Bag leaves for pickup every week on trash day; loose leaves collection set to begin October 28

Dearborn is proud to be a Tree City USA for the past three decades. Trees are one reason we enjoy a high quality of life in our community. But disposing of leaves from those trees is a big job.

Put leaves in bags each trash day
The best method to ensure your leaves are picked up promptly after they fall is to put them in yard waste paper bags or 20-32 gallon containers with a City yard waste sticker on the lid and set them at your curbside every week on your trash day.

Place the paper bags or containers on your easement by 7 a.m. on your trash day each week. They will be picked up that same trash day.

Free yard waste stickers are available at the Dearborn Administrative Center, 16901 Michigan Ave., and the two Dearborn branch libraries. (Henry Ford Centennial Library is temporarily closed for renovations.)

Leaves in plastic bags or in cardboard boxes will not be picked up.

The curbside service to pick up bagged leaves ends on your trash day the week of Dec 9-13.

Alternative: rake leaves into the street
Collection of loose leaves raked into the street is scheduled to begin the week of Oct. 28 and end the week of Dec. 9-13. (The last pickup for every neighborhood is scheduled on the trash day for that neighborhood that week.)

Weather conditions may change the schedule.

It is unlikely that loose leaves raked into the street will be picked up every week in front of individual homes.

However, leaf collection crews will be in the neighborhood on the trash day for that neighborhood, picking up as many as possible.

Schedule at www.cityofdearborn.org
Loose leaves that are in the street are picked up on a neighborhood’s trash day.

City crews will be collecting leaves on a trash day, and then a week later, will return to begin collecting loose leaves where they left off in that trash district.

They will not continue the next day where they left off. They will continue the next week, on trash day.

So loose leaves crews will be in the Monday trash district on Mondays, and then move to the Tuesday district on Tuesdays, and then the Wednesday district on Wednesdays, etc.

The schedule will be published on www.cityofdearborn.org so that residents know where the loose leaves crews will be starting on that trash day a week later. Residents may also call the Leaf Hotline at 943-2444.

Extra collections possible
There may be times when additional loose leaves crews are out on weekends, or a day ahead of a trash day, so that they can get an early start to another district. If that occurs, these are additional collections and will not be part of the published schedule for loose leaves pickup.

Reduce danger
Raking loose leaves into the street too soon leads to dangerous driving conditions and leaves that blow back onto neighbors’ yards.

Contractors paid by residents to rake leaves must follow the same rules.

In addition, parked vehicles must be removed from the streets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on a neighborhood’s trash day.

New Graham Street Park a hit! Graham Street Park was dedicated in September, and children immediately began enjoying the miniature soccer field and play area. Partial funding came from a grant provided jointly by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the nonprofit organization KaBOOM! It was spearheaded by the Healthy Dearborn coalition and shepherded by the City Plan Division, with support from the Recreation and Parks Department.

Look inside for Library Matters Newsletter
DTE Energy continuing its natural gas line upgrades

*Information supplied by DTE Energy*

DTE Energy will be continuing its natural gas line and gas meter replacement program in Dearborn, with construction planned for neighborhoods in southwest Dearborn starting early in 2020.

The area affected includes Cleveland, Williams, Stanford, Telegraph, Notre Dame and Academy.

DTE Energy says it is upgrading natural gas lines with modern, long lasting pipes to ensure safe, reliable delivery of gas service for now and for future generations.

The upgrade also means moving gas meters from inside of homes to the exterior of homes, and upgrading the meters if needed.

Notification will be given well in advance so that homeowners can provide access to their homes. Once the meter is on the exterior, it will eliminate the future need for DTE to enter homes for meter reading.

Residents may not opt out of having the work done. Those affected will be notified by letter before the work begins. Updates will be given via door hangers and on Nextdoor.com. The status can be checked at dteenergy.com/gasrenewalmaps

DTE is obligated to repair any sidewalks or lawns during the construction work.

More information is at dteenergy.com/gasrenewal.

Electric vehicle initiative helps City buy fuel-efficient cars

*Article supplied by AAW Infrastructure Partners, L3C*

Dearborn is working with AAW Infrastructure Partners, L3C to deploy an innovative, EV-mobility and economic stimulus program.

This program is designed to give the City the means to purchase electric vehicles (EVs) and charging stations, without additional costs to City taxpayers. One electric vehicle for the Police Department has already been purchased through this program.

AAW raises funds through advertising-sponsorship arrangements with community minded businesses and applies those funds for money-saving opportunities for cities.

In turn, AAW promotes the advertising-sponsors via digital coupons and games to increase customer traffic and sales.

Coupons save you money and help Dearborn and the City’s business community. Visit AAWCouPons.com.

Avoid tickets, get parked vehicles off the street during snow emergencies so roads can be plowed

Parked vehicles by law must be removed from roads when the City of Dearborn declares a snow emergency.

Parked vehicles left on the street will be ticketed. Police do not issue warnings. Tickets are $80.

Snow emergencies are generally declared when three inches of snow or more are predicted within a short period of time, or when other weather conditions will make the roads hazardous.

