



THE BACK FENCE

A DEARBORN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Summer Resource Guide

Helpful info for seasonal projects and family fun

With the arrival of longer days and warm weather come picnics with friends, home fix-up projects and other outdoor activities.

Fun in the sun

Block parties – To obtain a \$10 permit to barricade the street, a petition must be submitted with the signatures and addresses of at least 50 percent of the residents on the streets to be barricaded. DPW supplies sawhorses to block the street. A deposit is required. For more information, call 943-2085.



Picnics

- Groups of 20 or more must obtain a permit to reserve designated park picnic areas.
- Use of park picnic shelters also requires reservations. Prices vary.
- For permit and reservation information, call the Recreation Department at 943-2350.

Swim tags – Purchase swim tags for outdoor pools at the service desk at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center or call 943-2350. One-day swim passes may be purchased at the outdoor pools.

Garage Sale Permits – \$5 for first 3-day sale of each calendar year and \$15 for second 3-day sale in the same year. Visit the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or complete an application and follow the instructions at www.cityofdearborn.org.

Home Issues

Dog licenses – All dogs in Dearborn must be registered. Annual licenses are available from the City Clerk for \$7. Proof of rabies vaccination is required.

Residential Building permits – General maintenance items usually do not require a permit, however when planning a renovation or construction project, permits must be obtained and inspection completed by the Permit Office. Prior to beginning a project, check with the Permit Office. All permit applications, information and fees are available at www.cityofdearborn.org under "Permits."

- Residential permits may be obtained at the Permit Office, 4500 Maple, City Hall. Call 943-2133.
- To schedule residential inspections, call 943-2400.

"No Soliciting" signs – Download and print a sign from www.cityofdearborn.org (on the Online Services & City Publications page under "Homeowners") or visit a Dearborn public library or City Hall to request a copy.

Trees – To maintain the appeal of Dearborn's neighborhoods and to promote a healthy environment, Dearborn strongly encourages the preservation of trees and the planting of new trees on residential property.

The City requires that a permit be granted before property owners remove healthy trees. The free permit can be obtained from the Permit Office. Homeowners may be required to replace the tree. For tree information, call 943-2318. ■

City, Public Schools working together to benefit Dearborn

With the goal of using taxpayers' money in the wisest and most efficient way, the City of Dearborn and the Dearborn Public Schools are continuing to pursue opportunities to share resources, facilities and services. The City and the Public Schools are separate and autonomous agencies by law.

But working together on specific projects will benefit the entire community and help save taxpayers money, officials on the Dearborn Board of Education City Relations Subcommittee say.

Henry Ford Community College is an important part of the discussion as well.

After-school recreation and tutoring

The latest success was with a new after-school program combining recreational opportunities, tutoring and character development for middle

school students. It took place January – March and was operated jointly by the City's Recreation Department and the school district.

The City and Public Schools earlier successfully developed a residency verification process to make sure students are qualified to attend Dearborn schools, and since 2009, have been sharing technical support for their websites.

Facility sharing and reducing duplication

On the table are opportunities to share facilities for recreation programs, a review of community education and recreation programs to avoid duplication, addressing traffic issues around schools, and the potential to use Henry Ford Community College's radio station for emergency public safety broadcasts. ■

SPRING 2011

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Guide to fluorescent light bulb disposal

Residents often ask how to properly dispose of their fluorescent light bulbs.

In Dearborn, the preferred method is to dispose of them at either a Household Hazardous Waste Event sponsored by Wayne County or at a Home Depot store.

Both take either the compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) or fluorescent light tubes.

Do not put CFLs in your trash cart or your recycle cart.

You can put the tube type of fluorescent bulbs in your trash cart, but you must wrap the tube bulbs in plastic or put them in a plastic bag to minimize the potential of mercury being released if the bulb should break.

Do not put tube type fluorescent bulbs in your recycle cart.

Generally, fluorescent lamps and CFLs are four to five times more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last longer.

However they do contain small amounts of mercury. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use. Exposure is possible only when a bulb has been broken.

