

# City of DeWitt Newsletter



[www.dewittmi.org](http://www.dewittmi.org)

April 2019

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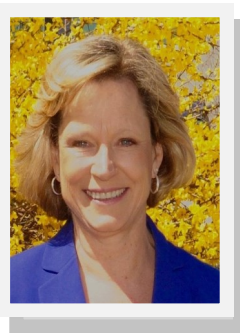
### City Offices Are Closed

**Good Friday:**  
Friday, April 19

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 27

Trash /Recycling Service  
Thursday May 30th

## Message from Mayor Sue Leeming



One of my favorite duties as Mayor comes every March when I get invited to meet with all of the second graders to tell them about local government and answer their questions. This is truly a fun day for me. This year City Administrator Dan Coss and I talked with the youngsters about all the decisions that we make as a part of our jobs. We asked if they were familiar with the empty lot downtown (former Hovey's) and gave the example of our work to decide what kind of business might go there. We would need to pick very carefully because it is an important location in our downtown, and we want to make sure that everyone in DeWitt will want to come downtown to the new business. The informal voting of second graders resulted in a very close tie between a doughnut shop and a toy store! Both ideas have merit.

Now it's YOUR turn to vote! In the next week or so, our Downtown Development Authority staff will be sharing a survey with our community to ask what type of business would be most desirable. There are a lot of options listed – from an open area with food trucks and picnic tables to a building with shared office space for small or newly started businesses; retail or restaurant! This survey is just one step in a multifaceted process to help inform our decision making. Please take a moment and share your ideas and thoughts about our downtown. The survey link will be posted on the DDA webpage and our Facebook page. Thanks for your participation!

Here is the latest hot topics in DeWitt: First, I know many residents would like to see the 4-way stop downtown kept permanently. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in the number of close calls for pedestrians in the crosswalks. This is a potential tragedy that we must avoid. The new traffic signal will be installed very soon.

Second, as part of our Safe Routes to School initiative, you may have noticed the new traffic light and crosswalks at the intersection of Herbison Road and E. Geneva/Panther Drive. Parents tell me their school age children feel much safer now crossing Herbison Road. Some residents have raised the concern of an increase in school traffic on E. Geneva Drive, but Chief Ferguson has assured me this is not happening but will continue to monitor the situation. In the summer of 2020, flashing school "speed zone" signs on Herbison Road and a new sidewalk adjacent to Panther Drive will be added. Nothing is more important to me than the safety of our children.

Third, construction of the new city hall is on schedule to start in April. City operations will not be interrupted during construction, and as I have promised there will be no increase in taxes or reduction in services. As Mayor, I am proud to report that our bond rating of AA+ is in the top 25% of municipalities in Michigan and qualifies us for a lower interest rate! The City's tradition of responsible budgeting has paid off, and as a result the city will save thousands of dollars each year.

Finally, there is a great deal of interest in the construction activities south of the post office. The Woodlands of DeWitt is a new senior housing community offering independent living villas, assisted living, and memory care apartments. The developer is on schedule to complete construction this fall. These units are in high demand and are filling rapidly. I know many families are excited about this location for their loved ones. With our emphasis on walkability and the proximity to our parks and downtown, this is a welcomed addition to our city. Please review the Woodlands site plan on the next page. Have a great Spring! 🌷🌷🌷



## City Administrator, Dan Coss

With spring and the start of construction season upon us, I wanted to take this time to inform residents of the upcoming construction projects:

### LOCAL ROADS

This year several local streets will be getting resurfaced starting in early June. The following is a list of local street construction: South Geneva, Lucerne, part of East Geneva, South Logan Street and West Washington Street. The plans and the budget are still being developed for the resurfacing on East Geneva. The City has applied for a grant through the Michigan Department of Transportation and, if approved, would provide for additional funding to resurface more of East Geneva Drive.

The local street resurfacing project will include replacement of several drainage culverts and reshaping some of the open ditches around Lake Geneva. The additional drainage work is crucial to improve the drainage by the street to ensure the new pavement lasts the intended service life.

The street resurfacing on the local streets in 2019 will not include additions of sidewalks, bike paths or paved shoulders.

### ONLINE BUILDING PERMITS

Starting in April DeWitt residents and contractors will be able to apply for building permits online. There will be a link on our City webpage that residents/contractors will be able to follow and allow them to complete the process electronically. The online process will apply to all forms of building permits, including electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits. The only exception to the process will be payment; the City will not be accepting payment for the permits online at this time. Applicants will still be required to deliver payments to City Hall once the permit is ready for issuance.

