



CITY OF ESSEXVILLE

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COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We should all be proud that Essexville was able to address one of our biggest problems and finalize one of the largest projects in Essexville history, which is to join West Bay County WWTP and convert our local WWTP to a pumping station. Hopefully there won't be anymore notices from the DEQ for us to deal with. Because of that project, Smith Park will be closed for the summer. Sorry, they call that progress when we solve problems.

Another local project that I support is the expansion of the Karn-Weadock plant. Our community will benefit from this project which should help stimulate the local housing market with construction employees and families, and it could help bring our housing values back to where they should be. Also, more people in Essexville with more children could help keep our schools open. Hopefully, with all these possible new additions, our vacancies in our Commerce Park could be filled with construction related vendors as well.

Be aware of our next Neighborhood Watch meeting in late April or early May. A notice will be published in the Bay City Times or you can call City Hall for more information. We want to try to keep Essexville a safe and desirable community to live in.

Thanks for listening — Russ Tanner

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Budget and Finance

Staff has begun work on the annual budget for fiscal year 2010/2011. The budget, a proposed six-year capital improvements program, and a five-year financial forecast for the City's major funds will be presented to the City Council by Monday, May 3.

Staff anticipates a significant decline in revenues in the General Fund for FY 2010/2011 primarily due to another decrease in the City's overall taxable value, further

decreases in state shared revenue, and the loss of lease revenues previously received from Charter Communications. All administrative services and Public Safety are financed with revenues to the General Fund.

It is expected that the City Council will hold a series of meetings beginning in May to work on the proposed budget and review the five-year financial forecast. All budget meetings will be posted and they are open to the public.

Over the next several months the City Council will also be seeking community input and citizen participation as it begins the process of developing a long term financial plan for funding core and critical services based upon the forecast for revenues required to fund these services.

2010 United States Census

It is extremely important to our community that our residents take the time to fill out and return the 2010 United States Census forms that we have all recently received.

(Please read the article on the Census found on page 3 of the newsletter)

Based on 2008 census estimates, It is expected that Essexville may lose upwards of 8% of its population. The amount of decrease in population (with the 2010 census) will result in commensurate decreases in revenue sharing, gas and weight tax allocations (which fund street maintenance) and other revenue sources in future years.

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Wastewater Treatment Plant Project

The construction of modifications to the City's wastewater treatment plant, which will convert the facility to a pump station that will deliver the community's wastewater to the West Bay County Regional Wastewater Plant ("WBCRWWTP") for processing and treatment, is expected to begin in April 2010.

The City Council approved the project in April 2009 based upon its review and consideration of various options available for the continued processing and treatment of the City's wastewater. The options were presented and discussed in some depth during a well attended town hall meeting held on April 14, 2009.

The project is expected to cost \$7.48 million which will be financed with a United States Department of Agriculture (Rural Development) low interest loan. The project as presented to the community in April 2009 was originally estimated to cost \$8.2 million.

These savings will result in less of an increase in sewer rates than was projected in 2009. It is expected that the City Council will set the required sewer rate in June when it adopts the FY 2010/2011 budget.

The project costs are made up of three components which include the modifications and improvements to the City's present wastewater plant, the City's share of the cost of necessary improvements being made at the WBCRWWTP by the Bay County Department of Water and Sewer and the construction of a forcemain under the Saginaw River by Hampton Township.

It is expected that the project will provide the City with long-term stability in its sewer rates and significantly reduce combined sewer overflows from Essexville to the Saginaw River.

Pay your water/sewer utility bills or taxes online or by direct debit to your checking or savings account.

For more information contact the City Treasurer's Office at 893-2441. information.

Citizen of the Year Award

The Quintin E. Cramer Citizen of the Year award was first awarded in 1979. Almost every year since, the City Council has presented the award to an individual or company that has made a significant contribution to the City of Essexville in making it a better community.

We want to thank all those people who took the time to submit nominations. It was a difficult decision to narrow the field to one person, as they were all deserving. We also want to thank the Committee for all their work in the selection process.

This year's award goes to a couple who have been involved by volunteering endless hours in the community. They have also served as role models to the community. This year's award went to Frank and Ann Davis of 209 Main Street.