Sometimes a snow emergency is announced many hours before a snow storm to give residents plenty of warning to move their parked vehicles so they won’t get ticketed once the snow emergency is in effect. This often happens if an early morning storm is predicted.

Sirens will announce snow emergency

Outdoor early warning sirens will signal the beginning of a snow emergency and the requirement that residents move their parked vehicles off the street.

Residents can also check if a snow emergency is in effect via:

- Text or email messages from the public safety information system known as Nixle. Sign up to receive alerts at Nixle.com
- Snow emergency hotline at 943-2444
- City website www.cityofdearborn.org
- Facebook (cityofdearborngovernment). You can access this account without having your own Facebook account.

In addition, snow emergencies may be, but will not always be, announced on local TV and radio stations, and on CDTV, the government cable access channel. This is channel 12 on Comcast, channel 10 on WOW, and channel 99 on AT&T.

Tickets can be given after snow emergency ends

Even after a snow emergency ends, police are permitted to ticket parked vehicles if they appear as if they were not moved during the emergency, for example, if the vehicle is covered in snow.

Plowing may cover driveways

Please take into consideration that driveway aprons will be covered with snow from street plowing operations. It is an inconvenience, but necessary so that roads can remain safe for drivers. Do not put snow from your driveway or sidewalk back into the cleared street.

Crews also salt the roads

It is also a good idea to remove parked vehicles when City crews are salting roads, to allow for better coverage.

Be a good neighbor, follow the law: Clear snow, ice

Dearborn residents and property owners are reminded that they are required to keep sidewalks and ramps to crosswalks clear of snow and ice so they are safe for pedestrians.

City ordinance considers sidewalks and ramps unsafe if snow accumulates to three inches or more, or any ice is present.

Ordinance provides property owners 24 hours (after the snowfall has ended) to remove snow and ice accumulations from public sidewalks and ramps to crosswalks.

For corner lots, this includes sidewalks along the front and side or the property. Snow thrown onto the sidewalk and corner cross ramps as a result of plowing is a responsibility of adjacent property owners and must be removed.

Snow should be deposited on your own lawn and/or easement. However, it may be deposited on a neighboring property to necessitate reasonable removal. Deposited snow must not obstruct windows, vents, driveways, or walkways.

Snow may never be deposited in the street. Applying salt, cat litter, or other chloride-based ice removal agents are common treatments for preventing and treating icy sidewalks.

Fines for not clearing snow and ice

If properties fail to keep their sidewalks clear and safe, the City may take action to remove the snow and ice. Property owners will then receive a bill from the City for the abatement plus a minimum $75 additional fee. Fees increase for those properties repeatedly abated by the City.

Snow removal enforcement is prioritized in areas heavily travelled by pedestrians, such as those near businesses or schools and on walking routes to those areas. However, all properties with public sidewalks are required to remove snow and ice and are subject to enforcement.
Holiday season full of cheery entertainment at Guido Theater

Get your tickets now for the 2019-2020 holiday season at Dearborn’s Michael A. Guido Theater, which promises uplifting entertainment.

“The Nutcracker,” accompanied by the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra
Friday, December 6 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, December 7 at 1 and 7 p.m.

With angels and sugarplums, a magic prince, a dreamy young girl, a mysterious old man and a Christmas tree that grows sky high, the entire family is sure to enjoy this timeless Yuletide fantasy, presented by the renowned Ballet Americana, featuring international stars of American Ballet. Tickets: $20-35

Karen Newman’s “Christmas on Woodward Avenue”
Friday, December 13, at 8 p.m.

Celebrate the joys of the season with Detroit’s own Karen Newman, accompanied by Henry Ford College’s Big Band. You’ll hear many timeless holiday favorites, as well as some of Karen’s original songs. Tickets: $20-30

Dearborn Community Chorus and Vanguard Voices present “Dearborn Holiday Choral Festival”
Saturday, December 14 at 6 p.m.

Celebrate the season with songs by Dearborn Community Chorus and Vanguard Voices. The concert will also feature “Christus Natus Est.” Tickets: $6-18

Motor City Brass Band presents “Sounds of the Season”
Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m.

There is no better way to welcome the holiday season than with an afternoon of brass band music. This program of music would put even Scrooge in the holiday spirit. Tickets: $16-20

Tickets for any of these performances can be purchased at dearborntheater.com or by visiting the theater box office, which is open Thursday through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m.

For further information, call the box office at 943-2354.

New park, new playgrounds, new pool enhance Dearborn’s recreation options

Dearborn’s Recreation & Parks Department continues to renovate older facilities, replace outdated ones and add new facilities to meet needs of residents.

Swimmers are looking forward to the May 2020 opening of the new pool at Ford Woods Park. The $4.6 million project to replace the original 1954 swimming pool with a more expansive and modern facility has moved into its final stages.

The 25,000-square-foot complex will include a zero-depth entry pool; a dual slide facility; a deck with lawns chairs, umbrella tables and chairs; and an extensive indoor area featuring shared lockers, separate shower rooms and rest rooms for men and women; four family locker rooms; vending machines and an outdoor concessions area.

Camp Dearborn’s pool also underwent reconstruction this spring.

At Levagood Park, the old 1970s comfort station has been renovated, creating a larger and more energy-efficient facility.

