



CITY OF DEWITT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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GOODBYES AND HELLOS

Mike Myszak, a dedicated public servant, is bidding farewell to the Department of Public Services after an impressive tenure of 27 years. His unwavering commitment and contributions have left an indelible mark on the department.

Throughout his service, Mike has exemplified professionalism, reliability, and a genuine passion for serving the community. As he embarks on this new chapter of life, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his years of dedicated service and wish him a fulfilling retirement.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Brush Pick-up Program - April 15th to 19th
- DeWitt Community Showcase - May 1st
- DeWitt Duathlon - May 11th
- Mother's Day - May 12th
- Memorial Day - May 27th (City Hall Closed)
- Memorial Day Parade - May 27th
- Farmers Market - Tuesdays Starting June 4th
- Father's Day - June 16th
- Car Cruise-In - June 18th
- Concerts in the Park - July 11th, 18th, 25th
- Concerts in the Park - August 1st, 8th.
- 78th Annual Ox Roast - August 16th - 18th



Paula Willoughby has over 23 years of municipal experience serving as a Treasurer and Clerk. She is excited to use her knowledge and experience to serve as the Finance Director for the City of DeWitt. Paula and her husband Eric have been married for 33 years, have four children, and reside in Laingsburg. Paula's hobbies include golfing and playing euchre. She also enjoys spending time with family and friends at Lake Margrethe in Grayling.





A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING

PASS THE WORD: THE OX ROAST IS ON FOR 2024!

You might recall that in the October 2023 City Newsletter, we included a “Help Wanted! Looking for Volunteers!” to serve on an organizing committee for the Annual Ox Roast Festival. The previous Ox Roast Committee of the DeWitt Memorial Association surprisingly retired in September after running the Ox Roast for the last four years. I believe the annual Ox Roast is the longest continual running festival in Michigan. It has grown to be a huge event, attended by thousands, lasting three days with a parade, great bands, a carnival, a craft show, a frog jumping contest, and many events, especially for kids. This community event brings in many visitors from all over the state. The Ox Roast has been a local institution for almost 80 years.

Within just one week of our call for help, over 70 dedicated individuals stepped up to volunteer, ensuring the bright future of the Ox Roast. This outpouring of community spirit is a testament to why I adore DeWitt—the people here are truly amazing!

The group has been divided into approximately ten committees, each led by co-chairs and comprised of dedicated members. These committees are focused on specific events or administrative requirements. The remarkable volunteers invest countless hours of their personal time in coordinating bands, reaching out to carnivals, seeking financial sponsors, sampling delectable fare from diverse food trucks, and much more! The unwavering commitment of these DeWitt area residents is truly immense. Everyone, including the owners of downtown businesses, shares a desire to ensure that the Ox Roast remains a delightful, family-centric community event!

Let me emphasize this: if you’re familiar with me, you know that managing expectations is my forte. The team is giving their utmost effort. They’re working diligently, collaborating with new acquaintances who happen to be friends and neighbors. Their commitment and engagement are commendable, and they’re venturing into uncharted territory—organizing events like art festivals and city-wide parades.

While the committee finalizes the event details, we invite you to follow us on Facebook at [DewittOxRoast](#) or visit our event website at thedewittoxroast.com to stay informed about all the exciting plans. Your patience is greatly appreciated!

We are looking for volunteers and sponsors! If you, your organization, or your team would like to volunteer for a single shift or a full day, any help is appreciated. For more information on becoming a volunteer or sponsor please visit our website or Facebook page.

