



City of DeWitt Newsletter



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January 2019

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Holiday Schedule
City Offices Closed

New Years:
Tuesday, January 1st
Trash Thursday Jan 3

Martin Luther King Jr.
Day Monday, January 21

No Trash Interruption

Presidents' Day
Monday, February 18

No Trash Interruption

Message from Mayor Sue Leeming



Happy New Year! As I start my second term as your Mayor, I want to express my appreciation for the volunteers and City staff that work to make DeWitt a friendly place where families want to live, friends want to visit, and local businesses thrive.

Much of the success can be attributed to the high level of engagement and countless hours of service provided by community members that volunteer to serve on our boards and commissions. The boards and commissions provide recommendations to City Council, delivering critical citizen input of our ordinances and the management of city services. If you are interested in becoming more involved in City government, please fill out an application to serve.

Over the past few months I've come to appreciate the professionalism and expertise of our City staff as well. We have a great team in place that meets the daily needs of our community. The citizens of DeWitt are also pivotal in creating a friendly atmosphere, supporting our downtown, and participating in events like the annual Christmas Market! Thank you!

2018 was a very busy year for the City of DeWitt. The Main Street reconstruction project was long and challenging at times, but soon we will be loving the new street lights and bragging about the disappearance of the overhead power lines. Our downtown businesses felt the impact of this project most, however we do appreciate those who drove around several blocks to locate close-by parking, walking through mud, barricades and piles of gravel to visit our downtown merchants and service providers. Our downtown is a vital asset to our community and your support of local businesses is critical to their success. If you've stayed away because of the reconstruction, now is the time to come back and show support for our downtown! Start with a visit to the recently remodeled DeWitt Party Store!

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Mayor's Message—Con't

We look forward to another busy year in 2019 (but no more road construction downtown)! The new traffic lights at Main and Bridge Streets should be installed by March and the Farmers Market will be back to its original location, downtown!

Spring should see the start of the new City Hall building. It will be built on the vacant lot west of the current City Hall. After construction is complete the old City Hall will be demolished.

The vacant southwest corner of Bridge and Main Street (the former gas station site) has reverted back to City ownership. The site is a very prominent corner in our downtown and we are anxious to have the right development located there with a mix of residential and retail. The City will be looking for a developer with a solid business plan and a good track record. In addition, we recently hired a new DDA Coordinator, Andrea Schowengerdt. Andrea will be gathering input from citizens on what type of retail folks would like to see, as well as continuing to complement our existing businesses – please share your ideas!

South of the Post Office on Bridge Street, the new senior center has begun construction. This development will be a much needed asset to our community; the plan shows a 45 bed memory care facility and 28 independent living units. We look forward to the new residents and families visiting our downtown and becoming an important part of our community.

The City Council, City Staff and myself wish all of you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!
Sue Leeming, Mayor

Police Department News - From Chief Bruce Ferguson

New Herbison Road Crosswalk

I would like to take this time to educate the community about changes that were made at the entrance to DeWitt Public Schools. Panther Drive/East Geneva and Herbison Road is now an intersection controlled by a traffic light. Pedestrian traffic will now have a clearly marked crosswalk to get from the north side of Herbison Road to the south side of Herbison and you can use the sidewalk to get to the Middle School, Herbison Woods Elementary, DeWitt High School and the football field. We would like to encourage all students that walk or ride their bikes to school to use the crosswalk for their safety. The crosswalk will also alert drivers using Herbison Road that there may be pedestrians in the area and to adjust their speeds accordingly. The pedestrian crossing signs will have buttons on the north and south signal poles to assist pedestrians waiting to cross Herbison Road.

Another change of significant importance is the School Zone time change. School Zone signs on Herbison have been updated with the new School Zone times; morning times are from 7 am to 9 am and afternoon times are from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. Signs are posted on Herbison Road just west of Lucerne Dr. and on Herbison Road just west of Wineleaf Lane. Posted signs remind drivers to slow down to 25 miles per hour during the posted times.

