



News Release

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Ficano Kicks Off “Woods Creek Day” In Van Buren Township

WAYNE COUNTY, MI — April 21, 2008 Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano and Van Buren Township officials will kick off “Woods Creek Day” with a ceremony on Earth Day, April 22.

Woods Creek, formerly known as the Riggs Drain, was re-named by County Drain Commissioner Kurt Heise at the request of local volunteers who created the Woods Creek Friends organization.

“Woods Creek is a valuable environmental resource in Western Wayne County,” said County Executive Ficano, “calling it a ‘drain’ made it sound like a place to avoid. By renaming the creek we hope to encourage residents to reconnect with it, and keep it clean for future generations.”

The Woods Creek Friends group was formed in July 2007 by residents in the watershed, with the assistance of the Huron River Watershed Council and Van Buren Township. Their mission is to assess, restore, preserve, and protect the scenic beauty, habitat and water quality of the Woods Creek watershed.

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Woods Creek Friends' volunteers have been working with Wayne County Environment Department staff to establish educational workshops, creek restoration projects, welcome signs, and an informational flyer.

In January 2008 they approached Wayne County Drain Commissioner Kurt Heise with a request to re-name the drain. While the words "Riggs Drain" will continue to show up on local drain assessment bills and tax rolls, new signage will welcome visitors to the "Woods Creek Watershed" at various sites in the Township.

"I want to commend the Woods Creek Friends for taking the initiative to adopt this creek," Heise said, "the message of Earth Day is that people step up, take the initiative, and protect the environment in their own backyard. While government can help, it's up to individuals to take the lead. I hope the Woods Creek Friends will be an inspiration for others in the county who want to adopt a creek in Wayne County," he added.

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For additional media inquiry contact Vanessa Denha-Garmo at 313-213-5274.

