



CITY OF DEWITT NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Sue Leeming

Happy Spring! There are many exciting things happening in our City, but as always in April, I want to provide some information about our budget.

We employ a thoughtful, inclusive process every year as we develop the budget. We start with a goal setting session in which we consider a wide range of projects (old and new ideas) and also look at projected increases or decreases for on-going and basic expenses. All of this goes into a five year budget plan, which is a look at the past five years and projections for the next five years. This long view provides flexibility to look at various options and the fiscal implications.

Good news: This year, we have additional revenue of \$503,000 through the American Rescue Plan (specifically the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds). The State and County also have ARP money that will be used to provide grants or fund various types of projects. Collectively, we all have until 2024 to obligate these funds, and have until the end of 2026 to actually spend the money. Our challenge is making sure that we are not spending our very limited ARP funds on projects that could be funded by the State or County; and we don't know yet how they will target those funds.

Not so good news: As everyone is aware, inflation reached a 40 year high of 7.5% recently, and gas prices have exceeded the historical 2008 record high of \$4.11/gallon. The uncertainty for future pricing results in higher bid prices for road projects, construction, and, well, just about everything.

After much consideration, we plan to utilize ARP funds in three areas: Local match for a state grant for improvements to McGuire Park; sanitary sewer extension on East Dill Road; and 2022-2023 local street resurfacing projects.

The application for the McGuire Park grant was submitted. We are hopeful that the plan, which includes four pickleball courts and a wheelchair accessible path to the river, will rank high enough to receive State funding. The sanitary sewer extension is a necessary project that will eliminate some of the last remaining septic systems in the City. These are very old systems, and are located along the Looking Glass River. The funding for the road projects will fill the gap we now have due to increased costs.

As we move through the budget process, I want to assure everyone that we continue to be conservative in our approach. Once again this year, we are in very good financial shape, thanks to our thoughtful team of department managers, city staff, council members, and committee representatives engaged in planning for our future. I'm very proud of our team and the process employed to develop our annual budget.

We are excited about a number of events planned for this spring and summer in our Downtown. Please join us in these community celebrations! The Cabin Fever Reliever started off the season in March. The First Annual DeWitt Duathlon (Run, Bike, Run) is scheduled for May 7th. The Farmer's Market starts up on Tuesdays in June that includes activities for kids and food trucks. Please contact our new Downtown Development Authority Coordinator Jennifer Roberts for more event information. (Welcome Jennifer to City Hall!).

Please join me in expressing our appreciation for Teresa McClean, our Administrative Assistant who is retiring after 26 years at City Hall. Teresa has seen significant changes in her responsibilities as the City has doubled in population during her tenure. She has been involved every year in organizing the annual Christmas Santa delivery project- ensuring that Santa delivers the correct gifts to local youngsters on Christmas Eve. Teresa has also been responsible for putting together this quarterly newsletter over the years! We are grateful for her many years of service to our community and wish her a wonderful, relaxing retirement.

Let's get outside and enjoy spring and all the opportunities our community has to offer! Sue Leeming, Mayor



Police Department News - Chief Bruce Ferguson

Now that winter is winding down, everyone will begin spending more time with either the windows open or enjoying the outdoors. COVID restrictions were a big delay in ordinance enforcement, so I've created a list below of the most frequently asked questions regarding city ordinances.

Sec. 34-53. Outdoor burning Cooking fires and campfires are allowed. All such fires must be contained within an area four feet or less in diameter and three feet or less in height in a fire pit. The burning of leaves, building materials, tires, petroleum products within the city is prohibited. No burning is allowed from midnight to 6:00 a.m. For parcels in the city of 2 acres or more a burning permit can be issued and brush can be burned.

Sec. 70-123. Unlawful height of weeds and grass It shall be unlawful to allow the growth of weeds or grass beyond the height of eight inches in the city.

Sec. 30-37. Abandoned or junk motor vehicles, unlicensed motor vehicles

Any motor vehicle which, for a period of time ten consecutive days or more, does not have an engine in running condition, four inflated tires, a battery and current license plates, or which is in fact, abandoned by its owner, or which is not operable shall be deemed to be an abandoned or junk motor vehicle under this section.

Sec. 10-8. Removal of animal excrement A person walking a dog on property not under his or her ownership or control shall carry an appropriate device for removal of animal excrement. And shall not allow any animal to leave excrement on any property not their own. We often get complaints of excrement in our parks, the cemetery and on the sidewalks, so please carry a bag with you to clean up after your pet.

If you have a concern about potential violations, please call our office at 517-669-9131 or 9-1-1, and an officer will respond to your concern. In Clinton County 9-1-1 is used for non-emergency calls as well as emergency calls.

All City Ordinances are online for you to review at: <https://library.municode.com/mi/dewitt>

Medication Drop Box Disposal located in the lobby of the Community Room—414 E. Main Street

Protect your family against misuse of all medications by safely disposing of prescription and OTC medications at City Hall. Simply bring your unwanted, unused or expired medication to our new CVS safe medication disposal kiosk and drop it in—just like putting a letter in a mailbox.

