



The Randolph Review

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Clearing The Air On Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces

Increased energy costs have driven many to look for alternative energy sources. There are many proven options from energy audits and insulation, to solar and geothermal. There is, however, one approach that is causing a surge of citizen complaints and lawsuits in every cold-weather state in the country. It is a currently unregulated device called an outdoor wood boiler or outdoor wood-burning furnace (also called OWF's).

Why do people use these types of furnaces? Basically, they believe they can save money. But please don't get excited and think you want one of these. Stop and think first.

What happens when you burn wood? What do you get in return? Smoke. What happens to the smoke that these furnaces make? Your neighbors smell it, your neighbors inhale it.

Research has shown that OWF's are harmful to our environment and to our human health. OWF's produce a lot of thick smoke. Smoke from these OWF's contain unhealthy amounts of particulate matter, di-

oxin, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrochloric acid, formaldehyde and other toxic air pollutants.

Exposure to the smoke from OWF's can increase respiratory and cardiovascular symptoms. These symptoms can range from asthmatic sensitivity (asthma attacks), lung illnesses and even cancer. Of course, it shouldn't be surprising that studies have proven that children, the elderly and people with pre-existing cardio or respiratory problems are extremely at risk at being around OWF's.

Unfortunately, the federal government has no standards that have to be met concerning OWF's, as of yet. But some states, including Connecticut, have some requirements in place concerning OWF's. These strict standards have a set limit on the opacity limits. If a person operates an OWF and the OWF does not meet this limit, they will be heavily fined and will be expected to shut down their OWF.

The emissions level on an OWF is very high. They are

extremely higher than those of indoor wood burning stoves (which are regulated by the federal government). The reasons why are that these furnaces have low efficiency and they do not complete the act of burning.

The state of Connecticut compared emissions from homes heated from natural gas, oil and OWF's. They found natural gas to be the cleanest.

Why do OWF's produce so much unhealthy smoke? An OWF system consists of a single closed combustion chamber or a firebox. This system or firebox is surrounded by a water jacket. Before wood combustion is complete, the water quenches the flame. This causes the smoke. Smoke is also caused during the off cycle. When an OWF does not need to generate heat, the air fan is off and the air damper is closed. This starves the fire for air. The fire smolders, creating smoke. When the heat begins again, the dampers open and the smoke is pushed out the stack into the air.

See OWF's Page 2



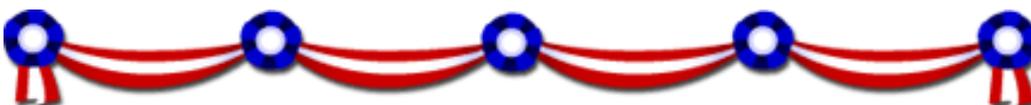
“Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.”

Albert Einstein



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Recycle: Share this newsletter when you are done

Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces

Summer Community Calendar

July

- 7 Quarterly Zoning Meeting 7 pm S. Center
- 10 Township Trustees 7 am Town Hall
- 14 Senior Lunch 12 pm Senior Center
- 15 Lions Club 7 pm Senior Center
- 21 Garden Club 7 pm Community Center
- 22 Historical Society 7:30 pm Town Hall.
- 24 Township Trustees 7:30 pm Town Hall
- 28 Zoning Commission 7 pm Senior Center

July 31- Aug 2nd
 Friends of the Library
 Book Sale Community
 Center



August

- 14 Township Trustees 7 am Town Hall
- 11 Senior Lunch 12 pm Senior Center
- 19 Lions Club 7 pm Senior Center
- 25 Zoning Commission 7 pm Senior Center
- 18 Garden Club 7 pm Community Center
- 19-24 Portage County Randolph Fair
- 27 Historical Society 7:30 pm Town Hall
- 28 Township Trustees 7:30 pm Town Hall



September

- 8 Senior Lunch 12 pm Senior Center
- 11 Township Trustees 7 am Town Hall
- 15 Garden Club 7 pm Community Center
- 16 Lions Club 7 pm Senior Center
- 22 Zoning Commission 7 pm Senior Center
- 23 Historical Society 7:30 pm Senior Cent.
- 25 Township Trustees 7:30 pm Town Hall



Throughout New England, state regulatory agencies have received many complaints about these OWF's. Many states are encouraging the EPA to take steps to put standards on all OWF's, such as a regulatory emission standard.