New park, new playground equipment

On the city’s far northeast side, Graham Street Park has been created. The facility features a small soccer field, walking path and ADA-compliant playground equipment.

Graham Street Park was funded, in part, by a $63,000 grant obtained through a collaborative venture involving the City Plan Department, Recreation & Parks Department, Wayne County and the Beaumont Health Foundation.

The grant was provided jointly by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and the nonprofit organization KaBOOM!’s Play Everywhere Challenge.

Elsewhere, more modern playground equipment has been installed at Gary, Carlyle-Raymond, Freda-Blesser, Myrtle-Martha, Riverdale and Tannahill tot lots.

In The Center Park, adjacent to the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, four pickleball courts were built, thanks to monies made available through the SMART Municipal and Community Credit Deferred Revenue Fund.

In fall 2019, a $70,000 playground structure will be installed at Hemlock Park, replacing an older structure damaged in a storm in 2018.

Drivers reminded to drive safely around bicyclists

The popularity of cycling has been steadily increasing in Dearborn and several new bike lanes are appearing around the city. For those who may be unaware of how to drive around bicyclists, the following information provides guidelines.

“Sharing the road is a shared responsibility between people driving cars and people riding bicycles,” said Tracy Besek, founder of Bike Dearborn, stressing that distracted driving is the biggest safety concern. “It’s so important for everyone to communicate intentions by using turn signals and eye contact.”

The Michigan Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following tips for drivers:

- Don’t drive or park in a bicycle lane.
- Always look for bicyclists before opening your car door.
- Bicycles have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle.
- Bicyclists are not required to use a bicycle lane and may leave a bicycle lane to turn left or to avoid hazards.
- Bicyclists are permitted on all roadways unless specifically prohibited, like limited access highways.
- Drivers must avoid distractions and be aware at all times. Driving at the speed limit decreases the chances of a fatality.

How to make a right turn when a bicycle lane is present:

- When turning right, a motorist should always yield to a bicyclist going straight. Never pass a bicyclist and then make a turn immediately in front of them.

Drivers must give Dearborn cyclists 5 feet of clearance, by law

Dearborn City Ordinance requires that, when overtaking or passing a bicyclist, there must be at least five feet of separation between the driver’s vehicle and the bicyclist at all times. Drivers must also pass a bicyclist on the left. Violation of the ordinance results in a civil infraction.

For more information, visit the MDOT website at https://bit.ly/2IGGq9D.
Attractive neighborhoods and well-kept businesses are key to preserving an appealing community and healthy environment for all who live, work and visit Dearborn.

The Neighborhood Services & Sanitation Division would like to remind residents of the simple things they can do to help keep Dearborn beautiful:

- Your trash and recycling carts, and any yard waste cans, should be put away after every collection day. Most people store them in their garage or their back yard.
- Your trash needs to be bagged and belongs inside the City-issued trash carts. Unbagged trash is not only unsightly, it’s a health and safety hazard for you and your neighbors!
- Any junk, litter, debris, interior furniture, or unwanted refuse should be clear from all areas of property, including easement and curb in front of your home.
- Grass needs to be cut and trimmed on all areas of your property, including easements, alleys, fence lines, and building perimeters.
- Eliminate weeds in the cracks in your sidewalks, and if you live near a street corner, remove the weeds growing on the handicapped ramp.
- Commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles, and inoperable/junk vehicles, as well as vehicles for sale, cannot be stored on your property.
- Do not park vehicles across sidewalks. Vehicles must not block pedestrian traffic.

Residents can call 943-2161 to ask questions or report an ordinance violation.

If your property is not properly cared for, the City will take corrective action and bill the property owner. Repeat violators can even be ticketed for failing to uphold the standards.

Property owners who wish to dispute an invoice for services performed by the City as a result of non-compliance with property maintenance and sanitation requirements may do so by filing a Property Maintenance Appeals Application at the Dearborn Administrative Center or may download a copy of the application online at www.cityofdearborn.org.

For more details, download the City of Dearborn’s Property Maintenance Guidelines and Sanitation Services Guide at www.cityofdearborn.org.

Register rental houses and vacant properties
Make sure the home you live in is declared as your principal residence

Owners of rental homes must register those properties with the Property Maintenance and Development Services Department to ensure that they are clean and safe for their tenants and maintained to neighborhood standards. Owners of rentals can register at www.cityofdearborn.org by searching “register a rental.”

Residents also can check to see if a house on their street is registered as a rental by visiting www.cityofdearborn.org and clicking on “Report an unregistered rental” under Quick Links.

If your home is not a rental and is owner-occupied, make sure it is not considered a rental by the City!

Property Maintenance and Development Services is always on the look-out for unregistered rentals. One of their clues is non-homesteaded property, so residents should ensure their principal residence is registered with the Assessor’s Office.

Residents reminded of new ordinances affecting them

In an effort to ensure that residents are informed of City ordinances that affect the community, the following is a list of ones that have been amended or approved since April 2019.

Golf carts are “low-speed vehicles”
Ordinances 18-126, 18-127 – 18-145, 18-186, 18-193, 18-444 and 18-445 – 18-160 have all been amended to permit local regulation of golf carts, which are categorized as “low-speed vehicles,” as an effort to address a rise in golf carts being used on local streets and sidewalks.