The tube bulbs have a lower mercury content than CFLs, so that is why the tube bulbs can be placed in your trash cart if they are properly wrapped. ■

Free Shredding Day on Saturday, May 14

The City of Dearborn will sponsor a free document shredding day on Saturday, May 14 from 8 a.m. to noon at the DPW Yard, 2951 Greenfield Rd.

This is open to Dearborn residents. Proof of residency is required.

Please note that the limit is a maximum of 50 pounds or five office paper sized boxes of documents per person. For information on the May 14 event, please call 943-2085. ■

Wayne County offers free household hazardous waste disposal in Dearborn on Saturday, June 18

Wayne County will offer a free Household Hazardous Waste Day at Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Rd., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 18 for Wayne County residents, including those from Dearborn.

What can I bring?

A partial list of items accepted are paints, stains, dyes, floor wax, floor care products, carpet cleaner, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, solvent, pharmaceutical waste, fertilizer, lawn chemicals, pesticides, antifreeze, motor oil, gasoline, automotive and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors and mercury thermometers.

Electronics recycling

Bring your old computer CPU's, monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, mice, cell phones, fax machines, copiers and televisions.

What won't be accepted?

Items not accepted include: ammunition, 55 gallon drums, refrigerators, microwaves, tires, and concrete. For information on disposing of these items, call (734) 326-3936.

A reminder

Leftover household products containing corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients are hazardous. You must not pour them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers or put them in the trash. Doing so pollutes the environment and poses a threat to human health.

Never set out hazardous materials on the curb. ■

Follow the rules for curbside collection of yard waste

Residents are encouraged to put their yard waste at their curb for pickup on their trash collection day.

Proper containers

Yard waste may be placed loose in properly marked 20 – 32 gallon containers. A yard waste sticker must be visible on the container.

Free yard waste stickers are available at all Dearborn libraries, the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, the Public Works Yard and the Mayor's Office.

Residents may also use paper yard waste bags that are clearly marked.

Do not use plastic bags or cardboard boxes. They will not be picked up.

Never use your trash or recycle cart for yard waste.

Do not put any yard waste container or your trash or recycling carts on the street.

Special instructions

Fruits, vegetables, dirt, sod and animal droppings should not be mixed into yard waste. Roots should be free of dirt.

Brush and branches must be properly bundled. Brush must be less than 3 inches in diameter, be 4 feet or less in length, tied with heavy cord or rope and weigh no more than 35 pounds.

Unbundled or improperly bundled brush requires a special pickup which costs a minimum of \$50. For more information call 943-2085. ■



Grass must be cut to six inches or less

Warmer weather is back, and with it, lawns are starting to grow.

Remember, residents must cut their grass so it's six inches or less and keep it that length through the spring, summer and fall.

Failure to keep grass cut to six inches or less can result in tickets or fines.

If the City must cut grass and weeds, the property owner will be billed for the actual cost of the cutting, plus an administrative fee each time of \$75. ■



Report rentals

Register rental homes and vacant properties

Owners of rental homes must register those properties with the Residential Services Department to ensure that they are clean and safe for their tenants and maintained to neighborhood standards.

The City also requires owners of vacant residential and commercial property to register to ensure their building exteriors are properly maintained.

To register vacant property, owners can click on "Vacant Property Registration Information" at the bottom of the www.cityofdearborn.org home page.

For information about rental properties, click on "Rental Home Registration Information" on the home page.

Look up rental homes

Residents can also check to see if a house on their street is registered as a rental and report unregistered properties by visiting www.cityofdearborn.org and, on the bottom of the home page, clicking on "Rental Home Registration Information."

For the current list of registered rental properties click on "Renter (Non-owner) occupied listing."

For information about rental properties, click on "Rental Home Registration Information" on the home page.

For more information about registering rental homes or vacant property, call 943-2157. ■

Legal news

Important new laws for Dearborn residents

There have been a number of amendments to the City Code that may be of special interest to residents.

Dangerous and Vicious Dogs

Dearborn has adopted a two-tiered approach to address dogs that pose a threat to the safety of people or other animals.

The two tiers focus on dangerous dogs and vicious dogs, each of which is defined individually.

