

Dexter Village Update

Fall 2014

Volume 14, Issue 3

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Halloween

Trick or Treat Hours

Friday,
October 31st
from 5:30
p.m. to 7:30
p.m.

Important Vote on November 4, 2014

All registered voters in the Village of Dexter are encouraged to get out and vote on November 4th on the question of whether or not the Village should adopt the proposed City Charter and incorporate as a City. The wording of the ballot question is as follows:

“Shall the proposed Charter for the City of Dexter, drafted by the Charter Commission elected on November 5, 2013, be adopted?”

A “yes” vote means that the Village of Dexter becomes the City of Dexter (also known as incorporation through the Home Rule City Act), and a “no” vote means that the Village stays a Village (governed by the General Law Village Act). However, if the Charter is not adopted the Charter Commission can draft another version to put in front of the voters for their approval. If a Charter is not approved by May 24, 2016, the Village cannot become a City

without the entire process starting again from the beginning.

While we realize that it may cause confusion, the ballot also contains races for both City Offices and Village Offices. This was necessary because if the Charter is adopted and the Village becomes a City, there must be a governing body (Mayor and City Council) ready to take office after the Charter is filed with the Secretary of State. If the Charter is not adopted, our current Village Council would continue as they have in the past, and there are 3 Village Trustee seats that are up for election this November.

On the following pages there is a comparison of services offered by a village and those offered by a city. Also inside this newsletter are details of the history of the process and how and where to vote so please continue to read on for important information!

Dexter Welcomes a New Manager

In early August, long-time Village Manager, Donna Dettling, left our employment in order to pursue other professional opportunities. On October 8th, Council voted unanimously to appoint Courtney Nicholls, who had

been serving as acting village manager, as the new Village Manager.

Prior to taking her new position, Ms. Nicholls had served as the Assistant Village Manager for the past seven years. She has a

Masters Degree in Public Administration from Wayne State University, and has experience in a broad range of municipal activities.

You may reach her at cnicholls@DexterMI.gov or at (734) 426-8303 x 11.

What's Happening Around Town?

Mill Creek Park Work Day

The Village of Dexter will be hosting a community work day in Mill Creek Park on Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Village Staff will be on hand to answer questions and assign tasks to anyone who is interested in participating.

Leaf Pick Up Starts

Leaf pick-up by the Department of Public Works (DPW) will begin once the leaves start falling. The DPW will be focusing on leaf pick-up on Monday and Tuesday of each week (weather permitting). Please do not put any debris (garbage, sticks, etc.) in the leaf piles and please do not rake leaves into the road, ditches, storm drains, or parking spots. Waste Management will continue to pick up compost bags through the last Saturday in November (due to the Thanksgiving holiday).

Survey Request – What's Next for Village Parks

The Parks & Recreation Commission is working on updating the Village's 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Commission would like to gather feedback on what the community would like to see as the priorities for the parks system over the next five years. The short survey can be

accessed from the home page of the Village's website. If you would like a hard copy mailed to your home please contact the Village Office at (734) 426-8303.

Hydrant Flushing

The Utilities Department will be flushing our fire hydrants in early November, however the exact date has not yet been determined. This information will be available on the Village website and Facebook Page and will be sent via the Village e-mail update.

As crews flush hydrants there may be some discoloration of the water. Residents who experience "rust colored" water should simply run the cold water tap for a few minutes to clear the household pipes. The rust coloring is caused by a natural build up of minerals in the water system. Some natural mineral deposits are stirred up in the water pipes when fire hydrants are first turned on. If possible, try to avoid washing white clothes during this time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Utility Department at (734) 426-4572 during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to maintain the quality of your water system.

Dexter Farmers Market Plans October Events!



The Dexter Farmers Market is having a great season. The Market is averaging seventeen vendors on Saturdays and five on Tuesdays. Please stop by and see what they have to offer - the Market will close for the season after October 25th, so don't wait!

Market Hours:

Saturday – 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday – 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

October 18th is Pumpkin Painting Day!

Kids 12 and under can paint a small pumpkin, free of charge, from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

October 25th is the Dress Up Your Dog for Halloween Contest!

Judging will be done at noon.

If you have any questions about the market or would like more information on what is available contact the Village Offices at (734) 426-8303 x10.

