

CITY OF DEWITT

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR LEEMING



Sue Leeming

For a full year now we've been dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. It has not only been a different year but a rough year for just about everyone in a multitude of ways. I think we've all learned a lot about ourselves these past few months in regards to, who and what are most important in our lives, how we deal with disrupted routines and difficult challenges, and the impact that limited physical contact and communications with family, friends, and co-workers has had on us.

Cautiously optimistic has become my new mantra as well as the word *hopeful*.

I am *hopeful* that spring will soon be here, and that the worst of winter is over. I am *cautiously optimistic* that we are in a similar phase with the pandemic. Thankfully the vaccine is becoming more available and the number of new cases are starting to decrease along with hospitalizations and deaths. It's been a slow process, but with the Governor lessening some of the social and business restrictions, it is with hopeful anticipation that things will begin heading in the right direction.

After many months of online virtual meetings, I am pleased to confirm that our City Council meetings and those of our various committees and commissions are now being held in person again. However, there is still the option to attend virtually. The City has been and continues to implement all safety requirements of the State Order with safety remaining a high priority for our citizens and employees.

I am *hopeful* that the City will be able to host the annual Ox Roast Celebration, car shows and parades this summer, but time will tell. Thus far, the situation looks promising, however it is very difficult to plan ahead or make commitments when we don't know what the restrictions will be for crowd size, gatherings, and social distancing on the date of the event. We love and miss our downtown community events and we ask everyone to keep up-to-date for those announcements on our [City Facebook page](#) or our [City website](#) when they become available.

This time of year is always budget season for the City. To prepare the annual budget, we start by looking at a proposed 5-year budget plan. The 5-year budget includes normal operating costs as well as projects and major purchases proposed by City Council, the Downtown Development Authority, Parks and Recreation Committee, our Police, Public Service and Administration managers. Using this approach, we have successfully saved over several years the funds needed for more expensive purchases and projects, such as the bridge repairs completed last year on Schavey Road and for the bridge this spring on Bridge Street. Looking at a 5-year plan gives us an overview of the projected fund balance for the City.

I am certain (better than hopeful or optimistic) that the City is in good financial shape, and it's due to our thoughtful team of department managers, council members, and committee representatives engaged in planning for our future. I'm very proud of our team and the process involved to develop our annual budget.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic over the last year, the City is in excellent financial standing and able to provide continued services without any increase in taxes.

All the best – Happy Spring!

Sue Leeming, Mayor



Police Department News - Chief Ferguson

The reports of scams seem to be escalating despite warnings from State and Local Police agencies and governmental agencies informing the public of scams occurring in our area. The callers are able to manipulate your caller ID to make it look like the call is from DeWitt or from a State or Federal agency. Always verify who you are talking to if you did not place the call. Get a phone number and call back to verify, if they become angry or won't give a number, be very suspicious. It's probably a scam. Below, you will find a list of common scam calls along with some tips on how to identify if it is fraudulent:

1. Publisher's Clearing House, (PCH) will not make winners pay them money to collect your prize. If you get a phone call from a caller claiming to be from PCH telling you you're a winner, but you need to send them money to receive your prize, it's a scam.
2. Anyone that **calls you** stating they are from a financial, medical, governmental agency and they need your social security number to help you for some unsolicited reason, it's a scam.
3. If you receive a call from someone stating your family member is in trouble and needs bond money quickly or they will go to jail, it's a scam.
4. If you are told by anyone that to pay this late bill, avoid a late fee, pay a medical bill, or to avoid an overdraft that you need to go get gift cards to pay the bill, it is definitely a scam. The scammers will even coach the victim on how to avoid detection by providing a story as to why they need the gift cards.
5. If a virus alert to your computer pops up on your screen telling you to click on some attachment to prevent your computer from being corrupted, it's a scam.
6. Even porn sites are involved with scams. After visiting one of these sites, the victim receives an email claiming they have a video or some evidence as proof that could embarrass you and if you refuse to send money, their alleged proof will be sent to your Facebook friends. This is a scam.
7. Other clues to these scams include odd-looking incoming phone numbers, delayed greeting when answering a call, caller asks you to identify yourself, or the caller seems overly aggressive.
8. If you have given out your social security number or other personal information check your credit report information regularly for any suspicious activity.

