

Dexter Village Update

Summer 2013

Volume 13, Issue 3

The City Charter Commission filing deadline is August 13th. See Page 3!

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Dexter Daze
August 9-10
Please visit
www.
DexterDaze.
org
for the
schedule of
events.

Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival



The Village of Dexter Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee is excited to announce the first annual Paint Dexter Plein Air Festival which will be held August 13-17, 2013. Outdoor painters are invited to register

for the event and visit our community to paint outdoors during this week. This event offers outdoor painters the ability to draw inspiration from our beautiful landscape, which includes parks, meadows, rivers, wetlands, wildlife, historical landmarks and architecture. The public schedule of events is as follows:

Tuesday-Friday evening: Open air painters will be painting around the Village.

Thursday, August 15th:

4:00 p.m.: Painting Demonstration by Susan Amstutz in Monument Park.

7:00 p.m.: History of Plein Air Painting Presentation by Martha Girsch at the Dexter District Library.

Friday, August 16th:

4:00 p.m.: Student artwork submitted for the Light Pole Banner Artwork Contest will be on display in the tent in Monument Park. Students can pick up their artwork starting at 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 17th:

9:00 a.m.-noon: Quick Draw Contest.

11:00 a.m.: Plein Air Judging.

2:00 p.m.: Quick Draw Judging.

2:30-8:00 p.m.: Artwork available for sale.

3:00 p.m.: Awards Ceremony.

4:00-6:00 p.m.: Dexter Symphony Orchestra Ensemble Performance.

6:00 p.m.: Lewis Jewelers Door Prize Drawing.

For more information including the artist prospectus and application visit www.DexterMI.gov/art

Dexter Farmers Market



The Dexter Farmers Market is having a great

season. The Market is averaging 20 vendors on Saturdays and 5 on Tuesdays. Please stop by and see what they have to offer.

Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about the market or would like more information on what is available contact the Village Offices at (734) 426-8303 x10.

Mark your calendar for upcoming events:

August 17th: Rain Barrel Sale

October 19th: Pumpkin Painting

October 26th: Dress Up Your Dog for Halloween

Please visit the Village's Farmers Market page at www.DexterMI.gov/farmers-market, our Facebook page or sign up for the email update to receive notifications of Farmers Market events.

Village Meetings

Village Council
7:30 p.m. at the
Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor Street

August 12, 2013
August 26, 2013
September 9, 2013
September 23, 2013
October 14, 2013
October 28, 2013

Planning Commission
7:30 p.m. at the
Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor Street

August 5, 2013
September 3, 2013
October 7, 2013

**Parks & Recreation
Commission**
7:00 p.m. at the
Village Offices
8123 Main Street

August 20, 2013
September 17, 2013
October 15, 2013

**Downtown Development
Authority**
7:30 a.m. at the
Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor Street

August 21, 2013
September 18, 2013
October 16, 2013

**Arts, Culture and Heritage
Committee**
7:00 p.m. at the
Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor Street

August 6, 2013
September 3, 2013
October 1, 2013

Zoning Board of Appeals
Meets as required.

**Interested in serving your
community?** Please contact
the Village Manager at (734)
426-8303 x 11 or email at
ddettling@DexterMI.gov.

The Village Offices
will be closed
on Monday,
September 2nd for
Labor Day. Trash
pick-up will be
delayed by one day.

Please have a safe
and happy holiday
weekend!

Grant Awarded

The Village of Dexter, Chelsea Community Hospital and the Dexter Wellness Coalition are pleased to announce that a grant for \$2,000 has been awarded to the Village of Dexter to assist in funding the creation and printing of maps that will facilitate one of the Foundation's missions - to get the residents in Dexter "Moving More". Maps

should be available in September and will be found at various locations throughout the Village of Dexter and online. The grant is made possible in part through the Chelsea-Area Wellness Foundation.



