



The City Chronicle

Newsletter of the Alpine Village

Gaylord City Hall, 305 E. Main Street, Gaylord, MI 49735

Volume 13, Issue 2

Street Millage Renewal

On the November 5 ballot the citizens of the City of Gaylord will be asked to renew their 4.1513 street millage for a period of ten years. This renewal will provide the City with funds to continue the improvements to the streets and related infrastructure in the City of Gaylord.



Past Success

The City has been using this millage over the past twenty years to rebuild roads and infrastructure on both its major and local streets. Typically the City places curb and gutter, storm drains, new sidewalks, street trees, and often new underground water and sanitary sewer lines to better serve our community. We estimate that 60% of our streets have seen such construction. It is very difficult to look around any corner in the City without seeing the improvements which have been made.

Future Improvements

A great deal of work still needs to be done. Areas needing immediate improvements are North Court Avenue, North Maple Avenue, South Elm Avenue, North Street, Shipp Street, East Second Street, East Third Street, Random Lane, and Clover Lane. Also slated for improvements are West Sheldon Street, West Jenson Street, South Oak Avenue, and South Hazel Street. However, none of this will be possible without voter support!

Cost to City Residents

What is important for us all to remember is that by voting "yes" on the street millage renewal your taxes will not increase one cent! The reason why is because this is a "renewal millage." The average home value in the City is currently \$84,752. The street millage cost is \$175.91 per year for the average home owner.

Benefits to City Residents

The new curb and gutter streets add a great deal to the overall appearance of both our City and our neighborhoods as a whole. Storm water is taken away, utilities are more efficient, and pedestrian and vehicle safety is greatly improved! These projects enable a greater sense of pride in our community and truly add to the quality of our lives in the City which we all live.

We ask the voters to keep these ideas in mind when you vote in the November election.

Roadways completed in the last 20 years: Center, North Ohio, Wisconsin, Grandview, Elkview, Pineview, Fourth, Petoskey, Mill, Court, North Hazel, Gornick, South Indiana, South Illinois, West Second, Mitchell, First, South Maple, Mankowski, O'Rourke, Calkins, Carpenter.

Roadways that have seen partial reconstruction in the last 20 years: West, North, Felshaw, North Indiana, North Illinois, Commerce, East Second, Fifth, Sheldon, North Elm, Jenson, Huron.

Want more information? A public information meeting will be held on the street millage renewal at the October 28 Council meeting which begins at 7pm. This meeting will be held at the City Hall, 305 E. Main Street, in the City Council Chambers.

South Wisconsin Avenue

The City is pleased to report that the improvements for South Wisconsin Avenue are complete. This project's completion was four years in the making. Work began in 2009 on the northern portion of South Wisconsin from Main Street back to the water tower. This spring the City began the final construction phase which started at the water tower and proceeded to the Grandview/South Otsego Avenue intersection.

Construction work was performed by M&M Excavating of Gaylord and included new curb and gutter, storm drainage, new water main where necessary and reconstructed roadway. Total cost of the project was \$748,269. This project originally was estimated at \$956,090. However, the City was able to see a savings of over 21% because of the great bids received. The City received a grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation's Federal Urban Program which paid for \$375,000 of this project's cost. The remaining funds came from the City's voted street millage which supports yearly street and utility reconstruction projects of this nature.

This is the last year of voted street millage for the City. It is our sincere hope that our residents support the November 5 street millage renewal. This will allow us to continue to provide such vital infrastructure improvements that enhance all of our lives on a daily basis.

Mankowski Road Extension Begins

Construction has begun on the Mankowski Road extension which will link Edelweiss Village Parkway to the Home Depot plaza. This approximate ½ mile extension will take a great deal of traffic off a very congested portion of West Main Street. Included in this project are new curb and gutter, storm drainage, a bituminous pedestrian pathway, and a completely new roadway. D J McQuestion & Sons, Inc. out of Leroy, Michigan is the contractor on this project. They were the low bidder at \$196,952, which was 10% below our engineer's estimate. D J McQuestion is also completing work as a subcontractor for the Otsego County Road Commission's McCoy and Millbocker Road project.

The City would like to thank the Road Commission, the Otsego County Economic Alliance, and the Michigan Department of Transportation for their assistance in making this project a reality. A combination of MDOT safety grant monies and residual Federal Highway funds from the I-75 crossing project are being used to pay for these improvements. This new roadway will definitely provide a safer alternate route for those utilizing the two shopping plazas.

Work is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Snow Season! Your cooperation is appreciated . . .

- Do not plow snow from your driveway onto or across the roadway. It's against the law!
- Please move your vehicles off the roadway during the nighttime hours. Review the "Winter On-Street Parking Rules" article below.
- If possible, place a "snow board" on a separate post in front of your mailbox to prevent snow from hitting it.
- If thrown snow damages or knocks down your mailbox, please understand and cooperate by replacing the mailbox yourself.