The Federal Trade Commission asks that you report any scam calls to them by calling 1-877-382-4357. For Robo-calls/unwanted telemarketing you can register your number on the Michigan Do Not Call Registry. Registration is free and covers landline and wire phone, dial (888) 382-1222 from the number you want to register.

If you detect a spam/scam number calling you repeatedly, you can always report the number to your phone company or block the number yourself on your smart phone. Please, if you are not sure of a phone call asking for information or requesting personal information or money/gift cards, call our department at 517-669-9131 or after hours call 911 and have an officer stop by or call you back.

Administrator News—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 mid-April. South Bridge Street/ DeWitt Drive from Washington to Herbison Road will be first to get resurfaced with work starting in mid-April with an approximate four week construction schedule. East Geneva, Montreux Drive, Mora Circle and South Logan Street road construction projects will start after June 7th and be completed by August 6th.

In addition, a new ten-foot shared use path will be constructed on DeWitt Drive from Herbison Road to Clark Road. This project is being constructed in collaboration with DeWitt Township.

PROTECTING THE LOOKING GLASS RIVER

One of the many summertime activities for residents is tending to the lawn and landscaping needs around the yard. As a reminder to residents that wood chips, topsoil and other landscaping materials may not be stored in the street or over sidewalks, per City Ordinance Chapter 30 Section 30-36 (2). Leaving piles of topsoil, wood chips, etc... in the street is a public safety issue for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians, especially at night. Moreover, during rain events that material often times ends up in our storm sewer system leading to clogged catch basins, causing street flooding, or is deposited in the Looking Glass River, which can have a detrimental effect on the water quality of the river.

The City of DeWitt partners with the Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Storm Water Management (GLRC). The GLRC publishes a quarterly newsletter and has a website with lots of resources to help protect our water shed. Please visit the City of DeWitt website, www.dewittmi.org, or the GLRC website, www.mywatersheds.org, for more information. Please help us protect this natural resource!

Clerk/Treasurer News

City Council Meetings Currently Virtual & Non-Virtual:

7:00 PM at City Hall, 414 E. Main St.

April 12th & 26th

May 10th & 24th

June 14th & 28th

No Elections are currently scheduled for 2021

Summer Tax Bills will be mailed by July 1, 2021 and are due Thursday, September 30, 2021.

Cemetery Decorations:

Easter & Memorial Day Decorations are allowed one week prior and one week after each of these holidays.

Cemetery Winter Decorations: Must be removed by April 1st of each year. If such decorations are not removed by each of these seasonal dates, they will be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the City.

Department of Public Services

Brush Pick Up begins: Monday, April 19, 2021. 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 yard 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.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) - www.dewittda.org

Board Meetings are Tuesday at Noon: April 13 May 11 June 8

Farmers Market begins Tuesday, June 1st and every Tuesday until October 12 from 4-7 pm. We are always looking for volunteers! Let us know if you’d like to help. Call 517-669-2441.

Please continue to visit our locally owned, downtown DeWitt businesses. By shopping local, you are creating jobs, keeping money in the local economy, investing in entrepreneurship, and growing our community. When you support a small business, you’re supporting a dream.

For a list of downtown DeWitt businesses, please visit the business directory on our website at: dewittda.org. Follow us on Facebook!

City Assessor—Chris Coucke Office Hours: Monday 8-12 pm.

If you have any assessing questions please call 517-669-2441 or email assessor@dewittmi.org

Granger Composting begins Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Tornado Siren Testing: Sirens will be tested at noon on the first Saturday of each month beginning Saturday, April 3 through Saturday, October 2.

Memorial Day Parade — The Memorial Day Parade begins Monday, May 31, 2021 at the Memorial Building on West Washington Street at 10 a.m. and will head to the DeWitt Cemetery for a small ceremony. Please practice social distancing while at this event and be aware that due to COVID-19 this event could possibly be cancelled.

