



THE BACK FENCE

A DEARBORN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Important proposals on Nov. 8 ballot

Voters to decide on funding for City services, library

Proposals on the Nov. 8 ballot ask voters to make decisions about temporarily increasing the funding for City services and authorizing a dedicated source of revenue for the library system.

A third ballot proposal asks voters to decide if the Civil Service System, which applies to certain City of Dearborn employees, should be eliminated from the City Charter.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For election information, call the Clerk's Office at 943-2032.

Proposal 1: Operating Millage

The following is the language as it appears on the ballot:

The City of Dearborn has cut 35 percent of its non-Police and Fire workforce and reduced spending by \$12 million annually. Lower tax revenues will require more reductions and impact services and programs further. An additional 5-year millage will allow Dearborn to maintain core services while permanently reducing operation costs.

Shall Section 13.2 of the Dearborn City Charter be amended to temporarily allow the City to levy an additional ad valorem tax up to \$3.50 per \$1,000 in taxable value (3.5 mills) which will raise approximately \$12,250,000 in the first year it is levied, for no more than 5 years?

Further explanation:

What does this ballot proposal ask voters to do?

Determine whether to temporarily raise the authorized level of the City's general operating tax rate of 15 mills by a maximum of 3.5 mills for a maximum of five years.

The operating tax rate is the most critical source of funding for most City services.

If voters approve the proposal, the City Council has the authority to determine how much, if any, of the 3.5 mills would be levied in any budget year.

If approved and levied, how much would the 3.5 mills cost the owner of an average Dearborn home?

\$187 a year.

The average Dearborn home has a taxable value of \$53,435. Generally speaking, that is a market value of about \$107,000.

FY2012 Average Home Taxable Value	Annual tax with current operating tax rate	Annual tax if entire 3.5 mill increase is levied	Difference
\$53,435	\$801	\$988	\$187

If approved, how long would the temporary tax rate increase be in place?

Each year the City Council would have the authority to levy the number of additional mills necessary.

The authority would end in five years or less.

Why are voters being asked to temporarily authorize a higher tax rate?

The City is facing about a \$20 million difference between what it costs to offer services and the money available to pay for them.

This is due to a structural budget deficit.

Revenue for essential City services has declined significantly in recent years. This is in large part because of the decline in property values. Lower property values lead to less tax revenue, when the tax rate stays the same.

The impact of lower property values can be seen in the chart below.

In Fiscal Year 2008, the owner of an average Dearborn home paid \$948 in operating taxes. Five years later, the owner of that same home is paying \$147 less, or \$801, in operating taxes.

Other sources of revenue for essential City services have also declined significantly while at the same time costs have risen.

Operating tax payments made in FY2008 compared with those made under the current operating tax rate in FY2012

	FY2008	FY2012	Difference
Average Home Taxable Value	\$69,583	\$53,435	(\$16,148)
Operating Tax	\$948	\$801	(\$147)

If the new tax rate is approved and levied, what do City officials say would happen during the next five years?

The City's intention is to continue to align the number and types of services and facilities it offers with the revenue that is available to pay for them.

It is thought that additional revenue during the five-year transitional period would create a more financially stable environment in which to prioritize core services, while reducing costs for the long term.

The goal is to maintain a higher level of service in Dearborn than in most area cities. It is thought this would keep Dearborn an attractive community for home buyers and business investors, helping to protect property values.

FALL 2011

WHAT'S INSIDE

Focus: environment
Page 3

Vision for the future
Page 4

Preserving neighborhoods
Page 4

Economic development
Page 4

Managing vehicles
Page 5

Stop for students
Page 5

Recycling info
Page 6

After-school program
Page 6

Improving communication
Page 6

Performance season
Page 7

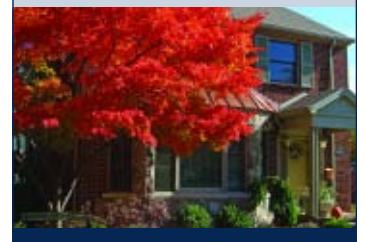
Flexible reading areas
Page 7

Keeping safe
Page 7

Avoid tickets
Page 8

Fall cleanup
Page 8

Staying informed
Page 8



Continued on page 2

Proposal (continued from page 1)

Would the 3.5 mills generate revenue to restore services already eliminated or reduced?