E-cigarettes and vapor products can’t be sold to minors
Ordinances 12-238 and 14-22 were updated this year to reflect changes in state law regarding e-cigarettes and vapor products. The ordinance created three categories of regulated products, including tobacco products (e.g. cigarettes), vapor products (e.g. “vapes” and e-cigarettes), and alternative nicotine products (e.g. chewing tobacco). The penalties for possession of these products by minors, and sale to minors are now considered criminal misdemeanors. Courts also have more authority to order minors to attend tobacco risk reduction programs or community service.

Cyber bullying ordinance
Ordinance 14-63.1 outlaws “cyber bullying,” and prohibits a person posting a message or statement in a public media forum, such as Facebook or Twitter, that expresses intent to commit a violent act against another person, or is intended to place a person in fear of bodily harm or death. Violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor and may result in up to 93 days of imprisonment, a fine of up to $500, or both.

Marijuana criminal ordinance updated
Ordinance 14-158 regarding the possession and use of marijuana has been updated to reflect the recent change in state law. Residents who are 21 years or older may possess, purchase and transport no more than 2.5 ounces of marijuana, and no more than 15 grams may be in the form of marijuana concentrate. Individuals under 21 years old may not possess or use marijuana and those in violation may be responsible for a civil infraction or misdemeanor. Residents are reminded that it is unlawful to consume it in a public area, and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana is prohibited.

Taxis, limos and personal transportation service vehicles are no longer considered “commercial vehicles”
Ordinance 18-63 was changed to alter the definition of “commercial vehicles,” which no longer includes limousines, taxicabs or personal vehicles used as a transportation service (e.g., Lyft or Uber). Commercial vehicles are defined as “motor vehicles used for the transportation of passengers for hire; constructed or used for transportation of goods, wares or merchandise; and/or all motor vehicles designed and used for drawing other vehicles.”

For more details, see the City of Dearborn’s Property Maintenance Guidelines and Sanitation Services Guide at www.cityofdearborn.org.
State law makes voting absentee much easier; voters reminded of Nov. 5 school bond election

This article is provided by the Dearborn City Clerk’s Office.

Working Late? Children have extracurricular activities after school? Don’t want to wait in lines? Now you can vote an absentee ballot without having to give a reason!

Requesting an absent voter ballot
Due to the passage of the statewide ballot, all eligible and registered voters in Michigan may now request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.

Your request for an absent voter ballot must be in writing and can be submitted to the City Clerks’ Office. First, you must request an absent voter ballot by submitting the application that can be found on the City’s website under Clerks’ Office or the pre-printed application form can be obtained from the clerk’s office. Requests may be returned by hand, via postal mail, fax, or email, as long as a signature is visible.

Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by your clerk no later than 5 p.m. Friday, November 1 to vote in the November 5 school bond election. (See related article below.)

“If you’re already registered at your current address, you can pick up an absent voter ballot in person at the clerk’s office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election,” said City Clerk George Darany. “If you’re registering to vote or updating your address by appearing at the Clerk’s Office on Election Day, you can request an absent voter ballot at the same time you register.”

Voting is easier
You must be a registered voter to receive an absent voter ballot, but you can register and apply for an absent voter ballot at the same time. Requests for absent voter ballots are processed immediately.

After receiving your absent voter ballot, you have until 8 p.m. on Election Day to complete the ballot and return it to the Clerk’s Office. For more information, please contact the Clerk’s Office at 943-2010.

Information on school bond vote on Nov. 5

This article is provided by the Dearborn Public Schools.

Dearborn Public Schools is holding a bond vote on November 5, asking voters to approve a new $240 million bond.

The new bond will not increase tax rates for residents. Residents will continue to pay the current 4.82 mills for school bond debt. That is possible because some current bonds will be paid off in the coming years.

The district has named the bond BRICS because the projects will focus on bricks-and-mortar type work, including buildings, renovations, infrastructure, capacity and safety. A Citizens Task Force identified these areas as the most critical needs in the district.

Bond money would be used largely to update the aging infrastructure in the schools, including items like boilers used to heat buildings, roofs, parking lots, windows, bathrooms, flooring, plumbing, electrical and more. Additional classroom space could also be added, and renovations would include moving school offices to improve safety.

All schools will benefit from the bond proposal, if passed.

Dearborn Public Schools has 34 buildings with 3.2 million square feet of space to maintain.

The average age of school buildings in the district is 65, with 12 buildings more than 90 years old, another 12 ages 60 to 75, six between 20 and 59 years, and four younger than 20 years.

By law, bond funds cannot be used for items like salaries, books or everyday supplies. The revenue must be used for construction projects and some capital investments such as buses and technology.

To learn more about the proposed bond, visit the District’s bond website at http://bit.ly/BRICSBond.

Dearborn Public Schools and the City of Dearborn are separate government bodies.

Busy fall and winter in Downtown Dearborn

This article is provided by Downtown Dearborn.

