

CITY OF SWARTZ CREEK

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

Newsletter



Spring

2015

May 5th Will Be a Big Day for Streets

Adam Zettel, City Manager

Another year has passed, and the streets have not improved. However, our community has not been idle. In June, assessments were explored to reconstruct streets. That proposal went down in a blaze of glory.

To address streets on a city-wide and long term basis, a 20 year street plan has since been devised. It is worth a look. You can get a copy at city hall or check it out on the webpage at www.cityofswartzcreek.org. This plan has a cost. **There are TWO ballot questions proposed on May 5th.** One is the state initiative to raise sales tax, which we won't get into here. The other is our local proposal that is tied to the 20 year plan.

What will we get? The plan includes reconstruction of nearly all streets in the Winchester Village subdivision in under 10 years, beginning with Worcester this summer. Every public street in the city is in the plan for some form of treatment at least once. To keep other streets from failing and costing the big bucks to completely rebuild, the program intends to spend about 8% of revenues on preventative maintenance for newer streets. These treatments are cost effective and include seal coats, crack filling, and overlays. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

What will it cost? The local proposal is seeking 5.7 mills to fund street reconstruction, preservation, and preventative maintenance. This will cost the median homeowner a little less than \$19/month or about \$225/year. Check out your taxable value and multiply it by 0.0057 to see how it would impact you. Note that taxable values are about half of your market value.

Is it worth it? That is up to you. The only way to know for sure is to get the facts and weigh the cost. We are a small town. A visit to city hall will go a long way. You can also attend one of the informal open houses at city hall, on Friday, April 17th, from 10am-7pm or on Saturday, April 18th from 10am-2pm. Again, you can pull the information off the webpage or call city hall as well at 635.4464. Please take a look.

All residents vote at the United Methodist Church located at 7400 Miller Road, 7:00am to 8:00pm, May 5th.

After Hours Emergencies:

Including water and sewer problems such as water main breaks or sewer backups, should be reported to 911.

(City voice messages are not checked on the weekends or after 4:30pm on weekdays.)

A Message from the Mayor

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the citizens of Swartz Creek who helped their neighbors and friends clear the snow from their sidewalks and driveways during the very harsh winter which is finally drawing to an end. Your work is gratefully appreciated not just by those whom you helped, but by all of us in Swartz Creek. Looking after one another and helping each other out as needed is part of being a good citizen and neighbor. Now that the snow is melted, we must clean up our community from the results of another tough winter. If you can lend a hand to your neighbors once again to clear the branches and brush from their yards, it will be much appreciated by everyone. Our Department of Public Services workers will be working as quickly as possible to chip the brush at the side of the road in between filling potholes in the roads. Your patience as they do their work is appreciated.

Mayor David Krueger

Fire Department Message

Chief Brent Cole

SEVERE WEATHER: WATCH OR WARNING

Besides knowing what to do in various situations, know the difference between a watch and a warning:

A **TORNADO WATCH** simply means conditions are favorable for tornadoes to develop. Tornadoes are most likely to happen in the late afternoon on hot spring days. However, tornadoes have occurred in every month all times of the day or night. When a tornado watch is in effect:

- Move cars inside a garage or carport to avoid damage from hail that often accompanies severe storms.
- Move lawn furniture and yard equipment inside. They could become damaged or act as dangerous projectiles, causing serious injury or damage.
- Keep your radio or TV turned to weather reports and account for family members.
- Be alert for changing weather – that's what a WATCH is all about. Tornadoes often – but not always – occur in conjunction with a severe thunderstorm producing hail. If you have any indication that a tornado may be approaching, take cover immediately. **DO NOT WAIT FOR A WARNING TO BE ISSUED!**

A **TORNADO WARNING** means a tornado has actually been sighted. Tornadoes are deadly and devastating storms, with winds up to 260 miles per hour. **If a tornado WARNING is issued:** Seek shelter immediately!

Don't wait until an emergency siren sounds to start grabbing supplies and thinking about what you should do. Plan ahead when it comes to tornadoes. Take responsibility for your own safety. **PLAN TO SURVIVE!**

Last Note: If you didn't know, the Swartz Creek Area Firefighters have been selling the reflective house numbers for quite some time. If you are interested, they are \$20 each installed. I can send you an order form if you give me a call.

Have a safe spring & summer. Fire Chief Brent Cole. 635-2300, M-F, 8 AM to 1 PM.

