CITY OF DEWITT

Quarterly Newsletter

October 2025
Vol 25 Issue 4

Photo provided by Bruce Powelson

CLOCK & CORBEL CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING IN DOWNTOWN LOCATION

Clock & Corbel officially opened its doors on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, bringing a fresh vision to home décor in the heart of downtown—right next to Reed Insurance Agency. With a mission to infuse homes with goodness, truth, and beauty, Clock & Corbel offers elegant décor inspired by both the past and present, creating spaces that radiate joy and timeless charm.

Joining Clock & Corbel is Ends Meet Pottery, a creative studio where the owner handcrafts unique pottery pieces on-site. These one-of-a-kind creations are available throughout the shop, adding a personal and artistic touch to the shared space.

UTILITY AND TAX BILLS

Utility bills have been mailed and are due October 27, 2025.

Summer tax bills were sent on July 1 and were due by September 30, 2025.

Both utility bills and tax bills can be paid online at:

https://bsaonline.com/?uid=205

Looking ahead, 2025 Winter Tax Bills will be mailed on December 1 and are due by February 17, 2026.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **October 7th** - Fall Fest at the Market
- **Week of October 13th** - First Leaf Pick-up, citywide
- **October 18th** - Trick or Treat Trail, Riverside Park 12-3
- **October 27th** - Utility Bills Due
- **October 31st** - Trick or Treating from 6-8 pm
- **November 2nd** - Pancake Breakfast by DeWitt Area Emergency Service Authority
- **November 11th** - Veterans Day (City Hall Closed)
- **Week of November 17th** - Last Leaf Pick-up, City Wide
- **Winter Tax Bills** - Mailed Dec 1st/ Due by Feb 17th.
- **December 6th** - DeWitt Christmas Market

A Message from Mayor Sue Leeming

It was a busy summer, and fall is definitely in the air. There were so many great events in the City! The Farmer's Markets have been well attended and include so many unique vendors. It was pretty hot for the car show, and for the Ox Roast Festival – but what an amazing event. Huge thanks to the Ox Roast Committee, who worked incredibly hard over the year to make this year's festival even more spectacular than last year's, and to the many sponsors who made the event possible! Also, thanks to the incredible volunteers who attend to all the behind-the-scenes details and made the weekend super fun for us! I am so proud to be a part of this community.

We have two new additions to our Police team: Lieutenant Jeromy Churchill and part-time Officer Angela Matthews. You may have seen them at the Ox Roast, meeting with residents, and helping with various aspects of the festival. Chief Curtis and our police force exemplify the concept of *Community Policing*. This is a philosophy that I strongly support, in which our officers interact with schools, businesses, and residents proactively to establish positive relationships and trust.

We had zero incidents requiring police action at the Ox Roast, which is not unusual for us, but impressive in this day and age. I believe this is a result of our community policing philosophy, a strong police presence, and also the change from a beer tent in past years to the open participation of our downtown businesses, coupled with the street social. This change two years ago was thoughtful and intentional. It has turned out to be a win for our local businesses AND the event. The Ox Roast Festival is a family-oriented event that focuses on our community and our amazing downtown.

A follow-up regarding the ambulance service (see July newsletter) - The Eaton Area Emergency Medical Service, owned by U-M Health System, began serving our community as well as DeWitt Charter Township, Bath Charter Township, and Olive Township early this summer. They are operating three ambulances in our area, and the transition has gone smoothly.

Lastly, The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club is celebrating 25 years of beautifying our City! Their efforts are noticeable all over the City - including the planters downtown and on the bridge, at our parks and at the cemetery. I don't know how many hours they log planting, weeding, and trimming, but they are a hard-working group and we are most appreciative! Congratulations on 25 years! Thanks also to the DPS for helping to water and maintain the gardens.

Although I am not looking forward to leaf clean up in my yard, I love the other aspects of the season – Happy Fall!

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 two new small businesses to our downtown: Clock and Corbel and K Fedewa Builders (Opening Soon!), and express loads of 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. Several economic studies show that dollars spent in locally owned businesses are returned directly to the local economy. Our locally owned small businesses depend on us to thrive.

McGuire Park Improvements Project and Local Street Resurfacing

As you are reading this, the construction of the four pickleball courts is underway, a new accessible path to the Looking Glass River, and an adult fitness equipment station. The pickleball courts could potentially be open before the end of 2025, depending on the weather. Please keep a lookout on our Facebook page or the digital city newsletter.

The city's local street resurfacing projects are being completed this fall. The following streets are scheduled to get some storm sewer upgrades and get resurfaced; West Dill Drive from South Bridge Street to Looking Glass Glen Drive and DeWitt Drive from West Webb Road to West Dill Drive.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF CURTIS

Welcoming Our New Officers

The DeWitt City Police Department (DCPD) is proud to announce that we are now fully staffed with the addition of two outstanding officers. With the arrival of a new Lieutenant and an additional part-time officer, our department continues to grow stronger. Each brings a high level of professionalism, dedication, and experience to our team, and I couldn't be prouder to welcome them to the DCPD family.

Please join us in welcoming Lieutenant Jeromy Churchill and Officer Angela Matthews to the DeWitt City Police Department. We are excited for the knowledge, skills, and dedication they bring to our community.

Together, we continue our mission of serving and protecting DeWitt with professionalism, compassion, and integrity.

Lieutenant Jeromy Churchill

Lieutenant Churchill joins DCPD after retiring from the Lansing Police Department, where he faithfully served for 25 years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University.

