



CITY OF DEWITT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2023
Vol 23 Issue 2



PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

You may have seen our new pedestrian crossing sign at the intersection of Wilson and Dartmouth. The sign is designed to allow pedestrians crossing Wilson Street to activate the crossing lights by pushing a button on the signpost. This button then activates flashing lights to notify both north and southbound traffic that pedestrians are waiting to cross.

This sign is to make the crosswalk safer for the Scott School students crossing before and after school.

MILESTONES

This year marks some big milestones for some of our City Staff. We would like to congratulate and thank them for their years of service.

Mike Myszak - 25 Years
Sue Leeming - 20 Years
Chief Bruce Ferguson - 10 Years
Jennifer Whitman - 5 Years

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Good Friday - April 7th (City Hall Closed)
- Brush Pick-up Program - April 17th to 21st
- DeWitt Duathlon - May 13th
- Mother's Day - May 14th
- Memorial Day - May 29th (City Hall Closed)
- Memorial Day Parade - May 29th
- DeWitt Community Showcase - June 1st
- Farmers Market - Beginning June 6th
- Concerts in the Park - June 15th
- Father's Day - June 18th
- Car Cruise-In - June 20th
- Concerts in the Park - Beginning June 29th

CLERKS CORNER

Any unpaid 2022 Summer/Winter Taxes have now been sent to the Clinton County Treasurers' Office. We can no longer accept payments at City Hall or on our website. The 2023 Summer Taxes will be mailed out by July 1st and will be due September 30, 2023. Any unpaid Utility Bills from 2022 will be added to your Summer 2023 Tax Bill.



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING

It's finally spring, and it's time to provide a quick annual update on the City budget. Starting in April, our Downtown Development Authority and City Council meet to identify budget priorities. The meeting is to highlight both their short and long-term goals. We look at a five-year rolling budget plan, which includes the actual revenue and expenses from the last two years, and outline the related expenditures in a five-year projection. This model allows us to see the potential impact of each identified priority on our City budget as predicted. Every year there are intense discussions concerning the increasing costs of road maintenance, park equipment, police cars, plows, trucks, and updated facilities for our Public Service Department.

I greatly appreciate this process and all the work that goes into developing the five-year model. I want to assure you that the City continues to remain in a very stable financial situation. Sure, we would like to see an increase in State Revenue Sharing back to previous levels, and yes, we continue to seek more grant funding to support parks, roads, and art in our City. As a result, we continue to be conservative in our approach to budgeting. We keep a close eye on our fund balance and necessary expenditures.

We are moving ahead with planning for the sanitary sewer extension along East Dill Drive. We have applied for state grant funding, which would be a bonus! The new playground equipment for Riverside Park, the Sports Park, and the new Poured In Place rubber surface are ready to be installed. This extra step will ensure a level play surface for our kids to enjoy safely. We continue to apply for grant funding to help execute the planned improvements at McGuire Park. Some Major Capital Improvement Projects priorities include road/sidewalk maintenance, relocating the large transformer boxes on Bridge Street downtown, and much-needed improvements to the DPS building.

We are off to a great start with our downtown events this year. The Cabin Fever Reliever was a colossal success in March. The City of DeWitt and the Downtown Development Authority hosted over 1700 residents, friends, and visitors at the event. The combination of perfect weather, the band Starfarm, and great drinks resulted in everyone having a great time. The Downtown Development Authority is planning to expand the number of vendors for next year, making the experience even better. A huge shout-out to Jen Roberts, Liz Miller, and the Downtown Development Authority for managing the event.

Of course, these events would not be possible without the services of our committed and engaged police force and our Department of Public Services staff. DPS spent the early hours that day plowing around the City and moving snow out of the downtown, only to return a few hours later to set up the perimeter fencing, tables, and tents, unload boxes of supplies and block off streets, and then back again in the evening to clean up, tear down, and load up! And all this on a Saturday. As always, they did a great job!

