

CITY OF SWARTZ CREEK

<http://www.cityofswartzcreek.org> Phone: (810) 635-4464 Fax: (810) 635-2887

Newsletter



Autumn

2015

A Message from the Mayor

Mayor David Krueger

The City of Swartz Creek posted a budget surplus for the last fiscal year? Really? Yes, in the fiscal year ending June 30th, the general fund spent less than it took in for the first time since 2008. Prior to the collapse of the housing market that year, some council members had hoped to allocate savings to rebuild Worchester Drive. But with the collapse of the housing market, which is our tax base, savings were used to help pay for essential services. The city instituted a public safety assessment in order to keep our police and fire departments fully operational and restore staff lost to attrition.

With the housing market modestly recovering, our public safety assessment supporting some costs of our police and fire services, and the 2015 appeals on the Sports Creek Raceway and Genesee Valley Meadows Golf Course dropped, we were able to end the year with a modest contribution to our fund balance. Hopefully the economy will continue to improve, this fiscal year will end better than last year, and we can consider reductions to the public safety assessment part of our tax bill in future years. That would be great!

After Hours Emergencies:

Including water main breaks or sewer backups, should be reported to 911.

(City voice messages are not checked on the weekends or after 5pm on weekdays.)

Winds of Change

Adam Zettel, City Manager

Swartz Creek is changing. In some ways, its bigger and newer. However, infrastructure is aging and the economy isn't what it used to be. Last year has brought about more change upon our community and more changes in the manner in which we conduct business. Lets hit the highlights:

The raceway has closed. This change was not totally unexpected, but we are still feeling the pinch in many ways. However, interest in the property is strong, and we hope a new user will present itself that will help our community prosper. No. Ikea is not one of those interested parties...

New business wants to be here. Whether it is a national retailer or an expansion of home heating and cooling businesses, the town is on an uptick once more. These changes often alter the landscape of our town as they increase activity, but the Planning Commission is working to ensure that these changes are supported by infrastructure and compliment the existing community.

Streets still need a solution. Our community waits anxiously as the state develops a plan to fund local streets. We expect this WILL be a solution to a sizable part of our problem. Once the dust settles, we will have a better understanding of what, if any, unfunded liabilities remain.

Parks are renewing. 2016 should be the Year of Elms Park. A grant is in the works to renovate the bathrooms and add paths to park amenities. New equipment, supported by community fundraising, is also in the planning phases. The park board hopes to see a new "tot lot" in Elms Park to serve the youngest of our community.

Water & sewer renewal is on the way. The sewer system rehabilitation continues, focused on the oldest pipes in Winchester Village. A funded plan is in place to proceed into Winchester Woods and the downtown area within the next five years. Expect to see contractors around this winter. Water main will be another asset that you will see some changes to soon with some spot replacement. Ultimately, we await a more stable rate structure with the Karegnondi Water Authority coming online next year.

Swartz Creek is a wonderful town!

Police Department News

Lt. Matthew Bade

Happy Fall to everyone in the community! This newsletter offers the opportunity to advise our residents of a few crime trends which you should be aware of. As you may have seen in various media, those who wish to commit fraud continue to target citizens in ever changing ways. Recently some of the means by which these individuals have committed their crimes is by offering unsolicited help for a supposed "security problem" with your computer. This offer may come over the telephone or while you are on-line. The criminal will request payment via credit card for his "help" and then direct you to a website which allows him to gain access to information on your computer.

Another scam comes in a telephone call or email in which you are advised that you owe the IRS money, and if you don't send payment within a given time frame you will be arrested. Or, you may be told that you have an outstanding warrant in a different country and you must send payment to relieve the warrant. Lastly, there have been several recent incidents in which individuals approach a resident and offer driveway resurfacing at a very low price. When finished the individuals demand more money and advise that the quoted price was per gallon of material, not the entire job. The lesson here is to be very wary of any unsolicited offers for work and/or information or demands for money followed by threats.

As always, if you see something...say something. We are here to serve. Call 911 for emergencies or call 810.635.4401 between the hours of 8am-12pm, 1pm-3pm, M-Th.

Rental Inspections

The City of Swartz Creek will now be conducting rental inspections. These inspections will apply to all single family and multiple family housing units that are rented in whole or in part, with some exceptions. The cost to register and undertake initial inspections is \$75 + \$20 for each additional on premise unit. Satisfactory inspection permits are then valid for up to three years.

The city will send out a notice to known or suspected rental properties in the near future. Landlords are expected to register units in any case. For more information and for related forms & policies, contact the building department at 810.635.4464.

Utility Rate Increase

New, increased rates will be reflected in the January 2016 water/sewer bill due to increases in wholesale costs to the city.