Throughout his career, Lt. Churchill has developed extensive expertise, including:
- Supervising Lansing's Detective Division
- Serving as an Emergency Vehicle Operator Instructor
- Leading the Officer's Peer Support Team
- Gaining tactical experience as a member of the Special Tactics and Rescue Team (START)

Lt. Churchill's leadership, investigative knowledge, and operational experience make him a tremendous asset to our department and community.

Officer Angela Matthews

Officer Matthews joins DCPD as a part-time officer, bringing with her over 18 years of law enforcement experience. She previously served as a Sergeant with the Lansing Police Department for 15 years and also worked with the Battle Creek and Stockbridge Police Departments.

Her academic and professional background includes:
- Master's Degree in Social Work from Michigan State University
- Owner of a consulting and training business supporting both individuals and law enforcement agencies
- Certification to teach multiple MCOLES courses, including Emotional Intelligence in Policing

Officer Matthews' combination of law enforcement experience, leadership, and training expertise makes her a valuable addition to our team.

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 13th will be North and South of the river.
The week of October 20th is South of the river.
The week of October 27th is North of the river.
The week of November 3rd is South of the river.
The week of November 10th is North of the river.
The week of November 17th will be North and South of the river.

REMINDER – LEAF BURNING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOHN BRASKA

As the leaves change and the temperatures drop, it's the perfect time to brush up on fire safety tips to keep your family and home safe this season.

Fall Safety Reminders:
- Check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Replace batteries yearly, replace detectors after 10 years.
- Practice your home fire escape plan with the whole family.

Chimney & Fireplace Care:
- Clean chimneys and fireplaces before first use.
- Use a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container after they've cooled.

Outdoor Fire Safety:
Clean leaves and debris from around your home.
Use caution with fire pits - keep a water source nearby.

Join Us for Two Great Community events!

Fire Prevention at the Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market's Fall Fest - Tuesday, October 7th 4:00 - 7:00pm
Stop by our location at the Market and meet your local firefighters, explore fire safety tips, and check out our fire trucks up close! Great for kids and families- giveaways and interactive activities.

Fire Department Annual Pancake Breakfast
DeWitt Fire Station - 911 West Main St. Sunday, November 2nd, 8:00am-12:00pm
Bring your appetite and enjoy a delicious breakfast while supporting your local fire department.

CATCH UP WITH THE CLERK/TREASURER- SARAH STOLTZFUS

As we ease into fall here in the City of DeWitt, we have a few quick updates and reminders for our residents:

October Utility Bills Are Out:
Quarterly utility bills have been mailed and are due by October 27th. Be sure to check your mailbox or email (if paperless) and make your payment on time to avoid any late fees.
Winter Tax Bills Coming Soon!
Keep an eye out—Winter Tax Bills will be sent out on December 1st. These will be due by February 17, because the 14th falls on a Saturday. More details will be shared as we get closer to that date.
No November Election This Year:
Just a friendly reminder: there is no November Election in the City of DeWitt for 2025. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming elections in 2026.
Interested in becoming involved?
Check out our website to fill out an application for a board or commission that you may want to become involved with. You can turn in your completed application to the City Clerk at your earliest convenience.
Explore Our Cemetery Records Online:
Did you know you can search for relatives and explore burial records through our online cemetery services? It's a helpful way to connect with family history or plan ahead. If you have any questions about burial rights or need more information if one of your relatives can be buried in our cemetery, please don't hesitate to call us or stop by City Hall—we're always happy to help!

Wishing everyone a safe and cozy fall season!

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Downtown DeWitt was full of energy this August! We were proud to have so many groups host a variety of events that brought our community and visitors together. Highlights included: Locally Legit Golf Outing & StreetFest, US27 Motor Cruise, DALMAC Riders, and, of course, the 79th Annual DeWitt Ox Roast! The Ox Roast committee once again knocked it out of the park. A big thank-you goes out to all the volunteers, organizers, and downtown businesses who made these events such a success.

Coming Up This Fall - Fall Fest at the Market
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.
Location: Downtown DeWitt Farmers Market
Join us for the final market of the season! This Halloween-themed celebration is a family favorite. Dress your kids in costume and enjoy trick-or-treating throughout the market and at participating downtown businesses, touch a truck with DeWitt Area Fire, Sweetie-licious 20th Anniversary excitement, street social set up, and of course food trucks!

Toys for Tots Campaign
This holiday season, the DDA, City of DeWitt, and local businesses will once again serve as Toys for Tots drop-off locations for the Home Builders Association of Greater Lansing.
Last year, the HBA collected 12,014 toys, including an impressive 884 donations right here in Downtown DeWitt! A list of drop-off locations will be available on our Facebook page and website—thank you for helping us make the season brighter for local children.

19th Annual Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market & Light Parade
Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025 Time: 2:00–6:30 p.m.
Celebrate the season with festive shopping in our craft tents, pictures with Santa & Mrs. Claus, letters to Santa, a street social setting, and this year the DDA is proud to host the Light Parade. Don't miss this magical tradition and the surprises we have in store! Interested in being a vendor? Apply online: dda.dewittmi.gov/christmas-market

DDA Board Meetings
Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Noon. Upcoming dates:
October 14
November 11
December 9

Event Calendar
October 7, 2025 – Fall Fest at the Market (Last Farmers Market) | 4–7 p.m.
December 6, 2025 – Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market & Light Parade

Thank you for supporting Downtown DeWitt. We can't wait to see you at our upcoming events!