

CITY OF DEWITT

Quarterly Newsletter

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ALMOST ONE YEAR OF MYDEWITT!



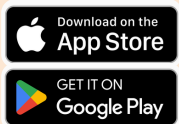
Can you believe it? We're coming up on almost one year since we launched the City of DeWitt's MyDeWitt mobile app!

We'd love to see even more residents download the app and take advantage of the convenient, helpful information it provides—right at your fingertips!

With leaf pickup season starting soon, the MyDeWitt app will be especially handy for receiving timely reminders and important information about pickup schedules and requirements.

Stay informed with quick push notifications about: Trash & recycling reminders, Road closures and important updates, Utility & tax bill alerts, and more.

If you haven't downloaded MyDeWitt yet, now is a great time! Download the app and stay connected with the City of DeWitt wherever you go.



UTILITY AND TAX BILLS

Utility bills have been mailed and are due October 27, 2026.

Summer tax bills were sent on July 1 and were due by September 30, 2026.

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

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

Looking ahead, 2026 Winter Tax Bills will be mailed on December 1 and are due by February 16, 2027.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **October 6th** - Fall Fest at the Farmers Market
- **Week of October 12th** - First Leaf Pick-up, citywide
- **October 24th** - Trick or Treat Trail, Riverside Park 11-3
- **October 27th** - Utility Bills Due
- **October 31st** - Trick or Treating from 6-8 pm
- **November 1st** - Pancake Breakfast by DeWitt Area Emergency Service Authority
- **November 11th** - Veterans Day (City Hall Closed)
- **Week of November 23rd** - Last Leaf Pick-up, City Wide
- **Winter Tax Bills** - Mailed Dec 1st/ Due by Feb 16th.
- **December 5th** - DeWitt Christmas Market



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUE LEEMING

This year was the 80th Anniversary of the Ox Roast, and we had thousands of out-of-town visitors enjoying the parade, the bands, the carnival, the Art Festival, Funday Sunday, Bingo, fireworks, the drone show, the Frog Jumping Contest, face painting, the Royalty Pageant, a community breakfast, and so many more events! It was amazing and spectacular! The Ox Roast Committee put on a fantastic, fun-filled weekend for our community. We also had so many local sponsors stepping up to support the event; they are vital to its success every year. A huge THANK YOU to the committee, the sponsors, the volunteers, and YOU—it was truly a great way to mark 80 years!

The amount of time, work, and energy that goes into making the Ox Roast happen annually is huge. It comes together because the committee is devoted to the project and our community loves the experience every year. The change from the beer tent to the street social has been a huge improvement for the businesses, and this year we had Bellinger's Specialty Meats join in with real Ox Burgers! The Ox Roast is a family-oriented event that focuses on our community and our amazing downtown.

Like every small community, we want to support our downtown businesses. The visitors all comment on what a great traditional downtown we have, and events like the Ox Roast and our Farmers Markets expose people to the many storefronts. The next step, though, is to encourage folks to come back and frequent those businesses. Our businesses do a fantastic job of supporting our events; now we need to support them every day in return. Please remember to Shop Local. Even if you don't have a particular need, please wander into our businesses. I bet you will find something that you've been looking for...and get to know the business owners—they are there for our community.

We have a number of opportunities coming up: the Turkey Trot brings in about 1,000 runners/walkers to our downtown on Thanksgiving (thank you, 3 Legged Dog Yoga and Strength Studio)—let's shop downtown on Small Business Saturday! We have the Fall Fest Farmers Market in October; October 6th is the Fall Outdoor Market at Bridge & Main. Come shop here first!

We have a new DDA Coordinator—Emily Baudoux—who has some great ideas for our downtown businesses to help tell their stories to our community, so stay tuned for that!

A strong Downtown makes for a vibrant community.

Happy Holidays,

Sue Leeming, Mayor

City Charter Revision on November Ballot

When voters head to the polls this November, you will see a question on the ballot that says, “Shall there be a general revision of the Charter of the City of DeWitt – Yes or No?”.

What is the City Charter

The Charter is the governing document that establishes the type of local government and essential functions of the City. The short version; the Charter establishes that the City of DeWitt operates with a Mayor and City Council, establishes terms of office for each of the elected officials, establishes the boards and commissions that assist with government function and establishes duties that are performed by administrative appointees.