They both have contributed to our community by volunteering with the Leader Dog Program for 20 years, Good Samaritan Rescue Mission, Therapy Dogs International, Food of Faith, St. Luke's Church, Essexville-Hampton Schools, Essexville Lion's Club, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts, YMCA, and several other charities. They have been married for over 45 years and have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

The Davis' names have been added to the award plaque along with a picture that is displayed here at City Hall. Congratulations to Frank and Davis as Essexville's 2010 Quintin E. Cramer Citizens of the Year.

Community-Wide Rummage Sale

Essexville's sixth annual community-wide rummage sale will be Friday May 21 and Saturday May 22.

The \$8.00 participation fee will help offset the cost of advertising, flyers and maps showing the individual locations participating in the rummage sale.

Residents interested in participating in the community-wide rummage sale can register at LaBrenz Pharmacy, 1606 Woodside Avenue, beginning April 1 through May 1 Monday — Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BOARD VACANCIES

The City of Essexville has openings on the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Downtown Development Authority, and Board of Review. Residents who are interested in being considered for appointment to any of these positions are encouraged to submit a letter of interest with a brief resume to Sarah J. Wilcox, City Clerk, City of Essexville, 1107 Woodside Avenue, Essexville, MI 48732. The current vacancies are as follows:

- 1 Position for Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is required to meet a minimum of 4 times a year. This is a voluntary position and no compensation is offered.
- 2 Alternate Positions for Board of Zoning Appeals. This position is on an as needed basis, and compensation is available when you are called to duty.
- 1 Position for Downtown Development Authority. This position requires the individual to either own or represent a business based in the City of Essexville. This is a voluntary position and no compensation is offered.
- 1 Position for Board of Review. The Board of Review meets the first Monday and Tuesday of March

2010 U.S. Census

Please remember that accurate census counts are important because they affect the number of seats the state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives and federal funding for communities is based on census data. Below you will see the dates for upcoming Census events.

March 2010: Census forms are mailed or delivered to households.

April 1, 2010: National Census Day-use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail.

April-July 2010: Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail.

December 2010: By law, the Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for apportionment.

Please remember if you do not complete and mail back the form to the U.S. Census Bureau you will get a visit from a Census Taker. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

- First ask to see their ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name, they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag
- Note that the census taker will never ask to enter your home
- If you are still not certain about their identity, please call the Regional Census Centers (313) 396-5200 to confirm they are employed with the Census Bureau

Answer the census form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the census taker can record the results for submission to the Census Bureau.

Information given to the Census Bureau is confidential. If you have any questions concerning the 2010 U. S. Census, you can view the Census form at <http://census.gov/2010census>.

Holiday Observance

In observance of designated holidays the City Offices and the Department of Public Works will be closed on Memorial Day (May 31), Fourth of July (July 5), and Labor Day (September 6).

Election News

Sarah J. Wilcox, City Clerk

November 3, 2009 General City Election Results

The City had 4 candidates running for 2 vacant City Council seats and a Charter Revision question on the ballot this past November. There were 2,706 registered voters in the City as of the October 5, 2009 deadline for registering to vote in the General City Election. Precinct 1 (City Hall) had a total of 189 voters, while Precinct 2 (St. Luke's) had a total of 208 voters for an overall total of 397 voters. 14.7% of the registered voters elected to vote; with 9.3% of them voting absentee. The City elected Robert J. Mantei and Thomas R. Rehms to fill the two vacant City Council seats and chose not to revise the City Charter.

We thank Councilman Ron Graham and Councilman Bill Hydorn for their time and effort over the past 12 years serving on the City Council.

2010 Election Dates

Primary Election: Tuesday, August 3, 2010

General Election: Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Last Day to Register to Vote

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Tuesday, October 4, 2010

If you do not know if you are registered to vote or do not know what precinct you are registered in, please call City Hall.

Serve Your Community. Become an Election Inspector.

Election inspectors are a very important part of the election process and they are the people that make Election Day really happen. If you interested in becoming an election inspector please fill out an application at City Hall. This is a great way to meet your neighbors, learn how the election process works, and experience the excitement of elections first hand.

2010 Taxable Value Information

Fran DeWyse, City Treasurer

The Inflation Rate Multiplier used for your 2010 taxable values will be .997 so your initial taxable value will decrease by -0.3%. This is the lowest increase in the Consumer Price Index, "CPI" since Proposal "A" started in 1994. The CPI for 2009 was 4.4%.

