



Photo provided by Nicholas Dybas

## HELP WANTED! SEEKING NEW DEWITT OX ROAST COMMITTEE

The current members of the DeWitt Memorial Association Ox Roast Committee have announced their retirement and will not be organizing the 2024 DeWitt Ox Roast. You can be a part of the new committee to keep the tradition going! This is a great opportunity to volunteer and become involved in our community, meet your neighbors, develop leadership skills, and have a good time. The Ox Roast organizing committee will need several core members and many volunteers to make this event happen!

Please contact Jennifer Roberts with the Downtown Development Authority at City Hall if you are interested in volunteering, at [517-669-2441](tel:517-669-2441) or [dda@dewittmi.gov](mailto:dda@dewittmi.gov) to volunteer!

Thank you!  
Sue Leeming, Mayor  
Andy Joslyn, DDA Chair

## CATCH UP WITH THE CLERK

Utility Bills have been sent out and are due by October 24th. Summer tax bills were mailed on July 1st and are due by October 2, 2023. Utility Bills and Tax Bills can both be paid online at:

[www.invoicecloud.com/cityofde Witt](http://www.invoicecloud.com/cityofde Witt)

No service fees for credit or debit on utility bills, 3% fee for taxes. No service fee for utility bills or taxes if paying by checking and routing numbers.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Week of October 16th** - First Leaf Pick-up, North and South of River
- **October 10th** - Fall Fest at the Market
- **October 24th** - Utility Bills Due
- **October 28th** - Trick or Treat Trail at Riverside Park 1-4 pm
- **October 31st** - Trick or Treating from 6-8 pm
- **November 5th** - Pancake Breakfast by DeWitt Area Emergency Service Authority
- **November 11th** - Veterans Day (City Hall Closed)
- **Week of November 21st** - Last Leaf Pick-up, North and South of River
- **Winter Tax Bills** - Mailed Dec 1st/ Due by Feb 14th.
- **December 2nd** - DeWitt Christmas Market



## A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING

When I ran for mayor seven years ago, my goals were to improve our parks, develop our downtown, and spend taxpayer dollars wisely. I believe we have done that and more – more walking paths, a new energy-efficient City Hall and police building, and more downtown events. Our fleet of police vehicles is now hybrid, saving the city in fuel costs every year. We have updated the City's Master Plan and Recreation Plan, which allows us to apply for state and federal grants.

Our priorities continue to be public safety, financial stability, our parks, and roads. Our police force was the first in the county to utilize body cameras, and we continue to work towards county-wide communication and coordination for law enforcement and emergency services. The new Police headquarters includes a secure interrogation room, a locker room for our female officers, an evidence locker that meets standards for protecting the chain of custody, and a garage for vehicles where the in-car video cameras are automatically downloaded and the temperatures needed for the in-car computers are maintained throughout the year without having to keep the cars running. City Council has supported our police force by allocating the funding needed to ensure we have the tools and training for safe and effective operations.

The Community Room at City Hall has been a huge success. We were so fortunate to be able to include that room in the new building before interest rates skyrocketed and building materials were unavailable and incredibly expensive. Again, the City Council supported the idea to include the room in the design phase just in case the bids for the main building came in sufficiently low enough that we would be able to build it. The Community Room is in use almost every day and used by many different groups, including nonprofit organizations and an afterschool program through the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority.

Our Parks and Recreation Commission inventoried our parks and completed a report. The City Council supported implementing the plan to renovate the playground equipment and apply for grants wherever appropriate. To date, the Sports Park and Riverfront Park have new equipment installed, and the result is overwhelmingly positive! There are more kids at these parks every day than ever before.

Our downtown is active with very few vacancies. Indeed we have welcomed several new businesses in the last few years. The "corner lot" brownfield site is being redeveloped into a three-story mixed-use building, retaining a valued business in our City and bringing more residents to our downtown. The Farmer's Markets have been very successful, as have the downtown events – especially the Cabin Fever Reliever in March. A huge shout out and thank you to the Memorial Board Association for the Ox Roast Festival in August. This festival has improved so much in the last four years; it has become a fun, safe event for all ages.