Regional Fire

On July 8, 2013 Village Council voted to unanimously support entering into the proposed Inter-local Agreement for Fire Rescue Services with Dexter Township, Scio Township, Webster Township and the Village of Dexter. During the next few months the Townships will be considering similar action.

A copy of the current draft of the interlocal agreement is available for review on the Village website at www.DexterMI.gov/news/regional-fire-initiative. This important initiative would improve the level of service in all four communities and provide an equitable cost structure for providing these services for years to come.

Path Update



Work is continuing on the path from the Village to Hudson Mills Metropark. The path is expected to be completed in October 2013.

The Village and the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Department have been working with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to determine the alignment to complete the trail from Dexter Huron Metropark to Central Street. The area that the path is going through is railroad right-of-way which means that approvals are necessary from the railroad (owned by MDOT) before construction can begin. The County's goal is still to begin construction in late fall.

Cityhood



The election to select a nine member Charter Commission to write a draft City Charter will be held on November 5, 2013. This commission will be responsible for the creation of a charter for the new city, which will then be presented to Dexter residents for approval at a future election.

At the time of the printing of this newsletter, four residents have filed petitions to put their names on the ballot. Affidavits of Identity and Nominating Petition forms must be turned in to the Washtenaw County Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2013. To be eligible to run, a candidate must be a resident and registered voter of the Village of Dexter and collect 20 nominating signatures from registered voters living in the Village of Dexter. Petitions and affidavits can be obtained at the following locations:

Village of Dexter Offices - 8123 Main (2nd floor of the PNC Bank), Dexter, MI

Scio Township Hall - Clerk's Office - 827 N. Zeeb, Ann Arbor, MI

Webster Township Hall - Clerk's Office - 5665 Webster Church, Dexter, MI

Washtenaw County Clerk's Office - 200 N. Main, Suite 120, Ann Arbor, MI

We strongly encourage Dexter residents with an interest in shaping the future of our community to consider running for a seat on the Charter Commission. You do not need to be an expert in municipal law to serve- there will be professional resources available to the Commission to assist it during the charter drafting process.

A charter is the governing document for a city. Currently, the Village follows rules as outlined in the State's General Law Village Act. Cities fall under the Home Rule City Act (MCL 117.3), which requires charters to include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

- ◆ Election of a mayor, who will be the chief executive officer of the city, and the legislative body (council);
- ◆ Election or appointment of a clerk, treasurer, assessor, board of review and other officers considered necessary;
- ◆ Determination of whether the city will have partisan or non-partisan elections, the method for filing for city elective offices, and the time, manner, and means of holding elections and registering electors (per to Michigan Election Law);
- ◆ Taxing powers, including the levy, collection and return of state, county and school taxes;
- ◆ Providing for the public peace and health and for the safety of persons and property, including adopting, continuing, amending and repealing the city ordinances and for the publication of each ordinance before it takes effect;
- ◆ Statement that all business of the legislative body will take place in compliance with the open meetings act and that all records will be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, and for the keeping of records in the English language;
- ◆ Establishing a uniform system of accounts as required by law

The Charter Commission can choose to include a variety of additional topics, including but not limited to:

- ◆ Code of ethics; procedure for creating special assessment districts; administrative organization; creation of advisory boards/commissions; public utility information; filing elected official vacancies; conflicts of interest; budgeting procedures; purchasing/contracts/franchises; borrowing power.

For more information about the Cityhood process please visit - <http://dextermi.gov/cityhood>

Ongoing Construction Projects



Work is progressing on a joint sidewalk / road project in the area of Hudson and Second Street.

The project includes rehabilitation of Hudson Street from the Cottonwood condos private roadway to Second Street. Sidewalk is being added along one side of Second Street from Hudson to Inverness and on one side of Hudson from Cottonwood to between Third and Fourth Streets.

This exciting project will increase the number of

residents with access to the Village's sidewalk network.

A storm water improvement project is also under construction on Forest between Baker and Hudson. This project includes installation of an underground pipe and catch basins along Forest to collect storm water. The pipe will connect to an existing storm sewer on Baker Road.