This fall and winter usher in a new bounty of events and activities to celebrate our downtown areas while supporting the businesses that offer engaging experiences:

- **Shop Small: Downtown Dearborn, Saturday, Nov. 30 – Sunday, Dec. 8**
  Enjoy fabulous deals and giveaways with your passport to savings and be entered to win prizes and treats for yourself, too.

- **WinterFest Market, Saturday, Dec. 14**
  With holiday activities happening in two Downtown Dearborn locations, your family won’t want to miss out on the WinterFest Market fun. From artisans and crafters, ice sculptures, live entertainment and pictures with Santa, to face painting, bounce houses, hot cocoa and donuts, the day is sure to be filled with holiday cheer.

**Grants available to businesses for property upgrades**

We continue to create opportunities for entrepreneurs in Downtown Dearborn through the new Open Door Business Grants Program. Focused on supporting new and existing business, the competitive grant program provides funding to property owners and businesses to enhance their property or start-up a new concept. Applications may be submitted year-round. The program will continue to enhance the commercial core of our downtown.

**New businesses open in downtown**

Be sure to check out new businesses in Downtown Dearborn as well, including Kidcadia, a two-story play wonderland for kids and café with a full espresso bar for parents. The Great Commoner, a new brunch and café spot, will open soon in the historic Wagner Place development along with Jolly Pumpkin Brewery, which is getting closer to tapping its first keg.

To learn more, please visit downtowndearborn.org and follow us on Facebook, Instagram (@DowntownDearborn) and Twitter (@DowntownDtown).
U.S. CENSUS 2020: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Here’s a quick refresher of what it is and why it’s essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.
The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It’s in the constitution.
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It’s about fair representation.
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It’s about redistricting.
After each decade’s census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

It’s about $675 billion.
The distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Taking part is your civic duty.
Completing the census is mandatory: it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT!”

Census data are being used all around you.
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, which create jobs.

Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

Your privacy is protected.
It’s against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household. By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.

2020 will be easier than ever.
In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.

FIND OUT MORE AT CENSUS.GOV
State rule requires replacement of lead water service lines over 20 years; Dearborn water tests are consistently safe

Homeowners need to be aware of a new State mandate that requires all cities in Michigan over the next 20 years to replace water service lines that are made out of lead. This State rule will impact thousands of homes in Dearborn in the next two decades because water service lines are on private property.

The water service lines between the sidewalk and the house are the responsibility of the private home owner, not the City. However, the rule requires the City to replace the lead water service line from the City water line (usually in the street) to 18 inches inside the basement.

Dearborn’s drinking water is safe

Lead has been in the news because of the Flint water crisis, and this State rule is in response to publicity about that situation.

However, repeated and regular testing has determined that water coming into Dearborn homes meets federal safety standards.

This water service line replacement program is required by the State rule affecting all of Michigan. It is not because of any identified problem with Dearborn’s drinking water.

The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), which supplies our water, as well as the City of Dearborn, regularly test the water delivered to similar homes to confirm that the water meets all safety standards. For 30 years, the City has also tested the water inside a sample of homes to verify the same results.

Note that every home’s plumbing system is different and may have an impact on water quality levels. A licensed plumber can be hired to evaluate the materials in an individual home’s plumbing system to determine if any improvements are warranted.

Background on State rule for water service lines replacement

Former Governor Snyder signed a Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in June 2018 requiring all cities in Michigan to replace all lead water service lines. The water service lines must be replaced from the City-owned water mains within the street to 18 inches inside individual houses. The rule allows a 20-year replacement program, beginning in January 2020.

Dearborn’s situation

It was common to use lead for water service lines in houses built before the 1960s, and Dearborn has many homes from that era.

Through the results of earlier water main construction work in front of 13,000 houses, the City has information that 3,700 homes likely have water service lines that are made out of lead, and estimates that thousands more will fall into that category.

There are at least 19,500 properties that have not been impacted by water main construction in the last 30 years. Because of that, the City does not have records of the water service line material for those homes.

Residents asked to take survey online regarding water service line material

In accordance with the State of Michigan’s Lead and Copper Rule, the City of Dearborn is developing an inventory of residential water service lines and their materials. With this mission in mind, we are requesting that residents identify their home’s service line material and report back to us in a brief online survey.

Resources for identifying service line materials are included at the beginning of the survey. A photograph of the service line from the floor to the water meter is required.

Our staff may need to verify the service line material in person before upcoming construction projects.

To access the survey, type the following link into a web browser on a smartphone or computer: https://arcg.is/1ey58a. Or scan the Survey QR code, right, with a smartphone’s QR reader.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Better yet, you can also complete the survey online. See related article below.

Reporting the material in your water service line will expedite the process and potentially save a visit from a city employee.

Because of the extensive nature of this state-mandated program, City employees will be going to most homes over the next several years, and will need to gain entry to homes to verify and document the composition of each house’s service line material. Employees will also need to determine its physical location and any obstacles affecting its eventual replacement.

Questions?

Visit www.cityofdearborn.org. Educational resources will be posted by November.

Report house as primary residence

Continued from page 4

The Homeowner’s Principal Residence Exemption Affidavit (PRE) allows homeowners to claim an exemption, which may even lower their school tax bill.

