

Dexter Village Update

Fall 2013

Volume 13, Issue 4

Inside this issue:

Village Meetings	2
Office Closings	2
Charter Commission	2-
Candidate Statements	6
Healthy Dexter	6
Fire Hydrant	7
Water Tower Maintenance	7
Banner Art	7
Treasurer's Corner	7

City Charter Commission Election November 5th



On November 5th, Village residents will have the opportunity to go to the polls to elect a nine member charter commission, which is the next step in the proposed process of becoming a city.

Residents who are registered to vote can do so at the following places between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (if you are in need of an absentee ballot for the November election you can request one from your Township Clerk):

Village residents in Webster Township: Webster Township Hall, 5665 Webster Church Road, (734) 426-5103.

Village residents in Scio Township: Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor Street, (734) 369-9400.

What will the Charter Commission do?

The Charter Commission will be charged with the task of drafting a proposed city charter to be presented to the residents of the Village for a vote. The Charter Commission does not decide whether the Village becomes a city or stays a village. If the charter is approved, the process of becoming a city is complete. If it is not approved, then the Charter Commission can create another draft that is acceptable to the voters. If the second charter is not

approved, then the process stops and Dexter remains a village.

What does a charter contain?

The charter must contain rules that govern the election of the mayor and council, as well as the election or appointment of other officials such as the clerk, treasurer, assessor, board of review and other municipal officers. This includes how elections are run, whether or not they are partisan, and the qualifications, duties and compensation for city officers.

It will also include rules for the levying and collection of taxes, for providing for the public peace, health and welfare, and for record keeping and accounting. In addition, the charter may, at the discretion of the Charter Commission, address ethics, organization, budgeting procedures and other types of administrative functions.

Who is running for Charter Commission?

Candidates for the City Charter Commission were asked to submit 250 word statements to introduce themselves and explain why they are interested in being on the Charter Commission and/or their goals for the process. Their statements can be found on the following pages and are the candidate's own opinion. These statements are unedited except for formatting.

Leaf Pick Up

Leaf pick-up by the Department of Public Works (DPW) has started. The DPW will be focusing on leaf pick-up on Monday and Tuesday of each week (weather permitting).

Please do not put any debris (garbage, sticks, etc.) in the leaf piles and please do not rake leaves into the road, ditches, storm drains, or parking spots.

Waste Management will continue to pick up compost bags through Saturday November 30th (due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

Trick or Treat Hours

October 31st
5:30 p.m.
to
7:30 p.m.



Village Meetings

Village Council

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

October 28, 2013
November 11, 2013
November 25, 2013
December 9, 2013
December 23, 2013
January 13, 2014

Planning Commission

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

November 4, 2013
December 2, 2013
January 6, 2014

Parks & Recreation Commission

7:00 p.m. at the
Village Offices
8123 Main Street

November 19, 2013
December 17, 2013
January 21, 2014

Downtown Development Authority

7:30 a.m. at the
Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor Street

November 20, 2013
December 18, 2013
January 15, 2014

Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee

7:00 p.m. at the
Dexter Senior Center
7720 Ann Arbor Street

November 5, 2013
December 3, 2013
January 7, 2014

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:

November 28th and
29th for Thanksgiving

December 24th and
25th for Christmas

December 31st and
January 1st for the
New Year

Philip Arbour - 3360 Dover

My name is Philip Arbour. I am a graduate of Dexter High School and Eastern Michigan University, and we returned in 1972 to raise our family.

I have previously participated in our community government as a member and chair of the Planning Commission, a member and chair of the

Dexter Area Fire Board, and member of the Downtown Development Authority and Local Development Finance Authority, which helped develop the Village's industrial park. I also was fortunate to be elected to serve as President of the Village Council. Currently, I serve on the Public Art Selection Committee.

My goal in serving on the Charter Commission is to provide the citizens of Dexter with a framework for the community to continue to prosper. My principal concerns are:

- 1) Structure of city management;
- 2) Maintaining fiscal accountability; and

- 3) Continuing a strong relationship between the voters and representatives.