In addition to the Charter, municipalities are bound by the laws of the State of Michigan, so many times it is a combination of the City Charter and State Laws that govern how the city performs its duties to the residents of the City of DeWitt.

One of the provisions of the Charter states that the City shall place a question for a General Revision on the ballot of a general election every 16 years, which the last time it was on the ballot was in November 2010.

What is a Charter Revision

A Charter revision is the process by which the entire document is reviewed, and multiple changes could be made to the Charter versus an amendment where a single provision would be changed.

A Charter Revision can only be performed by an elected Charter Commission and then voted on by the residents of the city to either approve or deny. Amendments can be initiated by City Council or a Charter Review Committee. In addition, City Council can by resolution approve a Revision Process outside of the 16-year mandate by the City Charter.

In any of the revision processes, if voters decide that there shall be a General Revision, the next step in the process would be to elect a 9 member Charter Commission in February 2027 and they would then begin work on revising the Charter. It is not uncommon for a Charter Commission to take 18-24 months to prepare a new Charter. Once the Commission has finalized a new City Charter that document is then placed on the ballot to be voted on by the residents of the City of DeWitt.

Does the City Charter Need to be Revised

Ultimately, that is a question only the residents of the city can answer. The current City Charter, in its current form, was adopted on November 8, 1994, and took effect in January 1, 1995. As with any document that is tied to State Laws, things have changed, but the general operations of the City of DeWitt, elections, electing a governing body still function today, in 2026, as it did in 1994.

A copy of the City Charter can be found on our website under the Ordinances Section, by clicking on Code of City Ordinance.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS FROM CHIEF CURTIS

It's an exciting time of year! School is back in full session, fall is here, and communities are once again enjoying Friday night lights, high school football, and all the activities that make this season special. As we welcome students, teachers, staff, and families back to school, it is also a good time to talk about an important part of our community: school safety

Working Together Through Mi-BTAM

Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in training with fellow school staff members through the Michigan K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (Mi-BTAM) program.

Mi-BTAM is a proactive approach that helps schools identify, assess, and manage potential threats in a supportive and collaborative manner. The program provides schools with tools and strategies focused on early intervention, prevention, and the safety and well-being of students and staff.

An important part of school safety is recognizing concerns early and working together to address them. School safety is a shared responsibility, and strong partnerships among schools, law enforcement, students, families, and the community are essential.

For more information or questions about the Mi-BTAM program, contact the Michigan State Police Office of School Safety at MSP-SchoolSafety@michigan.gov.

See Something? Say Something.

Another important resource available to Michigan students, parents, school employees, and community members is OK2SAY, www.michigan.gov/ok2say

If you see or hear something that could threaten the safety of a student, school employee, or school, you can submit a confidential tip to OK2SAY. Anyone can report concerns involving criminal activity or potential harm, and tips can be submitted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

OK2SAY is not a replacement for 911. If there is an immediate threat or emergency, call 911.



DEWITT AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY - CHIEF JOHN BRASKA

Fall Fire Safety Reminders - As the leaves change and temperatures begin to drop, it's a great time to review important fire safety practices to help keep your family and home safe this season.

- **Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Safety** - Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors regularly. Replace detector batteries at least once a year. Replace smoke and carbon monoxide detectors every 10 years.
- **Home Fire Escape Planning** - Practice your home fire escape plan with the entire family. Make sure everyone knows two ways out of each room and have a designated meeting place outside away from the house.
- **Fireplace & Chimney Safety** - Have chimneys and fireplaces cleaned and inspected before their first use of the season. Use a sturdy fireplace screen to prevent sparks from escaping. Dispose of cooled ashes in a metal container and store them away from your home.
- **Outdoor Recreational Fire Safety** - Only burn seasoned wood. Use caution when enjoying recreational fires. Always keep a water source nearby. Only burn when winds are below 10 mph. Ensure all recreational fires are completely extinguished by midnight.

Upcoming Community Events

- **Fire Prevention at the Fall Fest Farmers Market** - Tuesday, October 6th 4-7 PM
Meet local firefighters, explore the fire trucks, and enjoy family-friendly fire safety activities.
- **Annual Fire Department Pancake Breakfast** - DeWitt Fire Station, 911 W. Main St.
Sunday, November 1 | 8 AM-12 PM. Enjoy breakfast, support your local fire department, and visit with firefighters and community members.

We hope to see you this fall!