Election Day is November 4th

Residents who are registered to vote can do so at the following places between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.:

Village residents in Webster Township: Webster Township Hall, 5665 Webster Church Road, (734)

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

If you are in need of an absentee ballot for the

November election you can request one from your Township Clerk.

Not sure if you are registered to vote? Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.michigan.gov/vote. This website allows

you to find out if you are registered to vote and has great information on where to vote, how to vote, upcoming statewide ballot proposals and other frequently asked voting questions.

Comparison Between a Village and a City

Below is a comparison of the governmental powers, roles and duties as they exist today as the Village of Dexter compared to the future City of Dexter. Village data is presented in present tense; City roles are in future tense as if the Charter is adopted.

Village of Dexter

Annexation: The Village of Dexter has the ability to annex property outside its boundaries, as allowed by law. The process generally includes a public hearing and consideration by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

Assessing: This service is provided by the Townships and paid for through the taxes paid by Village taxpayers to the Townships. No connectivity between township databases and Village tax database so ownership information can be inaccurate in Village in house and on line tax systems. Board of Review members are from both township and village. The Village does not have direct representation before the State Tax Tribunal, as those services are provided by the townships.

Community Development: Land use planning, master planning, and zoning are done by the Village's Community Development department in conjunction with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Village government has no say in land use decisions made outside its borders. Village residents, also being township residents, can give input to their elected township board.

Elections: Elections are run by the townships. The Village does not maintain voter registration lists, has no say over voting precincts or locations, and does not have the capability to register voters at our offices. The township provides this service which is paid for through the taxes paid by Village residents and businesses to the Township. If the Village holds a special election, the Village pays the election expenses to the Township.

Governance: The law that governs the Village is the General Law Village Act. The Village Council make-up and terms are established by this law, as are other positions such as manager, clerk and treasurer. Village residents can vote in elections for both Village officials and township officials, and run for elected office in both either community.

Parks, Recreation, Trees and the Open Space Millage: Parks and recreation within the Village is governed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and tree activities by the Tree Board. The townships have no say in parks, recreation, or tree activities within the Village. Village residents pay an open space millage to their townships, as voted by village/township electors. Open space millage funds can be used within or outside the Village, but have historically been used outside the Village boundaries.

Public Safety: The Village contracts with the Dexter Area Fire Department for fire protection, and with the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department for police services. In the future, the Village could decide to continue these contracts, or create their own police and/or fire departments. Village residents in Webster Township pay a public safety millage, but funds are not used for services provided within the Village.

City of Dexter

Annexation: The City of Dexter would have the ability to annex property outside its boundaries, as allowed by law. The process generally includes a public hearing and consideration by the State Boundary Commission.

Assessing: The service would be provided and covered as a service under the City of Dexter general fund. Connectivity between City maintained assessing and tax databases means most up to date information would be available for in house and on line tax systems. Board of review members would be from the city only. City would have its own representation at and direct notifications from the State Tax Tribunal.

Community Development: Land use planning, master planning, and zoning would be done by the City's Community Development department in conjunction with the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. The City government has no say in land use decisions made outside its borders. City residents can still give input to the townships, but not in the capacity of a township resident.

Elections: Elections would be run by the City and covered as a service under the City's general fund. The City would maintain voter registration lists, determine voting precincts and locations, and would have the capability to register voters at our offices. Schools and other entities would have to reimburse the Village for special elections held on their behalf. The Mayor and City Council election will be in November every odd year.

Governance: The law that governs a city is the Home Rule City Act. Six City Council members will be elected for staggered four year terms. The Mayor will be elected separately to a four year term. To create the staggered terms the first election will select three candidates for three years and three candidates for one year. The City Clerk will be an appointed, instead of an elected position. City residents would no longer be able to vote or run in township elections.

Parks, Recreation, Trees and the Open Space Millage: Parks and recreation within the City would be governed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and tree activities by the Tree Board. The townships would have no say in parks, recreation, or tree activities within the City. City residents would no longer pay an open space millage, unless elected in the future by City electors. The townships may choose to use open space millage funds on properties surrounding the City, but could not within the City.

