with one of the active ingredients below. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

- DEET
- Picaridin
- IR3535
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para menthane-diol (PMD)
- 2-undecanone

Find the insect repellent that's right for you by using [EPA's search tool](#)



## *Tips for Babies & Children*

- Always follow instructions when applying insect repellent to children.
- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months old.
- Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, and cut or irritated skin.
  - Adults: Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.
- Do not use products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD) on children under 3 years old.



## *Take steps to control mosquitoes inside and outside your home*

- Use screens on windows and doors. Repair holes in screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Once a week, eliminate potential breeding areas for mosquitoes. Check inside and outside your home. Mosquitoes lay eggs on or near water:
  - Discard old tires, tin cans, ceramic pots or other containers that can hold water
  - Repair failed septic systems
  - Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers left outdoors
  - Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed
  - Clean clogged roof gutters, particularly if leaves tend to plug up the drains
  - Frequently replace the water in pet bowls
  - Flush ornamental fountains and birdbaths periodically; aerate ornamental pools, or stock them with predatory fish.

For Up-to-Date Information Visit Michigan's Emerging Diseases Website

[www.michigan.gov/westnile](http://www.michigan.gov/westnile)

or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Website

[www.cdc.gov/westnile](http://www.cdc.gov/westnile)

## PROTECT YOURSELF ON THE GREAT LAKES

With two Great Lakes drownings the last weekend in July, Lake Michigan drownings are 80% higher than last year. There were 15 Lake Michigan drownings as of the end of July in 2018, this year there have been 27 Lake Michigan drownings.

According to Dave Benjamin, Executive Director of Public Relations and project management for the Great Lakes Surf Rescue Project waves and currents account for only one-third of drownings but “the other 66% is simply people who allow themselves to be in situations with water over the head.”

Frequently, swimmers ignore Michigan’s flag-warning system, which lets beachgoers know when it’s safe to swim. A red flag means stay out of the water and on the beach.

Click to learn about [Safety at Great Lakes Beaches](#).

Source: [Great Lakes drownings on record pace again, The Detroit News](#)



## HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

There are two more Hazardous Waste Collection days for 2019 - Thursday, Aug. 29; and Wednesday, Oct. 30. Midland County residents may dispose of household items that are considered hazardous, such as chemicals, oil-based paints and stains, pesticides, insecticides, household cleaning products, certain auto products and mercury thermometers.

Appointments are required, [click here](#) for more information and to schedule appointments or call the Midland County Health Department at 989-832-6681. Be prepared with the type and amount of materials you wish to drop off. Only Midland County residents with appointments will be allowed to drop off materials.



### Board of Commissioners Info online!

- Check the Board’s [Meeting Calendar](#).
- Look up agendas and minutes for all Board and Committee meetings on [BoardDocs](#).
- Watch a meeting as it’s happening on [View Live Meeting](#).

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