I look forward to working with the other commissioners to create a Charter that will serve the needs of Dexter.

D. Jack Donaldson - 8468 Parkridge Drive

I am a semi retired professional engineer with a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. I spent 26 years working in municipal government, 16 years as a department director. In addition I have spent 14 years consulting with county, city, and township governmental entities. During my career I had the opportunity to help draft legislation for the State of Michigan.

I have lived in Dexter for 8 years and want to take this opportunity for a greater involvement in the community. During my term as president of the Westridge homeowners association, we developed the easement agreement for the connector to the path from downtown to the metro park trail.

My goal is to develop a charter that addresses the needs of the Dexter

community now and provides some flexibility as the community's needs and technology evolves. To accomplish this I will seek input from council, staff, business and community leaders and review city charters from communities of similar size and demographics as Dexter in hopes of drafting a charter satisfactory to the residents and business owners of Dexter.

I favor changing to a city as it will permit centralization and consolidation of governmental functions, reduce taxes, enhance Dexter's relationship with State and County governments and provide for more control over our future. I favor a city manager/ council style of government for Dexter.

Barbara Gutowski - 7716 Cottonwood Lane

Eleven years ago I settled in Dexter to be close to family after living in upstate New York for 22 years. I grew up in Ann Arbor, graduated from nursing school and spent 14 years in Oakland County. I am 69. I have 4 sons and 10 grandchildren.

I have served on numerous committees and boards over the years. Currently, I serve on St. Joseph Parish Charitable Activities and Social Justice Commission. I

volunteer at church and for a non-profit board. I am interested in good government.

I want to be on the Charter Commission because I support limited government, keeping taxes low, individual liberty, honest, open and orderly systems for conducting Dexter affairs. The charter needs to include provisions outlined for a city under the Home Rule City Act. Optional items may be considered for inclusion.

Under a city charter residents no longer vote or run in township elections. Township planning and development will continue to influence my surrounding, but I will no longer be able to have much sway in the matter. Commercial development along Jackson Road in Scio Township is most prominent.

As a city, annexation disputes go to the State Boundary Commission.

Boundary disputes between a village and a township go to the County Board of Commissioners. Settlement is done locally by the parties in the dispute.

Annexation requires water and sewer services. Residential development effect the capacity of schools.

My aim for the city charter is to maintain our current quality of life in the process.

John P. Hansen - 7880 Fifth

I am John Hansen your neighbor on the corner of Fifth and Dover. My wife and I moved here in 1975, a year after I was hired as your High School Principal. I served in that capacity for 10 years and then became Superintendent for the next 14 years. I then made the big jump and ran for the Michigan Legislature where I represented Western Washtenaw County for two

terms. I then became a professional interim and managed several school districts, cities, townships and non-profit agencies.

I am running for this position because I believe that it is important that great care goes into the crafting of the Charter. The Charter will serve as our governing document for the future and it will be (and should be)

difficult to change as we go forward. Our job is to examine the many options available to us and to make wise choices that suit our particular circumstances.

It is not the job of the Charter Commission to determine whether we should be a City or Village. I believe that is a settled issue. For almost a decade every council and President

has moved this process along and it has been affirmed by a blue ribbon panel of citizens and by the full electorate this spring.

Our job is to ensure we stand on a firm foundation. This will be a team effort. There will be room for honest debate and healthy disagreement. I plan to be a good team player.

Roger Koback - 7812 Fourth Street

My name is Roger Koback. Dexter is my hometown where I have grown and learned for most of my 54 years.

I am very interested in helping my hometown the Village of Dexter take the next steps as it grows and matures.

The Dexter City charter which our nine fellow citizens

will help craft will be a special document which will guide our future as a city. The Charter will be the "Constitution" for the City of Dexter. Just as the United States Constitution serves as the "supreme law of the land" for our country, the Dexter City Charter will serve as the basic set of rules for our City government. The Dexter City Charter will constrain elected representatives who

are not allowed to pass any law the Charter prohibits.