The tax rate increase equals about \$12.25 million more in operating revenue.

The City, however, is facing about a \$20 million shortfall.

So even if the temporary tax rate increase is approved and levied, the shortfall of about \$7.75 million would still exist.

With that economic reality, prioritization of core services and discussions on changes in service levels would be ongoing, and some changes are likely to be permanent.

If the ballot proposal is not approved, and the shortfall remains at \$20 million, more impactful actions would be needed.

What specific steps has the City taken to reduce costs?

The City has been proactive in its cost reductions since 2001, even before economic conditions were generally understood to be in decline.

The following reductions have resulted in more than \$12 million in savings per year.

More than 200 full-time positions have been eliminated, which represents more than 35 percent of non-public safety positions.

The City has reduced pension, health care, paid time off and other benefits for employees and is negotiating with general government employees for a 10 percent compensation reduction in the current fiscal year.

The comprehensive program to replace fleet vehicles was cancelled and the capital investment program has been deferred.

Technology has been implemented to reduce costs.

Four bonds have been refinanced to generate cost savings.

Duplicative services have been eliminated, including the Dearborn Health Department.

Two of the eight outdoor pools and one of the four library buildings have been closed.

Street sweeping and grass cutting have been outsourced to save employee and equipment costs, and departments have been restructured.

Why can't the City just sell assets like Dearborn Towers and Camp Dearborn?

The City will sell assets when it makes economic sense. The sale of any City facility would be a one-time financial boost, not an ongoing source of revenue.

In 2007, voters authorized the City to sell Dearborn Towers in Florida after certain conditions were met. As of October 2011, the City had an agreement to sell Dearborn Towers. The current budget assumes Dearborn Towers will be sold before June 30, 2011.

The 626-acre Camp Dearborn is zoned by Milford for recreational use only. It could not be developed for any other purpose, severely limiting the market for the property.

Because selling Camp Dearborn is not a realistic option for now, the City continues to

pursue ways to increase revenue and keep it attractive as a recreational destination.

For the last three years, Camp Dearborn has not needed any money from the City's general fund for its operations.

My overall property tax bill has not decreased in line with the drop in property values. Why is this?

In addition to the City's operating tax, you also pay a tax dedicated to garbage and rubbish collection, and that tax rate can fluctuate.

Voters approved a tax to pay for the construction of the federally-mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project in 2004.

Residents began to feel the impact of that new tax about the same time property values began to decline.

The CSO property tax now represents about 21 percent of your total City tax bill.

Without that new tax, taxpayers would have experienced a noticeably lower tax bill as property values declined. However, residents had no choice but to pay for the federally-mandated project in some manner and chose the new tax over an increase in water and sewer bills.

Voters also approved a property tax for the construction of the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center. That tax will expire in Fiscal Year 2013.

It is important to note that in 2011, for every \$1 of property tax you paid, 67 cents was allocated to taxing agencies other than the City, such as Wayne County and the Dearborn Public Schools. The City has no control over those tax rates.

Proposal 2: Library millage

The following is the language as it appears on the ballot:

State law allows citizens to authorize that 1 mill be dedicated to offset the costs of providing library services. Due to declining revenues, library services have been reduced. Additional revenues will be used to support greater technology so that the City of Dearborn can provide effective and efficient access to informational, developmental, and entertainment-oriented materials in order to meet current and future user demands.

Shall the City of Dearborn in accordance with State law MCL § 397.201 levy an additional ad valorem tax in an amount not to exceed \$1 per \$1,000 in taxable value which equals 1 mill or approximately \$3,500,000 in the first year it is levied for no more than 10 years dedicated to fund the ongoing operational and capital costs of a library system?

Further explanation:

What are voters being asked to do?

State law allows voters to dedicate one mill to offset the cost of providing library services. In Dearborn, one mill would raise about \$3.5 million.

The library is currently financed through the general fund. Having a dedicated millage would reduce the need for the library to compete with other departments for general fund money.

How much would this tax increase cost the owner of an average Dearborn home?

About \$53 a year.

If approved, how long would the millage last?