City Hall Will Be Closed: Good Friday, April 2 and Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021
Memorial Day WILL affect your trash service. Trash day will be **Thursday, June 3rd**

DeWitt Millennium Garden Club—Flowers Around Town



Have you ever noticed all the beautiful flowers around town? The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club designs, plants, weeds and maintains the following for the benefit of all residents of the City of DeWitt: The All Kids Playground, Blue Star Memorial Garden, Daffodils Around Town, Boxes on the Bridge, Downtown City Planters, Healing Garden, Memorial Garden, Percy Carris Native Plant Garden and the Welcome Garden.

The City of DeWitt buys the plantings and maintains watering to keep them healthy. The gardens are for everyone's enjoyment and new members are always welcome to the club to assist this endeavor.

If you ordered geraniums from the Garden Club, pick-up will be May 4th & 5th at the Department of Public Services building located at 907 W. Main Street.

For more information on joining the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club, please contact Paul Jenkins, Membership Coordinator at pauljenkins@kw.com. Also, watch for information on our Garden Treasure Hunt in June for a chance to win a beautiful handmade basket.

Clinton County Waste Management Spring Collection Event

(Subject to change or cancellation due to COVID –19 Restrictions)

April 24th—St. Johns Materials Accepted: Hazardous Waste—including unwanted medications, farm and landscaping chemicals, motor oil, anti-freeze & electronic waste.

To Participate: You MUST be a Clinton County Resident and make an appointment no later than one week before the collection event. You can register online at www.clinton-county.org (Dept. of Waste Management's current events webpage), or call 989-224-5186.

For any questions email: recycle@clinton-county.org.

DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce: Loretta Spinrad: 517-624-2953

Chamber Luncheons: April 7 May 5 June 2

2021 Tentative Event Dates: Chamber Spring Road Rally May 1
Chamber Golf Outing June 25
Movies in the Park: July 1 and July 15

If you have any questions regarding the DeWitt Ox Roast please contact Loretta Spinrad.



PROGRAM NAME	ACTUAL DATES	TIME OF PROGRAM OPERATION	REGISTRATION DATES	AGE OR GRADE	COST (Res/Non-Res)
Drop Your Kids Off	Friday 4/23	6:00 -11:00 pm	Registration due one week before event	4-12 yrs.	\$15/one child \$10/each additional
Pre K -3rd Grade Soccer League	Saturdays 4/24-5/29	9:00 am -1:00 pm (time varies within)	Registration Deadline: 4/9	4yrs-3rd Grade	Little Kickers \$38/resident \$53/non-resident 2nd & 3rd Grade: \$42/resident \$57/non-resident
K-7th Grade Flag Football	Tuesdays & Saturdays 5/4-5/22	Tues: 5:30-8:00 pm Sat: 1:00-4:30 pm (times vary within)	Registration Deadline:	K-7th grades	\$36/resident \$51/non-resident
Summer Fun Club & Double-Digit Day Camps	Begins Monday June 8, 2021	7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Registration Now Open	5-9 years. 10-14 years.	\$120/res per week \$135/non-resident per week
Pre-K Art Class	Tuesdays & Thursdays April 13-29	9:15-10 am OR 6:30-7:15	Reg. Deadline: 4/8	2-5 years.	\$35/ resident \$50/ non resident
T-Ball-4&5-year olds	Mondays & Wednesdays, 6/7-6/23	5:30pm-8pm (times vary within)	Early Registration 4/27-5/15 Late Registration 5/18-5/22	4 & 5 years	\$48/resident \$63/non-resident
Coach Pitch Baseball	Tuesdays & Thursdays 6/8-7/1	6pm-8:15pm (times vary within)	Early Registration 4/27-5/15 Late Registration 5/18-5/22	5-7 years	\$48/resident \$63/non-resident
Coach Pitch Softball	Mondays & Wednesdays 6/7-6/23	5:30pm-8:30pm (times vary within)	Early Registration 4/27-5/15 Late Registration 5/18-5/22	5-7years	\$48/resident \$63/non-resident