Police Department News—Con't

SCHOOL BUSES

This school year has brought more complaints from parents, school bus drivers and other motorists about drivers passing school buses when their red lights are activated. Keep in mind these lights are to protect kids from being struck by vehicles that are approaching the bus. Drivers need to remember that when a bus is preparing to stop, the yellow flashing lights activate first. As the bus stops, the red lights activate and vehicles must come to a stop. This includes vehicles that are in the same lane of travel behind the bus as well as vehicles that are approaching the bus in the opposite lane of travel. Children will be crossing the street to get on and off the bus and we, as a community, need to keep these children safe. To be clear, buses are considered a moving traffic signal. When you see the lights come on, be prepared to STOP.

Administrative Tidbits - City Administrator, Dan Coss

Many of you have followed the Main Street reconstruction project throughout the summer and the City appreciates your patience. Work for the 2018 project has wrapped up, but the contractor will return downtown in the spring of 2019 to finish the work. The traffic signal will be re-installed with new decorative posts and arms for the signal and new pedestrian crossing signals.

The traffic signal will get updated technology to make the intersection more efficient for motorists. The overhead utility wires along Main Street are in the process of being placed underground, which will really beautify downtown. We are very excited about this project!

2018 proved to be a very busy year for road and bike path construction and 2019 is shaping up to be another busy year. The City will be resurfacing local streets in the Lake Geneva neighborhood including East Geneva (and all the cul-de-sacs), South Geneva, Lucerne, Alpine and a small stretch of West Washington and South Logan Street. As the plans develop for these projects, we will keep the community informed.

The City, DeWitt Township, Watertown Township, DeWitt Public Schools and the Clinton County Road Commission are working on a joint grant application to the Michigan Department of Transportation for additional non-motorized pathways to connect our communities with a safe pathway system to several of the school buildings. The application has received a conditional commitment and, if awarded, the funding will be available in 2020.

If you have any questions regarding these topics or anything else going on in the City of DeWitt, please do not hesitate to stop by City Hall or contact me at (517) 669-2441 or dcoss@dewittmi.org. Have a safe and enjoyable Winter Season!!

Clerk's Corner - Clerk/Treasurer, Lisa Grysen

2018 Winter Taxes are due by Thursday, February 14, 2019

Cemetery Decoration Guidelines: Winter Decorations are to be removed from the Cemetery by April 1st of each year. If decorations are not removed the City will consider them abandoned and they may be disposed of by the City.

City of DeWitt Years of Service:

Bruce Ferguson, 5 Years –Police Chief Chad Vorce, 15 Years—Police Officer
Mike Nunham, 15 Years—Police Officer Rich Miller, 10 Years—DPS Supervisor

Melissa Zemla— CSZ Assessing Services

BOARD OF REVIEW will be Monday, March 11 and Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

The Board of Review is held at City Hall, 414 E. Main Street on a first come, first serve basis. Hours are 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

THE TAXABLE VALUE adjustment as set by the State of Michigan for 2019 is 2.4%

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

The Farmers Market will be held Tuesdays, June 4th-October 8th, 2019 from 4-7 p.m. Vendor applications will be available online by March 1st, 2019. To request an application, please email assistdda@dewittmi.org or call (517) 669-2441.

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!

2019 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS & FINANCE COMMITTEE

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 and some holidays or other scheduled meetings may affect the day these meetings are on.

JANUARY 14, **22** & 28
(Jan. 22 Goal Setting 6pm)

FEBRUARY 11 & 25

MARCH **4, 11** & 18
(March 4 Finance Comm. 6pm)
(March 11 Bd. of Review meeting
For council at the Fire Station)

APRIL **8,15,22** & **29** (If needed)
(April 15 & 29 Finance Comm. 6pm)

MAY 13 & **28**
(May 28 moved to Tuesday
Due to holiday)

JUNE 10 & 24

JULY 8 & 22

AUGUST 12 & 26

SEPTEMBER 9 & 23

OCTOBER 14 & 28

NOVEMBER **12** & 25
(Nov. 12 moved to Tuesday
Due to holiday)

DECEMBER 9 & 23

CITY PROGRAMS

Christmas Tree Pick-up is Wednesday, January 9, 2019 **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 11, 2019.