Public Safety: The City would continue the existing contracts with the Dexter Area Fire Department for fire protection, and with the Washtenaw County Sheriff Department for police services. In the future, the City could decide to continue these contracts, or create their own police and/or fire departments. City residents who were formerly Webster Township residents would no longer pay the public safety millage.

Comparison Between a Village and a City

Village of Dexter

Public Utilities: Public utilities (sewer, water, trash pick up) are provided by Village employees and contractors and billed as user fees to businesses and residents. Townships have no say in these activities within the Village boundaries.

Public Works: Road maintenance and construction, downtown maintenance, sidewalks maintenance and construction, leaf and brush pick-up, park maintenance and other public works activities are performed by the Village's DPW. Townships have no say in these activities within the Village boundaries.

Tax Collection: Township, school, county, intermediate school district, community college, and library taxes are collected by the townships in two bills, summer and winter. The township distributes collections for other entities to those entities as directed by law. The Village collects its own taxes, once a year in the summer. Sometimes the three bills cause confusion, and tax bills can be unintentionally missed and then subsequently sent to the county as delinquent. Property transfer forms are often filed with the Village in error, and must be forwarded to the appropriate township.

Seniors and other qualified residents seeking property tax deferrals must apply to both the Village and the township.

Residents and other entities seeking tax information must access the websites of both the Village and the townships, or must call both communities to get the required information. The Village may not speak authoritatively on assessing or township tax information, and the townships cannot address Village tax questions. This may cause frustration and confusion, especially with people unfamiliar with the Village/township system.

Tax capture for special financing districts such as the Downtown Development Authority and brownfield redevelopment projects must be administered by both the townships and the Village. At the end of tax collection, the Washtenaw County Treasurer must combine the village with the two townships in their delinquent tax system, which may delay payment of delinquent taxes to the Village.

Village residents pay the following millage levies: Village, township, open space, public safety (Webster Township only), schools, intermediate school district, county, community college, and library. They also pay a 1% administration fee on their township taxes to offset taxing and assessing costs. The Village does not levy an administration fee.

Maximum millage rates are set by the General Law Village Act, at 12.5 mills for operating and 5 mills for roads. The Village Council sets the actual millage rate each year and currently does not levy the maximum allowable streets, cemetery, or waste management millage.

City of Dexter

Public Utilities: Public utilities (sewer, water, trash pick up) would be provided by City employees and contractors and billed as user fees to businesses and residents. Townships would have no say in these activities within the City boundaries.

Public Works: Road maintenance and construction, downtown maintenance, sidewalks maintenance and construction, leaf and brush pick-up, park maintenance and other public works activities would be performed by the City's DPW. Townships would have no say in these activities within the City boundaries.

Tax Collection: City, school, county, intermediate school district, community college, and library taxes would be collected by the City in two bills, summer and winter. The City would distribute collections for other entities to those entities as directed by law. Confusion in regard to who is collecting what would be eliminated. The City would no longer have to forward property transfer forms to the townships.

Seniors and other qualified residents seeking property tax deferrals would need to apply only to the City.

Residents and other entities seeking tax information could get it with one website visit or telephone call. The City would be able to speak authoritatively on assessing matters.

Tax capture for special financing districts such as the Downtown Development Authority and brownfield redevelopment projects would be administered only by the City. There would be a slight loss of revenue for these authorities. At the end of tax collection, the Washtenaw County Treasurer would be able to pay out delinquent taxes without having to take the extra steps to combine them with two other communities.

City residents would pay the following millage levies: City, schools, intermediate school district, county, community college, and library. They would pay an administration fee on their taxes to offset taxing and assessing costs. The City Council could determine the rate for the administration fee, up to 1%.

Maximum millage rates will be set by the City Charter, which states that up to 12.5 mills can be used for operating expense and 5 mills can be used for roads. The City Council will set the actual millage rate each year.

Millage Rates - Village vs City

The tax rates for a village and a city are very similar. The maximum millage rates for the Village are set by state law, through the General Law Village Act, at 21.5 mills. The Headlee Amendment (part of the Michigan Constitution) then “rolls back” the maximum rates to create the allowed millage rates. The current allowable millage rates for the Village of Dexter are 9.8807 for general operating, 3.9520 for streets, 3 for garbage collection and 1 to run a cemetery.

The current Village millage rate is 14.0562, which includes 9.8807 for general operating, 3.4380 for streets

and 0.7375 for the downtown streetscape bond.