WINTER On-Street Parking Rules

City Ordinance prohibits parking on any street in the City of Gaylord between 2:30 am and 6:00 am from December 1 to April 1. Your observance of this ordinance will assist the City in delivering the best possible snow removal and street maintenance service. Any person violating the winter on-street parking ordinance will be fined \$10.



Annual Leaf/Needle Pick-Up for City of Gaylord Residents

The Department of Public Works' Annual Leaf/Needle Pick Up has begun and will continue through mid-November, weather permitting. We will be picking up leaves, needles, and branches from storm damage and small pruning projects. Tree removal projects will not be picked up.

Please do not use plastic bags to bag your leaves, needles, or yard rakings.

Since bagged leaves and needles are picked up by our City crew and then transported directly to the City's compost pile, you must use the City's compost bags if you bag your leaves and/or needles. And, please, fill compost bags with compost materials only. Items such as plastic, wire, and rocks do not break down on our compost pile and should not be placed in compost bags. City Office has compost bags available to City residents free of charge.

*If you choose not to bag your leaves or needles, please rake them near the edge of the street in piles. **If your street is curbed, the piles should be raked to the back edge of the curb. Leaves and needles raked over the curb and into the gutter will not allow rainwater to flow to catch basins.***

Due to limited manpower and equipment availability, bagged leaves and needles usually will be picked up before those that are not bagged.

Please remember that it is unlawful to burn yard rakings within the City limits.

Your assistance with this program is greatly appreciated!



Find this issue of the City Chronicle online at <http://www.cityofgaylord.com>.

Sewer Backup Insurance

Sewer backups can be costly, but sewer backup insurance is not! Many policy holders inadvertently believe they have coverage for these types of occurrences, when in fact they do not. Contact your insurance company for information on special coverage for damage resulting from backups of drains and sewers.

By State law, the City's insurance carrier only pays claims resulting from sewer backups when negligence in maintaining the system can be proven. Property owners are encouraged to protect their property by obtaining sewer backup insurance.

Several Ways to Pay Utility Bills:

- Mail checks to City of Gaylord, 305 E. Main Street, Gaylord, MI, 49735.
- Pay in person, Monday through Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm. In addition to cash and checks, the City now accepts credit or debit card payments. A 5% service fee is charged for each credit or debit card payment.
- Call City Hall at 989-732-4060 to make credit card payments. A 5% service fee will be charged for all credit card payments.
- Automatic Payment Plan (APP) via electronic deduction from a checking or savings account. As long as you maintain adequate funds in your account, there are no fees for APP, no check-writing charges, and no late payments. To begin APP, please complete an Authorization Agreement form (available at City Hall, 732-4060, or online at www.cityofgaylord.com) and return it to City Hall. Automatic payments would then begin with your next water bill. You will need to continue to make payments until "Notice of Automatic Payment Plan" is printed on your monthly utility bill.

The City of Gaylord does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities desiring to attend City meetings/hearings. Three weeks advance notice is requested. Please call City Hall at 732-4060 for more information.

November 5 Election Day

Polls open on Tuesday, November 5, 2013 at 7:00 am and will close at 8:00 pm. All City elections are held at the Gaylord City Hall, 305 E. Main Street.

The following are items up for decision at the election:

- City Clerk – Two-Year Term
- City Treasurer – Two-Year Term
- Mayor – Two-Year Term
- City Council Members – Three Positions, Four-Year Terms
- Ballot Issue – Renewal of Ten-Year Millage to fund street and infrastructure improvements in the City of Gaylord

We encourage all of our citizens to vote in this very important election.

For more information on the election and voting, please contact the City Clerk at 989-732-4060.

✓ City of Gaylord Property and Tax Information Now Online

✓ Utility Billing Information and Cemetery Records Now Online

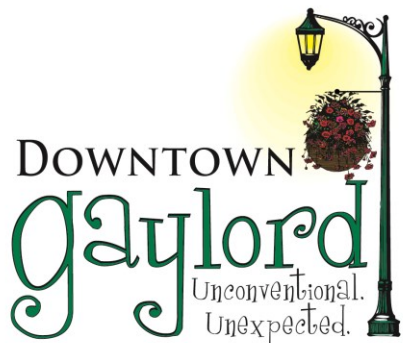
The City of Gaylord has recently partnered with BS&A Software to provide property tax, utility billing, and cemetery information over the internet. Residents are able to obtain:

- Assessing records including property description and SEV, assessed and taxable values
- Tax Records including tax payment history
- Delinquent Personal Property Tax Records
- Utility Billing Information
- Cemetery Records

To look up information, go to the City's website, www.cityofgaylord.com, and click on the "Online Services" link located on the left side of the page. This will take you to a new website that will allow you to enter a name, an address, or a parcel number to look up information.

SAW Grant Application

The City of Gaylord is working with our consulting engineers, C2AE of Gaylord, in preparing an application for grant funds to assist the City with the development of a Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) plan. The grant will be managed and funded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and will enable the City to review, map, collect data, and identify problem areas in our underground sanitary sewer and storm water collection systems. This information will assist the City well into the future and will allow us to plan for future needs and address problems before they become unmanageable. Grant funding from the MDEQ is 90% with the City's contribution being 10%. Over the next few months our public works and wastewater department personnel will work with C2AE in preparing the application for funding which will be submitting by December of 2013.