One of our DPS team members has reached a noteworthy milestone— Mike Myszak has been with the City for 25 years! I think this says a lot about the ability of the City to retain high-quality, dedicated staff. Congrats Mike, and thank you for all you do!

Mark your calendars! We have more great events coming up! The 2nd annual DeWitt Duathlon (Run, Bike, Run) - is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. This is truly a family and community event we're proud to support and host in our Downtown. Also, the annual Take a Breath for PH and Get Moving for MS run at the DeWitt High School on Saturday, May 20th.

I hope you are looking forward to summer and our weekly Farmer's Market. Take care and enjoy the warmer weather!

Best wishes,
Sue Leeming, Mayor



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF FERGUSON

SUBMIT A TIP

The City of DeWitt Police Department is always looking for new ways to work with our residents to build a stronger, safer community. Since launching our new website, we have integrated a new “submit a tip” online form. Our online form will allow residents to submit non-emergency issues that need our attention. Tipsters can remain anonymous, put in contact information for a follow-up, and even upload pictures for supporting documentation. Once you submit your tip, it will be directed to our secure police inbox where we will assign and investigate. We are excited to empower our residents with one more easy-to-use tool for information sharing and possible crime detection and prevention.

To find our tip form, go to www.dewittmi.gov, select “Departments”, and then click “Police Department”. On the left side of our Police homepage you will see “Submit a Tip.” Once selected, our tip form will populate.

As a reminder, you may also submit a tip directly by emailing: dewittpd@dewittmi.gov or by calling our office Monday thru Friday 8 am to 5 pm at [517-669-9131](tel:517-669-9131). Please note - if your issue needs immediate police attention, call [9-1-1](tel:9-1-1).

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - DAN COSS

LOCAL ROADS

With the warmer weather coming that also means road construction is not too far behind. Here is a look at what we will be resurfacing in 2023.

This year the main resurfacing project will be on Turner Road from Herbison, south to East Dill Drive, and will be getting started in mid-June after school is over. Before the resurfacing work, the city is re-lining approximately 1,000 feet of sanitary sewer. Re-lining is a technique that eliminates digging the sewer line up, but there will be some temporary road closures due to this. The re-lining is expected to happen sometime in April or early May.

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 that 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 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 watershed. Please visit the City of DeWitt website, www.dewittmi.gov, 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

Greetings from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. With Spring approaching and warmer weather, people will be outside. With runners, walkers, bicyclists along with children playing. Slow down in your travels and stay watchful of outdoor enthusiasts.

As reported in the last newsletter we received two new vehicles and removed two vehicles from service (pictured below). The Authority also purchase a LUCAS chest compression system. This automated device is used when someone is in cardiac arrest. Once the unit is in place it performs chest compressions on the individual. This piece of equipment is more efficient than manual compressions by an individual. The Authority also purchased battery-operated extrication tools, used for automobile crashes. This new equipment is in service on our new mini-pumper.

In 2021, the Authority had its busiest year, with 605 calls for service, which was almost a 100-run increase from 2020. The Authority finished 2022 with 603 calls for service. As of this writing, the Authority is up 25 calls from the same time in 2022. In 2022, we had a member leave but hired four new members to bring our staff numbers to 28. We also had a change in our Administrative Assistant position. The Fire Chief's position was increased from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week. The Authority also has one firefighter staffing the station Monday through Friday, 8 am – 5 pm (excluding major holidays). This position is staffed by some of our paid-on-call members.

If you ever have questions about how service is provided by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority or have an interest in joining our service, please feel free to call the station at [517-669-5004](tel:517-669-5004).



2022 Ford F-550 Mini-Pumper



2015 Chevrolet Tahoe

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

BRUSH PICK-UP PROGRAM

Pickup will begin the week of **April 17th** through the **21st**. 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 the brush in as large of pieces as possible so that City employees can safely feed it into the brush chipper. Streets will be covered one time only.

All brush must be curbside before 7:00 am on that Monday of pick-up.

