



Where Friendships Last Forever

Newsletter

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www.cityofswartzcreek.org

Spring

2021

A Message from Andrew J. Harris, P.E.— City Engineer

It appears spring has sprung, but we're proceeding with caution in case Mother Nature has other ideas. With warmer weather, more services are coming online. Please help us by taking the following into consideration.

The street sweeper is out and about, with the focus of sweeping to remove dirt, leaves, and debris from the gutters (and storm basins). Garbage (i.e. cans, paper, and plastic) in the streets will slow this process and damage the sweeper. Be aware as you place your carts out to the curb each week and pick up anything that might fall out.

Brush chipping operations have begun. Please review the chipping guidelines on the City's website. The brush should be no larger than 4' long and 4" in diameter. You don't need to contact the city as this will be an ongoing operation. Yard waste pickup has begun and can be placed on all collection days, through November.

The USDA project continues and will be complete by the end of the year! Water main has been installed on Bristol from Elms to Miller and on Miller from the Cornerstone Baptist Church to Dye Road, with the connection at Dye due in the next few weeks. Once complete, the contractor will install water main on Miller from Raubinger to Elms, and Morrish Road from Fortino Drive to I-69. The remaining sections of Oakview and Chelmsford from Daval to Seymour, including new water main, will begin mid-summer and will be complete by the end of the year.

Recently the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE, formerly known as the MDEQ) has required residential inspections for cross connections at every home within the City. The focus of this mandate is to assure clean drinking water by confirming there aren't any cross connections that would cause dirty water to enter the water mains in low pressure situations. The City is working with HydroCorp to meet this requirement. Over the next three years they will be scheduling inspections at every residence in the City. Some folks have already scheduled appointments, so when you receive the information please make sure to coordinate with HydroCorp. We appreciate your assistance with this requirement!

Fun Fact: over the past year some people have asked me why the caps on fire hydrants are painted different colors. The color of the cap indicates the size of the water main the hydrant is connected to. This information identifies replacement parts and available flow for Fire Department use. Below is a list of the size each color represents:

Red Caps = 6" water main
Orange Caps = 8" water main

Green Caps = 10" & 12" water main

Find the community calendar and service information online at: www.cityofswartzcreek.org

Call 911 For After-Hours Emergencies:

*Do so for water and sewer problems such as water main breaks or sewer backups.
Messages at the office are not checked on the weekends or after hours.*

Waste Contract Commences July 1!

The city is currently reviewing bids for refuse, recycling, and yard waste collection services. The current contract with Republic expires at the end of June 2021. The low bid received for the future contract is from GFL, with Republic and Waste Management coming in second and third, respectively.

A committee of residents, council members, and other interests is vetting the contractors and will make a recommendation in late April or early May. Service is expected to remain as a cart-based automated collection for waste and recycling, with seasonal yard waste.



Please stay tuned to our webpage, local news, and Facebook regarding this matter. If the contract is awarded to a contractor other than Republic, we can expect a new collection day, replacement carts, and other changes to onboard prior to the first collection in July.

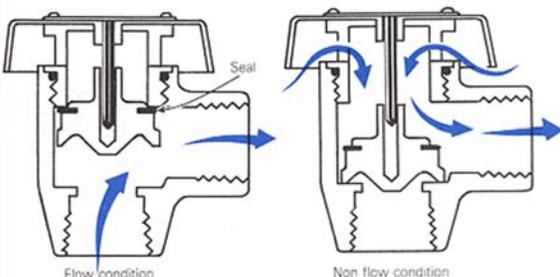
2021 Residential Cross Connection Control Program

Did you get a letter yet for ‘cross connection inspection?’ We are now implementing a new water system mandate. Per rules promulgated by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, we are contracting with Hydrocorp, Inc. to perform inspections on residential dwellings to ensure there are not improper cross connections on the water system.

Cross-Connection Definition: the physical connection between the potable water system and an “end-use” where a potential hazard exists. Backflow.

Folks will receive notification from the contractor to access each property sometime in the next three years (then once every ten years) to perform an inspection. The contractor will inspect the home for connections that could compromise the potable water system during a pressure loss (the most common example is a home irrigation system). If such connections exist, the contractor will supply complementary devices or otherwise send notice to correct specific connections.

Atmospheric Vacuum Breaker



Please work with us as we complete this task. Our goal is to ensure that our water system is safe from backflows of all kinds and that we are compliant with state regulations.

Resident Update From Dennis W. Cramer

Recently, I had opportunity to go on a Ride A-Long with Republic Waste Management. During this five hour period in March, I received quite an education on their operations. What I saw with my own eye's shocked me, from multiple sorting employees in their recycling facility in Southfield to the enormous size of their landfill in Mundy Township. I left this experience bound and determined to educate the Swartz Creek community to be more responsible when both throwing away our trash and to recycle properly.

Swartz Creek is ahead of the curve, but there is more to do. Review the recycling practices from Republic (available on the city website). Also, ask yourself when you see blowing debris on our streets if I could have bagged that loose garbage better. Should I have thrown that garden hose in the waste cart and the milk jug in recycling?

Fire Department Message

Chief Dave Plumb

I'm sure most of you will agree with me when I say, Welcome Spring! Let's work on making sure it is safe!

Is your house number visible? Can you imagine calling for help and there being a delay in finding you? It happens every year, because residents do not have their house number plainly visible from the street. In a fire or medical emergency, seconds count. To avoid delaying responders, make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street both day and night. The Swartz Creek Area Firefighters have been selling the green reflective house signs since 1997. They are \$20 each and that includes installation. The money received stays in the community and is primarily used for Fire Prevention. If you are interested, please contact the Fire Dept @ 810-635-2300 ext.9.



~Firefighters Needed~

For the Fire Department, it is that time again to ask anyone who is interested, to contact us about joining the Swartz Creek Area Fire Department. Most community residents don't realize what type of fire department they have or how it operates. If they call 911 to summon the fire department, someone will always show up. After all, that is what I pay taxes for, so why should I even think about being a firefighter? Most fire departments operate in an on-call capacity, meaning you respond to the station when a pager activates. You have to be willing to be a team player, attend training, get up in the middle of the night and know what it is like to do some good for your community. If you are still reading this, then perhaps you may be the type of person that has what it takes.

I don't have enough space in this newsletter to explain everything associated with being a firefighter, but I will find the time to talk to you over the phone, or meet with you face to face, to discuss the business of firefighting. The rewards can only be measured once you are involved. Go to our website, www.scafd.com and complete the pre-employment packet. Once it is received, I will call you to discuss the opportunity further.

Police Department Statement

Chief Matthew Bade

As we emerge from winter and the pandemic, we are cautiously optimistic that the Metro Police Authority will be able to return to some of the summertime community events which were cancelled last year. Please check our website or Facebook page for updates.

After 30 years of dedicated service Lt. Joel Grahn retired this month and we wish him our best! As a result, I am happy to announce several transitions within our agency. Sgt. Todd Johnson has been promoted to Lieutenant, Sgt. Mike Murphy will assume the Administrative Sergeant duties and Officer Blake Hiben has been promoted to Sergeant. Additionally, Officer Mark Cox is our new Traffic Safety Officer.

We are still looking for good people who may be interested in joining the Metro Volunteer Program (MVP). This program gives you a chance to partner with the Metro Police Authority to keep our community safe while at the same time meeting new people and learning new things! Please contact Officer Brian Abraham (810-820-2190 ext. 21053) with any questions or interest.



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