## Police Department News - Chief Bruce Ferguson

### **WELCOME CHIEF MIKE GUTE—DEWITT TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On behalf of the Dewitt City Police Department, I would like to congratulate Chief Mike Gute on his appointment as Chief of Police for Dewitt Township. He replaced retired Dewitt Township Chief Brian Russell on February 11, 2019. We look forward to continuing our great working relationship with Chief Gute and the entire Dewitt Township Police Department.

### **CHANGES TO CITY ORDINANCE:**

The state legislature amended the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act in December 2018. This legislation allows municipalities to reduce the total number of days fireworks can be used. The changes were made to Section 30-40 of the City Ordinance and are as follows:

It is unlawful for any person within the city to: Ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks within the city between the hours of 1 AM & 8 AM

Ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks within the city except:

After 11 AM on December 31 until 1 AM on January 1

After 11 AM on the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 PM on each of those days.

After 11 AM from June 29 through July 4 until 11:45 PM on each of those days.

After 11 AM on July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 PM.

After 11 AM on the Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 PM on each of those days.

### **POPULAR SPRING/SUMMER ORDINANCES**

**Motor home storage**, Sec. 62-79: Motor Homes may be stored in a rear yard or paved portion of a driveway.

**Abandoned or junk motor vehicles**, unlicensed motor vehicles, Sec. 30-37: Vehicles need to be in running condition with a valid license plate.

**Unlawful height of weeds and grass**, Sec. 70-123: It is not permitted to allow grass or weeds to grow to 8 inches.



### **TORNADO SIREN TESTING**

Sirens will be tested at Noon on the first Saturday of each month beginning Saturday, April 6 through Saturday, October 5.

**LISA GRYSEN—CLERK/TREASURER**

**2019 SUMMER TAXES** will be mailed out July 1, 2019 and are due Monday, September 30, 2019.

**NO ELECTIONS** are scheduled for 2019

**CEMETERY WINTER DECORATIONS** must be removed by April 1st of each year. If such decorations are not removed by April 1st,, they will be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the City.

**CEMETERY EASTER & MEMORIAL DAY DECORATIONS** are allowed one week prior and one week after each of these holidays.

**CEMETERY SUMMER & FALL DECORATIONS** must be removed by November 1 of each year. If such decorations are not removed by November 1st, they will be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the City.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held the second & fourth Mondays of each month at City Hall, 414 E. Main Street. Meetings are scheduled for the following dates.

\*Holidays may affect the meeting schedule:

**April 8 & 22 ; May 13 & \*Tuesday, May 28; June 10 & 24**

**CSZ ASSESSING SERVICES -Melissa Zemla 517-669-2441**

**Please call ahead to make an appointment**

**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)**

**DDA Board Meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 AM at City Hall**

Vendor applications are currently available. To obtain a vendor application go to [dewittda.org](http://dewittda.org).

The Farmers Market is back to its original location, Downtown!

The Farmers Market will be held Tuesdays, June 4<sup>th</sup>-October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 4-7 p.m.

Kids Events are the first Tuesday of each month.

The Car Cruise-in is held Tuesday, June 18, 2019

The Farmers Market is always looking for volunteers! Let us know if you'd like to help! Call 517-669-2441

## **CITY PROGRAMS & OTHER EVENTS**

**CITY BRUSH PICK UP BEGINS** Monday, April 15, 2019. Brush must be placed at the curb no later than 7:00 a.m. The purpose of this program is to remove brush that is too large to be removed as part of the weekly year waste-composting program. Brush must be neatly stacked with the large ends towards the street. Only brush that measures between 2” and 8” in diameter is accepted. Shrubs with roots still attached are not accepted.

**TRASH CONTAINERS:** If you are moving please leave your trash and recycling containers for the new resident. These containers are assigned to your home. Do not call Granger to have them removed.

**APPLIANCES WITH FREON:** If you have an appliance that contains Freon do not place it out to the curb until you contact Granger first at 372-2800 and arrange a pick-up with them. There is a charge for Freon appliances and Granger will be billing you separately for them.

**GRANGER CURBSIDE COMPOSTING BEGINS:** Wednesday, April 3, 2019

**DEWITT MILLENNIUM GARDEN CLUB** meets the second Thursday of the month at Redeemer United Methodist Church, 13930 Schavey Road at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us for food, fun and making new friends who have a love of horticulture or would like to learn more about it. Please join today! For those of you who ordered geraniums, you can pick them up on May 14 & 15 at the Department of Public Services building located at 907 W. Main Street.

**STORMS DRAINS:** When mowing your yard, make certain that you do not blow grass clippings into the street. While mowing, make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the grass clippings into the lawn NOT the street. If there are grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to blow them back into the lawn. Do not use a hose to wash them into the street or storm drains. Grass clippings that are blown into the street eventually enter the street storm drain. Grass clippings contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae and aquatic weeds in the waterways. Leave grass clippings on the lawn are to decompose and recycle nutrients back to the turf area.