The Dexter City Charter will help ensure the will of the people are represented! The Dexter City Charter will help ensure that the people of Dexter are fairly and equally represented by our elected representatives. The Dexter City Charter will help protect the rights of all of our citizens of Dexter as well

as helping the City of Dexter grow and prosper for generations yet to come!

The Dexter City Charter will be a document which I would be honored to help craft with the input and approval from all of our citizens!

Matthew Kowalski - 7652 Grand

Dexter is a great place to live and I will do everything I can to keep it that way. I am running for the Charter Commission to preserve and enhance the Dexter community.

The duty of a Charter Commission member is very important and I will take the role seriously. Whether Dexter ultimately decides to become a City or not, I want

to be part of a productive Commission creating a charter that will continue to guide Dexter in a positive direction. I am not pursuing any determined path and I will listen to all Commission members and members of the community. I will use this community feedback to help construct the City Charter to serve all residents.

Dexter is not alone in the quest of cityhood, the commission needs members that can recognize value added from other Michigan communities, but have the in-depth knowledge of the Village and its unique issues and assets.

I am currently the Chairman of the Dexter Planning Commission, and have been serving on that Commission

since first moving to village 13 years ago. I truly value my role and take pride in making recommendations and actions that help improve all aspects of life in Dexter. This public service has helped me gain a valuable perspective and understanding of the past, present and future issues of this wonderful community.

Phillip Mekas - 7203 Ulrich

I am a 12 year resident of the Village of Dexter in the Huron Farms Neighborhood. My son Brendan, age 10, attends Creekside and my son Owen, age 8, attends Wylie. I was born in Ann Arbor, graduated high school from Reed City High School in 1995, and subsequently graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in

Economics. For the past 14 years I have been a financial advisor in and around the greater Ann Arbor area.

I believe Dexter becoming a city can offer Dexter residents many advantages. The two most important issues that I and many of my neighbors are concerned with are keeping the small town/village feel of Dexter and ensuring that we don't allow

becoming a city to cause our community to suffer many of the financial woes that many of our neighboring communities find themselves dealing with. Particularly, I want to be sure, through the process of writing the city charter, to avoid possible future legacy financial issues such as large pension commitments and health expenditures.

I believe the time my family has spent living in Dexter and enjoying all that Dexter has to offer will allow me to help ensure that the Charter process allows us to keep the small town feel of our phenomenal town. If elected to the Charter Commission my professional experience will give the Commission valuable expertise in how to set up the financial future of Dexter to be a prosperous one.

Victor Michaels - 3649 Cushing Court

I am for a city charter with limitations on taxes, a balanced budget required, no unfunded liability allowed, no action allowed by the city that puts a lien on citizens property, income other assets. I would work for limitations in the charter that prevent future politicians from making the same mistakes other cities have made.

If we get a charter that provides for honest and competent government and protects citizens and their property from future politicians I would be in favor of a change from a village to a city. The charter will have to be very good and go a long way to provide better than we have as a village.

I believe a city charter should be like a Contract, Covenant and Constitution. It should reflect the sentiment of the Declaration of Independence, "The laws of Nature and Nature's God". We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are

Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Twenty five years resident of village

Mary-Ellen Miller - 7654 Forest

Lived in the same house since 1978, in the "old Village" on Forest. Worked at Chelsea Hospital for 23 years, retired RN. Now volunteer at the Senior Center doing Medicare Counseling. Currently serve on the Art Selection Committee, Community Garden/Farmer's Market Oversight Committee. Very good with details.

It is not our job to decide Village or City. The voters have chosen to move towards

cityhood. It is our job to draft the best possible Charter to put before the voters.

We all want to preserve the good atmosphere and environment of the community where we have chosen to live. We want the Charter to secure those values while making sure that the Charter allows for our future elected officials to act in the best interest of Dexter.

The election passed in the new neighborhoods but not the "old" Village. This is our opportunity to merge the new and old neighborhoods and develop into one community who see the future together. When saying where they live, most people say Dexter, not Dexter Village. They aren't going to say Dexter City.

There is a wide range of topics people are concerned about: type of leadership,

appointed vs elected officials, zoning, grandfathering the older Village development issues, ie parking on the streets, borrowing, taxes, assessments, policing and fire.