I mention all these things because I am very proud to be the Mayor of this great City, and grateful for the excellent team we have working for us. These community events, even simple events like the ribbon cuttings for our new park equipment, always reminds me of what a great community we are a part of.

Thank you!  
Enjoy each day,

Sue Leeming, Mayor



## CITY ADMINISTRATOR - DAN COSS

### Entrepreneurial Spirit Alive and Well

The small business spirit is alive and well in downtown DeWitt. We would like to welcome several new small businesses to our downtown; Tin Cup Café, Twisted Craft Cocktail, Bridge and Jefferson, Bridge and Main and express a little gratitude to all of our business owners in downtown DeWitt. All combined, these businesses make up the heart and soul of our downtown.

To keep these businesses flourishing, it is important to shop as locally as possible. A study by Civic Economics shows that 48% of dollars spent in locally owned businesses is returned directly to the local economy; whereas only 13.6% of dollars spent at chain retailers is returned to the local economy. Our locally-owned small businesses depend on us to thrive.

### Civic Engagement

As the 2023 projects throughout the city come to an end, I found myself reflecting on all the residents that I interacted with throughout the course of the year during these projects. At the beginning of the year; public hearings for the construction of The Lofts in our downtown, Cabin Fever Reliever in March, ribbon cuttings for the playground equipment at the Sports Park and Riverside Park in June and August, respectively, Ox Roast and the many Farmers Markets attended throughout the summer. Each and every year I am more grateful to the residents of the city for their involvement and commitment to make DeWitt the best place to live, work, and play.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [dcoss@dewittmi.gov](mailto:dcoss@dewittmi.gov) or 669-2441. Have a great fall season and GO PANTHERS!

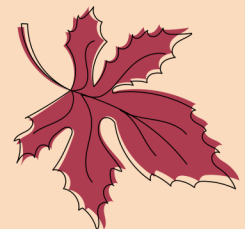
## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

### Leaf Pick-up:

Place un-bagged leaves street-side by 7:00 a.m. each Monday of your scheduled week. Items such as garden trash, lake leaves, boards, sticks, rocks, and other items that would prevent the leaf vacuum from easily sucking up leaves cannot be placed in the leaf piles. Due to safety concerns, leaves are prohibited from being placed in the street. Do not rake leaves into the ditch. All leaves must be placed on the street edge and reachable by the City leaf vacuum. Bagged leaves will not be removed.

As always we appreciate your patience and understanding for any weather related delays that may occur.

The week of October 16th will be North and South of the river.  
The week of October 23rd is South of the river.  
The week of October 30th is North of the river.  
The week of November 6th is South of the river.  
The week of November 13th is North of the river.  
The week of November 20th will be North and South of the river.



**REMINDER – LEAF BURNING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**



## POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF FERGUSON

Severe weather can be a frightening experience, especially when it shows up unexpectedly. Thunderstorms with strong winds and hail can cause property damage and even injury to people. Tornadoes are even more destructive and can cause extensive damage in a matter of minutes. These types of severe weather usually occur during the summer months, but winter can also bring its own set of dangerous weather conditions. Freezing rain, snowstorms, and blizzards can make traveling hazardous and can cause power outages. Fortunately, some severe weather can be predicted days in advance, giving people time to prepare and take precautions. However, some severe weather is completely unexpected and can catch people off guard. It is important to stay informed and be prepared for any type of severe weather that may come your way.

In the City of DeWitt, our outdoor warning system is a siren that is located behind City Hall. Additional sirens are strategically located around the County. The sirens are activated by the Clinton County Central Dispatch when they receive a warning from the National Weather Service. Although the sirens are loud, they are primarily used to warn those who are outside as the sirens can be difficult to hear when indoors. The dilemma we face is finding the best way to get severe weather information to all, indoor and outdoor, residents.

It seems that more and more families are streaming on their TVs and fewer are watching local channels. So, it is becoming clear that weather apps on a smartphone would be the most advantageous way of reaching the most people. These apps are designed to provide real-time updates on weather conditions, giving users the ability to stay informed and prepared for any potential severe weather. There are now a variety of apps available, many of which are free, that are designed to provide users with the most accurate and up-to-date information.