**2019 CLINTON COUNTY CLEAN COMMUNITY EVENTS** for Clinton County Residents & Businesses Only! April 27th St. Johns Call 989-224-5186 for more information or visit their website at [www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org).

**MEMORIAL DAY PARADE:** Join the VFW and the American Legion as we come together to honor our Veterans. The parade starts at the Memorial Building located at 210 W. Washington Street at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, May 27, 2019 and proceeds to the city cemetery for a short time of remembrance.







Program Name	Actual Dates	Time of Program Operation	Registration Dates	Age or Grade	Cost (Res/Non-Res)
Cardio Drumming	Mondays & Wednesdays, no class 5/27	6:15-7:15 pm	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$3 per visit
Adult Open Volleyball	Wed & Sun Ongoing	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$2 per visit
Pickleball	Sun., Tues, Wed, and Fri through 5/31	Sun: 3-5 pm Tues & Fri: 9-11 am Wed: now-May 15: 3-5 pm Wed: 5/22-5/29: 4-6	Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$2 per visit
Zumba Gold	Mondays, April 8-May 13	6:00-7:00 pm	3/4-4/4 or Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$30 straight fee OR \$7 per visit
Zumba Gold	Mondays, May 20-July 1, no class May 27	6:00-7:00 pm	4/15-5/16 or Drop-in	18 yrs. & Up	\$30 straight fee OR \$7 per visit
Adult Golf Lessons	Wednesdays, April 17-May 8 OR Thursdays, April 18-May 9	6:00-7:00 pm at Hawk Hollow	Ends April 15	18 yrs. & Up	\$80 straight fee per 4-week course
Men's & Coed 3 v 3 Basketball Leagues	Men's: Tuesdays, April 9-May 21 Coed: Mondays, April 8-May 20	Men's: 6:00-10:00 pm (times vary within) Coed: 7:00-10:00 pm (times vary within)	Ends March 31	18 yrs. & Up	\$150/team + individual fees (\$5/res; \$20/non-res)
Adult Softball Spring/Summer Leagues	Men's: Thurs, May 2-Aug 1, Coed: Wed, May 1-July 24	6:00-9:00 pm (times vary within) <b>No Games July 4th</b>	Ends April 24	18 yrs. & Up	\$325/team + Individual Player Fees: \$5/res; \$20/non-res + Umpire Fees: \$15/team/game
Father/Son Bowling Night	Friday, April 25	6:00-7:30 pm at Spare Time	Ends April 21	K-6 <sup>th</sup> grades	\$25/ pair \$10/ each additional child
DARA Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 13	3:00 pm sharp at DeWitt Sports Park	Not required	1-10 yrs.	Free
Miracle League Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 13	11:00 am	Ends April 5	Youth with special needs	Free
Drop Your Kids Off	Friday, April 12 Friday, May 17	6:00 -11:00 pm	Registration due one week before event	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Basketball University Session 2	Thursdays, May 2-23	5:45 pm – 7:45 pm (times vary by grade)	Ends April 25	1-7 grades	\$35/person
Little Kickers PreK Soccer League	Saturdays, April 27-June 8, no games May 25	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	Early Reg end April 5 Late Reg: April 6-12	4yrs	\$36/res \$51/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Kindergarten Soccer League	Saturdays, April 27-June 8, no games May 25	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	Early Reg end April 5 Late Reg: April 6-12	Kindergarten	\$36/res \$51/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Soccer League	Saturdays, April 27-June 8, no games May 25	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	Early Reg end April 5 Late Reg: April 6-12	1 <sup>st</sup> grade	\$36/res \$51/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Soccer League	Saturdays, April 27-June 8, no games May 25	9:00 am - 1:00 pm (time varies within)	Early Reg end April 5 Late Reg: April 6-12	2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> grades	\$40/res \$55/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
K-7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Flag Football	Tuesdays & Saturdays, May 7-25	Tues: 5:30-8:00 pm Sat: 1:00-4:30 pm (times vary within)	Early Reg end April 9 Late Reg: April 10-18	K-7 <sup>th</sup> grades	\$36/res \$51/non-res Additional \$10 for late reg.
Miracle League Baseball	Monday & Wednesdays, June 3-July 17	6:00-8:30 pm (times vary within)	Ends April 12	5 yrs.-adults with special needs	\$43/player
Summer Fun Club & Double Digit Day Camps	Begins Monday, June 10, 2019	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Registration opens Monday, March 18	5-9 yrs. 10-14 Yrs.	\$120/res per week \$135/non-res per week