Wood Chipping Guidelines

- ◆ All limbs and brush must be 4 inches or less in diameter and 4 feet or less in length
- ◆ Arm load sized piles only, to prevent unnecessary entanglements
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Pickup is limited to brush from onsite properties within the city limits only
- ◆ Do not include vines, ivy, strings, wires, stumps, or other obstructions

Family Movie Night

June 12 The Lorax

June 26 ET

July 10 Dolphin Tale

July 24 Lego Movie

August 7 Big Hero 6

August 21 Planes: Fire & Rescue

Weather cancellations on the following Friday.

Movies at Payjtas Theater!
Free Bounce House at 7:30pm!
Shows start at dusk!
Bring your own chair or blanket.

Utility Rates

- Due to a rate increase by Genesee County Water & Waste Services, resulting from an increase from Detroit for water commodity, increases MAY be passed along in the second half of 2015. Updates will follow.

Building Department

The city continues to provide joint building department services with Mundy Township. The building official is Mr. Marty Johnson, and he holds hours with both the township and city. For building/trade permits, reviews, and questions call or stop by city hall. The application process remains the same. You have the option of catching the building official at the Mundy offices as well.

Permits: In accordance with the Michigan Building Code, the City of Swartz Creek requires you to acquire a permit for the following reasons: Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove or convert any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system or to cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the *building official* and obtain the required permit.

This means that a permit is required for a demolition, re-roof, stand by generators, decks, etc.

Permits are not required for everything: There are many projects that do not require a building permit. If you are not sure, the best thing to do is call the city to find out.

Code Enforcement: Call city hall to report structural issues, blight, or other nuisances.

Permits available at the City Offices are: Building, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, Demolition, Rezoning, Right-of-Way.

Police Merger Happenings

Chief Dan Atkinson

The police merger study continues. Officers were sworn in to both departments in January and now assist each other on calls. Support efforts extend beyond borders as the departments learn more about operations.

Public Acts that enable a new authority have been researched. Each municipality will review and decide which Act will best serve this concept and the communities. Committees have been formed and are looking into organization, vehicles, uniforms, labor contracts and other issues. Deputy Chief Clolinger is working at combining policies and procedures.

The municipalities are realizing early benefits of this partnership with more coverage and visibility of patrols, as well as the sharing of specialty training within each agency. The Mundy Volunteer Program has also become active in Swartz Creek, assisting in vacation and foreclosure checks. Departments have patrolled in the other department's cars to evaluate vehicle options and equipment.

If implemented, the concept will provide one of the most professional and well trained departments in the region. These efforts will also assist in controlling the ever-increasing costs of providing for public safety. We look forward to the future and, by taking steps to better serve the citizens proactively, our communities will continue to grow and prosper in a safe environment.

Reminders:

- ⇒ The Swartz Creek City Office hours are from **8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm Monday through Friday.**
- ⇒ **Police Department hours are 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm Monday through Thursday.**
- ⇒ **DO NOT** rake or blow leaves or yard waste into the street. The City DOES NOT pick up yard waste from the street. Use waste bags.
- ⇒ 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 to have police keep an eye out for problems at your residence.
- ⇒ **Visit our website at www.cityofswartzcreek.org for updates. Like us on Facebook as well!**
- ⇒ Summer tax bills will be mailed the first week of July and are due without penalty by August 31, 2015.
- ⇒ 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.

Rental Inspection Ordinance

The city has a draft rental registration and inspection ordinance pending.

Why? Illegal modifications, over occupancy, and structural deteriorations have been noted to occur at a greater frequency with absentee ownership. This is stressing our neighborhoods.

What is the hold up? The state legislature is considering some laws that could impact many facets of our ordinance. With that in mind, the city is holding off until it is clear that our program meets state standards. Stay tuned.

Police Department News

Deputy Chief Rick Clolinger

Crime Awareness

As warmer temperatures approach it is a good time for all residents to take notice of what, and who, is normally in their neighborhoods. Crimes occur during both the daylight and nighttime hours. Better weather will bring more activity thus making it vital that residents keep an eye out for their neighbors and call 911 when observing anything suspicious. Be sure to take simple steps, like locking car doors. We are here to keep Swartz Creek safe but we can't do it alone. We need your "eyes & ears" so please don't hesitate to call.

Parking Reminder

The Police Department receives parking complaints on a regular basis. Please be mindful to only park on City streets where it is not prohibited. Violations will be issued to vehicles parking illegally including parking on any city street between 2am and 6am.

Summer fun for the kids

Camp 911 will be held at the United Methodist Church July 6th - 10th. There will be two sessions each day, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. The camp is for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. Applications are available at the Swartz Creek Police Department.

"COPS IN THE PARK" is scheduled for August 10th- from 9a.m. to 4:30p.m. There is no cost for this event and all kids are welcome. Children under 6 years old must be accompanied by an adult at all times. All participants must sign in with a parent or guardian.

City of Swartz Creek
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE