



CITY OF DEWITT

Quarterly Newsletter

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SEASONAL REMINDERS

Help the Department of Public Services keep the streets safe and clear this winter by keeping your Granger trash/recycling containers out of the street. These containers can be a traffic hazard and create a vision obstruction for our snow plows or other vehicular traffic.

During the winter it is very important to keep vehicles and trailers out of the street so the snow plows can effectively clear the snow. Within the city limits, there is no parking on the streets between the hours of 2:00 a.m. & 6:00 a.m. all year round.

Snow or ice must be removed on any sidewalk abutting or adjacent to any property owned or occupied by that person within 24 hours after the snow or ice has fallen or formed. The city reserves the right to remove snow and ice from a sidewalk if the property owner fails to do so, and to assess the cost against the property.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WINTER TAXES & UTILITY BILLS

Utility bills have been sent out and are due by January 24th. Winter tax bills were mailed on December 1st and are due by February 14th. Utility bills and Tax bills can both be paid online at:

WWW.INVOICECLOUD.COM/CITYOFDEWITT

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

- **January 8th** - Christmas Tree Pick-up/Dropoff
- **January 15th** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day (City Hall Closed)
- **January 24th** - Utility Bills Due
- **February 14th** - Winter Taxes Due
- **February 24th** - Presidents Day (City Hall Closed)
- **February 27th** - Presidential Primary Election
- **March 2nd** - Cabin Fever Reliever
- **March 29th** - Good Friday (City Hall Closed)
- **April 3rd** - Granger Yard Waste Pick-up Begins
- **April 15th to 19th** - Brush Pick-up Program



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING

Happy New Year! I hope this phrase rings true for everyone and that the New Year brings you optimism and the joy of new beginnings.

The City is off to a great start – we have been informed that we have been awarded a grant to help fund the new equipment and upgrades to McGuire Park! You may have noticed the increased use of the newly renovated playgrounds at the Sports Park and Riverside Park. A huge shout out to our Parks & Recreation Committee for their hard work in evaluating our parks and putting together a plan for each park that when finished, will provide fun and safe activities for every age group. I also appreciate the excellent work of the staff writing the grant application. We have an amazing team.

I'd like to welcome our newest member of the Team, Ms. Paula Willoughby. She has joined us as the Financial Director and will be a huge help in updating some of the accounting systems and also serve to strengthen procedures and internal controls. Please stop by to welcome her next time you are at City Hall.

We had a great Fall season – closing out the Farmers Markets, and the huge crowd enjoying the mild weather for the Christmas Market. If you have never been to the event, please put it on your calendar for next year – December 7, 2024 - it is fun for the whole family!

The DPS staff were once again my heroes as they took away all those leaves! Just FYI – you can get them back (for free) for your garden next spring in the form of mulch. I love that service too!

I also want to acknowledge our excellent police department. At the October 9th meeting of City Council, we recognized three of our officers for extraordinary courage. Patrol Officers Mike Nunham, Wayne Umholtz, and Sharon Worthington were presented with a Citation for Bravery for their actions on February 13, 2023, at Michigan State University during an active violence incident. On-Duty Sergeant David Stoltzfus (who authored the Citation) also responded without hesitation to the request for assistance that went out from MSU to surrounding state, local, and federal agencies. On that evening, three students were killed, five suffered non-fatal gunshot wounds, and thousands more were forced to shelter in place.

In summary, Officer Nunham assumed a lead role with the Clinton County Special Operations Team and conducted an extensive search of the Union Building, the last known location of the shooter. Officer Umholtz was part of the Rescue Task Force, responding to over 2,100 calls coming into 911 Central Dispatch. Many calls were reporting possible shots fired and possible sightings of the shooter. Officer Worthington was a part of the Clinton County Negotiator Team, tasked with escorting students and staff to safety, and ready to serve as a trained negotiator if needed. Sgt. Stoltzfus arrived at the Union Building and immediately assisted officers in removing an injured student from the building and securing the scene. He then was assigned to work with the Clinton County SOT team in clearing and securing the Union Building. They were tasked with attempting to locate and neutralize the suspect and locating any additional victims/witnesses. Along with the team, they searched approx. 100,000 square feet of classrooms, hallways, and offices.