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING CONTINUED

A few tidbits on how planning is going:

- This year, we're thrilled to partner with a new and highly respected carnival company. Notably, they accept credit cards, so you won't need to carry cash. Additionally, you can pre-order wristbands online in advance. There will be two ticket booths, with one specifically dedicated to pre-order pickups.
- We've got four fantastic bands lined up for both Friday and Saturday. Stay tuned to see who will be playing each night.
- Bring the kids for a day of fun! On Sunday, Riverside Park transforms into a hub of excitement with free events: T-shirt tie-dyeing: Get creative and design your own unique shirts. Touch a Truck: Explore and learn about various vehicles up close. Face Painting: Transform into your favorite characters with colorful face art. Petting Zoo: Interact with adorable animals. Impression 5 Hands-on Learning: Engage in educational and interactive activities
- This year, we're introducing an Arts Festival on Friday and Saturday. Over 40 new vendors will showcase their handmade arts and crafts items, all proudly made in Michigan. It's a perfect opportunity to discover unique treasures and support local artists.
- If we manage to raise enough funds, get ready for a spectacular display! We're aiming to bring back fireworks either on Friday or Saturday night. Let's light up the sky and celebrate together!

There will not be a beer tent this year. That means no fencing requirements and easier navigating through food trucks and the carnival. Instead, the downtown businesses that serve beverages and food will be ready to meet the need for refreshments. We are working with Bridge Street Social, Family Tree Café, Relli's, Looking Glass Brewing, DeWitt Party Store, and Twisted Craft Cocktails to ensure they are prepped, stocked, and ready to serve you efficiently. There will be many different options, something for everyone! You will be able to enjoy beverages throughout the designated downtown area; not restricted to staying on the premises where the beverage was purchased.

I am excited about the 2024 Ox Roast and especially pleased, proud, and incredibly impressed by the folks who have stepped up and shared their leadership skills to ensure that the Ox Roast Festival continues, and continues to be a well-run, fun time for everyone involved. Thank you. We all thank you.

Enjoy the summer and this great community!

Sue Leeming, Mayor

CITY ADMINISTRATOR - DAN COSS

LOCAL ROAD RESURFACING

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 2024.

This year the summer resurfacing projects will be Pine Ridge from Looking Glass Glen to Cedarwood, Looking Glass Glen from West Dill to Pine Ridge and Cedarwood from Pine Ridge to South DeWitt Drive. The Cedarwood resurfacing will also include the replacement of a section of sanitary sewer line, so there will be some additional excavating for that section of the project. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for the schedules on these projects and much more.

BECOME A BASIN BUDDY!!

With spring comes rain, and rain can bring localized flooding. Please become a steward in your neighborhood and help prevent flooding! If you have a storm drain by your house, please help to keep it clear of debris so that it will function efficiently to remove rain and snowmelt quickly. The storm drains in DeWitt drain storm water directly into local waterbodies or wetland areas. Any trash or contaminants will go directly into the receiving water.



DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOE SPAGNUOLO

Greetings from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority. As the weather warms up and spring draws near, folks will be enjoying the outdoors—whether they're running, walking, cycling, or playing. Remember to reduce your speed while traveling and keep an eye out for those enjoying the fresh air.

2023 was the busiest year in our history with total calls for service at 675, which was an increase of 72 calls over 2022. The department had one member retire in 2023, and six others left for personal reasons ranging from a new child, time commitment, or moving out of our area. We hired one new member to bring our Fire/EMS staff numbers to 23. We also have a part-time Administrative Assistant and an Associate member.

The department continues to train in areas of Fire, EMS, AVI, and many other topics. The department members put in a total of 917 hours of training on these topics. The members of the department also handle numerous requests for special events outside of responding to calls and training. The events range from first aid stand-by at school events, fire prevention programs, parades, and other community programs. Our members attend these events on a volunteer basis and put in over 315 hours of their own time, which is remarkable.

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



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF FERGUSON

Every year in the spring and early summer, we receive inquiries from residents about Peddlers or Solicitors going door to door in the City of DeWitt. If someone is going door to door in an attempt to sell goods or services, they are required by city ordinance to have a peddler license. The license holder must show the license at the request of any police officer, city official, or a citizen of the city. So, if someone comes to your door soliciting goods and services, you have every right to ask to see the license.

The licensing process begins at City Hall by filling out an application that includes the name of the business, the types of goods it will be selling, the services they will be providing, contact information for the business, and the name of the person in charge. We also require the names of the people that are going door to door. At that time we will do a criminal history check on each individual. If it happens to be a new business, I check with area agencies to see if they have applied for a peddler license in their jurisdiction or if they have ever had any complaints about the business.