No more than 10 years.

If approved, would this prevent further branch closings?

The intent of the request is to provide a source of revenue to ensure some stability in library services.

This does not guarantee any number of branch libraries.

It would, however, provide dedicated resources for ongoing operational and capital costs as the library explores new ways, including increased use of technology, to provide access to information and services that best meet customers' needs.

Proposal 3: Elimination of the Civil Service System

The following is the language as it appears on the ballot:

The Civil Service System as defined in Chapter 11 of the Dearborn City Charter was created before City employees formed 8 different labor unions to represent them in negotiating contracts covering wages, benefits and work rules. The provisions in these contracts take precedence over Civil Service policies. Dearborn is one of a few Michigan cities that still has a Civil Service System. If necessary, the City Council could create a Human Resources Commission by ordinance to oversee any employment issues for City Employees.

Shall the Dearborn City Charter be amended to eliminate the Civil Service System by repealing Chapter 11?

Further explanation:

What does the Civil Service System do?

Generally the Civil Service System was intended to set the policies for hiring, promoting and terminating City of Dearborn employees.

Its policies do not apply to part-time employees, certain management or professional positions, or any appointed positions.

It is overseen by a five-member appointed body that serves without pay.

What other representation do employees have regarding work-related issues?

Most full-time employees now are covered by union contracts, which take precedence over Civil Service System policies. The City also has a Human Resources Department.

If Proposal 3 is approved, would anything replace the Civil Service System?

The proposal leaves open the opportunity for the creation of a Human Resources Commission to oversee any employment issues for City employees that are not already covered in their union contracts.

Rouge River Water Quality Improvements



This project is sponsored by the City of Dearborn and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.



Focus: environmental quality

The City of Dearborn this fall is marking the continued progress of the federally-mandated project to reduce pollution in the Rouge River.

In addition, the City is highlighting the ongoing benefits to wildlife in and around the river, and the restoration of natural landscaping at two of the pollution control sites.

The project is commonly referred to as the combined sewer overflow (CSO) project.

It is designed to reduce the amount of untreated sewage that flows into the Rouge River during heavy rains and improve the quality of the waterway.

Marking a milestone, the City held an open house this fall at the \$40 million CSO control facility on Military Street, and promoted the extensive and unique restoration plan of the adjacent floodplain and wetlands.

The City is also preparing residents for the next phase of the CSO project, which will be launched in early 2012 in a west Dearborn neighborhood.

During this phase, the City will reduce water pollution by separating storm sewers from sanitary sewers.

The construction will bring added benefits of new roads and water mains in the neighborhoods.

This approach was already proven in the area north of Ford Field Park.

Improving the natural habitat

The goals of the federally-mandated CSO program are water quality improvement and restoration of natural habitat, which benefit both wildlife and people.

But it is not an easy process.

A few years ago, residents witnessed a dramatic change in the forested wetlands along the Rouge River near Outer Drive and along the river near Military Street.

That's when work began on two retention structures to control CSOs.

Unavoidably, much of the forested wetlands had to be cleared to allow the pollution control project to progress.

But the City promised that the landscaping would be replaced and even improved upon.

The City is now reintroducing species of trees and plants more native to the sites than had been there before the construction began.

The landscape restoration allows for other beneficial features, such as bank stabilization.

Why is CSO control project necessary?

Dearborn and many older communities have a combined sewer system that collects both storm water and sanitary wastewater in the same pipe.

During heavy rains, combined sewers can exceed capacity and spill untreated wastewater into the Rouge River, creating a CSO.

Among the impacts of the untreated CSOs is a reduction in the quality of habitat for fish, amphibians, reptiles, waterfowl and mammals.

At the Military Street site and at the Outer Drive site, retention structures were built to hold wastewater during a storm and help prevent CSOs.

The retention structures capture excess wastewater and store it until it can be released safely back into the system.

New sewer separation project

In addition to retention structures, another way of accomplishing the same federally-mandated goal is to separate storm and sanitary sewers.

This has already been done in Dearborn, bringing additional benefits and more manageable costs.

Sewer separation will continue in early 2012 in the area bounded by Telegraph, Outer Drive, Cherry Hill and Fordson Street.