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. Also during the snowy months please find a good place to put your bag/bin/cart. Shovel a spot at the curb or place the container in your driveway so Granger can service it. Keep your container out of the street to avoid snow plow damage

Appliances: 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.

Upcoming in April: City Brush Pick-Up will be Monday, April 15, 2019. Instructions will be in the April Newsletter.

Granger Composting Begins: Wednesday, April 3, 2019



| Program Name | Actual Dates | Time of Program Operation | Registration Dates | Age or Grade | Cost (Res/Non-Res) |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adult Open Volleyball | Wed & Sun Ongoing | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Drop in | 18 yrs. & Up | \$2 per visit |
| Cardio Drumming | Mon & Wed Ongoing | 6:15-7:15 pm | Drop in | All ages welcome | \$3 per visit |
| Pickleball | Sun, Tues, Wed & Fri | Sun: 3-5 pm Tues & Fri: 9-11 am Wed: 4-6 pm Wed: 3-5 pm 2/13-3/20 only | Drop in | 18+ yrs. | \$2 per visit |
| Preschool Play – Open Gym | Tuesdays, 1/8-3/19; no session 1/29 & 3/26 | 10:00 am-12:00 pm | Drop in | 2-5 yrs. | \$2 per visit |
| PreK Movement Class | Tuesdays, 1/8-2/5; no class 1/29 | 9:15-10:00 am OR 6:30-7:15 pm | 12/2-12/22 | 2-5 yrs. | \$25/res; \$40/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Mini Matisses: PreK Art Class | Tuesdays, 2/12-3/5 | 9:15-10:00 am OR 6:30-7:15 pm | 1/8-1/29 | 2-5 yrs. | \$25/res; \$40/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Fun Appetit: PreK Cook- ing Class | Tuesdays, 3/12-4/9; no class 3/26 | 9:15-10:00 am OR 6:30-7:15 pm | 2/5-2/26 | 2-5 yrs. | \$25/res; \$40/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Zumba Gold | Mondays, 1/7-2/18; no class 1/21 | 6:00-7:00 pm | 12/3-1/2 | 18+ yrs. | \$30 for 6 week course OR \$7 drop-in per class |
| Lacrosse Camp | Saturdays, 1/26-2/16 | 12:30-3:30 pm (times vary within) | 12/17-1/6 | K-4 th grade | \$25/res; \$40/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Little Hoopsters Basket- ball Camp | Thursdays, 1/10-2/7; no class 1/31 | 5:30-8:00 pm (times vary within) | 12/3-12/26 | 4-6 yrs. | \$36/res; \$51/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Drop Your Kids Off | 1/18, 2/15, 3/15 | 6:00-11:00 pm | Registration due one week before event | 4-12 yrs. | \$15/child; \$10/each additional child |
| All Day Drop Your Kids Off | 2/18, 3/22 | 7:30 am-5:30 pm | Registration due one week before event | 5-12 yrs. | \$25/child; \$20/each additional child |
| 9 th -12 th grade Basketball League aka RecBall | Saturdays, 1/12-3/9; no games 1/19 | 7:00 am-1:00 pm (times vary within) | 11/14-12/19 | 9 th -12 th grade | \$60/res; \$75/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Sports Starter | Wednesdays, 2/13- 3/20 | 10:00-10:45 am OR 5:30-7:00 pm | 1/9-1/30 | 3-5 yrs. | \$36/res; \$51/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Floor Hockey | Saturdays, 2/23-4/6; no games 3/30 | 9:00-3:00 pm (times vary within) | 1/18-2/8 | K-5 th grade | \$36/res; \$51/non-res additional \$10 after deadline |
| Teddy Bear Tea Party | Saturday, 3/9 | 10:30-11:15 am OR 12:30-1:15 pm | 2/4-3/4 | 3-10 yrs. | \$10/pair (child & adult); \$5/additional child |
| Spring Break Camp | 3/25-3/29 | 7:30 am-5:30 pm | 2/18-3/18 | 5-12 yrs | \$120/res; \$135/non-res |
| Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, 4/13 | 3:00 pm Hunt begins | 3/11-4/12 | 1-10 yrs. | FREE |