As written in the Citation, “These officers endured an event that all officers hope they never have to experience. Their dedication to their community and bravery in the face of evil cannot be overstated. The students, staff, parents, and City of DeWitt thank you for your courageous service.”

I am proud to be associated with these well-trained, brave officers.

Best wishes for a safe winter season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Sue Leeming, Mayor

CATCH UP WITH THE CLERK - SARAH STOLTZFUS

Election season is upon us and with the new year, comes new changes. In particular, legislative changes regarding elections and the addition of early voting. With the passage of Proposal 22-2, voters now have the right to vote in-person at an early voting site prior to Election Day for all statewide and federal elections. The City of DeWitt has entered into a countywide agreement in which Clinton County will offer nine days of early voting prior to the election, beginning the second Saturday before an election and ending the Sunday before the election. The Presidential Primary Election will be on Tuesday, February 27th. There will be two early voting sites that you may vote at: DeWitt Township Hall and Bingham Township Hall. If you do not wish to vote early at one of the sites, you may still vote in-person at City Hall on Election Day or by absentee ballot. Below is the Early Voting Location information:

Early voting site #1 SOUTH SITE	Early voting site #2 NORTH SITE
DeWitt Charter Township Hall 1401 W. Herbison Road DeWitt, MI 48820	Bingham Township Hall 2057 N. Lansing Street St. Johns, MI 48879
Saturday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday – 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Thursday – 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Saturday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday – 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Thursday – 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Friday – 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday – 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Along with the addition of early voting for state and federal elections, another change is coming in 2024. The City of DeWitt has consolidated its precincts down to just one precinct. All City of DeWitt voters will now be Precinct 1 and you will receive a new voter I.D. card soon. All voters will vote in the Community Room at City Hall, 414 East Main Street.

Please keep in mind, that ballots cannot be forwarded through USPS, so if you request to be placed on the permanent absentee ballot list, your ballot will **NOT** be forwarded to you. If you are on the permanent absentee ballot application list, you will receive an application for a ballot and can indicate the address you would like your ballot mailed to.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 517-669-2441 should you have any questions about the upcoming election season.

Winter taxes went out to residents on December 1st and are due by February 14th without penalty. Any taxes paid after February 14th will have the penalty added. Tax payments will not be accepted at City Hall after February 29th. On March 1st they will be sent up to the County and will have to be paid to the Clinton County Treasure.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Winter taxes due: February 14th
- Presidential Primary Election: Tuesday, February 27th, 7 am- 8 pm
- Tuesday, April 23, 2024, by 4 pm: Nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity for partisan and nonpartisan candidates are due.
- Friday, April 26, 2024, by 4 pm: Written withdrawal requests for partisan and nonpartisan city candidates are due.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF FERGUSON

Winter is here! During this winter season, it appears that the arrival of colder weather has been slightly delayed. As the days grow shorter and the nights seem longer, we anticipate the eventual presence of snow, rain, and frigid temperatures. These conditions can pose risks for individuals engaging in winter activities such as driving, walking, or running on our streets and sidewalks. To ensure the safety of all, we kindly remind drivers and property owners to adhere to a few essential safety tips. By doing so, we aim to prevent accidents and maintain a secure environment for everyone involved.