Violations of the ordinance provisions require specific steps to take place. For instance, if a dog is deemed dangerous, mandatory evaluations of the animal and mandatory dog training for the owner are imposed. There are penalties for non-compliance.

Dogs deemed vicious have few options and owners are subject to penalties.

A companion ordinance regulating tethering dogs was also approved.

Special Events ordinance

The Special Events ordinance was amended as it pertains to safety and conduct during parades.

The new ordinance prohibits ladders, scaffolding or any type of platform on the street of any parade route.

It also prohibits the carrying of banners or signs within the parade route if they are not associated with the parade.

The intent of the new regulation is to make the parade experience enjoyable for all.

Medical marijuana

In 2008, residents of the State of Michigan voted to legalize the medical use of marijuana.

In response, an amendment to the City Code was adopted that licenses facilities (including homes) that grow marijuana to dispense to patients with state permission to use marijuana for medical purposes.

The intent of this ordinance is to assist the police with differentiating between legal and illegal growing operations, to protect public health and safety by requiring annual inspections of the licensed facilities, and to limit the use of medicinal marijuana to inside the home of the patient or a licensed facility. ■

Library news

Dearborn, Dearborn Heights libraries now open to residents in both cities

Dearborn residents can now make use of the City of Dearborn Heights' two libraries, and vice versa.

This new "reciprocal borrowing agreement" will give Dearborn residents access to Dearborn Heights' John F. Kennedy and Caroline Kennedy libraries.

This agreement establishes a one-year pilot program.

During that time, the agreement will give Dearborn residents access to 146,000 volumes from Dearborn Heights, and limited access to that city's network shared systems.

It will also allow residents a greater geographic proximity to libraries, and access to 70 more public computers. It also means additional library hours on nights, weekends and the summer, and more return locations.

Dearborn Heights residents will reap rewards similar to those listed above, and will also allow access to Dearborn's Henry Ford Centennial, Snow, Esper, and Bryant libraries, which contain more than 290,000 volumes and DVDs.

For more information, call 313.943.2049. ■

Dearborn Public Library Foundation seeks support

The Dearborn Public Library Foundation is seeking support from the Dearborn community as it continues its work in helping to enhance and maintain the library system.

The Foundation has been in existence since 2005 and has recently helped to fund the renovation of the Youth Program Room at Henry Ford Centennial Library. The placement of five new educational computers at all branch libraries was also the work of the Foundation.

The Foundation is seeking donations to help fund current and future projects in support of the Dearborn Libraries.

A spring mail campaign will ask Dearborn residents for their support. Donations can also be made by picking up a brochure at all library locations or by visiting www.dearbornlibraryfoundation.org and clicking on "make a gift." ■



Upgrades at Camp

Recreation Department proposes new development plan for Camp Dearborn

The Recreation Department is proposing a development plan for Camp Dearborn to continue the financial success the facility has shown over the last five consecutive years.

The Camp progressed from operating with a minimal subsidy in 2006 to making significant contributions to the City's general fund in 2011.

The Camp's success has prompted the Recreation Department to consider new ways to keep the facility attractive and maintain a revenue stream.

Grant for a new trail

Underway is an application for a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment Trust Fund Development. The grant would fund the construction of a Non-Motorized Trail Project.

The project consists of a 1/3 mile non-motorized pathway that crosses the Huron River and connects to the Oakland Regional Trail system, accessing 25 miles of trails.

Included is a canoe/kayak launch, a shore fishing platform and an interpretive sign at the river crossing.

If awarded, the grant provides funding for 70 percent of the project and requires a match from the City for 30 percent.

Wake boarding proposal

Other proposals focus on increasing activity at the public swimming lake. Potentially, a spray park and water slide with cable wake boarding could enhance the lake area. The development of wake boarding relies on a lease agreement with a private company taking responsibility for construction and operation.

Resort cabins possible

To enhance the camping experience, resort cabins, equipped with plumbing, are also being considered in the future plan.

Director of Recreation Greg Orner is enthused about the opportunities.