How to declare the home you live in

To be eligible for the PRE, applicants must own and occupy their home as their legal principal residence by May 1 of each year. This form is filed at the Assessor’s Office at the Dearborn Administrative Center and is good until the house is sold or the use is changed to a rental.

Residents may only claim one house as their principal residence.

Forms can be downloaded from the City’s website at www.cityofdearborn.org and mailed to the Department of Assessment, 16901 Michigan Ave, Suite 5, Dearborn, MI, 48126.

All area codes (313) unless stated otherwise.
Henry Ford Centennial Library Renovation Update

The Henry Ford Centennial Library (HFCL) closed to the public for a major renovation project on May 20, 2019. Much work has been accomplished to date and we are looking forward to the re-opening in early winter. Unforeseen building challenges, attributable to a 50-year-old building, have caused significant delays. We apologize for the inconvenience this has created for our library users.

A new energy-efficient heating and cooling system is being installed throughout the building. The inefficient central steam plant heating system is being converted to a distributed heating system using high-efficiency, low-mass, condensing thermal generating units. All lighting is being replaced with high-efficiency LED lighting fixtures and panels. Electrical power is being brought to several library tables on the second floor to make it easier for patrons to plug in laptops, tablets and cell phones.

On the east side of the Mezzanine, a large conference room, seven group study rooms, a digitization lab, a new computer lab, and four single-person study booths are being built. A makerspace is also being constructed and will be used for a variety of library programs as well as for community workshops and hands-on activities.

To provide a space for our patrons to enjoy a quick break, a café is being constructed on the first floor complete with vending machines and a small group study room.

New security cameras are being installed and eventually a more efficient public address system will be added. New wallpaper and carpeting will be installed and the 50-year-old library tables will be replaced.

Visit the library website at dearbornlibrary.org to view photos of the renovation.

In order to serve our residents during the closure, the open hours at both the Bryant Branch Library and the Esper Branch Library have been extended:
• Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m.
• Fri. & Sat. 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
• Sun. 1:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Get Text Notifications from the Library

The Dearborn Public Library is happy to announce we now offer text message notifications. This opt-in service is available for all library card holders whose devices are able to receive text messages.

Text notices will be in addition to e-mail or telephone notifications.

This service is free, although text message charges from your cell phone carrier may apply.

We offer four kinds of text notices: general library announcements; hold pickup notices; “due soon” reminders; and overdue reminders.

We can set this up for you at the checkout desk at any branch, or sign up online:
1. Visit dearbornlibrary.org
2. Log in through the My Account button (top right)
3. Under the personal information tab, select SMS Notifications
4. Click Add New
5. Select the type of notification, enter your cell number, check the kind of notifications you want to receive (you can select one or more)
6. Click Save

Questions? Call any library location.

Friends Of The Library – Dearborn Used Book Sale

The Friends of the Library – Dearborn Used Book Sales will resume in February 2020, first Wednesday of the month, 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Library usage at all Dearborn libraries was booming in the early 1960s and the need for a larger library was evident, especially at the Main Library on Mason Street, where you could hardly find a place to sit. In 1963, in celebration of the 100th birthday of Henry Ford, the Ford Foundation gave the City a $3,000,000 grant to build a public library.

Originally, the new library was to be named the Henry Ford Memorial Library. Henry Ford II, however, suggested changing the name to the Henry Ford Centennial Library and the new name was adopted. The Ford Motor Company donated fifteen acres on Michigan Avenue as the site for the new library.

In 1966 ground was broken and in 1967, City officials and Clara L. Snow, the first chairperson of the Library Board, laid the date stone. In 1967, the Ford Foundation donated $500,000 to furnish the library.

In 1969, the Henry Ford Centennial Library at 16301 Michigan Avenue was dedicated and opened to the public. The Main Library at Michigan and Mason was renamed the Mason Branch in 1970. In 1977, it was renamed the Bryant Branch Library in honor Katherine Wright Bryant, sister-in-law of Mrs. Clara Bryant Ford and one of the founding members of the Dearborn Public Library.

The Henry Ford Centennial Library is nearly 88,000 square feet. The exterior of the building is white Vermont marble sheathing with inset panels of verde antique marble. The first floor features a large rotunda with a reflecting pool and a serpentine wall sculpture in its center. A spiral staircase ascends to the second floor, which houses the Circulation, Youth and Adult Services departments.

Near the staircase on the second floor is a ceramic mural by Glen Michaels. It was featured at the 1964-65 World’s Fair and was donated to the library by the Ford Motor Company. Look closely and you will see that it is a map of the United States.

The third floor is actually a mezzanine. In 1969, this space was the Audio-Visual Department, housing a large collection of phonograph records and 16mm and 35mm films.

The Henry Ford Centennial Library opened to the public on November 3, 1969 with a formal dedication on November 25, 1969. During the first month of operation, 28,142 items were checked out. By the end of June 1970, circulation had increased over 23% when compared to the same period the previous year in the old library.
The Value of a Library Card

What is a library card really worth? It depends on how much you use it, of course, but even if you use it infrequently, your library card is still worth a bundle.

If you went to the store and purchased a DVD, a new bestseller, and a few paperbacks, you are likely to spend about $60.00. However, you could visit your local library and borrow all of these items for free. In one year, if you check out library materials monthly, you will save over $700.