It will require the installation of new storm sewers in some areas and new sanitary sewers in other areas.

Continued on page 4

Vision for the future

Master Plan process continues following public's input on community characteristics

The City continues fine-tuning its Master Plan to guide land use and development in Dearborn for the next 20 years, and welcomes ongoing input from residents about the community's characteristics that should be promoted or encouraged.

The new Master Plan will likely be approved in early 2012 at a public meeting following further review by the City Plan Commission, the City Council and the administration.

The Master Plan creates the framework for land uses that support the community's vision for Dearborn.

A series of workshops and an online survey allowed residents to share their vision for the housing desirable for Dearborn, citywide amenities, kinds of businesses and style of commercial districts, recreational opportunities, and city services.

Results at www.cityofdearborn.org

The results of the workshops and online survey can be found at www.cityofdearborn.org. Click the "Live" category at the top of the page and look for Master Plan. The draft of the Master Plan can be found on the same page.

Traditional neighborhoods

Generally, residents preferred a community with more traditional characteristics illustrated by tree-line streets with sidewalks, and housing that has some relationship to the neighborhood, in contrast to the disconnected look of "big box" houses.

In general, residents shunned commercial strips or the appearance of high-density residential.

Participants felt strongly that business districts and neighborhoods should be preserved through property maintenance ordinance enforcement, especially for rental housing.

Walkability desirable feature

Bike and pedestrian paths were enthusiastically supported, as was the conservation of recreational and cultural options. Also respondents liked the idea of community gathering spaces and ways to encourage "green" initiatives.

They also supported boosting the appearance and occupancy of downtown areas and pursuing additional shopping opportunities.

Preserving neighborhoods

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.

For information about rental properties, click on "Rental Home Registration Information" at www.cityofdearborn.org. It can be found under Frequently Requested Materials at the bottom of the home page.

Residents can check to see if a house on their street is registered as a rental and report unregistered properties by also clicking on "Rental Home Registration Information."

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

Vacant property

The City 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 more information about registering rental homes or vacant property, call 943-2157.

Economic development

Train station on track for completion in spring 2013

Transportation put Dearborn on the map.

That tradition will continue in an exciting new way with an expected groundbreaking of an intermodal passenger rail station in the spring of 2012, and an anticipated opening around mid-2013.

In addition to serving train traffic, the new station, to be built on Michigan Avenue near Brady, will be designed to accommodate bus, shuttle and taxi connections and be friendly to bicyclists.

The intermodal station will put visitors within walking distance of a new entryway to The Henry Ford, close to the west Dearborn downtown district and the University of Michigan - Dearborn campus.

Other major destinations like Fairlane Town Center, Ford Motor Company World Headquarters, the Ford Community & Performing Arts Center and the east Dearborn downtown shopping district will be only a short shuttle ride away.

The project received a big boost two years ago when it

was announced that \$28 million would be directed to Dearborn under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With the Federal Railroad Administration signing on in August, the City can proceed with the design and construction phase.

Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr. acknowledged the many public and private partners involved in inspiring this project and shepherding it through, for the benefit of Dearborn, the region and the state.

"This project is part of a larger strategy to increase the number of potential customers coming to Dearborn every day. Increasing the customer base sustains existing businesses and attracts new activity and investment," said Mayor O'Reilly.



Conceptual design of the intermodal passenger rail station.

Focus (continued from page 3)

But it will bring the benefit of new streets and water mains as well.

Separating sewers means less ongoing cost, because only the sanitary flow, not the higher volume combined flow, will be sent through to the wastewater treatment facility.

Separating sewers also means that the City saves the costs associated with the maintenance and operation of retention facilities.

Along with these benefits, residents will need to be prepared for temporary disruptions due to construction.

CSO tax

The federal mandate for Dearborn to improve the water quality in the Rouge River left the City no choice but to pay for and build new infrastructure.

While controlling water pollution is a worthy endeavor, the federal government did not provide the funding for a comprehensive project.

Since the \$300 million project had to be built, residents had two options: an increase in water bills or a new property tax. In 2004, voters chose the new tax.

The rate of this tax fluctuates each year depending on the bond payments that are due for the CSO construction.

Regardless of any other budgetary challenges the City faces, paying for the CSO is an obligation that the City must fulfill because of the federal mandate.

