



City of DeWitt Newsletter



City Hall: 669-2441

Police: 669-9131

www.dewittmi.org

October 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Police News	2
Administrative	3
Clerk's Corner	3
DDA News	4
City Events & Programs	4-5
DARA & DACC	6

Holiday Schedule City Offices Closed

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11—
City Hall Closed

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November
24th—Closed

Day After Thanksgiving

Friday, November 25th—
Closed

Christmas

Friday, December 23rd &
Monday, December
26th—Closed

New Years

Friday, December 30th &
Monday, January 2nd,
2017 — Closed

Message from Mayor Jim Rundborg



Downtown DeWitt has changed a lot during the past 10 years since I've been Mayor. I'd like to take a look back at the makeover of our town.

DeWitt's transformation began with an old building on the corner of W. Washington and S. Bridge Street, which held an auto body repair shop and laundry mat. Included in the same area was the old Fire Station that housed a variety of small businesses and was eventually purchased by the city through the County tax foreclosure process. DeWitt Pharmacy was looking to expand and bought the two buildings, demolished the structures and erected a new building, improving the looks of that corner.

Another tax foreclosed property was the old post office on the corner of N. Bridge and W. Madison and is now a thriving fitness facility, HPI.

PJ Automotive on the corner of W. Main and Bridge closed their business in April 2015. Since then, the building has been demolished and purchased by a developer, who in the near future plans to construct a two-story mixed-use building that will have commercial space available on the lower level and apartments on the upper level.

The old historic church on N. Bridge will soon be a microbrewery and the former PNC Bank will become a coffee shop, sometime in November. A few years ago, Capital Steel and Wire purchased the big office building located on the Looking Glass River. This actually began the process of bringing more businesses to downtown DeWitt, including their corporate headquarters.

Through the years, buildings in town have improved with façade grant programs offered by the DDA and we are grateful for business owners who take pride in their establishments.

As Mayor, it was my goal and City Council's to improve downtown DeWitt. Many of the buildings that were once vacant are now successful businesses and are back on the tax rolls. That's a great accomplishment for our small town. I wish to thank the citizens of DeWitt for their support over the last ten years and I wish you and your family Happy Holidays!

Visit www.dewittmi.org and click
on the "Sign Up for Email"
Button

Police Department News - From Chief Bruce Ferguson - (517) 669-9131



Recently, there have been several accidents involving runners and bicyclists in the DeWitt area. While the causes of the accidents vary, we should look for ways to prevent future incidents. Whether you're out running, bicycling, out for a walk, or just out walking the dog, try to wear reflective clothing and have a flashing light source to be more visible to drivers, especially at dawn and dusk. If you run or walk with an iPod, try to use only one earbud and use streets or roads that you're familiar with and that have a wide enough shoulder for vehicles to pass safely. Experts suggest running facing the traffic, while bicyclists are required to go with the flow of traffic.

It is extremely important for drivers to stay focused on the road and to be a defensive driver. Don't expect runners, bicyclists, or pedestrians to automatically see you. Drivers and especially our younger drivers need to remember that distracted driving can be dangerous. As we are all aware, distractions may include texting, making a phone call, eating while driving, or being distracted by passengers in your vehicle. It only takes a second for an accident to happen.

Now that school is back in session and school buses are back on the street, drivers need to be watchful and aware of kids who are walking or getting on buses. Buses make frequent stops and drivers need to remember that when a bus is preparing to stop, the yellow flashing lights activate first, then as the bus stops, the red lights activate. Vehicles must stop from both directions. Children will be crossing the street to get on and exit the bus. Simply put, buses are a moving traffic signal. When you see the lights come on, be prepared to stop.

Halloween is Monday, October 31st this year, and the hours for trick or treating will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., rain or shine. As always the DeWitt Police Department will have extra staffing for devils night and Halloween. If you're trick or treating, remember to wear reflective clothing and carry a glow stick or flash-light to be more visible to motorists. Costumes should always fit properly so your child does not stumble and fall while walking. If your child wears a mask, be sure they are able to see where they are walking. The Police Department stresses that all drivers be mindful of the increased pedestrian traffic; there will be a lot of excited kids out there.