The Village Council sets the millage rates, within the allowable amounts, as part of the yearly budgeting process. Voters can also approve special millage levies (such as the current 1996 downtown streetscape bond).

A city’s millage rates are governed by the Home Rule City Act and by the City Charter. While the Home Rule City Act allows a maximum of 20 mills for general operating, plus an additional 3 mills for garbage collection, the Charter Commission recommended a tax structure

similar to the current Village tax structure. The proposed City Charter has a cap of 17.5 mills - 12.5 mills can be used for general operating expenses and 5 mills can be used only for roads. This similar structure will provide flexibility for a future City Council to set the necessary millage rates in accordance with future expenses.

As a City, the City Council would continue to set the actual millage rate each year. The 1996 Streetscape Bond millage would remain in place until it expires in 2017, and the new maximum rates would be subject to the Headlee Amendment moving forward.

Impact on the Townships and Other Organizations

Scio and Webster Townships:

How much are Village residents and businesses currently paying in Scio Township and Webster Township taxes?

- Currently Village taxpayers pay \$248,798 (1.446 mills) for Scio Township taxes and \$95,150 (3.2721 mills) for Webster Township taxes
- This \$343,948 is being used by the Townships to provide elections and assessing services to the Village taxpayers. City residents/

business owners would no longer pay this to the Townships.

- The reduction represents 12.78% of Scio Township’s and 7.20% of Webster Township’s tax revenue. Neither Webster nor Scio has indicated that the tax revenue decrease would have an impact on their operations.
- The Townships also collect a 1% administration fee on each tax bill, which generates approximately \$71,800 for Scio and \$10,900 for Webster to be

used for assessing and tax collection activities.

Dexter Community Schools:

The Dexter Community School District would not be affected by the change. They have their own elected Board, act independently of local government, and their tax collections would not be any different.

Dexter District Library, Washtenaw County, and other taxing entities:

All taxing entities other than the Townships will remain unaffected by the change.

How Would the Change Affect Individual Taxpayers?

Currently, Village taxpayers pay one bill to the Village, which is only for Village taxes, and two bills to their township. The Townships collect not only their own taxes, but also for the Dexter Community Schools, Dexter District Library, Washtenaw County, the Community College and Intermediate School District, and other county-wide voted millage rates.

If the Village becomes a city, then taxpayers would have two bills instead

of three, and would pay all of the taxes and fees that they currently pay - **except for the Township taxes, which they would no longer pay** - to the City Treasurer.

- The tax savings to an owner of a \$200,000 home located both in the Village and Scio Township would be approximately \$145 per year.

- The tax savings to an owner of a \$200,000 home located both in the Village and Webster Township would be approximately \$327 per year.

- The tax savings for a business located both in the Village and Scio Township valued at \$2,000,000 would be approximately \$2,892 per year.

New City Services - The Cost and How Do We Afford Them Without More Taxes?

As a city, two new services (assessing and elections) would be added to those already provided by the Village. Plus, there is an existing agreement with Webster Township involving conditional transfer of land into the Village that would need to be honored.

Property Assessing: Assessing would be provided by a contracted assessor, estimated to be approximately \$40,000 per year.

Elections: There would be a one-time start-up cost of \$6,000 per precinct for equipment, then approximately \$2,000 per election.

Existing 425 Agreement with Webster Township: The new City of Dexter would be required to make annual payments to Webster Township for twelve years after becoming a city, based on a formula established in 1997 in the Village's 425 agreement with them. This is estimated to be about \$22,650 per year.

New Revenue: If Dexter becomes a city, it is envisioned that the administration fee that is currently being paid by taxpayers to the Townships would instead be collected by the city and used to cover the cost of assessing and tax collection.

Comparing these costs to the amount of taxes Village residents currently pay to the Townships shows an approximate savings of \$270,000 per year.