Managing vehicles

Follow the rules for parking vehicles and maintaining community standards

The City is stepping up enforcement of its ordinances relating to commercial truck parking and broken down vehicles with the goal of preserving the character of neighborhoods.

In increasing numbers, residents have told police that their quality of life is being affected by non-working vehicles being stored illegally in their neighborhoods, as well as commercial vehicles parking on their streets.

Partnering with the Residential Services Department, the Dearborn Police Ordinance Division will actively address these complaints and issue citations if necessary.

"Dearborn residents want a safe City where people obey the laws," said Police Commander Jimmy Solomon.

Residents have until Nov. 1 to move nuisance vehicles

Starting in November, enforcement of nuisance vehicles stored on private property steps up.

Residents are encouraged to move any vehicles that meet the definition of a "nuisance" into storage inside an enclosed structure, like a garage.

This includes vehicles that are disassembled, can't be driven or are in a state of disrepair.

Vehicles found to be inoperative for any reason could be in violation of the nuisance ordinance, known as City Ordinance 13-2.

Just because the vehicles are on private property doesn't mean they are allowed to be stored in the open.

"When you're finished working on your car, push it back in the garage.

Leaving them out is neighborhood blight," said Police Cpl. Mike Nelson.

Free towing for unwanted vehicles

Anyone who has a title to an unwanted vehicle should take advantage of the City's free amnesty program by calling Rusko's Towing at 313-274-4550 and having the vehicle removed.

After Nov. 1, vehicles found to be in violation of the nuisance ordinance will be tagged by the Police Department. Residents will have 72 hours to remove or properly store the vehicle.

After that, the homeowner may be responsible for towing/storage and a misdemeanor violation punishable by a fine up to \$500.

Dearborn police enforcing commercial vehicle law

Dearborn ordinances state that it is "unlawful for any person to park any commercial vehicle on any residential street within the City or upon private property within a residential area of the City." The fine is \$60 (\$30 if paid within three business days).

"These vehicles generate safety issues by blocking drivers' views, as well as creating noise issues when left running," Solomon said.

People whose jobs require them to use a commercial vehicle and be on call 24-hours a day may apply for a permit through Dearborn's Traffic Commission.

A processing fee of \$50 and proof of employment are required. Additional details are found in Section 18-356 (Parking of Commercial Vehicles) of Dearborn's Code of Ordinances.

More information

City ordinances are online. Traffic and Motor Vehicle codes are found in Part 2, Chapter 18: www.cityofdearborn.org/government/city-clerk

Additional information may be obtained from the Police Ordinance Division at 943-2294.

Parking is not allowed on lawns

Parking vehicles on front and back lawns is prohibited in Dearborn and could cost you \$70 if you are ticketed.

In addition, cars on the street must be parked with the passenger side closest to the curb.

Parking this way means the vehicle is facing the proper direction for traffic on that side of the road.

These violations are becoming visible issues in neighborhoods and frequent

topics of complaints about new residents who may not know the rules in Dearborn.

Tickets will be issued to vehicles parked on lawns or pointed in the wrong direction on the street.

Residents should be aware that overnight parking of boats, campers and recreational vehicles on public streets is prohibited except for loading or unloading.

Stop for students

Follow school bus traffic rules to keep kids safe, avoid \$500 tickets

To protect students, drivers need to be mindful of the rules regarding school buses.

When drivers see the yellow lights activated on a school bus while traveling on the same road, they should slow down and prepare to stop.

When drivers see the red lights flashing on a school bus, they must stop.

They should stop at least 20 feet away from the bus.

Do not try to drive around the bus when it is stopped. Children will be entering or leaving the bus.

After the lights of the school bus are off, double check for children before you proceed.

Violations of these rules will result in a \$500 fine if occurring in a school zone, \$250 otherwise.

Be cautious when dropping off children at school

Parents taking their children to school in their own vehicles also need to drive with care.

They must follow all traffic rules and understand the drop off and pick up flow established for their school.

Because safety is so important, police focus on school areas and issue tickets to traffic law violators.



Recycling info

Household recycling is easy following these guidelines

Dearborn has had great results with its new recycling program that improved upon the curbside pickup service.