In addition, the library has free checkout of magazines (retail $1 each), free in-library usage of newspapers (retail $20 per year), free checkout of music CDs (retail $10 each), and free downloadable music (retail $1 each).

We also have:

- Free computer access (retail value $350 to buy an inexpensive computer plus the cost of software and an internet connection)
- Free weekly movies in our library auditorium (retail $4 per person minimum)
- Free digitization lab with an appointment (retail digital transfer services start at $30)
- Free drop-in tech assistance (retail starting at $25 per month whether you use the help or not)
- Free online education: Language instruction through Mango or Pronunciator or college level classes through Gale Courses ($20-$100s per month)
- Free online databases: A single database search would cost about $20 retail.

Then there’s the unique role that the library plays in the community. Where else can you find:

- A place to read or study or work where you aren’t expected to purchase something?
- A place where you can gather with friends and work quietly on projects?
- A place where a librarian will tell a story to your children, in a location where you can connect with other parents?

So, what is a library card really worth? Priceless. Visit your local public library and we are sure you will not only save money, but you will experience hours of entertainment, relaxation and quality experiences.

Get ready! Citizenship and Language Learning!

In order to become a naturalized United States citizen, the naturalization test must be passed. The Dearborn Public Library is prepared to assist new citizens as they prepare for this test by offering ProCitizen to all Dearborn Public Library full-service cardholders.

This resource can be found on the website at dearbornlibrary.org. Click on the link on the lower right-hand side or from the online resources page.

Login to create an account and your progress will be tracked across all devices used. Users will be prepared for the civics, reading and writing portions of the test. There are informative videos, practice exercises and quizzes.

In addition, this resource offers a fun way to learn any of 100 languages with self-directed lessons, live teachers, movies, music and more. This part of the resource is called Pronunciator. Your account login gains you access to both components of this resource: ProCitizen and Pronunciator. Use one or both!

Pronunciator can prepare you for travel, helps with live conversation practice and offers English as a Second Language (ESL) learning. Pronunciator teaches 100 languages through any of 78 home languages. That’s 7,800 possible language combinations. So for example, if your home language is Spanish and you would like to learn French, you can do that through Pronunciator.

Pronunciator is a premium language-learning tool that is only available to library users and university students. The Dearborn Public Library is proud to offer this wonderful resource to the community!

Bryant Branch Library Mural Restoration Project

Upon entering the Bryant Branch Library from the Michigan Avenue doors, you will notice two large murals on either side of the double staircase. In 1927, these murals, by Detroit artist Paul Honore, were added to the library entrance. The mural on the right depicts “Aspiration of Knowledge” and on the left “Application of Knowledge.” Artist Paul Honore studied at Cass Technical High School, the Detroit School of Fine Arts, the Pennsylvania Academy, as well as in Paris. For many years he ran an art school in Royal Oak. Mr. Honore died in 1956 at the age of 71 in Philadelphia.

After 92 years, both murals are in need of restoration and cleaning. In April 2019, the Dearborn Public Library Foundation funded the restoration of the “Application of Knowledge” mural. The work was completed over five weeks by Jennifer Lis and Chloe Campbell of Lis Art Conservation & Restoration Services. The cost of the restoration was $18,000.

The Dearborn Public Library Foundation is planning to restore the second mural, “Aspiration of Knowledge” but is in need of the community’s help. If you would like to donate to the mural restoration project, visit the website at dearbornlibraryfoundation.org and click on the Donate button. You can also send a check to the Foundation c/o the Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, MI 48126.

Food for Fines, Nov. 12-27

Do you have overdue library books or fines? Reduce those fines and help the community out at the same time! The Dearborn Public Library is offering a Food for Fines program, beginning November 12 through November 27, 2019.

For each non-perishable, non-expired food item, larger than single-serving size, that is brought into the library, we will waive $1 from your overdue items and/or fines (EXCLUDES lost and damaged items).

Acceptable food items include: canned soup, instant potatoes, pancake mix, canned juice, vegetables and fruit, rice, pasta, macaroni and cheese, etc.

All food donations will be given to the Dearborn Firefighters for distribution to needy local families through the Burn Drive Food Cupboard. Visit the library’s website: dearbornlibrary.org for more information.
Collection Spotlight: Cookbooks

Cookbooks are essential to any home library, but how do you find the ones that are right for you? Look no further than your local library. Did you know that the Dearborn Public Library has cookbooks in the library collection that you can check out for free with a library card?

The benefits of checking them out include constantly having a variety of new options, being able to try recipes before you commit to purchasing the book, having up-to-date recipes, and saving space on your personal bookshelves.

The majority of our cookbooks are located in the Dewey 641 nonfiction area of the library. If you come into any library, staff can direct you to the shelves for browsing.

You can also search for and request specific books by placing them on hold in our catalog and having them sent to a branch for pickup. The range of topics includes cooking techniques to preserving inspiration at the library.