The U.S. and Canadian governments have yet to issue any regulations regarding the manufacture or usage of outdoor wood burning furnaces, so perturbed neighbors don't have much of a legal leg to stand on. But several American states and a few Canadian provinces have called on their representatives to regulate the emissions of these boilers, so time will tell whether or not any formal rules are put into place.

Forward-thinking manufacturers are not waiting to find out, however, and have been busy retooling their units to help maintain optimal combustion conditions and better disperse waste smoke. Meanwhile, owners of outdoor wood furnace boilers can use

their units more responsibly by limiting operation to wintertime when neighbors are more likely to be indoors with their windows shut, choosing and burning dried wood so as to minimize the moisture that leads to the creation of smoke, and installing taller chimneys to help disperse the smoke away from nearby homes.

In October 2005 the US Government's Department of Energy (DOE) announced a national "Easy Ways to Save Energy" campaign. This campaign was initiated in light of the rising energy cost and focuses on the government and public alike. It calls for the gov-

ernment and public to turn to renewable energy sources and calls for a need to increase the efficient use of our available energy sources.

Wood burning as a fuel source will therefore continue to be on the rise. The solution to the wood burning dilemma depends on the ability of the public, the regulators and the manufacturers of the stoves to come up with agreeable regulations that promote public health and stay in line with the DOE's energy campaign.



Randolph Township Going Green

Randolph Township is in the process of investigating the feasibility of using more environmentally safe cleaning and maintenance chemicals.

Some of the greatest threats to future resources come from things we throw away and chemicals we use. Everyday life often leaves behind remains of dangerous chemicals that may

pollute the groundwater.

This can contaminate everything from the soil in which our food grows, to the water which will eventually come out of aquifers and into our tap water. Many of these chemicals cannot be removed from the drinking water supply, nor from the crops that are harvested from contaminated fields.

Randolph Township Trus-

tees are committed to recycling and conserving our valuable resources.

Don't forget that the Randolph Recycle is located at 3636 Waterloo Rd. in the ball field parking area.

Have a great Summer!



In the hot summer months ahead, the American Red Cross suggests that people take extra precautions to stay cool and safe.

When the temperature climbs past 90 degrees for more than three days, experts recommend remaining indoors. Even short exposure to extreme heat may have harmful effects—causing dehydration, heat exhaustion, heat stroke or worse. The very young and very old are particularly vulnerable, so check on elderly neighbors and make sure everyone in your family stays cool and drinks plenty of water, including toddlers and pets.

If you cannot avoid going outdoors, be sure to take the following precautions to avoid heat-related illnesses:

Dress for the heat – Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. Light colors will reflect away some of the sun's energy. It is also a good idea to wear hats or to use an umbrella.

Drink water – Carry water or juice with you and drink continuously even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which dehydrate the body.

Eat small meals – Eat smaller meals and eat more often. Avoid foods that are high in protein which increase metabolic heat.

Avoid using salt tablets – Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.

Slow down – Avoid strenuous activity. If you must do strenuous activity, do it during the coolest part of the day, which is usually in the morning between 4:00 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Take regular breaks – When engaged in physical activity on warm days, take time out to find a cool place. If you or someone else experience symptoms of a heat-related illness, stop activity and find a cool place to rest.

Should you or someone you know show signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke, it is important that you treat the symptoms immediately.

Heat-related illness comes in stages. The first sign or stage is usually painful heat cramps of the muscles. These can be treated by stopping activity, cooling the body and taking in more



fluids. The next, more serious stage is heat exhaustion. It can be generally be treated the same as heat cramps.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- * Cool, moist, pale skin (the skin may be red right after physical activity); skin may or may not feel hot
- * Headache or dizziness
- * Weakness or exhaustion
- * Nausea

The signals of the late stage of a heat-related illness (often called heat stroke) include:

- * High body temperature (sometimes as high as 105 degrees)
- * Skin may still be moist or the victim may stop sweating and the skin may be red, hot and dry
- * Decreased alertness level or complete loss of consciousness
- * Rapid, weak pulse
- * Rapid, shallow breathing
- * Vomiting

If victims refuse water or demonstrate symptoms of heat stroke, call 9-1-1 immediately; heat-related illness can be fatal if not properly treated.



“Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.”

John F. Kennedy

Trustee Roger Klodt is in the process of compiling a list of current Randolph Resident Active Duty Soldiers.

Please call Roger at 330 524-7632 if one of your loved ones is in Harm's Way.



Randolph Road Department



When the rains come Randolph Township homeowners need to be aware of drainage ditch obstructions.

Please do not install stones or other things of any kind within the roadside ditch as it can impair the flow of storm water. The ditches are designed to carry water from the roads and yards, and if anything is installed within the ditch it slows the flow and causes

backup of storm water. This can cause problems for discharge lines of storm water and basement sump pumps which flow into these ditches.

Please clean leaves and obstructions out of the ditch and driveway culverts to keep the water flowing. Thanks for your help!

If you have a question about your roadside ditch or wish to discuss any sort of

modifications, including piping, please contact Larry Klodt, Road Department Supervisor at 325-2776.

This summer the Road Department will be cleaning ditches, chip and sealing and a paving project.

Please be careful when traveling in these areas. Make sure that you are away from the equipment and proceed when it is clear.





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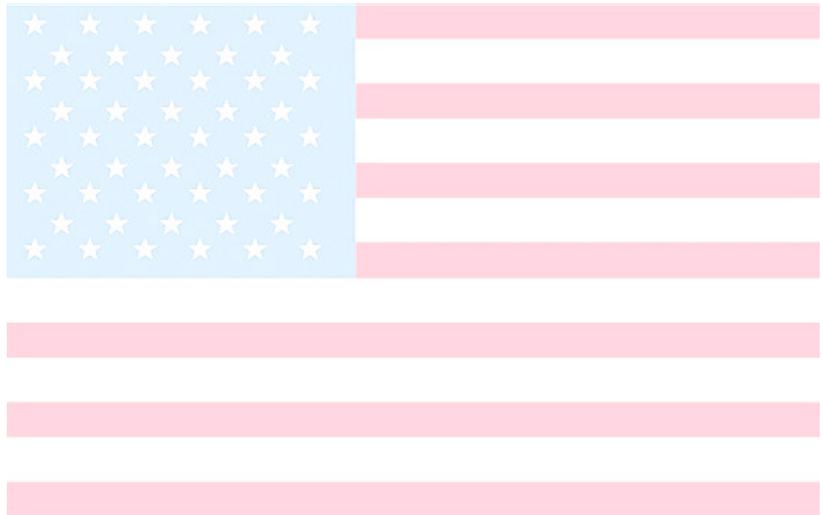
The Randolph Review is published on a quarterly basis for the purpose of providing useful and interesting information to township residents. Citizens' input, suggestions and comments are welcome.

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Hilgert's Berry Farm & Market

This historical Randolph farm is gearing up for a summer of supplying the extended area residents with many seasonal produce varieties.

Originally started by John and Mildred Hilgert began Hilgert's Berry Farm in 1941. They raised seasonal produce, which was harvested by local teenagers and neighbors and sold to Akron stores and restaurants at the Farmers' Market. In the early 60s they opened their strawberry fields to the public, becoming one of the first U-Pick farms in Portage County.

In 1981 their oldest son Robert, along with his wife

Karen and their four children, took over the day to day management of the farm. A Farm Market was opened, housed in the farm's century-old barn. Today Hilgert's Farm & Market is still family owned and operated.

Their Farm Market, specializes in the freshest OHIO produce possible, mostly Hilgert-grown, supplemented with produce from other local growers.

Their U-Pick fields, supply many varieties of vegetables in addition to strawberries and red raspberries. Crops vary with the weather, and not all crops are available at all times. Call 325-1405 for current



Karen and Bob Hilgert on the first day of strawberry picking in 2008

field conditions or check out their Website at: (www.hilgerts.com).

They also operate a Wholesale Barn, offering bulk produce to local stores

and other markets.

Thanks Karen and Bob for being part of Randolph's character and have a great summer!