1. **Emergency: Alerts** - works on Apple and Android systems. The app is from the American Red Cross, it warns about potential severe weather and may help keep you safe during severe weather.
2. **Weather Bug** – works on Apple and Android Systems. Known for its speedy update with thunderstorms. The alerts also come with tips to help you prepare for severe weather.
3. **Storm Shield** - Works on Apple and Android systems. This app gives you alerts for your current location versus your home address, you can customize your alerts.
4. **Storm Radar** - works with Apple and Android systems. This is the Weather Channel's severe weather app; it includes lightning trackers. It can track the path of severe storms in real time.
5. **FEMA** - works on Apple and Android systems. This app is strictly for alerts without any maps or radar.
6. **AlertSense** – works on Apple and Android systems. It allows you to set notifications of severe weather conditions to specific, bookmarked addresses. These alerts are sent with sounds.
7. **Alert FM** – works on Apple and Android systems. This app will give you voice and text alerts for up to 5 stored weather locations. You can track severe weather in real time. Alert FM will also announce evacuations and shelter locations.





## DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOE SPAGNUOLO

Greetings from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. As fall approaches with cooler weather, just a reminder to please follow all safety guidelines when having recreational fires. Make sure to have a water source close by and all recreational fires must be out by midnight. Recreational fires must be supervised by an adult and no burning if the wind exceeds 10 miles per hour. Only clean firewood may be used in a recreational fire. No yard waste or leaves may be burned.

We would like to remind everyone to check and change the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. The best way to remember this is to check your detectors when you set your clocks ahead or back.

Our firefighters' association will be having our annual "All you can eat pancake breakfast" and it will be held on November 5th from 8 am to 12 pm. This event will also be held at our fire station on W. Main St.

If you ever have questions about how service is provided by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority please feel free to call the station at 517-669-5004.



## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

It's been a busy summer for Downtown DeWitt. In August the downtown was host to the 3rd annual StreetFest, the 77th Annual Ox Roast, the US 27 Motor Cruise, and we welcomed DALMAC riders! With all these fun summer events it should not go unnoticed how amazing our downtown business owners are. Closing the streets for events is not always easy on them but they are always a pleasure to work with when events come up. They make our job easy, and we appreciate them and their support!

Save the Date for Fall Fest at the Market! The last market of the season is 10/10 and is once again a Halloween theme! Get your kid in their costume and come trick or treat in the market and at many of our local businesses!

Toys for Tots: The DDA, The City of DeWitt, and many of our local businesses will be Toys for Tots drop-off locations for the Home Builders Association of Greater Lansing annual Toys for Tots campaign. The HBA is the biggest contributor to Toys for Tots in the area! Last year they donated 11,598 toys! A list of downtown drop-off locations will be on our Facebook page and website!

The Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market is set for Saturday, December 2, from 2:00-6:30 p.m. If you are interested in being a vendor at our market you can sign up on our website at: <https://dda.dewittmi.gov/christmas-market/>

DDA Board Meetings are on the second TUESDAY of each month at Noon: October 11, November 14, & December 12.

DDA Event Calendar:

October 10, 2023 – Fall Fest at the Market (Last Farmers Market) 4:00 -7:00 pm

December 2, 2023 – Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market

# DARA NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023

...PROMOTING COMMUNITY AND  
QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH LEISURE  
SERVICES...



## DROP YOUR KIDS OFF

KIDS ENJOY GAMES, CRAFTS, PIZZA, AND MORE!  
AGES 5-12

DATE: OCTOBER 6, 2023

TIME: 6:00 PM- 11:00 PM

REG. DEADLINE: THURSDAY OCTOBER 5, 2023

LOCATION: VALLEY FARMS COMMUNITY CENTER

COST: \$17.00/ONE CHILD; \$12.00 FOR EACH  
ADDITIONAL CHILD

## FLASHLIGHT PUMPKIN HUNT

CHILDREN AGES 3-10 ARE INVITED TO PLAY GAMES, ENJOY  
SNACKS, AND HUNT FOR (PLASTIC) PUMPKINS UNDER THE  
MOON.

