



# *Village of Pentwater*

ON PENTWATER LAKE AND LAKE MICHIGAN  
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The Village of Pentwater and the Police Department have received several reports of damage to property caused by deer feeding inside the Village. In response to these reports, the Village Ordinance Committee explored the issue of deer management inside the confines of the Village limits.

Michigan law identifies “baiting” and “feeding.” The Michigan Department of Natural resources regulates both of these activities. Village ordinance prohibits hunting within the Village so we will not spend any time addressing the issue of “baiting.”

The common practice to “feeding” deer is causing problems for the residents of Pentwater. Here are the rules that apply to feeding deer in Michigan:

- Feed volumes at any residence cannot exceed two gallons.
- Feeding may be no more than 100 yards from a residence on land owned or possessed by that person.
- Feed must be scattered on the ground. It can be scattered by means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- Feed must be at least 100 yards away from any area accessible to cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae.
- Constructing or maintaining any food plot or any artificial garden to attract wildlife on public land is prohibited.
- After January 31, 2019, no baiting or feeding will be allowed in the lower peninsula.

(MDNR, 2018)

**On November 12th the Village Council received a recommendation from the Ordinance Committee to post a notice asking residents to stop feeding deer inside the Village limits. The announcement is to be displayed on the Police Department Facebook page and the Village webpage. Additionally, the Police Department will be investigating reports of feeding deer and issuing citations when appropriate.**

The Village Council through the Village Ordinance Committee and the Police Department will continue to monitor deer damage and if necessary, will consider further options.