



Where Friendships Last Forever

Newsletter

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www.cityofswartzcreek.org

Winter

2022

A TRUE GEM IN SWARTZ CREEK — A Message from Mayor Krueger

The Genesee Wind Symphony is a true cultural gem in Swartz Creek. This symphony orchestra is made up on top-notch musicians from throughout the region, but it performs only for us here in the Creek, at the Performing Arts Center at Swartz Creek High School.

Unfortunately, this orchestra is pretty much a hidden gem in our community, since most residents of Swartz Creek are not aware of the Genesee Wind Symphony and its performances. I invited the City Council and city staff to their Christmas Concert on December 13th, which everyone enjoyed immensely. However, prior to the concert, only myself was aware that this orchestra even existed and performed for us here in Swartz Creek.

This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Genesee Wind Symphony, and I am pleased to be a sponsor of their Anniversary Concert on May 2nd. They will also be performing for us on Valentine's Day, February 14th, and on Monday, March 21st. All of their concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 per person at the door. If you have not been to one of their concerts yet, check them out! May I suggest that attending their Valentine's Day concert would make a great date for you and the love of your life on that special day.



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.

FOG Prevention Tips for Residents:

Protect our environment and keep drains clear of Fats, Oil & Grease

Fats, oil, and grease (FOG) in sewer pipes can create severe pollution problems in our city. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential, and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backward – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains in homes. These sewage overflows pollute the environment and can be expensive to homeowners.



Sources of FOG

Fat, oil, and grease are by-products of cooking found in: food scraps, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, butter, margarine, or shortening

Keep Drains Clear & Follow These Tips

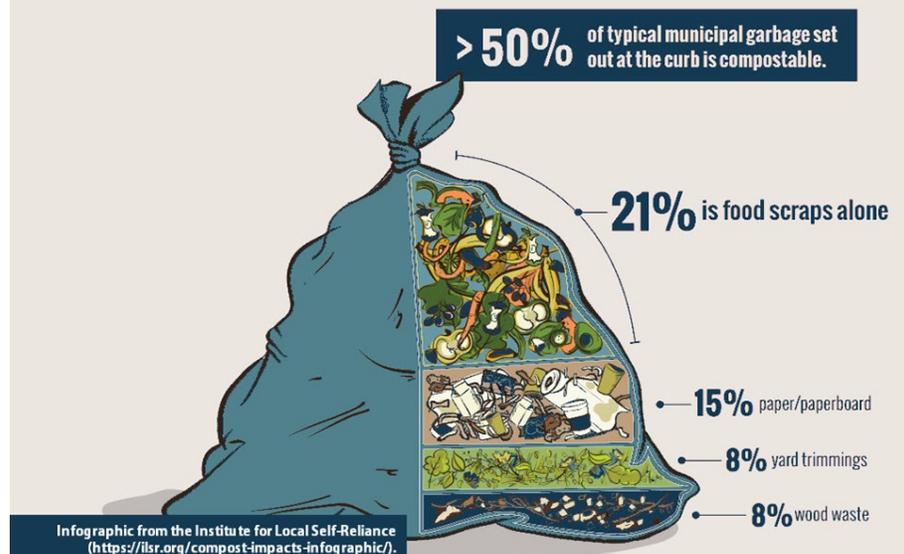
- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring ½ cup baking soda down the drain followed by ½ cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with warm water.

In addition to FOG's, Help Reduce Food Waste in Disposals!

It is estimated that 1/3 of ALL the food produced in the world goes to waste. This equals 103 million tons (81.4 billion pounds) of food waste generated in America in 2017, or between 30-40% of the food supply, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. This means that either these products never leave the farm, get lost or spoiled during distribution, or are thrown away once purchased. This could be enough to feed every undernourished person ON THE PLANET.

Reducing food waste would reduce the impact of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. Michigan has a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 and reducing food waste would help Michiganders reach this goal. Learn more at Michigan.gov/FoodWaste.

Every year, U.S. landfills and trash incinerators receive **167 MILLION TONS** of garbage.



Winter Reminders

- ⇒ 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 permits winter maintenance. Violations will be issued to vehicles parking illegally.
- ⇒ **Property owners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks after snow and ice events!** Folks leaving town for the winter should make arrangements to have this done. Failure to do so can result in the clearing of the walkway by a contractor at the owners expense, and/or fines! Please keep the walks clear!
- ⇒ **Visit our website at www.cityofswartzcreek.org for updates or like us on Facebook!**



UTILITY RATES TO GO UP, BUT NOT THAT MUCH...

When we heard that the county sewer rates charged to the city were going up 21%, we lost consciousness. To their credit, the county only increases rates on sewer about every 5 to 7 years. Once we factored this increase into the entire water and sewer bill, the increase is much easier to manage, at about 3% for a typical user.

In December, the council adjusted local rates to include the county increase for sewer and a 1% inflationary adjustment on water only. The new rates for residential users are as follows and will be applied to the April bills.

The typical residential quarterly bill for 1,500 cubic feet of water/sewer will increase from \$251.73 to \$260.08. This is an increase of \$8.35 (3.31%).



Sewer Rates for Quarterly Billings

Readiness to serve charge (per Residential Equivalent Unit):	\$53.53
Readiness to serve charge (non-metered accounts):	\$130.43
Commodity charge (per 100 cubic feet of water consumed):	\$2.52

Water Rates for Quarterly Billings

Readiness to serve charge for a 5/8" to 1" meter:	\$57.45
Commodity charge (per 100 cubic feet of water):	\$7.42

Police Department Statement

Chief Matthew Bade

As we all try to come to grips with the tragic event that occurred at Oxford High School, I wanted to make sure that our community is aware that school safety is a priority for the Metro Police Authority and we have been taking a proactive approach to that end for the last several years. In addition to our School Resource Officer and School Safety Officer, we partnered with the Swartz Creek School District to form a school safety committee in 2019. Over time this committee has grown to include police and fire representatives from the Metro Police Authority, Mundy, Flint, Clayton and Gaines Townships and administrators from the Swartz Creek and Carman-Ainsworth School Districts. The committee meets regularly to cover a wide range of school safety issues. As we move forward, we continue to be vigilant in the safety and security of our schools and greater community.



City of Swartz Creek
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