

## Decoding coupon lingo: a glossary of terms

Are you confused by the abbreviations commonly used on coupon blogs and Web sites when someone explains a supermarket promotion?

Clip and save this chart, so you can understand what you need to do and how the math will work.

■ AC — Net price after coupons.

■ B1G1 or BOGO — Buy one, get one free.

■ B2G1 — Buy two, get one free.

■ B1G2 — Buy one get two free.

■ B&M — Brick and mortar store.

■ BC - Price before coupons.

■ Bundle promotions — These sales require the purchase of multiple products or a minimum purchase to get the freebie or the discount. This is a common promotion tactic, especially with laundry and cleaning supplies.

■ Catalina — This is a term commonly used for the coupons that are printed by the cash register when you check out.

■ Coupon database — This is a list someone has compiled to indicate which coupons are known to be in circulation in a given region.

■ Coupon policy — Each store has a policy on how to handle specific details such as double coupons and whether to accept Internet printables. In most cases, the policies will be available for reference on the stores' Web sites or at the customer service desk.

■ Digital coupons — These are discounts you load onto a shopper card. In most cases, you will not be able to combine a digital coupon with a paper coupon on the same purchase.

■ DND — Do Not Double. The coupons with these markings are often high value coupons that most Monroe County stores don't double anyway.

■ Double coupons — The most common double coupon promotion in Monroe County is up to 50 cents. That means a 40-cent coupon is worth 80 cents at checkout but a 50-cent coupon is worth 50 cents.

■ ECBs — Extra Care Bucks rebate program at CVS Pharmacy.

■ EXP — Expiration date.

■ FAR — Free after rebate.

■ Fillers — Inexpensive items that are recommended purchases as part of a bundle promotion.

■ GM — General Mills coupon insert, often followed by date.

■ HBA — Health and beauty products.

■ IP — Internet printable coupon.

■ MFR or MFC — Manufacturer Coupon.

■ ONYO — On your next order.

■ OOP — Out of pocket pricing.

■ P&G — Proctor and Gamble coupon insert, often followed by a date.

■ Peelle — This is a coupon that is "stickered" on the product.

■ PP — Participating products.

■ Price matching — Some stores match or beat a competitor's advertised price.

■ Q — Coupon.

■ Rainchecks — Some stores provide rainchecks on request if an advertised special has run out.

■ RP — RedPlum coupon insert, often followed by a date.

■ Shopper card — Some stores require a shopper card for customers to get a sale price, gas purchase discounts or earn a charity donation.

■ SS — Smart Source coupon insert, often followed by a date.

■ Stacking — Using more than one discount toward the purchase of an item, such as a manufacturer coupon combined with a store coupon. Read the store's coupon policies to learn whether this is allowed.

■ Super doubles — When a store has a special promotion for double coupons beyond its usual policy.

■ Transaction — Some coupons say "one per transaction." Based on my experience, you still can use other coupons on other items in your cart.

■ YMMV — Your Mileage May Vary.

For more information about couponing at Monroe County stores, go to [www.monroeonabudget.com](http://www.monroeonabudget.com) and look up the category "coupon tips."

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**MONROE ON A BUDGET**

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### ON THE MENU — Monroe News photos by KIM BRENT

"Celebrity server" Mayor Robert Clark (above) discusses the menu with customers Karen Mulvihill (left) and Mary Bullard during a fundraising event held Monday at La Fiesta Cantina and Restaurant in Erie. At right, Monroe boxer Bronco McKart, Mayor Clark and Detroit Tigers announcer Bobb Vergiels (left to right) joke with one another as they wait. Area business owners, politicians and other well-known figures helped kick off the One Book, One Community events by serving traditional favorites at the local Mexican restaurant in the spirit of this year's selection, "The Distance Between Us" by Reyna Grande.



## Grass carp called danger to Great Lakes environment

■ The fish, which are banned in Michigan, feed heavily on plants and endanger spawning grounds and habitat for young fish.

BY JOHN FLESHER  
AP environmental writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Plant-gorging grass carp probably could survive in all of the Great Lakes, scientists said Monday, adding that if the fish get established, they might significantly damage the environment.

The fight to prevent Asian carp from reaching the inland seas has focused primarily on bighead and silver carp, which eat huge amounts of plankton, the foundation of aquatic food chains.

They have infested much of the Mississippi River basin and are threatening to reach the Great Lakes through rivers and canals, leading the government to spend more than \$200 million on measures to keep them out.