Drivers:

- The temperatures will be cold, and in the event of snow or freezing rain accumulation, please remember to take the time to thoroughly clean your car before driving. Ensure that the windshield, windows, headlights, and taillights are clean, allowing other drivers to see you clearly and observe your braking and turning signals.
- Remember to keep your windshield wipers in good working order, put anti-freeze liquid in the wiper reservoir, and check your tires for adequate tire tread for driving in snow.
- When traveling, give yourself a few extra minutes of travel time so you're not trying to hurry. If you are running late, it's better to get somewhere late and alive than to speed and not get there. Ice and snow accumulation on the roadway can increase the distance it takes to stop and the risk of an accident.
- Morning drivers need to remember that school-age children are walking to school or the bus stops. Many of our residents are out walking their dogs, walking, or running for exercise from pre-dawn to after dusk. So please be sure your headlights are fully functional and clear of snow, ice, and mud.

Walkers and Runners:

When venturing out for a walk or run during nighttime, it is always wise to equip yourself with either reflective clothing or a reliable light source. This precautionary measure greatly enhances your visibility, considering that drivers may have difficulty spotting you in the darkness. Furthermore, we strongly advise utilizing sidewalks whenever possible to further mitigate the potential hazards and ensure your safety.

Homeowners:

It is mandatory for property owners to promptly clear snow and ice from the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to their properties. These sidewalks are utilized by pedestrians daily, and their efforts in keeping them clear are greatly valued. Your cooperation in ensuring the accessibility and safety of our sidewalks is sincerely appreciated by all pedestrians.



DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOE SPAGNUOLO

Greetings from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. It was a busy 2023 for us at the Authority. The number of calls for service in 2022 was 603 calls, which were 2 less than in 2021. As of this writing, we exceeded our number of calls for 2022 at the end of November. We anticipate our final number of calls for service to be around 650 for 2023. Our service calls are posted on the digital display sign at the fire station.

Just a reminder that the Authority is always looking for people that have a passion to help their community. If you have an interest, please feel free to contact us at (517)-669-5004. We would love to answer any questions you may have about the service we provide and how you can join our outstanding team of dedicated professionals.

We wish everyone a safe and happy New Year!

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Christmas Tree Pick-up is Monday, January 08.

Please place your Christmas tree curbside by 7:00 a.m. Trees must be free of nails, stands, and ornaments, and must not be in plastic bags. You may also drop your tree off at the Department of Public Services garage located at 907 W. Main Street up until Friday, January 12, 2024.

Brush Pick-up Program - The week of April 15-19.

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 provided by Granger.

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 it can be safely fed into the brush chipper by City employees. Streets will be covered one time only. All brush must be curbside before 7:00 A.M. on Monday April 15th.



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Thank you to everyone who stopped by the 17th Annual Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market on Saturday, December 2nd! We appreciate our downtown business owners, our volunteers, the DeWitt City Council, the City of DeWitt Police, the DeWitt Area Fire & Rescue, the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce, and the DPS staff for all their hard work in making this event a huge success. Also, a huge thank you goes out to Capital Steel & Wire for another fantastic Santa & Reindeer Run, Bridge St. Hair Co. for getting our town Whoville Hair ready, 3 Legged Dog Yoga + Strength Studio for hosting Santa, Northpointe Community Church for taking care of Santa, Promise Assembly of God Church for hosting Grinch photos, our amazing Vendors who filled our tents with amazing treats and gifts, the DeWitt High School Chamber Choir for singing us into our tree lighting, Reed Insurance for hosting letters to Santa, Tin Cup Café & Creamery for hosting cookie decorating, The DeWitt Garden Club for a fun kids activity, DJ Patrick Duke for our holiday music, and Black Farms for our carriage rides!

The City of DeWitt hosted 10 Toys for Tots drop-off locations this holiday season! With your help, we were able to bring 395 toys to the Home Builders Association of Greater Lansing's annual Toys for Tots campaign. Our contribution helped them surpass their goal and they collected 13,013 toys that will go to help families in the Tri-County area!

Save the Date! Cabin Fever Reliever is back on Saturday, March 2nd! Follow us on Facebook for details on this event and all things happening in Downtown DeWitt!