CEMETERY DECORATIONS

Winter Decorations are to be removed from the Cemetery by April 1st of each year. Easter Decorations are allowed one week before and one week after Easter Day. All Summer/Fall Decorations are to be removed from the Cemetery by November 1st of each year.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Thank you to everyone who attended our DeWitt Cabin Fever Reliever! This was our third year hosting this event and with great weather, fantastic music, and amazing drinks we had over 1700 people in attendance! We are already planning and making changes for the 2024 Cabin Fever Reliever, so save the date March 2, 2024! Thank you again to all our sponsors, volunteers, drink vendors, food trucks, Starfarm, our downtown businesses, our City of DeWitt Police Department, and our DPS staff for all their help in making this event so successful!

The Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market is back on June 6th! For more information on our farmers market and who will be there each week, you can check out our website at <https://dda.dewittmi.gov/farmers-market> and follow our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/dewittFM>.

DDA Board Meetings are the second TUESDAY of each month at Noon: April 11th, May 9th, & June 6th.

DDA Event Calendar

- June 6, 2023 – Farmers Market Season Begins. Every Tuesday 4:00 am - 7:00 pm
- June 20, 2023 – Downtown DeWitt Cruise-In 4:00 am - 7:00 pm
- October 10, 2023 – Fall Fest at the Market (Last Farmers Market) 4:00 am - 7:00 pm
- December 2, 2023 – Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market

D.A.R.A. DATES

Spring Soccer

Little Kickers (4 YRS), Kindergarten, 1st, & 2nd/3rd-grade leagues are being offered.

Date: Sat, April 22nd - May 20th, 2023

Reg. Deadline: Friday, March 31, 2023

Time: 9 am - 1 pm (Start times Vary Within)

Location: Valley Farms & DeWitt Sports Park

Cost: LK, K, 1st: \$38/Res; \$53/Non-Res

Cost: 2nd/3rd: \$44/Res; \$59/Non-Res

Additional \$10 after the deadline

Flag Football

3-week Flag Football league for grades K-7th grade. Teams get one practice the week before the season begins, and then play games Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Date: May 9th - May 30th, 2023

Time: Tues 5:30 PM-8:00 PM; Sat 1:00 PM-4:30 PM

Reg. Deadline: April 21, 2023

Location: DeWitt Sports Park

Cost: \$38/Res; \$53/Non-Res. Additional \$10 after the deadline.

3rd - 6th Grade Volleyball League

6-week league games on Monday Nights.

Dates: April 24 - June 5

Cost: \$38/Res; \$53/Non-Res

Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camp

Camp registration will open on March 6, 2023, for all weeks of camp. For more information visit:

www.dewittrecreation.org

Zumba Gold & Zumba Gold Toning

Dewitt Area Recreation Authority is offering Zumba Gold classes this spring. For more information visit:

www.dewittrecreation.org

T-Ball, Coach Pitch Baseball, Softball

4-week leagues with 8 games each.

Age: T-Ball: 4-5; Softball & Baseball: 5-7

Dates: T-Ball & Softball: Mon and Wed, Baseball: Tues & Thurs

Dates: June 6 - June 29

Reg. Deadline: Monday, May 30, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (Times Vary)

Location: Valley Farms Park (All 3 Leagues) & DeWitt Sports Park (Softball only)

Cost: \$48 Res, \$63 Non-Res

Drop Your Kids Off

Enjoy a night out while kids enjoy games, crafts, pizza, and more!

Ages: 5-12

Dates: Friday, April 14, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Reg. Deadline: Thursday, April 13, 2023

Location: Valley Farms Community Center

Cost: \$17.00/ One Child; \$12.00 for each additional child

3 VS. 3 Men's Basketball

6-week league with a single elimination tournament. Teams must consist of 3-6 players.

Time: Games are scheduled between 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM.

Cost: \$150 Per Team and player fees are \$5/Res; \$20/Non-Res.

Reg. Deadline: April 4, 2023. Players register online separately and pay a player fee.

Drop-In Programs

Cardio Drumming - Wednesdays 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM

Pickleball - Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wed, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For more information on any of these programs please call DARA at (517) 482-5117, or visit www.dewittrecreation.org