If a peddler's license is issued and we begin to receive complaints, our officers will make contact with the individuals out in the neighborhood. I will contact the company and relay the complaints. If the behavior does not change, I will suspend their license. This will prevent them from going door to door until the police department has had the opportunity to complete an investigation. Under our ordinance, we can revoke the license with the approval of City Council after a hearing is held.

If someone comes to your door and you feel it is suspicious or if their behavior becomes rude or threatening, I would like to encourage you to call 911. In Clinton County, 911 is used for every type of call, not just emergencies. By dialing 911, it will get the officer to your home quickly and allow us the opportunity to make contact with the individual. This will aid in identifying the individual and their affiliated company, allowing me to verify their legitimacy. Furthermore, it will let me notify the company about an employee who is exhibiting unacceptable behavior. As always, please don't hesitate to visit our office or call 911 if you have concerns.

CATCH UP WITH THE CLERK- SARAH STOLTZFUS

In February, the 2024 Presidential Primary went well and it was a gorgeous day for an election! The right to exercise your voice is so important and now there are multiple ways a voter can get that opportunity. Tuesday, August 6th is the State Primary and Tuesday, November 5th is the General Election. For these two elections, and any state and federal election, voters will have multiple options of voting methods.

They can request an absentee ballot at the Clerk's office or online at Michigan.gov/sos/elections, partake in one of the nine days of early voting, or vote in person on Election Day. There is also an option for a voter to elect to be put on the permanent ballot list. Instead of receiving an application for an absentee ballot, the voter will automatically receive the ballot and not have to worry about returning the application. They will automatically be sent a ballot for future elections. You can select this option online when you request an absentee ballot.

Nominating petitions and Affidavits of Identity for nonpartisan candidates are due on April 23rd by 4:00 pm. The written withdrawal deadline elapses at 4:00 p.m. on April 26th.

Any unpaid 2023 Summer/Winter Taxes have now been sent to the Clinton County Treasurer's Office. We can no longer accept payments for them at City Hall or on our website. The 2024 Summer Taxes will be mailed out July 1st and will be due September 30, 2024.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at 517-669-2441 if you have any questions.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

SPRING AND FALL BRUSH PICK-UP PROGRAM

The City sponsors a seasonal street-side brush pick-up program. The primary goal of this initiative is to collect and dispose of large brush that cannot be accommodated by the weekly yard waste-composting program provided by Granger.

Residents are required to place brush curbside, neatly stacked, with the larger ends facing the street. Brush with a diameter between 2 inches and 8 inches is accepted. Shrubs with roots still attached are not eligible for pick-up. To facilitate safe disposal, the City requests that residents leave the brush in as large pieces as possible. City employees will feed it into the brush chipper. Streets will be covered for brush pick-up only once during the program.

All brush must be curbside by 7:00 A.M. on Monday, April 15th.

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 Cabin Fever Reliever 2024! We had unseasonably beautiful weather, amazing music from Starfarm, and fantastic food & drink vendors, which led to us hosting over 1300 guests downtown! A huge thank you to all of our sponsors, downtown businesses, everyone who volunteered to help, and our City of DeWitt Police Department! A special thank you goes out to our DeWitt Department of Public Services. They go above and beyond for these events and we appreciate all their hard work.

The Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market is back on June 4th! 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>.

Perhaps you have a 25' (or taller) evergreen on your property that you would like to donate for the 2024 City Christmas tree? The City would love to check out your tree to see if it might work for our holiday display. Please email us at dda@dewittmi.gov or call us at 517-669-2441 to discuss.

DDA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DDA Board Meetings are the second TUESDAY of each month at Noon: April 9th, May 14th, & June 11th.
- June 4, 2024 – Farmers Market Season Begins. Every Tuesday 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- June 18, 2024 – Downtown DeWitt Cruise-In 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- October 8, 2024 – Fall Fest at the Market (Last Farmers Market) 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- December 7, 2024 – Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market