"A trail for walkers, runners, bikers and skaters offers health benefits to so many," he said. "Access to the river will provide a wealth of fishing and boating opportunities, all in line with the recent Recreation Master Plan, which outlines a strategy to enhance existing recreation opportunities." ■

Tin Can Tourists return to Camp Dearborn May 21

The Tin Can Tourists will return to Camp Dearborn May 21 for their annual Spring Rally with a little added fanfare.

This year, the vintage trailer owners will be joined by the Model A Car Club, Model T Car Club and the Classic Car Show to satisfy all classic vehicle enthusiasts.

The Tin Can Tourists will again offer an inside view of the vintage trailers during their Open House, 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to shop the annual Flea Market sponsored by The Friends of Camp Dearborn. The Flea Market will take place from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the shelters above the paddle boat lake.

The day of nostalgia will wrap up with an open air dance with Steve King and the Dittilies playing old favorites.

Camp Dearborn is open to the public with an entrance fee of \$3 per car. ■



Input on future development

Residents can guide the City's future through input on the new Master Plan

The City needs your input on how to make Dearborn an even better place to live and work as we begin the process of updating the Master Plan.

The Master Plan will guide future development in Dearborn.

As part of that process, the City will be conducting a community survey and holding a series of three workshops later this year to determine what residents value most about Dearborn today, and what they would like to see in the future.

The goal is to give every resident a chance to participate in the survey, and so it will be posted online.

There will also be paper copies available at sites throughout Dearborn.

The City will be holding the three community workshops at locations that are convenient to each of Dearborn's neighborhoods.

Each workshop will focus on issues and possibilities unique to the nearby neighborhoods.

Every household will be receiving a postcard soon with instructions on how to complete the survey online, locations where you can complete a paper copy of the survey, and the time and place of the community workshops. ■

Road construction

Alternate routes suggested where roadwork is under way

The following is a list of road construction in, or affecting, Dearborn.

Southfield Freeway. April-December: Full and partial closure of M-39 (Southfield Freeway) between M-10 (Lodge Freeway) and Outer Drive in Allen Park for lighting upgrades and other work. Expect increased traffic along Telegraph Road as motorists use this as an alternate route.

West Village Drive. April-May: Pavement reconstruction and water main replacement Mason to Monroe. Alternate access to parking lots will be marked. Sidewalks will remain open. There will be several days during which water to the area will be shut off for a few hours at a time.

Residential streets. May-October: Street resurfacing and water main replacement on portions of the following residential streets: Coleman, Chase, Cromwell, Devonshire, Nash, Prospect, Reginald and Wellington.

Dix/Vernor. June-November: Streetscape project work, including pavement modification and water main replacement (Ferney to Riverside).

Greenfield. Early fall: Roadwork on Greenfield between Warren and Tireman.

The following is also tentatively scheduled for fall 2011: Michigan Avenue between Outer Drive and Brady. Sidewalk ramp additions to comply with ADA requirements. ■

Tribute to the fallen

Memorial Day Parade focuses on losses suffered in Vietnam

Veterans, residents and visitors will line Michigan Avenue on Monday, May 30 for one of the largest Memorial Day parades in America.

For 87 years, the City of Dearborn and the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council (DAWVC) have paid tribute to those who died in service to our country.

Although the day recognizes the sacrifices made by all military personnel and their families, this year the focus of the parade is the Vietnam War, the 70 men from Dearborn who were lost during that conflict, and their surviving loved ones.

Community groups will walk in remembrance of these men, and their families have been invited to have a place of honor in the parade.

Current servicemen and women invited to walk

Craig Tillman, a Vietnam veteran and commander of the DAWVC, encourages all veterans, especially those serving in current conflicts, to walk with them. Call (313) 943-2347 by May 6.

Ceremonial funeral procession begins at 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Day events begin at 9:30 a.m. with a ceremonial funeral procession honoring veterans who died without resources and whose cremains were left in funeral homes without a proper burial.

The route follows Michigan Avenue from Greenfield Road to Dearborn City Hall at Schaefer. At approximately 10:20 a.m., the parade itself will begin.