Grass carp have drawn less attention because they feed on plants, including nuisance weeds that choke boat motors and overwhelm native vegetation.

Introduced in the United States in 1963 for pond and lake maintenance, the fish were distributed widely with the blessing of state and federal agencies; they've now been reported in 45 states.

Researchers documented for the first time last year that grass carp had spawned successfully in the Great Lakes, based on an analysis of four fish captured in Ohio's Sandusky River, a tributary of Lake Erie.

In a paper published online this month by the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, researchers said 45 grass carp are known to have been caught in the Great Lakes basin between 2007 and 2012. Some were found in Lake Erie, others in tributaries of the lakes.

About half of those caught could reproduce, which could mean the lakes already have a breeding population, the report said, although there are other possible explanations, such as illegal stocking.

The researchers also surveyed scientific reports as far back as the 1930s showing that where grass carp have been introduced, they've mowed down a wide variety of plants and even algae.

"They'll eat pretty much anything," said lead author Marion Wittmann of the University of Notre Dame. "I think of them as like sheep or goats; they'll come in and munch what's in front of them."



— Courtesy photo

GRASS CARP

That bodes ill for wetland vegetation that provides spawning grounds and habitat for young fish, Wittmann said.

Largemouth bass and bluegill are among species that have fared poorly in places infested with grass carp. Ducks and other waterfowl that nest in wetlands also could be vulnerable.

The study also found that grass carp could live in all five of the lakes based on the region's climate, although more work is needed to determine whether all the lakes have sufficient food supplies.

A hurdle to keeping the carp out of the Great Lakes is the patchwork quilt of policies and regulations, Wittmann said. Unlike bighead and silver carp, they are not illegal to possess under federal law. The fish is banned in Michigan and Minnesota; in Wisconsin, they can be used only for research. But the five other Great Lakes states — Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York — allow their use with special permits.

"We'd like to see the Great Lakes states harmonize their policies," said Tammy Newcomb, senior water policy adviser with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tests grass carp at producer facilities to make sure they've been sterilized before they are shipped to customers, such as reservoir managers or homeowner associations around private lakes. The inspections are not mandatory under federal law.

But even in Michigan, where the fish have been banned since the late 1970s, grass carp turned up in an inland lake in 2012. They were old and apparently stocked many years ago, Newcomb said.

The study shows the importance of being vigilant but doesn't suggest a need for emergency actions to ward off a grass carp invasion, Newcomb said.

"The house isn't on fire as much as I'd feel like if we were finding reproducing bighead and silver carp in the Great Lakes," Newcomb said.

### MONROE COUNTY

## Road commission approves cost-sharing plan

The Monroe County Board of Road Commissioners Monday night approved a cost-sharing policy for 2014 projects.

The agency will contribute 25 percent of a project's total cost. Local governments, such as townships, would agree to con-

tribute 75 percent of a project's total cost.

Both primary and local road projects are covered under the policy and include capital, preventative maintenance or preservation, heavy maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction

projects.

The policy does not cover routine maintenance, problem specific drainage projects or new road construction.

The road board has been discussing updating its cost sharing policy for several months.

### HURON TOWNSHIP

## Huron eyes garage for senior van

BY DEAN COUSINO  
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Huron Township wants to continue using federal funds to build a three-bay, multi-purpose garage and activity center in Waltz to house its transportation van for senior citizens and other equipment used by seniors.

The township board held a public hearing last month on the proposal to use about \$54,000 of its 2014 allocation of federal community development block grant funds toward the estimated 1,800-square-foot garage.

The center would be built next to the senior center off Mineral Springs Rd. and have two handicapped-accessible restrooms plus storage in the attic for items from the center and a nearby park for seniors.

Money also would be used to install concrete walkways and horseshoe pits near the center in Waltz.

The total estimated cost of

the building is \$208,600, with the township also earmarking \$154,642 in block grant funds from 2011 to 2013 to pay for the garage.

The \$54,000 is part of \$85,647 the township expects to receive in block grant funds for 2014. About \$23,126 is earmarked for a countywide housing rehabilitation program and \$8,564 will be used to administer the grant, Clerk Kathlene VanWasshova said.

The board took no action on the funds, but is expected to do so at its next meeting Wednesday, Supervisor David Glaab said.

The garage is expected to be built this summer, Mr. Glaab said.

"There's no place to park our bus," the supervisor said.

Under federal guidelines, funds must be used for projects that benefit residents who have low to moderate incomes, Ms. VanWasshova said. Senior citizens fall into that category.