Household recycling is up 40 percent. Your efforts make a difference.

But questions do arise about materials that should be placed in the green recycle cart. Remember to rinse or clean items before putting in recycle carts.



Do Recycle

Cardboard and paper bags (flatten)
Junk mail
Paperboard (no wax coating)
Newspaper
Magazine and catalogs
Phone books
Office paper

Steel, tin and aluminum cans (empty)
Plastic jugs/bottles (No. 1 & 2)
Household plastic (No. 3 through 7)
Plastic bags
Kitchen cookware
Glass (empty)



Don't Recycle

Yard waste
Paper wax coated cartons
Styrofoam containers/packing
Garbage
Food waste
Propane tanks
Paint cans
Medical Waste (syringes/needles)
Anti-freeze/oil containers
Carpet
Compost

Construction debris
Batteries
Flammable liquids
Household cleaners
Chemicals (dry or liquid)
Wood items
Concrete
Garden hose/rubber
Electrical cords
Tires
Clothes
Leaves
Large plastic toys

Putting the prohibited items into your green recycle cart may cause the entire truckload to be rejected at the recycling center. For information, call Public Works at 943-2085.

Recycling calendar for year 2011

NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Recycling calendar for year 2012

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29			

"B" week shaded / "A" week not shaded

Follow this recycling schedule. The complete recycling calendar is at www.cityofdearborn.org

After-school program

Recreation, tutoring initiative focuses on Dearborn's middle school students

To promote the success of middle school children, the Dearborn Recreation Department is continuing to partner with the Dearborn Public Schools to offer a fun combination of after-school learning and exercise this winter.

The five-week program focuses on helping students in grades 6 through 8 reach their academic goals.

The next session starts November 14 at O.L. Smith Middle School and November 16 at Woodworth Middle School, but is open to students throughout the district.

Each once-a-week meeting runs 6-8 p.m. and provides 45 minutes of tutoring and homework assistance with an accredited teacher and 45 minutes of supervised recreation in the gym.

In addition, 30-minute organized group activities feature guest speakers who address topics such as nutrition and anti-bullying.

This initiative is part of the City of Dearborn and Dearborn Public Schools commitment to sharing resources, facilities and services.

Cost is \$25 per student. Tuition assistance may be available to qualifying students.

Register online at www.dearbornonline.org or call 827-1959 for information or to learn how you can sponsor this program.

Improving communication

Customers of AT&T's U-Verse will soon be able to view CDTV

The City of Dearborn will soon be broadcasting its government access programming to AT&T's U-Verse customers.

City of Dearborn TV (CDTV) is expecting to offer Dearborn programming on U-Verse by the end of 2011.

This improvement means that more residents can watch live City Council meetings and tune into programming about city services.

It also means more residents will have a chance to see urgent or timely messages, like those broadcast when snow emergencies are declared.

U-Verse customers will be able to find CDTV on Channel 99.

CDTV programming is also on Comcast and WOW.

CDTV was not on U-Verse in the past because of the additional cost to the city that was required. Improved technology has addressed those concerns.

Residents can also view all of CDTV's programming 24/7 at www.cityofdearborn.org.

Parking reminder

2011 Public Service Days end Dec. 2

Dearborn's Public Service Days will end for the season on Dec. 2 and will resume April 2, 2012.

That means that parking restrictions related to Public Service Days will not be enforced from Dec. 5, 2011 to April 1, 2012.

Until Dec. 5, drivers are reminded that they must keep their parked vehicles off the street from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on their Public Service Day/trash day. You could be ticketed if you park on the street during Public Service Days in your neighborhood.

Performance season

Theater presents shows for a variety of tastes

Dearborn's state-of-the art Michael A. Guido Theater inside the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center is always an enjoyable place to see a show.