The public is also invited to attend the remembrance service following the parade at City Hall. For more information, visit www.cityofdearborn.org (click on the flag). ■



Free picnic at Ford Field Park May 29 is Veterans' Family Day

The Dearborn Allied War Veterans' Council (DAWVC) will be hosting a free "Veterans' Family Day" at Ford Field Park on Sunday, May 29.

The event is open to "all veterans of all eras" and will be 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Food and beverage vendors will be available, and music is planned.

In accordance with this year's "Vietnam Veterans" Memorial Day Parade theme, the picnic, though open to all veterans, will be a special sort of belated "Welcome Home" for those who fought in Vietnam.

DAWVC Commander Craig Tillman explained, "Vietnam veterans, unlike those who fought in other wars, never really got a welcome home party."

For more information, call Craig Tillman at 313.407.6568, or Committee Chairman Ray Wantuck at 248.330.5550. ■

Edsel Ford teacher's project honors Dearborn's Vietnam War casualties

Lisa Lark, a teacher at Edsel Ford High School, has been working since June 2010 to compile a history of the 70 men from Dearborn who died while serving our country in Vietnam or in the military service during that era.

Lark has contacted many of the families of the soldiers and is asking for the public's help, hoping to find stories about the men who died, or their families' contact information.

Lark has received help from veterans and their family members all over the country, a student intern, and her own family and friends.

"I have been most touched by the families' willingness to share their stories with me," she said. "They have been so helpful in allowing me to understand who their sons and brothers and husbands were...It has been very humbling."

Lark has partnered with the City of Dearborn and the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council for the 2011 Memorial Day Parade. Commander Craig Tillman, a Vietnam veteran, said the DAWVC is grateful that Lark's work will enhance their tribute to Vietnam veterans.

Anyone willing to provide assistance is asked to call Lisa Lark at 313.410.8477 or email her at dearbornsvietnam@gmail.com.

For more information on the project, search for the Facebook group: Dearborn's Vietnam Heroes. ■

City news

Sign up for Enewsletter from the City; follow [cityofdearborn](http://cityofdearborn.org) at [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/cityofdearborn)

Dearborn residents are encouraged to keep on top of City news by signing up for a twice a month Enewsletter at www.cityofdearborn.org.

News is also posted daily at www.cityofdearborn.org.

And event updates and helpful tips are part of the City's Twitter feed, which can be viewed at [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/cityofdearborn) and www.cityofdearborn.org. The City's Twitter account is [cityofdearborn](https://twitter.com/cityofdearborn)

Watch CDTV programs online any time by visiting www.cityofdearborn.org.

You can also sign up for public safety news at www.Nixle.com. ■

Avoid tickets

Public Service Days in effect

Public Service Days are in effect through Dec. 2 so the City can more efficiently clean and maintain neighborhoods.

During Public Service Days in their neighborhoods, vehicle owners must keep their parked cars off of the street from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets will be issued to owners of parked vehicles left on the street.

Public Service Days are the same day as trash collection days.

Check www.cityofdearborn.org or call 943-2886 for information on Public Service Days. For parking issues, call 943-2276. ■

FYI

Summer schedule

Mutt Strut

May 14-15, Ford Field
www.dearbornmuttstrut.com

Dearborn Symphony Home Tour

May 21, River Lane neighborhood
565-2424

Farmer's Market

Dearborn Chamber of Commerce
May 27-Oct. 28, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bryant Library parking lot
584-6100

Children's Fishing Derby

June 12, Camp Dearborn
943-2350

Flag Day ceremony

June 14, 943-2285

Taste of Dearborn

Dearborn Chamber of Commerce
June 15, 6-10 p.m., 584-6100

Dearborn Arab International Festival

June 17-19, Warren Avenue
945-1700

Friday Nites in the Park Concert Series

West Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

June 17 – Band yet to be announced

July 1 – Beat Club

July 15 – Big Will & the 360 Band

July 29 – Justine Blazer

August 12 – Metro Jazz Voices

August 26 - Crush

All concerts 6:30 p.m.