YES Accepted items:

Prescription medications
 Prescription patches
 Prescription ointments **only**
 Medications for pets
 Over-the-counter medications
 Vitamins
 Medication samples

NOT Accepted Items:

Needles (sharps) & thermometers
 Hydrogen peroxide
 Illegal drugs
 Inhalers
 Aerosol Cans
 Medications from businesses or clinics
 Non-prescription ointments, lotions or liquids

City Administrator - Dan Coss

New Website Coming Soon! The City of DeWitt is in the process of redesigning our website! With the new look, the website will also be moving to a .gov domain. The switch to the .gov domain is to ensure that our website and systems tied to the website are protected at the highest level of cyber security possible. We hope to have the new website up and running in April 2022.

Local Roads With the warmer weather coming, this also means road construction is not too far behind. This year, several local streets will be getting resurfaced starting in mid-June.

Larkwood Drive between Schavey Road and Alpine Drive, Oakwood Drive and a portion of River Oaks Drive will all be resurfaced. Resurfacing of these streets will begin after June 10 and is scheduled to be completed prior to school starting on August 29.

Protecting The Looking Glass River One of the many summertime activities for residents is tending to the lawn and landscaping needs around the yard. As a reminder to residents, wood chips, topsoil and other landscaping materials may not be stored in the street or over sidewalks, per City Ordinance Chapter 30 Section 30-36 (2). Leaving piles of topsoil, wood chips, etc... in the street is a public safety issue for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, especially at night. Moreover, during rain events that material often times ends up in our storm sewer system leading to clogged catch basins, causing street flooding, or is deposited in the Looking Glass River, which can have a detrimental effect on the water quality of the river.

The City of DeWitt partners with the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Storm Water Management (GLRC). The GLRC publishes a quarterly newsletter and has a website with lots of resources to help protect our water shed. Please visit the City of DeWitt website, www.dewittmi.org, or the GLRC website, www.mywatersheds.org, for more information. Please help us protect this natural resource!



DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority - Chief Joe Spagnuolo

With more people outside running, walking, biking and playing, please slow down in your travels and stay watchful of outdoor enthusiasts.

The previous newsletter had information regarding medical responses by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. As stated previously, the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority is comprised by the City of DeWitt, Olive Township and Riley Township. When someone within our service area calls 9-1-1 for a fire related emergency, our partners at Clinton County Central Dispatch receive the call and dispatch DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority personnel. The Authority is comprised of three stations. Station 1 is located within the City of DeWitt. Station 2 is located in Olive Township and Station 3 is located in Riley Township.

All of the stations have full fire related response capabilities. The majority of the Authorities equipment is located at Station 1. Station 1 has one fire engine, one tanker, 1 heavy rescue, 1 EMS truck, 1 light and air truck, 1 brush truck and 1 utility vehicle. Station 2 has 1 fire engine and 1 brush truck. Station 3 has 1 fire engine/tanker and 1 brush truck.

The type of call and location will determine if Station 2 or 3 will respond. Station 1 responds to all calls for service within the jurisdiction of the Authority. DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority also provides mutual aid to surrounding agencies. Mutual aid or auto aid is a call to assist another agency. This aid is usually for structure fires, but may include other types of incidents to include, but not limited to, EMS calls, ice rescue calls or hazardous materials calls. Please feel free to call the station at 517-669-5004 if you have further questions.

Clerk's Corner - Clerk/Treasurer, Lisa Grysen

City Council Meetings 7:00 PM at City Hall, 414 E. Main Street Every second and fourth Monday of each month, unless altered by a holiday. **April 11 & 25 May 9 & 23 June 13 & 27**

Election Information

Dates for 2022: State Primary Tuesday, August 2
General Election Tuesday, November 8

Nominating Petitions Are Available For:

Three—4-Year Terms for City Council

One—2-Year Term for Mayor

Nominating petitions and Affidavit of Identity for the August 2 State Primary for the above non-partisan offices are due by 4:00 p.m. April 19, 2022. The deadline to withdraw petitions elapses at 4:00 p.m. on April 22, 2022.

2022 Summer Taxes will be mailed out July 1, 2022 and are due by Friday, September 30, 2022. A 3% penalty for the Summer taxes will be added Saturday, October 1st, 2022.

Coming Soon! Invoice Cloud

The City of DeWitt will be implementing a new online payment portal called Invoice Cloud. This program will provide residents options in paying their bill. Invoice Cloud is expected to be in use by this summer and information regarding this will be shared on the city's website or Facebook page.

Department of Public Services

Brush Pick-up Program - The week of April 25-29. Each spring and fall the City sponsors a street-side brush pick-up program. The purpose of this program is to remove brush that is too large to be removed as part of the weekly yard waste-composting program.