- Sewer rates will Not change.
- The water readiness-to-serve charge will NOT change.
- The commodity cost for water will increase by \$0.48 per 100 cubic feet (~750 gallons). This should amount to a 5% or less change for the utility bill of most customers.

*Leak detection kits can find ways to reduce water usage. Contact city hall to receive one.

Dog Licenses

The City of Swartz Creek will sell one year dog licenses from December 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016.

Cost: \$10.00 / 1 year / spayed or neutered

\$30.00 / 1 year / male or female

On a monthly basis, the Genesee County Treasurer's office sends out pre-printed applications 30 days before the month of the rabies vaccine expiration date. *(Pre-printed applications are NOT required to purchase a license. Licenses can be purchased with proof of current rabies vaccination and proof if the pet has been spayed or neutered.)*

Owners will have the month before, the month of and the month after the vaccination to purchase a license. After that time the license would be delinquent and may be purchased only through Animal Control (810.732.1660). All licenses may be purchased from Genesee County through the mail or in person. Some participating veterinarians sell three year licenses, as does Genesee County. Replacement licenses are issued through the Genesee County Treasurer's Office 810.257.3054

Yard Waste & Wood Chipping Guidelines

- ◆ Yard waste bags will be collected by Republic through the end of November. And wood chipping is expected to wrap up by the 2nd week of November
- ◆ Separate leaf and waste into bags for pickup by Republic and brush into piles for the city wood chipper
- ◆ All limbs must be 4 inches or less in diameter
- ◆ Brush ends MUST be stacked with cut ends facing the curb/road edge
- ◆ No lumber, tree removal, contracted jobs, or lot clearing jobs will be accommodated
- ◆ Do not include vines, ivy, strings, wires, stumps, or other obstructions

Reminders

- ⇒ City office regular hours are from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm Monday through Friday.
- ⇒ Police department regular hours are from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm Monday through Thursday.
- ⇒ **DO NOT rake or blow leaves or yard waste into the street.** That is bad, and we provide yard waste service.
- ⇒ Please be mindful of students, mail carriers, and other pedestrians this winter. Sidewalks must be cleared of ice and snow within 48 hours after a snow event, just like the good ol' days. Failure to do so will result in a \$50 fine PLUS the costs to have the city or its contractors clear the sidewalk. This will be enforced this year.
- ⇒ Please remove waste bins from the curb as soon as possible to avoid plow damage this winter.
- ⇒ Please advise the city office if you will be out of town for an extended period of time. This allows us to mail your bills to the correct location and keep an eye out for problems at your residence. We don't use drones.
- ⇒ **Visit our website at www.cityofswartzcreek.org for updates and to view information regarding the Municipal Performance Dashboard. Like us on Facebook as well!**
- ⇒ Winter tax bills will be mailed November 30, 2015 and are due without penalty by February 16, 2016.
- ⇒ There is no parking on any City street from 2am-6am. Please be mindful to only park on city streets where it is not prohibited. Keeping vehicles off the street lowers the risk of theft and permits winter maintenance. Violations will be issued to vehicles parking illegally.
- ⇒ The Swartz Creek community is awesome.

Fire Department Message

Chief Brent Cole

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, personally, mine was way too short. In just a few short weeks, Halloween will be here, furnaces will be running, and the snow will be... but first things first.

Here are a few tips for those trick or treaters in your family. Costumes and decorations should only be made of flame-retardant materials. Avoid loose, flammable clothing. Each mask, wig, and costume must be easily seen at night. Use battery-powered lights for jack-o-lanterns, as signals to motorists. Keep decorations away from sources of heat, such as exposed bulbs and open flames.

Before you fire up that furnace, fireplace, and/or portable heater this year, here are some tips you will want to consider. Have your unit(s) inspected for defects by a qualified specialist. Make sure all controls are in working order. Have venting and chimneys inspected and cleaned. Have your heat exchanger inspected for cracks, as deadly carbon monoxide can leak out (special equipment is needed for this). Do not use any type of flammable liquid to start a fireplace fire. Never burn charcoal indoors. Never use a portable heating unit as a permanent substitute for a central heating system. Keep that portable heater at least 3' away from combustible materials. It's easy to overload a circuit with a portable heater. Only use an extension cord that can handle the amp load for the heater.

**Be sure to mark your calendar for the Annual Christmas Parade:
Saturday, December 5, 2015 , 6:00 P.M.**

Fire Chief Brent Cole
810.635.2300
Monday—Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.



City of Swartz Creek
8083 Civic Dr.
Swartz Creek, MI 48473

PLACE
STAMP
HERE