DATE: TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2023

REG. DEADLINE: FRIDAY OCTOBER 6 2023 OR UNTIL FULL

TIME: 6:45-7:45 PM

LOCATION: DEWITT SPORTS PARK

COST: \$8/RES; \$13/NON-RES

## HAUNTED HALLOWEEN TOUR

SIXTH, SEVENTH, AND EIGHTH GRADERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN DARA  
FOR A NIGHT OF FRIGHT! WE WILL DEPART FROM VALLEY FARMS  
COMMUNITY CENTER AND MAKE STOPS AT LOCAL HAUNTED HOUSES.

DATES: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

REG. DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

TIME: 7:00 PM-12:00 AM

COST: \$50/PERSON

## 1ST-6TH GRADE BASKETBALL

BOYS AND GIRLS LEAGUES BEGINNING THIS FALL.

GAMES: SAT. MORNINGS, OCT. 21 – DEC. 2 (EXTRA WEEK FOR  
GRADES 3-6. NO PRACTICES OR GAMES THE WEEK OF NOV. 25)

PRACTICES: BEGIN THE WEEK OF OCT. 16

REG. DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

COST: \$38 RES, \$53 NON-RES (1ST AND 2ND GRADE), \$53

RES, \$68 NON-RES (3RD THRU 6TH GRADE), ADDITIONAL \$10  
AFTER DEADLINE

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS BEFORE OCTOBER 6, 2023

## PRE K ART: MINI MATISSES

SIGN UP YOUNGSTERS UP FOR AN INTRODUCTORY ART CLASS.  
CHILDREN (2-5 YEARS OF AGE) WILL EXPLORE DIFFERENT ART  
MEDIUMS AND CREATE BEAUTIFUL ART PROJECTS!

DATES: TUESDAY, NOV. 7 - NOV. 28

REG. DEADLINE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

TIME: 6:30-7:15 PM

LOCATION: COMMUNITY ROOM AT DEWITT CITY HALL

COST: \$25/RES, \$40/NON-RES.

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS BEFORE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31.

## SPORTS STARTERS

CHILDREN AGES 3-5 WILL LEARN THE BASIC FUNDAMENTALS  
AND RULES OF SOCCER, BASKETBALL AND FOOTBALL.

SESSIONS ARE 45 MINUTES IN LENGTH.

DATE: SATURDAYS, OCT. 21-DEC. 2 (WILL NOT MEET NOV 25)

DEADLINE: OCTOBER 13, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

LOCATION: VALLEY FARMS COMMUNITY CENTER

COST: \$38/RES; \$53/NON-RES

EARLY BIRD SAVINGS BEFORE OCTOBER 13, 2023

## ZUMBA AND ZUMBA GOLD

DEWITT AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY IS OFFERING  
NUMEROUS ZUMBA AND ZUMBA GOLD CLASSES THIS  
FALL FROM SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER. PLEASE VISIT  
[WWW.DEWITTRECREATION.ORG](http://WWW.DEWITTRECREATION.ORG) FOR MORE  
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION.

## DROP IN PROGRAMS

CARDIO DRUMMING - WEDNESDAYS

PICKLEBALL - MON, WED, FRI

## DARA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

DARA HAS A NEW WEBSITE, AND REGISTRATION SOFTWARE. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO STREAMLINE THINGS AND MAKE THEM MORE USER-FRIENDLY.

[WWW.DEWITTRECREATION.ORG](http://WWW.DEWITTRECREATION.ORG) WILL CONTINUE TO BE OUR HOMEPAGE, BUT YOU WILL NEED TO CREATE A HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNT ON THE NEW  
REGISTRATION PAGE. YOUR FAMILY INFO AND COURSE HISTORY WILL NOT CARRY OVER. DAYSMART IS THE SOFTWARE YOU WILL BE REDIRECTED TO WHEN  
TRYING TO REGISTER FOR A COURSE. PLEASE BEAR WITH US DURING THIS TRANSITION, AS THERE ARE SURE TO BE A FEW BUMPS ALONG THE WAY.



[WWW.DEWITTRECREATION.ORG](http://WWW.DEWITTRECREATION.ORG)

517-482-5117