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, rocks, and other debris cannot be placed in leaf piles. **STICKS ARE ESPECIALLY PROHIBITED**, as they can become lodged in and jam the leaf vacuum, causing equipment issues and significantly slowing down the leaf pick-up process. Please keep all sticks and other debris out of your 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 along the edge of the street where they are easily reachable by the City leaf vacuum. Bagged leaves will not be removed.

Important Route Information

There are no set or predetermined street-by-street routes for leaf pick-up. The only schedule that is set is whether crews are working north or south of the river during a given week.

Please be aware that the side of the river crews are working on may change due to weather, equipment limitations, or staffing. Because of these factors, we cannot provide specific street-by-street pickup dates.

THE CURRENT PLANNED SCHEDULE IS:

Week of October 12: North and South of the river
Week of October 19: South of the river
Week of October 26: North of the river
Week of November 2: South of the river
Week of November 9: North of the river
Week of November 16: North and South of the river
Week of November 23: North and South of the river

For updates or changes to which side of the river that crews will be working on, please follow the City of DeWitt on Facebook. For the quickest and most up-to-date information on leaf pick-up, download the City's MyDeWitt mobile app from your device's app store.



As always, we appreciate your patience and understanding regarding any weather-related delays or changes to the leaf pick-up schedule.

REMINDER – LEAF BURNING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

CITY CLERK - ALYSSA RAMIREZ

The November General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Early Voting: In accordance with Michigan election law, all Michigan voters have nine days to vote early in-person for all state and federal elections. The City of DeWitt is part of a countywide early voting agreement with Clinton County and there are two early voting sites that you may vote at during those nine days: DeWitt Township Hall and Bingham Township Hall. Please refer to [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote) for hours and election information.

If you do not wish to vote early at one of the sites, you may vote in person at DeWitt City Hall on Election Day or by absentee ballot.

State law requires the clerk's office to be open for eight hours the weekend preceding an election. The Clerk's office will be open on Saturday, October 31st, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Permanent Ballot List: Being on the list allows you to automatically receive a ballot for all future elections without reapplying. To be added to the permanent ballot list, visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote) to apply, request that the city clerk mail an application to you, or stop by City Hall to complete the application. If you're on the permanent ballot list but wish to be removed, please submit a signed, written statement to the city clerk asking for your removal.

Traveling During Elections: If you're on the permanent ballot list and will be away during an election, let us know your alternative address for ballot delivery. USPS will not forward ballots.

Remember, it's your responsibility to inform us of any address changes.

The State of Michigan Voter Information Center online services allows voters to: Register to vote, apply for a one-time absentee ballot, apply to be on the permanent ballot list, check your ballot mailing status, view candidate information, and much more!

For any of these services please visit: [www.Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote)



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)

Downtown DeWitt: Celebrate the Season With Us!

There is plenty to look forward to in Downtown DeWitt this fall and holiday season! Mark your calendars, support our local businesses and join us for these upcoming community traditions.

Fall Fest at the Market

Tuesday, October 6

Celebrate the final Farmers Market of the season with fall-themed family fun! Wear your costumes, visit our local vendors and enjoy a festive evening in Downtown DeWitt.

Small Business Saturday | Shop, Dine & Discover Downtown

Saturday, November 28

This Small Business Saturday, we invite you to step inside, explore and support the locally owned businesses that make Downtown DeWitt special. Shop for holiday gifts, purchase a gift card, enjoy a meal or drink, book a service or discover a business you haven't visited before. Every local purchase supports the people behind our storefronts and helps keep downtown vibrant throughout the year.

Watch the Downtown DeWitt Facebook page for participating businesses, special offers and ways to shop small!

Toys for Tots Campaign

The Downtown Development Authority, City of DeWitt and participating local businesses will once again serve as Toys for Tots donation locations this holiday season. Help make the holidays brighter for local children by donating a new, unwrapped toy. A complete list of collection locations and details will be shared on our Facebook page and website.

Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market

Saturday, December 5 | 2:00–6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season in Downtown DeWitt! Enjoy holiday shopping, local vendors, festive entertainment and family-friendly activities throughout the afternoon. Visit our downtown businesses and experience the warmth and charm of the season right here in DeWitt.

Follow Downtown DeWitt on Facebook and visit dda.dewittmi.gov for event updates and additional details.

Thank you for supporting Downtown DeWitt, we can't wait to celebrate the season with you!