There are even titles inspired by local fare including: 4 Detroit: Four Chefs, Four Courses, Four Seasons concept by Liz Boone, Sister Pie: The Recipes & Stories of a Big-Hearted Bakery in Detroit by Lisa Ludwinski, and My Little Michigan Kitchen: Recipes and Stories From a Homemade Life Lived Well by Mandy McGovern.

Having a library card also gives you free access to RBDigital, an online magazine database. Digital issues are available to check out 24/7.

Browse the Food & Cooking genre within the database for title availability. Your new favorite recipe may be waiting for you in the latest digital edition of Bon Appétit, Saveur, or Taste of Home.

With the weather changing and the holiday season right around the corner, there’s no better time to find some cooking inspiration at the library.

Program Spotlight: ESL Conversation Circle

Since 2016, the Dearborn Public Library has been offering English as a Second Language (ESL) Conversation Circle, a unique program for English language learners. Library patrons who are high-beginner level English language learners meet for twice weekly sessions to practice speaking English in real life situations, while gaining confidence and vocabulary in a low pressure environment.

Adult Services Librarian Denise Dorantes and a core group of volunteers meet with students and instructors,” said Denise Dorantes. “A lot of students are nervous leaving their familiar surroundings, so helping them gain the confidence to travel and experience new places is important,” said Dorantes.

Another benefit of the ESL Conversation Circle is meeting new people across different cultures. “We’ve all formed new friendships, both students and instructors,” said Dorantes. “We all learn something new by the end of each class.”

The ESL Conversation Circle Fall session will be held at Esper Branch Library on Thursday afternoons, 12:30–2:00 p.m. from September 12 to November 21 and on Monday evenings, 6:30–8:00 p.m. from September 16 to November 18. No class Monday, November 11 Veterans Day.

Spotlight on Staff

Joi Hickman, Department Technician

My life in a nutshell: Taking my life one HOUR at a time, trying to enjoy every minute of it.

Currently Reading: My Sister, the Serial Killer by Oyinkan Braithwaite

Favorite App: Township, it’s a game where you and your team compete against other teams to complete tasks to build a city. If you play it, add me.

Name one item you’d want in the event of a Zombie Apocalypse: Samoas Girl Scout Cookies – last thing I’d eat before getting attacked.

Favorite cookbook: Sweetie Pie’s Cookbook: Soulful Southern Recipes, from My Family to Yours. Even though I can’t cook I love looking at the pictures and imagining.

What you wish more people knew about the library: I wish people knew more about the online resources that we offer like Gale Courses. I took a few courses through them to help me build my knowledge in the information systems field.
Don't store RVs on residential property

As winter approaches, Dearbornites are reminded not to store recreational vehicles, trailers, and boats on their residential property.

To allow flexibility, city ordinances permit short-term parking of recreational vehicles for cleaning, trip-preparation or emergency repairs.

Owners of recreational vehicles are advised to find a facility designed for long-term storage.

City ordinance also prohibits the parking of any vehicle on unpaved areas of residential properties.

This fall and winter, city inspectors will be looking for improper vehicle storage on residential property.

Anyone notified of a violation will be given a reasonable timeframe to address the problem. Properties in violation will undergo progressive enforcement, beginning with education.

All violations can be reported to Neighborhood Services at 943-2161 so they can be resolved.

Order a City of Dearborn Calendar by October 31

Dearborn residents are invited to order a free 2020 City of Dearborn Calendar through Thursday, October 31, 2019.

Place your order online at www.cityofdearborn.org.

Online ordering is efficient and accurate, and saves taxpayers money.

Dearborn residents without access to the internet may order a calendar by calling a voice mail box at 943-3003.

Residents may request one calendar per household. Calendars will be mailed by December 30.

The City of Dearborn Calendar contains important dates, phone numbers, Public Service Day and fall leaf collection schedules, budget information and other useful facts.

Please return this survey by mail:
Department of Public Information
16901 Michigan Ave., Suite 16
Dearborn, MI 48126

Residents can also complete the survey online at www.cityofdearborn.org.

Help improve how the City communicates with you

In an effort to better serve the community, the City of Dearborn is conducting a survey to assess how residents obtain information about City services, programs and news.

Zip code (please select one)
- 48124
- 48128
- 48126
- 48120

Age range (please select one)
- 29 or younger
- 30–49
- 50–65
- 66 or older

Which City of Dearborn official outlets do you use to get news about Dearborn? (Select all that apply)
- City website (www.cityofdearborn.org)
- City of Dearborn Television (CDTV)
- Any City social media outlet (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube)
- The Back Fence printed newsletter
- City email newsletter
- Nixle.com
- Nextdoor.com
- City Calendar (printed)
- City Calendar (online at www.cityofdearborn.org)

Do you feel the information presented by the City of Dearborn is trustworthy?  
- Yes
- No

Do you feel the information presented by the City is relevant to your life?  
- Yes
- No

What commercial news and information outlets do you use to get information about the City? (Select all that apply)
- Radio (including stations' websites)
- Television (including stations' websites)
- Regional newspapers (including online versions)
- Local newspapers (including online versions)
- Social media, including community Facebook pages
- Internet-only news sources

What other methods should the City be using to communicate with you?  
(Please specify) ____________________________________________________________

Look inside for Library Matters Newsletter

All area codes (313) unless stated otherwise.