Welcome Our New City Assessor—Melissa Zemla of CSZ Services LLC



CSZ Services of St. Johns is owned and operated by Chuck and Melissa Zemla and employs ten staff members, a GIS manager and various field technicians. CSZ Services was appointed City Assessor in July 2016.

CSZ Services includes assessment work for local governments at the city, township and village levels. Melissa's office hours are Monday's from 8:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday's from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Stop by to meet Melissa or email her at: assessor@dewittmi.org

Administrative Tidbits - City Administrator, Dan Coss



Entrepreneurial Spirit Alive and Well

The small business spirit is alive and well in downtown DeWitt. The first half of 2016 has been an active month for business expansion and creation in DeWitt. The City has seen Bridge Street Social open their doors in April; HPI expanded their footprint to accommodate a growing client base; Bridge Street Real Estate opened and the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce now has office space in downtown DeWitt.

As Mayor Rundborg mentioned on the leading page, The Crafted Coffee Bean shop is slated to open in November and plans are moving forward for a microbrewery in 2017.

In order to keep these businesses flourishing it is important to shop as local as possible. A study by Civic Economic in 2012 shows that 48% of dollars spent in locally owned businesses is returned directly to the local economy; whereas only 13.6% of dollars spent at chain retailers is returned to the local economy. Our locally owned small businesses depend on us to thrive.

Civic Engagement As the 2016 projects throughout the City come to an end, I found myself reflecting on all the residents that I interacted with throughout the course of the year during these projects. At the beginning of 2016 it was a community survey for a Master Plan for Riverside Park and Memorial Park where we received over 400 responses to the survey; all the residents that had to endure the inconvenience of the construction on Schavey Road; the residents that live around the North Logan Street area had to put up with a new sewer installation, road construction and sidewalk installation. Each and every year I am more impressed with the residents of the City for their involvement and commitment to make DeWitt the best place to live, work and play. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me dcoss@dewittmi.org or 669-2441. Have a great fall season and GO PANTHERS!

Clerk's Corner - Clerk/Treasurer, Lisa Grysen



CITY HALL IS OPEN—Saturday, November 5th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in order to obtain an absentee ballot prior to the Tuesday, November 8th General Election.

THE GENERAL ELECTION is Tuesday, November 8th, 2016 Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

TAXES: 2016 Winter Taxes are sent out by December 1st, 2016 and are due by Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

CEMETERY DECORATION GUIDELINES: Summer/Fall Decorations are to be removed from the Cemetery by November 1st of each year. If such decorations are not removed by the dates, they shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the City.

Downtown Development Authority - Heather Tracy

DDA Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 AM at City Hall 414 E. Main

REMAINING DOWNTOWN DEWITT FARMERS MARKET DATES:

Oct. 4 (Kid's Activity Day – Harvest Fun Theme)

Oct. 11 (Decorated Pumpkin Contest – all ages)

REMAINING DDA MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR: October 11; November 10 (Thursday) & December 13

The Annual Christmas Market is scheduled for Saturday, December 3, from 2-6:30pm. This is the perfect event to invite family, friends and neighbors.

The Charity Race of the Santas involves kids and adults.

- **The Reindeer Run** begins at 5:05p.m. (for youth) and the **Charity Race of the Santas** begins at 5:15p.m. (for adults/teens).
- **The 5 BLOCK “Race”** is a run/walk event and all proceeds will be donated to our two local DeWitt Food Pantries, located at the Catholic Community of St. Jude and Redeemer Methodist Church .

CITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

THE FALL LEAF PICK-UP PROGRAM will begin with a city wide sweep from October 10-14. After this sweep, the following schedule will apply:

SOUTH OF THE RIVER: October 17-21 October 31—November 4 November 14-18

NORTH OF THE RIVER: October 24-28 November 7-10 (Closed Friday, November 11)

A FINAL GENERAL CITY WIDE SWEEP WILL BE: November 21 - 23.

Keep track of leaf collection on our website under the link **“Where Are They?”** Updates will be posted weekly.

Place leaves (un-bagged) street side by 7:00 a.m. on the Monday of your scheduled week for pick-up. Do not place garden trash, lake leaves, boards, **STICKS**, rocks and other items that would prevent the leaf vacuum from easily sucking up leaves in their piles. If your leaves are bagged they will not be picked up. Granger will pick up leaves and other yard waste if placed in the appropriate containers or compost bags on Wednesday's. **Granger composting ends Wednesday, November 30, 2016.**



Leaf burning is prohibited: The city's Fire Prevention Code prohibits the open burning of grass clippings and leaves.