A \$3.3 million sludge handling system improvement project to the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant has been ongoing since October 2012. Sludge is a by-

product of the wastewater treatment process that is broken down, stored and then hauled away.

The Village needed more room to store sludge and an upgraded system for breaking it down to comply with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality rules. The breaking down of the sludge generates methane gas that will be used to provide heat for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will save energy costs.

As part of the project, the lids that sit on top of the tanks that store the sludge

needed to be removed and replaced. This is what has led to the odor that has been noticed by residents over the past several weeks. Wastewater Treatment plant staff have been working to lessen the odor by increasing the frequency that the sludge is hauled offsite and adding chemicals to the sludge remaining in the tanks. The lids are scheduled to be installed by the end of September.

We appreciate the community's patience as we complete this essential project.

Village Information

The Village uses several forms of communication to reach our residents.

The Sun Times is our official "newspaper of record" where public hearing notices and summaries of

the Council meeting minutes are published.

Information is also provided via our e-mail update, Facebook page and website.

Utility bills, tax bills, certain public hearing notices when required by law, and newsletters are sent via the mail.

If you have a suggestion on how we can improve

our communication please feel free to contact Assistant Village Manager Courtney Nicholls at 734-426-8303 x17 or cnicholls@DexteMI.gov

2014 Road Projects - Ann Arbor Street and Central Street



Included in the recently adopted 2013-2014 budget are road projects on Ann Arbor Street and Central Street. Ann Arbor Street will be resurfaced from Kensington to Baker. Crosswalks will be enhanced in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. New water main will also be installed in the right-of-way. The Village will be receiving \$400,000 in federal transportation funding towards completion of this project.

Central Street has also received \$200,000 in federal funding to be reconstructed between Third and Second. The project will continue the look of the corridor that was started with the reconstruction from the Mast Road Bridge to Second Street in 2012.

Design work on these projects will be starting this fall. Residents in the project areas will be receiving notifications throughout the design and construction process.

Mandatory Outdoor Watering Restrictions

In an effort to protect our aquifers, conserve water resources, and help ease our peak hour water demand, the Village of Dexter has implemented mandatory outdoor water restrictions starting on May 15, 2013.

Outdoor water usage is restricted to odd/even days. Residents and businesses with odd numbered addresses (ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9) may do outdoor watering only on odd numbered dates. Likewise, those with even numbered addresses (2, 4, 6, 8, 0) may do outdoor watering only on even numbered dates. In addition, outdoor watering is prohibited between 6 am and 10 am. A simple adjustment of the start time of your irrigation system control can achieve this.

Thank you for your cooperation as we work to protect and conserve our water resources.

Grass Clippings

Please do not blow grass clippings into the street when mowing your lawn. These clippings travel into our storm sewer system which can cause the drains to clog.

If you have a landscaping company that mows your lawn please pass this information along to them.

Interested in Paying by Credit Card or Automatic Payments?



The Village has instituted a one-year trial to accept credit cards via the internet and telephone, as well as over the counter in our office.

Credit cards may be used over the counter at the Village office and by telephone to pay for taxes, utility bills, permits, fees and miscellaneous items. Internet payments may be made for taxes and utility bills only.

To access on line utility and tax payments please visit our website at www.DexterMI.gov and click on the quick link for "Credit Card Payments".

You can then choose taxes or utility bills from the menu on the left. For utility bills you must have your account number, which is located on your utility bill, to use as a password - utility bills are currently not set for general public access.

There is a fee to use credit cards, based on

transaction type and amount. These fees are for the service provider (Point and Pay Inc.) and for the credit card companies.

At the end of one year, staff and Council will evaluate the usage and decide whether or not to continue accepting credit cards on a fee basis, to absorb some or all of the fees, or to discontinue the program. Tax payments will always be fee based, as set forth in Michigan Law.

ACH Payments: The Village has been processing automatic payments for utility bills for the past several years.