Trick or Treat!

Downtown businesses will be hosting their annual Trick or Treat Downtown on Thursday, October 31 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. All of Gaylord's goblins, ghouls and other trick-or-treaters are invited to wander through downtown looking for treats!

Annual Thanksgiving Farmers Market

Wednesday, November 27, the day before Thanksgiving! 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, under the Pavilion On Court. FRESH turkeys, baked goods, vegetables, cider, honey, and much more!

Santa Parade!

On Friday, December 6, the annual SANTA PARADE kickoffs the holiday season in Downtown Gaylord! The parade starts at 6:00pm and Santa will arrive in grand fashion! Parade travels from South Indiana to Main Street, stopping at the Pavilion On Court.

Christmas Shop & Stroll

On Saturday, December 7, be part of Downtown Gaylord's annual downtown Christmas Stroll tradition! Visit downtown shops and restaurants where special in-store events will be happening!

New Year's Eve Festival

"Gaylord Goes 'Round the World for New Years," an event coordinated by Otsego Tomorrow. Be sure to make Downtown Gaylord your New Year's Eve destination!

3rd Annual Alpenfrost

A fun-filled day in the good ol' outdoors! The whole family will have a blast! Alpenfrost 2014, February 7 & 8, in DOWNTOWN GAYLORD!

Look for details on these events and more online at www.shopdowntowngaylord.com!

Ski City of Gaylord's Aspen Park Cross-Country Ski Trails!



Almost two miles of immaculately groomed trails! A very scenic, lighted trail system that meanders through gently rolling wooded terrain. It is common to see plentiful wildlife out on the trail.

These novice to intermediate level trails are open every day (including weekends and holidays) from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Trail lights are on from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and then again from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

City of Gaylord Has New DDA Executive Director

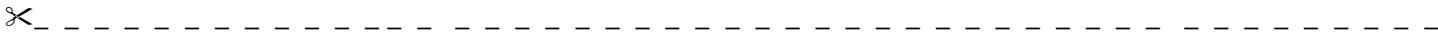
On October 1, 2013, Justin Burchett was sworn in as the new Gaylord Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Executive Director. As Executive Director, Justin will be working with business leaders and the community to create a more vibrant downtown Gaylord that is truly a regional destination for shopping, entertainment, and relaxation. He will also be continuing to work towards the implementation of a Michigan Main Street Program (MMSP) style approach to downtown development in Gaylord, which is a four-point approach focused on Design, Economic Restructuring, Promotion, and Organization. This program utilizes community members interested in volunteering time towards enhancing downtown districts through service on committees mirroring the MMSP four-point approach. Other responsibilities will include creating and carrying out downtown events, seeking out new businesses to locate in downtown Gaylord, overseeing Farmer's Market operations, and much more.

Justin Burchett moved to the area in January 2012 and has served as Huron Pines AmeriCorps Member at the Otsego Conservation District in the capacity of Education Coordinator organizing multiple events and educational programs. His second year of service will come to a close at the end of October. To learn more about the DDA or to contact Justin, email dda@cityofgaylord.org or call (989) 732-4060.



City of Gaylord
 305 E. Main Street
 Gaylord, MI 49735

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: > : < : > : < : **City Hall is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** : > : < : > : < :

Thursday, November 11 – Veteran’s Day, City Hall Closed Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day, City Hall Closed Friday, November 29 – City Hall Closed First Week of December – Winter Tax Bills Mailed Out Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve, City Hall Closed	Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day, City Hall Closed Tuesday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve, City Hall Closed Wednesday, January 1 – New Year’s Day, City Hall Closed Friday, February 14 – Last day to pay City Winter Tax bills without penalty.
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Visit us online at: <http://www.cityofgaylord.com>

<p>The Gaylord City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>The City Planning Commission holds a regular meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.</p> <p>The City Zoning Board of Appeals meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month as requests for variances are submitted. Notice for each meeting is published in advance.</p> <p>The Gaylord Downtown Development Authority generally meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 am.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">: > : < : > : < : > : < :</p> <p>Public meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of Gaylord City Hall, 305 E. Main Street, Gaylord.</p>	<p>City Office: 732-4060 Mayor: John Jenkins Council: Ward 1: Bill Wishart, 732-0746 Ward 2: Todd Sharrard, 732-7331 Ward 3: Jerry Campbell, 732-4311 At Large: Pam Duczowski, 732-5679 At Large: Pat Mankowski, 732-4773 At Large: Steve Johnson, 732-7911 Chief of Police: Brett McVannel, 732-1777 City Assessor: Debbie Dunham, 732-4060 City Clerk: Becky Curtis, 732-4060 City Manager: Joseph P. Duff, 732-4060 City Treasurer: 732-4060 DPW Superintendent: William E. Tholl, 732-5475 DDA Director: Justin Burchett, 732-4060 WWTP Superintendent: Wayne Davis, 732-0750</p>
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