



# THE SCARECROW

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## Reminders

- Now is the time to plant **bulbs** for spring. Let us know if you would like more bulbs added to your garden.
- **Emerald Ash Borer** – there is a quarantine of ash wood to prevent spread of the pest. It is illegal to transport untreated ash wood (such as fire wood) out of quarantined counties (Washtenaw and many others)
- **Gardening Classes**  
Erica plans to teach gardening classes through the Live-Work-Learn program at Washtenaw Community College winter term 2004. She will be teaching:
  - Low Maintenance Gardening
  - Organic Lawn and Garden Care
  - Organic Vegetable GardeningFor info, keep on eye on the Live Work Learn course catalog or contact us.

## Parks & Greenbelt Proposal

(This article is written by a satisfied customer who asked if he could write about this topic in our newsletter – we said “sure!”)

*Written by Bill Rodgers*

You will probably be hearing a lot in the next few weeks about the Ann Arbor Parks and Greenbelt Program. Mayor Hieftje announced the proposal in August, and City Council approved placing the millage on the November 4 ballot. If approved, **Proposal B** will extend an existing 5-year millage for parks acquisition by 30 additional years, at the same 0.5 mill level. This proposal will not raise taxes.

The purpose of this program is to preserve open space both within the city and in the area that surrounds the city. Up to 7,000 acres of open-space will be preserved, either as parks or by the purchase of development rights for farmlands and other open areas. This is our last good chance to preserve some very important features of the Ann Arbor area, things that make this such a wonderful place to live. These features include:

- Good food: Local farms provide food without imposing the need for transportation from far away.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Baby Organic Salad Mix CSA

We will be growing organic baby salad mix (mesclun mix) this fall, offering a weekly share of salad mix for 8 weeks starting 11/4 through 12/24. Grown in the heart of Ann Arbor's Old West Side in an unheated greenhouse this is as local as local gets! Ready for the salad bowl, this mix contains tender, mild, and nutritious salad greens including lettuce, spinach, mizuna, and other cold-hardy winter salad crops. For those who like a salad with a little kick, optional arugula and spicy mustard can be added to the mix. This year there are only ten shares available and they are going fast! Contact us for more



## Our Goals and Philosophy

- \_ Land stewardship
- \_ Use organic gardening practices
- \_ Grow organic food
- \_ Restore and preserve biodiversity through native restoration
- \_ Grow beautiful gardens
- \_ Promote community awareness
- \_ Help to keep Ann Arbor a wonderful place to live
- \_ Provide customer satisfaction
- \_ Provide ourselves with gainful employment

### News

- Several communities in Canada have banned the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.
- Several large chemical companies intend to release genetically modified turf grass. Kentucky bluegrass and creeping bentgrass are being genetically engineered to tolerate the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup). Potential problems associated with the use of these grasses include increased use of pesticides, the creation of herbicide tolerant 'super weeds', cross pollination of native grasses, and harm to organic farmers.

*(Parks and Greenbelt Proposal, continued from page 1)*

- Clean water: The Huron River watershed is becoming increasingly polluted due to development – and this has a direct impact on the water we drink.
- Clean air: Unmanaged and uncoordinated sprawl leads to more traffic, congestion, and air pollution.
- Local economy: Many businesses make decisions about where to locate new facilities based on the proximity of open space.

Proposal B is supported by wide and diverse groups in Ann Arbor, such as the local chapter of the Sierra Club; the Ecology Center; local home builders and developers; the Downtown Development Authority; and the Michigan Daily. On the other hand, a group of out-of-town developers plans to spend a huge amount of money trying to convince voters that passage of this proposal will drive up home prices while doing little to stop sprawl. Based on recent history, it would not be surprising if the Ann Arbor News comes out against it. I think Ann Arbor voters are intelligent and knowledgeable enough to see through such smokescreens and that the proposal can be approved, but the message for each of us is that we should not take this for granted: write letters to the editor, put up lawn signs, talk to your friends and colleagues, and VOTE YES!



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