If you added new construction to your property, your Taxable Value will be greater. In turn, if you removed or demolished any buildings on your property, your Taxable Value may decrease if a demolition permit was obtained. Also any sale of the property during 2009 will affect your taxable value. Your total tax bill will also be influenced by any changes in millage rates.

Please remember that your taxes are not based on your Assessed Value, but on your Taxable Value. Assessed Value only comes into play if and when your property transfers to someone else. Assessed Values try to reflect the true cash value of your property and are based on sales and appraisals of property in the area.

Did You Know?

A pavilion use fee of \$25.00 for the days of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday has been enforced. This fee goes toward the cost of electricity, water, toiletries, and cleaning/maintenance provided by the DPW. If you would like to use the pavilion please call City Hall to make reservations.

The City Office staff will notarize documents for City residents at no charge. For non-residents the fee for this service is \$10. Documents must be signed in the presence of the Notary and you must have proof of identity, i.e., driver's license, state identification card, etc. The Notary is normally available during normal office hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but you may want to call ahead of time to verify they will be available when you come in.

Chief's Corner

Timothy Weiler, Director of Public Safety

The Public Safety Department will be focusing on enforcing the City Ordinance that prohibits vehicles from parking across sidewalks. Essexville has become known as a good place to walk. Unfortunately walking in town is hampered by those inconsiderate citizens who block sidewalks with their vehicles. If you notice someone constantly blocking the sidewalk, let the Public Safety Department know about it.

Another problem that we are addressing in town is the number of vehicles that are parked on front lawns. This is prohibited by the City Ordinance and looks bad. Property owners who allow vehicles parked on front lawns in Essexville can be cited for a misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and/or imprisonment in the County Jail for up to 90 days. I am asking property owners to stop parking vehicles on the front lawn.

Officer David Mayotte retired on February 25, 2010. Dave started working for the Public Safety Department as a dispatcher in 1976. Shortly after his start Dave became a Public Safety Officer. Dave has worked on all three shifts, and he was a D.A.R.E. Officer in our schools for over 15 years. If you see Dave, please wish him a happy retirement.

HELP KEEP YOUR CITY CLEAN, SAFE, & HEALTHY

Dogs - The City ordinance regarding animals makes it unlawful for animal waste to be left on any City property or on the private property of others. Responsible pet owners do not want to create a nuisance for others. The animal ordinance also states that pets must be on a leash when they are on any public property and confined to the owner's property when not.

DPW News

Daniel Hansford, Superintendent of Public Works

Fire Hydrants and Street Signs - The DPW will be replacing several of the older fire hydrants this summer and along with this we will be adding some additional underground valving to the water system. The added valves will allow better control of the number of shut offs in the event of a broken water main or necessary repairs. The DPW will also be replacing a number of street signs that have become faded.

2009/2010 Winter Report - This was a mild winter and the City only required plowing 4 times, and we spread approximately 226 tons of road salt. The DPW also rebuilt several pieces of equipment including the street sweeper, sewer truck, and two of the dump trucks.

Smith Park Update - Smith Park will be closed for the season due to the construction project taking place at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. At the same time the boat launch and parking areas will be involved with the boring of the under river transfer line. If everything goes well the park should be ready for the Winter 2010/2011 ice fishing season. The completion of both projects will yield some pleasant improvements to the park area.

Seasonal Reminders - Just a few reminders as we move into the Spring yard work season. All yard waste has to be put in the recyclable paper waste bags, Waste Management will not take yard waste in plastic bags. Also, please stack your brush with the ends towards the street and please don't blow your grass clippings into the street as they can quickly plug the city sewers.

Meeting Agenda and Minutes Available Online on the City's Website

City Council, Downtown Development Authority and Planning Commission may be obtained at www.essexville.org.

“Prepared by the City of Essexville for its residents, businesses and visitors.”



BUSINESS BRIEFS

AFFORDABLE GREEN ENERGY TO OPEN IN THE ESSEXVILLE COMMERCE PARK

Sometime in June 2010, Glenn Fonzi anticipates beginning operation of his Affordable Green Energy (AGE) business, which will be housed in a new 12,500 square foot facility located in Essexville's Commerce Park. AGE designs, assembles and installs wind energy conversion systems for residential commercial and light industrial applications .

At its October 2009 regular meeting the City Council approved a 12 year tax abatement for AGE based on Mr. Fonzi's proposed investment of \$650,000 in real and personal property.