Much of what is visible in Dexter will not change. There are many fine historical things in our community and many wonderful new things. These will not change if Dexter becomes a city.

Thomas Phillips - 7175 Ulrich

Should I be elected to the Charter Commission, my priority will be to help maintain the best aspects of Dexter's government while making the kind of organizational improvements that this opportunity facilitates.

Clearly Michigan is home to communities with excellent and poor Charters and I look forward to discussing some examples of both during the drafting process. It is clearly vital that the Commission not get distracted or otherwise draft a Charter

around present government officials who, if the Charter is approved by voters, will come and go over time.

My experience includes the privilege of serving Dexter as a planning commissioner for the past decade and more than 20

years with Hobbs+Black, working with many communities across the state.

Michael Rantz - 431 Cambridge

I am Michael Rantz, running for one of the nine positions for the Dexter city charter commission. Marilyn and I have been married for 47 years. We moved to Dexter 9 1/2 years ago. I spent 46 years in multiple facets of the metalworking industries, with several companies. I was hired by Protomatic, Inc., a Dexter company, in 2007, retiring in 2010. I am completing my fourth year as

the treasurer of the Friends of the Dexter District Library. I have not held any prior public office.

As your commissioner, I will strive to learn and understand your desires. To focus on listening and asking questions, so that a charter can be agreed on that best represents your will. I am running to assist with writing a presentable charter and have

the voters decide. I will support their decision.

In discussions with my ballot petition signers, I found that they were concerned about the possible impact on their taxes. As a commissioner, I will be especially sensitive to the tax aspect of the charter.

The people and businesses of Dexter are friendly and

giving – as seen by their response after the tornado; at the support for our businesses, churches, schools, and library. These are what draw people here to live, visit and do business. I doubt that the writers of this charter will want radical changes. Being a village is not the only positive form of government any more than being a city is inevitably a negative one.

Sue Sherrill - 3435 Edison

I'm Sue Sherrill and have lived in this lovely historic village 45 years. My goal in running for Charter Commissioner is to help keep Dexter and its unique heritage intact as much as possible. This means writing into the new charter, guidelines we have been using for many years. Residents should retain control, not government. Change is inevitable but it should be considered carefully when proposed.

As to cityhood, I have questions and concerns such as:

- a) I have yet to hear a compelling or even valid reason for cityhood so I ask why the change?
- b) We move from being governed by the General Law Village Act to the Home Rule City Act. What will that look like?
- c) Why should taxes from the vast majority who live in Scio

Township be used to make the payments required by the Village's 425 Agreement with Webster Township for the next 12 years?

d) Will taxes really go down? I pay \$51.58/yr for operating expenses in Scio Township. That covers elections, property assessing, and drop-off recycling. Will village taxes go up more than that to cover the same services?

e) The perception of "village" is a vital part of our identity as a community. We are a small yet historically rooted place where people feel part of something special. The name Village denotes that heritage. City does not.

f) Will adding land from the townships become more difficult with cityhood?

g) In the end, do we lose more than we gain with cityhood?

James Smith - 7765 Forest

I am a lifelong member of the Dexter community, with family history dating back to 1833. During the 1970's I was on the Planning Commission and the Village Council. During the 1990's I was on the Downtown Development Authority. In 2007 I was appointed to the Village Council and in 2008 I was elected to a full term.

I am interested in the Charter Commission because I want to see all sides of the issue represented in the process (pro-city, pro-village and undecided). I hope the process of writing the charter will show me the positives in becoming a city. Having followed this process for more than seven years, so far, I am not convinced that the change is warranted.

My top priority is to create a municipal government that is very similar to our current "Council-Manager" government, which we currently do quite well with. I do not see any need for major changes, such as moving to a "strong mayor" form of government. My top area of concern will be any of the provisions addressing the topic of annexation.

I personally do not feel that becoming a city will enhance our ability to attract new residents, visitors or businesses. We already do quite well in this area as a good solid community with many great features. I worry that becoming a city may be a drawback, as many of our current residents moved here because we are a "village". I prefer being a large village versus a small city.