To set this up, you need to fill out the ACH Authorization form available on our website at www.DexterMI.gov/utility-billing and submit it to the utility billing clerk or call her at (734) 426-8303 x 12. A copy of the bill is sent each billing cycle, and the ACH payments are processed on the due date.

The Value of "Green" Infrastructure - Trees!



Sewer and water pipes crack and break, bridges rust, street lights wear out and streets develop potholes. Most infrastructure depreciates with time. The tree resource on the other hand, is the one part of infrastructure that increases in service value over the span of its life.

USDS Forest Service research shows that trees catch huge amounts of rainwater that would otherwise rush into the Village storm system. For example, each 100 mature trees in the Midwest catch about 539,000 gallons of rainwater annually. In turn, trees reduce the need for larger, most costly pipes and basins, especially as impervious pavement increases. The Village was recently awarded our 5th Year as a Tree City USA. The Village qualifies as a Tree City USA based on the amount of funding spent per capita on tree planting and maintenance. Over the last 5 years the Village and participants of the annual spring planting program have collaborated to plant more than 400 trees adjacent to public streets and in public parks.

Village of Dexter
8140 Main St
Dexter MI 48130
(734) 426-8303

Village President:

Shawn Keough

Village Trustees:

Jim Carson

Paul Cousins

Donna Fisher

Julie Knight

Joe Semifero

Ray Tell

Village Clerk

Carol Jones

Village Staff

Donna Dettling,

Manager

Courtney Nicholls,

Assistant Manager

Marie Sherry,

Treasurer/Finance

Allison Bishop,

Community Development

Dan Schlaff,

Public Services

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The Village Offices are located at 8123 Main St, 2nd Floor, above the PNC Bank. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Elected Officials:

Shawn Keough, President: skeough@DexterMI.gov (313) 363-1434

Jim Carson, Trustee: jcarson@DexterMI.gov (734) 502-4257

Paul Cousins, Trustee: pcousins@DexterMI.gov (734) 548-3293

Donna Fisher, Trustee: dfisher@DexterMI.gov (734) 649-5169

Julie Knight, Trustee: jknight@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4961

Joe Semifero, Trustee: jsemifero@DexterMI.gov

Ray Tell, President Pro Tem: rtell@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-3398

Carol Jones, Clerk: cjones@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8114

Staff:

Village Manager: ddettling@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 11

Assistant Manager: cnicholls@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 17

Treasurer: msherry@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 14

Community Development: abishop@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 15

Utility Billing: eaiken@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 12

Administrative Assistant: btuscano@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 10

Public Works: kaugustine@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8530

Public Utilities: dschlaff@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4572

Visit us on the web at www.DexterMI.gov or on Facebook.com

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☆☆ Interested in the arts in Dexter? Looking for ☆
☆☆ a way to serve your community? The Arts, ☆
☆☆ Culture & Heritage Committee is seeking ☆
☆☆ two new members. ☆
☆☆ The Committee meets on the first Tuesday ☆
☆☆ of each month at 7:00 p.m. and is an ☆
☆☆ eleven member group that advises Village ☆
☆☆ Council on the development of arts, culture ☆
☆☆ and heritage; promotes and publicizes ☆
☆☆ projects that support arts, culture and ☆
☆☆ heritage; serves as advocates for arts, ☆
☆☆ culture, and heritage and encourages ☆
☆☆ networking and collaborations of the arts, ☆
☆☆ culture, and heritage of the Village of ☆
☆☆ Dexter. ☆
☆☆ To apply for a position please complete ☆
☆☆ and return an application which can be ☆
☆☆ found here - [www.DexterMI.gov/boards-](http://www.DexterMI.gov/boards-commissions-committees) ☆
☆☆ [commissions-committees](http://www.DexterMI.gov/boards-commissions-committees). If you need more ☆
☆☆ information, please contact Courtney ☆
☆☆ Nicholls at (734) 426-8303 x 17. ☆
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