



# CITY OF DEWITT

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

### A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



**Sue Leeming**

I hope the holiday season brought you joy, thanksgiving, and renewed optimism for 2022. While all of us have dealt with many challenges over the past couple of years, we also have many things to celebrate: The downtown enjoyed a well-attended Ox Roast Festival, Farmers Market and car show season and completed the year with a successful Christmas Market. The city continues to maintain a balanced budget and a fiscally responsible fund balance. We've kept up with our road maintenance plan and bridge repairs. The city even collaborated with the school district, neighboring townships and the county to develop miles of sidewalks and multi-use paths. This has helped to strengthen our relationships and will support our work as we consider additional joint projects in this new year.

I am extremely pleased with the City of DeWitt Parks and Recreation Equipment Plan for 2022-2037, written by the Parks, Recreation, Tree and Cemetery Committee with input and participation from various experts, including our staff. This report is available for your review and we look forward to neighborhood input on the details and specifics as we move forward in implementing the plan and upgrading our local parks.

I also want to note a concern that we see not just in our community or state, but an emerging national issue, and that is related to emergency services. We all hope that when we are in need and call 911, there will be an immediate response from well-trained personnel who have all the necessary equipment to provide aid. This is the goal of the City, our Police Department, the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority, and our ambulance services. We want to ensure that this continues to be the case in our community.

Many of us have never called 911. Did you know that in Clinton County, including DeWitt, 911 is intended to be used for emergency and NON-emergency situations? You can always call our police department during business hours for non-emergencies, but after hours, 911 is used to contact our police even for non-emergency situations.

When you call 911 for an emergency situation, the call goes to Clinton County Central Dispatch. For a medical emergency, the Dispatcher on duty notifies the appropriate agency and calls are generally answered by both an ambulance service and our fire authority. Our police will often answer the call.

Why 3 entities all responding? The answer is to ensure that help arrives as fast as possible. An ambulance might be on the other side of the county. Our paid-on-call fire department may be at a house fire or another medical assist call. Of course the response depends on the type and severity of the emergency. The emerging concern is that the number of emergency calls is on the rise, locally and nationally. At the same time, the number of trained paramedics and Emergency Service personnel is declining.

In Clinton County, we have large rural areas that are difficult to cover. It was surprising to me how many different emergency services authorities we have in this county, all operating separately with separate agreements with various ambulance services.

In this new year, one of our goals is to evaluate how this system is working for us, and to look for potential ways to improve services. I encourage you to consider how important this service is to us individually, our families, and to our community. I think we all know someone who has depended on this service to be there in a time of need.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Sue Leeming, Mayor



## Police Department News - Chief Bruce Ferguson

In Clinton County, DeWitt Police, DAESA (Fire and Rescue) along with Mercy Ambulance are all dispatched through Clinton County Central Dispatch. When you call 911 for any of the above services, Central Dispatch notifies the proper responders to the calls.

In the City of DeWitt, if an officer hears of a serious medical call, they will routinely respond. This is done by locating the address and making contact with the victim to see if they can be of any assistance prior to fire or medical personnel responding. There have been many instances where an officer arrives prior to medical staff and may begin first-aid or CPR on the victim. The first responders dispatched to a call may have distinct responsibilities, but we try to assist and complement each other's duties as best we can.

Whether the call may be medical or a mental health crisis, law enforcement, fire/rescue and ambulance service each have their own responsibilities, but the goal is to work together to give the victim or person requiring assistance the care they need.

### **Medication Drop Box is now at City Hall, located in the lobby of the Community Room**

Protect your family against misuse of all medications by safely disposing of prescription and OTC medications at City Hall.

Simply bring your unwanted, unused or expired medication to our new CVS safe medication disposal kiosk and drop it in—just like putting a letter in a mailbox.

#### **YES Accepted items:**

Prescription medications  
Prescription patches  
Prescription ointments **only**  
Medications for pets  
Over-the-counter medications  
Vitamins  
Medication samples

#### **NOT Accepted Items:**

Needles (sharps) & thermometers  
Hydrogen peroxide  
Illegal drugs  
Inhalers  
Aerosol Cans  
Medications from businesses or clinics  
Non-prescription ointments, lotions or liquids

### **Friendly Reminder—Trash/Recycling Containers and Parking on the Streets**

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. Thank you for your cooperation.



## DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority - Chief Joe Spagnuolo

With winter approaching, the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority would like to remind everyone to use caution when snow and ice are present. While traveling, be cautious of hazardous conditions and slow down. To avoid slip and fall accidents keep your driveway and sidewalks free and clear of snow and ice for the safety of your family, friends and neighbors.

DAESA provides medical and fire services to the City of DeWitt, and partners with Olive and Riley Townships. When someone within our service area calls 911 for a medical emergency, our partners at Clinton County Central Dispatch dispatches the call to DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority along with an ambulance.

Personnel from the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority carry pagers and cell phone applications to receive the notice of an emergency medical call from Central Dispatch. Personnel must first report to the fire station then respond with one of our two medically licensed vehicles to the location of the emergency.

Mercy Ambulance is our primary provider for medical transport to the hospital. Clinton Area Ambulance is our secondary provider. At times you may see a different ambulance agency providing service in our area. Between our primary and secondary ambulance providers we may have 3 to 6 ambulances available in our entire county. When this occurs Clinton County Central Dispatch will find the next closest ambulance provider to respond to your emergency need for assistance. You may have seen a Delta Township, City of Lansing, City of East Lansing or Lansing Township Ambulance responding in our area. As the need for emergency medical care increases in our county, these outside agencies assist not only DAESA personnel, but the county as well. DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority will continue to provide the best possible care to all residents & visitors in our area.

Should you have further questions regarding our services or interested in joining our team, please contact DAESA at 517-669-5004.

On behalf of our members we wish everyone a very safe and Happy New Year.

## Department of Public Services

**Christmas Tree Pick-up is Monday, January 10, 2022** Please place your Christmas tree curbside by 7:00 a.m. Trees must be free of nails, stands, 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 14, 2022.

**Brush Pick-up Program - The week of April 25-29.** 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 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 prior to 7:00 A.M. on that Monday of pick-up.

The New Community Room is rented in a twelve month span. For example, if you are in the month of April 2022 you have the option to rent any month up until April 2023. Call City Hall for more information 517-669-2441.

## **City Assessor—Chris Coucke   Wednesday's 2 PM to 5 PM**

**Board of Review In 2022** will be Monday, March 14 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Board of Review is held at City Hall, 414 E. Main Street. Appointments can be made by contacting the Assessor's office at 517-669-2441, or [assessor@dewittmi.org](mailto:assessor@dewittmi.org). Final dates and times will be listed on the assessment notices, which are mailed out February 2022.

**The Taxable Value** adjustment as set by the State of Michigan for 2022 is **3.3%**.

## **Downtown Development Authority (DDA) [www.dewittdda.org](http://www.dewittdda.org)**

**Board Meetings are now scheduled to meet the second Monday of each month at 12:00 Noon**  
January 10; February 14; March 14

**Cabin Fever Reliever** is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 5 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

## **DeWitt Area Recreation Authority 517-482-5117**

### **Drop Your Kids Off—Valley Farms Community Center**

Date: Friday, January 14, 2022   Kids enjoy games, crafts, pizza & more!

Ages: 4-12   Time: 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Registration Deadline: 1/12/2022   Cost is: \$17.00/One child & \$12.00 for each additional child.

### **K– 4th Grade Lacrosse Camp—Valley Farms Community Center**

Participants will learn the basics of Lacrosse from the DeWitt Lacrosse Club instructors. Participants must provide their own eye protection. **Sessions are one hour long.**

Boys Camp: Saturday 1/29; 2/5 & 2/19 at 10:15 AM

Girls Camp: Sunday 1/23; 1/30 & 2/6 at 3:00 PM

Late fee begins: January 12, 2022   Registration Deadline: January 19, 2022

Cost is: \$25/Resident   \$40/Non-resident   Additional \$10 after deadline.

### **Little Hoopsters Basketball Camp**

Basketball Camp is for Ages 4-6. Thursday Evenings for 45 Minutes. Children will learn the basic fundamentals of basketball. Thursdays January 13—February 3

Deadline to Register is: Monday January 3, 2022 or until camp is full

Times: 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm   Cost is: \$38/Resident   \$53/Non-resident   Additional \$10 after the deadline

Late registration ends January 7

**Drop In Programs:** Cardio Drumming—Wednesdays & Pickleball— Mon. Wed. Fri.