

CITY OF SWARTZ CREEK

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Newsletter



Spring

2014

Living in Swartz Creek: What changes will 2014 bring?

Adam Zettel, City Manager

The last half decade has been rough for everyone. The economic downturn impacted all elements of our lives, including many city services and facilities. However, things are looking up, and I am confident that life in Swartz Creek will be better in ten years than it is today!

In addition to the public safety enhancements noted in this newsletter, the city is adopting some new strategies that will contribute to the stability of neighborhoods and home values. **I can not stress enough the emphasis that the current council places on addressing issues related to blight and nuisances.**

To address resident concerns, the city is dedicating a part-time certified police officer to the enforcement of blight and nuisances. This officer will be trained to work on cases related to the property maintenance code, as well as enforcement on general property conditions.

While we all hope to get along with neighbors, sometimes that does not happen. Residents should feel confident that activities in their neighborhoods will not reduce their quality of life or property values. With that said, please contact the city offices to report dilapidated structures, junk vehicles, parking in yards, trash, barking dogs, and other nuisances. This is very important to our residents, and we will take each case very seriously.

The city council will also be working on a rental inspection ordinance this year. The intent of this ordinance will be to register and inspect all rental units in the city in order to ensure safe living conditions for occupants and to keep an eye on the general condition of rental properties and their impact on neighbors.

Lastly, the streets...my goodness, the streets. **The condition of streets will be a big topic of discussion in the coming year, so keep an eye on the papers/Facebook.** There is not an existing capital improvement plan for streets in the city. We need one. Again, stay tuned.

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 5pm 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 December's ice storm as well. 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 three 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

Burning Issues: The City of Swartz Creek doesn't allow burning of yard waste. If you have yard waste to dispose of, see the city waste calendar for collection dates. The only burning allowed is in a covered pit or portable fire-place for recreation ONLY. When using one, be sure and be mindful of the wind direction or if it is too strong. It's the neighboring thing to do.

Fire Safety Tips:

1. Install smoke detectors on each level of your home. Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler and fire extinguishers. Insurance company's may give a discount for having them installed. Be sure and call your agency to tell them so.
2. Make sure there are two clear escape routes from each room and that everyone knows these escape routes and has practiced using them.
3. Never smoke when drowsy or when in bed.
4. Use sturdy, non-tip ashtrays and check for smoldering butts in furniture and ashtrays — especially after parties.
5. Never leave cooking food unattended. Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles.
6. Use portable space heaters with care. Keep them away from combustibles.
7. Have your chimney and central heating system inspected at least one a year and cleaned if necessary. Use a sturdy fireplace screen.
8. Plug only one heat producing appliance into an electrical outlet. Never override or bypass fuses or circuit breakers. Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
9. Store matches and lighters up high, out of reach of children. Use only child resistant lighters.
10. Never store gasoline inside your home. If necessary, keep a small quantity in an approved safety container locked in an outdoor shed.
11. Store paints, thinners, and other flammable liquids in their original containers, well away from heat, sparks, or flame.
12. Keep your attic free from combustibles such as newspapers and magazines.
13. Identify your house with large address numbers that the fire department can see easily.

The Swartz Creek Area Firefighters sells reflective house numbers. They are \$20 each installed. Call for information and 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
- ◆ No lumber, tree removal, contracted jobs, or lot clearing jobs will be accommodated
- ◆ Arm load sized piles only, to prevent unnecessary entanglements
- ◆ Pickup is limited to brush from onsite properties within the city limits only
- ◆ Brush ends MUST be stacked with cut ends facing the curb/road edge
- ◆ Do not include vines, ivy, strings, wires, stumps, or other obstructions

Family Movie Night

June 13 Monsters University

June 27 Brave

July 11 Frozen

July 25 Goonies

August 8 Despicable Me 2

August 22 Planes

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 Rate Increase

- Due to a rate increases by Genesee County Water & Waste Services for sewage transportation and treatment services, increases are expected in the second half of 2014. Updates will follow.

Building Department

Please note important changes to the building department!!!

The city is now providing 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.

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

Household Hazardous Waste

Collection Day

Saturday, June 7, 2014



10 am to 2 pm
Swartz Creek
High School



Reminders:

- ⇒ The Swartz Creek City Office (Including the Police Department Office) is closed from 12pm to 1pm for lunch every day. Regular office hours are from 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. (Police Dept. office is open until 5pm)
- ⇒ **DO NOT** rake or blow leaves or yard waste into the street. The City DOES NOT pick up yard waste from the street.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Visit our website at www.cityofswartzcreek.org for updates. Like us on Facebook as well!
- ⇒ Summer tax bills will be mailed June 30, 2014 and are due without penalty by September 1, 2014.
- ⇒ 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.

Sidewalks Ordinance Change!

Winter is a long way off, but residents and other property owners need to start planning for winter maintenance.

Sidewalks must be cleared of ice and snow within 48 hours after a snow event. Failure to do so will result in a fine plus the costs to have the city clear the sidewalk. **This will be enforced.**

Please be mindful of students, mail carriers, and other pedestrians. Plan to clear your sidewalk this winter.

Police Department News

Chief Rick Clolinger

The recent passage of the Special Assessment District (SAD) will provide much needed revenue to the Police Department. Staffing needs will be addressed this summer when two full-time officers will be hired, bringing the total number of officers to eight. A full-time detective will be recruited from within this group once this hiring process is complete. Equipment needs will also be addressed, including vehicles, weapons, and a new records management system. The result will be a higher level of professional service and increased police presence in the city.

Crime Awareness

As warmer temperatures approach it is a good time for all residents to take notice of what, and who, is normal in their neighborhoods. Even with the frigid winter we just experienced those who wish to commit home invasions, larcenies, and other crimes were on the prowl. These 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. 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.

Summer fun for the kids

"Camp 911" will be held at the United Methodist Church July 7th - 11th. There will be two sessions each day with the first from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and the second from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. This camp is for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. If you are interested applications are available at the Swartz Creek Police Department.

City of Swartz Creek
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PLACE
STAMP
HERE