In the Mood A 1940's Big Band Musical Review

November 11, 2011 7 p.m.
Featuring the music of Glen Miller, Benny Goodman, Andrews Sisters and Frank Sinatra.
Tickets range from \$29 - \$35

Golden Dragon Acrobats

November 19, 2011 7 p.m.
They tame gravity and fear with feats of balancing, tumbling, and startling gymnastic wizardry.
Tickets range from \$20 - \$34

The Nutcracker

Accompanied by:
The Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra
December 2, 2011 8 p.m.
December 3, 2011 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Featuring the Ballet Americana Dance Company with dancers from the New York City Ballet.
Tickets range from \$15 - \$24

Russian National Ballet

January 21 at 8 p.m.
The company will present two classics, "Les Sylphides," set to the music of Chopin, and "Romeo and Juliet," featuring Tchaikovsky's score.
Tickets range from \$39 - \$55

The Music of ABBA

February 11 at 8 p.m.
This re-creation of the music of the legendary Swedish group, ABBA, is authentic, right down to the costumes.
Tickets range from \$29 - \$49

Drum

February 25 at 8 p.m.
This is a high-energy performance that's part "Riverdance" (fiddling and

dancing) and part "Stomp" (percussion and dancing).
Tickets range from \$29 - \$39

Irish Rovers

March 3 at 7 p.m.
Celtic-inspired traditional, folk and popular music.
Tickets range from \$35 - \$45

Clifford: The Big Red Dog Live!

March 17 at 2 p.m.
Clifford and his friends from Birdwell Island embark on a new adventure.
Tickets range from \$24 - \$29

Red Army Dance and Chorus

March 23 at 8 p.m.
The Red Army Chorus and Dance Ensemble will recreate many Russian folk traditions in a dazzling display of music and dance.
Tickets range from \$24 - \$29

"Most Happy Fella"

March 30 at 8 p.m.
March 31 at 8 p.m.
Tickets range from \$24 - \$29

Mike Birbiglia

Friday, TBA
A favorite on Comedy Central, he has three stand-up specials, including his critically acclaimed special, "What I Should Have Said Was Nothing."
Tickets range from \$29 - \$39

"Let's Hang On"

America's Premier Tribute Show to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons
April 27 at 8 p.m.
"Let's Hang On!" pays tribute to one of the greatest vocal groups of all time.
Tickets range from \$29 - \$39

Flexible reading areas

Group and quiet study rooms meeting needs of patrons at Centennial Library

The Dearborn Public Library is proud to meet the needs of patrons by opening three group study rooms and a quiet study room on the mezzanine level of the Henry Ford Centennial Library.

The group study rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The rooms have a capacity of 8-10.

The quiet study room has space for individual study at tables or at study carrels. All study carrels have duplex outlets available for plugging in laptops or other devices.

All rooms on the mezzanine are wireless enabled. Internet access is available free with a Dearborn Public Library card or by purchasing an internet day pass for \$2.

Please stop at the Information Desk on the second floor for more information regarding the group and quiet study rooms.

A larger conference room is also available for use for a per hour rental fee. This room has a capacity of 25-30 people, depending on set up.

Please contact Library Administration at 943-2037 to book the conference room.



Keeping safe

Crime prevention tips from Dearborn Police

The Dearborn Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit would like to remind residents of the following tips to stay safe:

- Always keep your home's doors and windows locked
- Secure all lawn and gardening equipment in your garage
- Keep your garage door closed and locked
- Never leave your garage open and unattended
- Keep your porch light on
- Do not allow solicitors into your home
- Do not allow mail or newspapers to build up in your mailbox or on your porch
- If you go on vacation, register your home with the Dearborn Police Reserve Vacation House Check program at 943-2241
- Keep your parked vehicle's doors locked and the windows closed
- Do not leave your vehicle running with the keys in it and unattended
- Do not keep valuables in your vehicle, such as GPS Units, laptops, or iPods
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Follow the rule of: If You See Something, Say Something
- Call the Suspicious Activity line at 943-3030

All residents are encouraged to sign up to receive free text or email emergency alerts directly from the Police Department through the NIXLE system.

Simply text 48126 to phone number 888777 on your cell phone (normal text messaging rates may apply) or log onto www.nixle.com to set up a free account.

Residents can also contact the Dearborn Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit at 943-3092 with questions.

By working together, we can keep Dearborn clean and safe.

You can purchase tickets for any of these shows by visiting the box office, calling 943-2354, or visiting www.dearbornfordcenter.com.

Free Shredding Day Saturday, Nov. 5

The City of Dearborn will sponsor a free document shredding day on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon at the DPW Yard, 2951 Greenfield Rd. south of Rotunda Drive.

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

The limit is a maximum of 50 pounds or five office sized boxes of documents per person. For information, please call 943-2085.

Mayor

John B. O'Reilly, Jr.

City Council

Thomas P. Tafelski, Council President

Suzanne Sareini, Council President Pro Tem

Mark Shooshanian

Robert A. Abraham

Brian C. O'Donnell

Nancy A. Hubbard

David Bazzy

City Clerk

Kathleen Buda

Department of Public Information

Mary Laundroche, Director



City of Dearborn Department of Public Information

13615 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.1398
DEARBORN, MI

ECRWSS

To: Residential Customer

Avoid tickets

Move parked vehicles from streets when heavy snowfall is predicted

Residents can help get the roads plowed faster and more effectively this winter by moving parked vehicles off of the street whenever three inches or more of snow is predicted to fall.

Keeping parked vehicles off of the street allows snow plows to go curb-to-curb instead of working around parked vehicles.

Remember that when the City declares a snow emergency, you must remove your parked vehicles from the street or you could be ticketed and your vehicles could be towed.

Police do not issue warnings.

During a snow emergency, you may park your vehicle across the sidewalk in front of your driveway.

Generally, you may move vehicles back on the street once the street has been plowed curb to curb and no further heavy snowfall is expected.

Driveway aprons do become snow covered during snowplowing operations.

Do not pile snow back into the cleared street. Avoid throwing snow onto your neighbor's property without permission.

You can check if a snow emergency has been declared via any of the following methods:

- Snow emergency hotline at 943-2444.
- www.cityofdearborn.org
- CDTV.
- TV and radio news programs.
- You may also hear the City's emergency warning sirens go off.
- Twitter.com messages via the "cityofdearborn" account.
- Text or email messages sent to your phone or email from the public safety information system known as Nixle. Sign up for alerts at Nixle.com.

Fall cleanup

Collection of leaves raked into the street set to begin Oct. 24

Loose leaf collection is scheduled to begin on Oct. 24 and end on Dec. 2. Weather conditions may alter that timeline.

To make it easier for crews to pick up the leaves and to keep the streets safer, residents are encouraged to rake leaves into the street only on the day before their neighborhood's Public Service Days.

Public Service Days are the same as trash collection days. Vehicles must be removed from streets on these days from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Due to the volume and size of Public Service Day districts, crews may not be able to pick up all the loose leaves in a neighborhood on the designated Public Service Day/trash collection day.

City crews will return to the area the next week on Public Service Day/trash day, starting where they ended. It may take several weeks to complete a whole Public Service Day/trash day district.

For a weekly leaf collection schedule, call the Leaf Hotline at 943-2444.

Avoid raking leaves into the street too early, as leaves left to pile up in the street for days before scheduled collection can present traffic and safety hazards.

Preferred method: Bag leaves for curbside pickup every week

Remember that leaves can be disposed of by bagging them or putting them in proper containers for curbside pickup on regular trash collection days every week until Dec. 16.

Bagging them or putting them in the proper containers will ensure that they are picked up on your trash day.

Use 20-32 gallon containers with a City yard waste sticker on the lid (available at City Hall), or yard waste paper bags.

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

Staying informed

Order a 2012 City of Dearborn calendar before Nov. 7

Residents are invited to order a free 2012 City of Dearborn Calendar until Nov. 7, 2011.

2012 Calendars will be mailed to Dearborn residents who place their order before Nov. 7, 2011.

One calendar per household.

The preferred method to order a calendar is through www.cityofdearborn.org.

The request form can be found on the right side of the homepage. Click on "Order your 2012 Dearborn Calendar."

Ordering the calendar at www.cityofdearborn.org ensures accuracy and reduces taxpayers' costs.

As an alternative method only, residents without Internet access can order a calendar by calling 943-3003.

The calendar is full of relevant information, city phone numbers and events. As a cost-saving measure, it is no longer mailed to every household.

Residents will also be able to find the 2012 City Calendar at www.cityofdearborn.org in January and can view or print the entire calendar or individual pages at their convenience.

Those who order a calendar should receive it in the mail before Dec. 23, 2011.