Muirhead Plaza (Bryant Library)

943-2180 ext. 6

Jazz on the Ave

East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

July 13, 20 and 27

August 10, 17 and 24

Bands to be announced

All concerts 7 p.m.

Dearborn City Hall Park

943-3141

Taste of Dearborn - East

East Dearborn Downtown Development Authority

September 14, 5:30-9 p.m.

943-3141

For more activities, check the 2011 City Calendar
or visit www.cityofdearborn.org

Economic development

Severstal continues its \$1.3 billion investment

Severstal North America will continue its extraordinary \$1.3 billion investment in Dearborn following action by the Michigan Economic Growth Authority (MEGA) in March, which was supported by the City's ongoing economic development efforts led by Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr.

MEGA approved two state brownfield tax credits valued at \$10 million and \$1.25 million, and a state tax capture valued at \$19.4 million.

The City has continued to work with the international steel company on its efforts to transform its Dearborn operations into a state-of-the-art steel manufacturing complex.

\$1.3 billion commitment means jobs and stability

Severstal's \$1.3 billion commitment fortifies Dearborn's manufacturing tax base, and preserves or creates high-value jobs. In total, its recent investment in Dearborn represents the creation of 146 full-time positions at Severstal in addition to its 1,600 employees at the site.

It is also estimated the overall investment will produce 3,500 jobs during the construction and installation of the improvements.

High-strength, light-weight steel

The tax credit and tax capture will support Severstal's construction of a high-speed Continuous Annealing Line capable of producing advanced high-strength steel.

There are very few suppliers of this steel product, which will be critical to reducing weight and improving fuel efficiency in vehicles.

Severstal chose Dearborn for this project over sites in Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio and West Virginia. ■

More businesses investing in Dearborn by reusing existing commercial buildings

In 2010, the City's Economic and Community Development Department's Commercial Division processed 119 more applications for re-occupancy of commercial buildings than in 2009. That was 336 re-occupancies in 2010 versus 217 in 2009.

The positive trend continues. For the first quarter of 2011, the division had processed 111 applications, a rate that exceeds 2010 for the same time period.

The commercial re-occupancy rate is important because it shows businesses continue to open in Dearborn. While it is easy to spot when new buildings go up, the reuse of existing space is not always readily apparent, but, in this economy, it is crucial to the vitality of the community.

The revenue generated by re-occupancies is projected to double during Fiscal Year 11, which spans July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. ■

Fighting cancer

Relay For Life on April 30 – May 1

The 13th annual American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Dearborn will be at the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center for 24 hours, beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, and ending at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 1.

The inspiring event unites the entire Dearborn community in the common goal of "creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays."

"We invite the public to come out and spend time with our teams that will camp out and walk the track for 24 hours," says Event Chair Denise Abdullah.

"Moments you won't want to miss include our Opening Ceremony celebrating survivors and caregivers at 10 a.m., and our candlelight Luminaria Ceremony, remembering those lost at 10 p.m."

The event also promises music, games, activities, food and fun for all ages throughout the 24 hours.

For more information, visit www.relayforlife.org/dearbornmi or contact Denise Abdullah at 313.336.9020 or deniseabdullah@hotmail.com. ■

Fire safety

Don't ruin your summer with injuries; City has "zero tolerance" for fireworks

As summer holidays approach, residents and businesses should be aware that the Police Department will be continuing its "zero tolerance" policy regarding the illegal and unsafe sale and use of fireworks.

"Each year, we see cases of personal injury and damage to property when people use illegal fireworks," said Police Chief Ron Haddad.

"City ordinances prohibit the sale and use of illegal fireworks, or the unsafe use of legal fireworks," said Haddad.

"We strongly recommend that the public avoid personal fireworks and instead attend a professionally-produced fireworks display," Haddad said.

Call 943-2201 about fireworks in neighborhoods

Police officers will respond to fireworks complaints. Adults found to be violating the city's fireworks ordinances will be ticketed.

Officers will not issue warnings for fireworks use.

Parents whose children are found to be violating fireworks ordinance may also be ticketed under the city's parental responsibility ordinance.

Both cases are misdemeanor offenses, carrying a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine.