Healthy Dexter

Red Barrel Program: Do not flush prescription or over-the-counter medications down the toilet or sink. Wastewater treatment facilities are not equipped to "filter out" drugs and personal care items. Protect your drinking water by keeping these products out of our rivers, waterways, and groundwater by utilizing

the "Red Barrel" program. A drop off box for unused medication is available at the Sheriff Substation (8140 Main) and is accessible 24 hours a day.

Village Receives Grants: The Village has received two grants from the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation. \$2900 was received for the Farmers Market, which was used towards direct mail

advertising flyers, the new permanent sign recently installed at the Market, the September 28th canning demonstration, and offsetting the cost of the phone line for the use of Bridge Cards.

The Village also received \$2,000 for bike hoops that will be placed in Mill Creek Park.

Daylight savings time ends on November 3rd. Remember to set your clocks back one hour!

Fire Hydrant Flushing



The Utilities Department will be flushing our fire hydrants in mid-November.

The exact date has not yet been determined. This information will be available on the Village website and Facebook Page and will be sent via the Village e-mail update.

As crews flush hydrants there may be some

discoloration of the water. Residents who experience "rust colored" water should simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes to clear the household pipes. The rust coloring is caused by a natural build up of minerals in the water system. Some natural mineral deposits are stirred up in the water pipes when fire hydrants are first turned on. If possible, try to

avoid washing white clothes during this time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Utility Department at 426-4572 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation during this effort to maintain the quality of your water system.

Banner Art

Thank you to all the Dexter Community Schools students who participated in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee's light pole banner design contest. The 25 winning banners have been or will be displayed on light poles downtown according to the season they represent.

Water Tower Maintenance

The Village of Dexter water system includes a 500,000 gallon water storage tower. The Village has scheduled maintenance on the tower which will require it to be out of service. Iron can build up in the bowl of the tower, so a valve is being installed that will allow the Village Utility Department to remove the iron while keeping the

tower in use. The work will take 7 to 10 days and is scheduled for October 30th to November 8th. Our water system is capable of operating without the use of the tower, however to ensure a smooth process we are asking that our residents and businesses reduce their water usage during this time period.

Vendors in the Village

Door to Door Vendors: Village Ordinances require that vendors going door to door selling goods/services first obtain a permit. When these permits are issued, we inform residents via the Village e-mail update. Please remember that when someone comes to your home, you are under no obligation to answer

the door or provide them with personal information.

Yellowbooks: Yellowbook phone books will be distributed in Dexter during November and December. Old books can be recycled. If you would like to opt out of receiving a book please visit www.yellowpagesoptout.com.

Treasurer's Corner

Village Taxes: Village taxes were due on September 16, 2013, and reminder notices were mailed at the end of September to taxpayers who did not pay by the due date. If you did not receive a tax bill, please contact the Treasurer's Office immediately to avoid further interest charges. Real property taxes may be paid at the

Village Office through February 2014.

Credit Card Payments: In July, the Village started offering the convenience of credit card payments for utility bills and general items, as well as for taxes. If you would like to pay your utility bill on line using a credit card, please contact the Village Office for a personal identification

number that will allow you to access your account on line. A fee is required to utilize this service.

Automatic Bill Pay: If you would like to sign up for automatic utility bill payment, please contact the Village Office or visit our website to download the Automatic Bill Pay form. Payments are debited from accounts on

the utility bill due date, and there are no additional costs for this service.

Did You Know?: The Village's tax revenue fell between 2007 and 2011, but that trend has reversed and we are now back at 2006 levels.



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
Position Vacant,
Community Development
Dan Schlaff,
Public Services

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAIDPERMIT NO. 100
DEXTER MICHIGAN

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: ncholls@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 17
Treasurer: msherry@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 14
Community Development: planning@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

City Charter Commission
Candidate Forum
Sunday November 3rd
at 2:00 p.m.
Dexter District Library
See Inside for Candidate
Statements and Other
Charter Commission
Information
Don't Forget to Vote
November 5th!