Brush is required to be placed curbside, neatly stacked, with the large ends towards the street. Brush between 2" and 8" in diameter is accepted. Shrubs with roots still attached are not accepted. The City asks that you leave brush in as large of pieces as possible so that it can be safely fed into the brush chipper by City employees. Streets will be covered one time only. All brush must be curbside prior to 7:00 A.M. on that Monday of pick-up.

Cemetery Decorations

Easter & Memorial Day decorations are allowed one week prior and one week after each of these holidays.

Cemetery Winter decorations must be removed by April 1st of each year. If such decorations are not removed by each of these seasonal dates, they will be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the City.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) www.dewittdda.org

Board Meetings are the second Monday of each month at 12:00 P.M.

April 11

May 9

June 13

Farmers Market Dates & Hours

Starting June 7th, the Farmers Market returns to downtown DeWitt, every Tuesday through October 18th. There are twenty markets in all.

Hours of Operation for June - September are from 4:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.

NEW hours of operation for October are from 3:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

The Annual Downtown Classic Car Show is Tuesday, June 14th, 2022. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated for all our events.

Please stop in and visit our locally owned downtown DeWitt businesses. By shopping local, you are creating jobs keeping money in the local economy, investing in entrepreneurship, and growing our community! When you support a small business, you're supporting a dream.

For a list of downtown DeWitt businesses and upcoming events, please visit our website at www.dewittdda.org. Please follow us and all of our downtown businesses on Facebook!

City Assessor—Chris Coucke Wednesday's 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Call for an appointment at (517) 669-2441 or email: assessor@dewittmi.org

City Hall Will Be Closed on the following dates:

Good Friday: April 15th.

Memorial Day: Monday, May 30. Your trash service **will be affected**. Trash will be picked up on Thursday, June 2nd.

Granger Composting Begins: Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Clinton County Clean Community Event—April 30th—St. Johns—Hazardous Waste
To participate call (989) 224-5186 or email recycle@clinton-county.org

DeWitt Area Recreation Authority (DARA) 517-482-5117

| Program Name | Actual Dates | Time of Program | Registration Dates | Age or Grade | Cost—Res/Non-Res |
|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Pickleball | Monday—Friday | M, T, Th, F 8:30am –Noon Wed 10am-Noon | Drop In | 18 yrs | \$3 per visit or \$30 punch card for 12 visits |
| Cardio Drumming | Wednesdays | 5:45pm—7:00pm | Drop In | 18+ yrs. | \$ per visit |
| Men's Basketball | Tuesdays, 4/12-5/24 | 5:30pm—10pm | 2/2/-4/5 | 18+ yrs. | \$150/team + individu- al fees (\$5 res;\$20/ non-res) |
| Easter Egg Hunt | Sat. April 9 | 3:00pm | 3/1-4/8 | 1-10 yrs. Old | Free Event |
| T-Ball | Mon/Weds 6/6- 6/27 | 5:30pm-8:30pm Start times vary | 4/25-5/20 late registration 5/23-27 | 4-5 yrs. Old | \$48/res \$63/non res Additional \$10 for late |
| Spring Sports Starter | Wed 4/6-5/11 | AM Sessions 10am - 10:45am PM Sessions: 5:30pm - 7pm | 3/7—4/27 Late reg 5/2-5/6 | 3-5 yrs. Old | \$38/res \$53/non res Additional \$10 for late |
| Coach Pitch Softball/Baseball | Baseball Tues/ Thurs 6/7-6/30 Softball Mon/ Wed 6/6-6/27 | 5:30pm-8:30pm Start times vary within | 4/25-5/20 Late registration 5/23 –27 | 5-7 yrs. Old | \$48/res \$63/non res additional \$10 for late registration |
| Little Kickers Pre- K/Soccer | Sat., 4/23-5/28 | 9am-1pm (times vary within) | Reg ends 4/8 late reg 4/11-4/15 | 4 years old | \$38/res \$53/non res Additional \$10 for late |
| Kindergarten & 1st Grade Soccer | Sat.,4/23-5/28 | 9am-1pm (times vary within) | Reg ends 4/8 late reg 4/11-4/15 | Kindergarten & 1st grade | \$38/res \$53/non res Additional \$10 for late |
| 2nd & 3rd Grade Soccer | Sat., 4/23-6/4 | 9am-1pm (times vary within) | Reg ends 4/8 late reg 4/11-4/15 | 2nd & 3rd Grade | \$42/res \$57/non res Additional \$10 for late |
| K-7th Grade Flag Football | Tues & Sat 5/10-5/28 | Tues: 5:30-8pm Sat: 1pm-4:30pm (times vary) | Reg ends 4/28 Late reg 5/2-5/6 | K-7th Grades | \$38/res \$53/non res Additional \$10 for late |
| Summer Fun Club & Dbl. Digit Day Camps | Begins Mon, 6/13 | 7:30am—5:30pm | Opens Monday March 21st | 5-9 yrs. 10-14 Yrs | \$130/res per week \$145/non res per wk. |