In all cases, illegal fireworks will be confiscated.

To report fireworks in your neighborhood, call the Police at 943-2201.

Fire Marshal Jeff Oldenburg urges parents to offer children safe alternatives, such as squirt guns or flashlights.

Under the zero tolerance policy, citations will be issued to vendors selling illegal fireworks.

Only sparklers, toy snakes, smoke bombs, fountains, flitter sparkers and flat paper caps can be sold in Dearborn. To report illegal fireworks sales, call 943-2838. ■

Enjoy recreational fire pits safely, and follow rules about BBQ grills

To enjoy recreational fire pits safely, the Dearborn Fire Department requires the following:

- Fire pits shall have screening on all sides, including the top.
- Fire shall be constantly attended and completely extinguished after use.
- If there is objectionable smoke or the wind causes the smoke to invade neighboring structures, the fire shall be extinguished.
- A fire extinguishing medium must be present such as an appropriate fire extinguisher, a garden hose, dirt or sand.
- Fire pits shall not be located within 15 feet of a structure.

For more information, call the Dearborn Fire Marshal at 943-2838.

BBQ grill safety

Whatever style grill you use, following safety rules can make grilling more enjoyable. In general:

- Never use charcoal grills indoors.
- Keep grills at least 15 feet away from any structure.
- Never use a grill on a balcony.
- Never leave a grill unattended.
- Grills pose a burn hazard to children, so establish a safe zone.
- Have a fire extinguisher or garden hose within reach.
- Use long handled BBQ tools and or flame resistant mitts.
- Clean your grill to remove grease build up.
- Keep a water spray bottle ready to reduce flare ups. ■

Improving Homecoming

Nonprofit Dearborn Community Fund joins with City to present Homecoming

Dearborn's annual Homecoming festival is August 5-7, at Ford Field Park, as always.

And, as always, the festival will have spectacular fireworks on Saturday and Sunday nights, renowned entertainment on the Main Stage, carnival rides, family activities, an art fair, Living History Hill, classic car show, and performers on several stages throughout the three-day event.



And, as always, nonprofit community groups will be serving and selling summertime food and beverages, "glow necklaces" and other festival items to raise money for their good causes.

Festival raises money for Dearborn charitable groups

Most festival-goers don't realize that the event is a major fundraiser for 20 groups that support the community through scholarships, charitable giving, sponsoring cultural arts, or providing youth sports or animal welfare services.

To emphasize that point, Dearborn has joined with the Dearborn Community Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of cultural arts and recreation. The Dearborn Community Fund's involvement in Homecoming will help make clear that Homecoming has a worthy purpose.

Making festival more self-sustaining

The DCF's involvement also means that the City can take more significant steps toward having the festival become more self-sustaining, reducing the need for taxpayer dollars to support this community favorite.

Many people believe that Homecoming generates income for the city of Dearborn, but that is not the case. Generous sponsors defray some, but not all, of the City's costs. The City invests in Homecoming to promote Dearborn to a regional market, draw people into businesses, create a safe family event and give nonprofit groups an opportunity to raise funds.

Main Stage: Journey tribute band, Eagles tribute band

Frontiers | *The Journey Tribute*, will take the Main Stage at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6. *Hotel California*, "A Salute to the Eagles" tribute band, will be on the Main Stage at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7. Fireworks will cap off both evenings.

Look for more details at www.cityofdearborn.org in early June.

2011 Presenting Sponsor: Oakwood

The City is pleased that Oakwood Healthcare is once again the presenting sponsor for the Homecoming festival. ■

Take the train

Excursion trains on the horizon

As the Michigan Department of Transportation continues to make progress on a commuter rail line between Ann Arbor and Detroit, with a stop in Dearborn, an exciting first step is being pursued.

The City is joining with other stakeholders along the proposed commuter line to promote trains that would take regional residents to designated special events in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti or Dearborn.

Events being considered for these special trains are the Ann Arbor Art Fair, sports events in Detroit or Ann Arbor, or designated days at Greenfield Village.

The hope is that the excursion trains would start in late summer and travel to three or four events a year. ■