Park Restrooms and fountains will be shut down for the season on Wednesday, October 26 with the exception of Riverside Park Restrooms, which will stay open year round.

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

The City will be picking up trees for mulching starting at 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2017. Your trees may also be dropped off behind the Department of Public Services garage located at 907 W. Main Street any time after Christmas up until Friday, January 6, 2017. Trees must be free of nails, stands, ornaments, and must NOT be in a plastic bag.

SANTA'S DELIVERY

Create a special holiday tradition and surprise your child by having Santa deliver a gift to your home on Christmas Eve! To participate please bring a wrapped gift (one per child) to City Hall December 14-20. Packages must be manageable in size and have your child's name, age and address printed **CLEARLY** on each gift. Please keep in mind special delivery times cannot be scheduled, and gift delivery must be inside the city limits.

HELP WANTED!!The City is in need of a Santa to deliver packages on Christmas Eve. It's a wonderful event and you will be delighted at the smiles and happiness you bring to each child. Your transportation will be via fire truck and an assistant will be on board to keep you organized when you go door to door. Santa suit provided. Call Teresa at 669-2441 for more details.

SNOW REMOVAL POLICY



FIRST PRIORITY: Downtown area bound by Market, Washington, Scott and Madison Streets including all streets and parking spaces.

PRIMARY ROUTES INCLUDE: Bridge Street/DeWitt Road; Main Street; Wilson Street; Schavey Road; Herbison Road from Sandhill to the East City Limit. East Webb Drive to the East City Limit.

SECOND PRIORITY: All remaining streets, parking lots, public property, sidewalks and cul-de-sacs.

THIRD PRIORITY: Snow piles removed from downtown areas and intersections, cemetery driveways and damaged mailbox and street sign repairs from snowplowing.



SPECIAL NOTE: Please do not place your trash/recycling container(s) in the street on trash pick up days or any day. Snowplows will have trouble maneuvering around and properly cleaning your street if you place them in the way. Also, please do not shovel, blow or push snow into streets when clearing your driveways.

DARA PROGRAMS 517-482-5117 www.dewittrecreation.org

Program	Dates	Time	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Preschool Play	10/6-12/15	10:00 am-12:00 pm	10/6-12/15	1-5yr.	\$2 drop in fee
Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt	10/18	6:30-7:30 pm	9/1-10/11	3-10yr.	\$5/\$10 (Per Child)
Haunted Halloween Trip	10/21	7:00 pm-12:00 am	9/1-10/15	Gr. 6-8	\$45/Child (Covers Bussing and Admission)
Fun Appetit	11/3-12/1	9:15-10:00 am	9/26-10/23	2-5yr.	\$24/\$40
Youth Volleyball Leagues	11/8-12/13	5:30-8:30 pm (times vary within)	10/1-10/23	Gr. 3-6	\$34/\$49
October Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	10/14	6:00-11:00 pm	9/1-10/12	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
November Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	11/5	6:00-11:30 pm	10/1-10/31	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
December Drop Your Kids Off (Evening)	12/16	6:00-11:00 pm	11/7-12/12	4-12yr.	\$15/One Child \$10 Each Additional
Dinner with Santa	12/12	5:30-6:30 pm or 6:30-7:30 pm	11/7-12/5	0-14yr.	\$6/\$10 (Child Fee) \$3/\$7 (Adult Fee)
Holiday Fun Club	12/22, 12/27, 12/28, 12/29	7:30 am-5:30 pm	11/1-12/12	5-12yr.	\$85/\$100 (All Days) or \$25/res; \$30/non-res (Per Day)

DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce 113 S. Bridge Street 517-624-2953

www.dewittareacc.org or contact Loretta@dewittareacc.org

2016 Christmas Light Parade The DACC would like to invite the residents and businesses of the DeWitt and surrounding communities to be part of the 2016 Holiday Light Parade! Applications are available at City Hall, 414 E. Main Street or contact Loretta Spinrad the deadline for this event is November 30, 2016.

Festival of the Trees November 29-December 3 The DACC will be hosting Festival of Trees to raise funds for families in need at Christmas. We are asking local businesses, government, residents and organizations to join us.