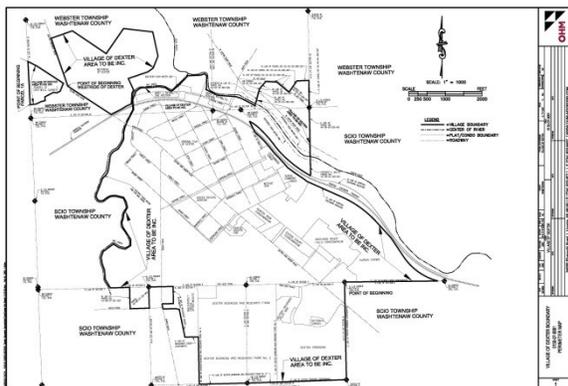
Cityhood Process to Date

- The City Study Committee was formed in July 2006, and in March of the following year they voted 16-1 to recommend to Village Council to pursue becoming a city. Two months later, Council voted unanimously to start the process.
- For the next several years, the Village worked through the steps required by the State of Michigan Boundary Commission, including gathering petition signatures and determining the proposed boundary of the new City.
- In January 2012, the Boundary Commission held a public hearing in the Village, and in June they approved the proposed boundary, triggering a referendum period.
- Enough signatures were gathered during the referendum period to put the issue on the ballot, allowing residents to decide whether or not the process of becoming a city should continue. On May 7, 2013, the voters chose to continue on.
- The City Charter Commission was elected on November 5, 2013, charged with the task of drafting a proposed City Charter. The Commission worked for five months to prepare this document, which is now on the ballot for voter approval. The Charter has been reviewed and approved by the Michigan Attorney General and the Governor.
- Since 2006, approximately \$82,000 has been spent on this process. The money has been spent primarily to create and revise the boundary map, and to utilize the services of an attorney to assist with working through the process.

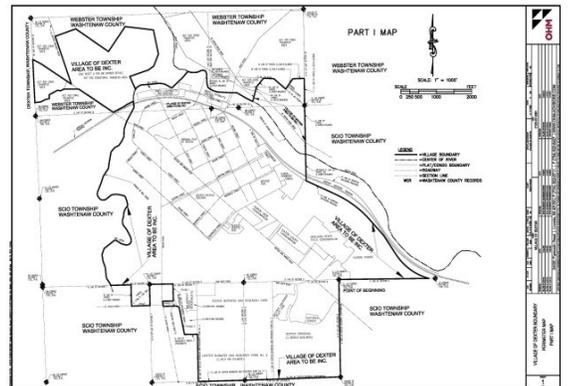
BOUNDARY COMPARISON

The maps below show the current Village boundary and the proposed boundary for the City of Dexter. No taxable land was added to the City. The three small areas of land that were added was done so to create a contiguous boundary.

Current Village Boundary



Proposed City Boundary



Proposed City Charter Summary

The proposed City Charter was drafted by a nine member Commission - John Hansen (Chair), Phil Arbour (Vice-Chair), Jack Donaldson, Matt Kowalski, Phil Mekas, Mary-Ellen Miller, Thom Phillips, Michael Raatz, and James Smith.

The proposed City Charter will be published in its entirety in the Sun Times on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. A copy of the proposed Charter is available on the Village website, at the Dexter District Library (2nd floor reference desk) and in the Village Offices (8123 Main St). Following is a summary of each section of the document.

Article 1: Name and Boundaries – This section establishes the name of the City and the boundaries as approved by the Boundary Commission.

Article 2: General Municipal Powers – This section provides broad language that states that the city will take on the powers allowed by State Law.

Article 3: Organization of Government – This section outlines the powers, duties and terms of City Council, the Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tem. Terms will remain four years for Mayor and City Council. The City Clerk has been changed from an elected to appointed position. It also addresses the interaction between Council and city officers and employees.

Article 4: Elections – This section establishes the election procedure for the city, much of which is dictated by State Law, as well as the Clerk's duties. City elections will be held in November of odd years, and Mayor and council positions will remain non-partisan. Candidates are required to get the signatures of 15 registered voters to be eligible to file for elected office.

Article 5: General Provisions Regarding Officers and Personnel – This section contains the provisions outlining a candidate's eligibility to hold public office, the procedure for filling vacancies in office, and dealing with conflicts of interest. To run for an elected position a person must be a resident of the city for a minimum of one year prior to the date of the election.

Article 6: City Council – Procedures, Powers and Duties – This section describes the procedures for the City Council including the holding of regular meetings, determination of quorum, and requiring compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Article 7: Administrative Services – This section creates the position and outlines the duties of the City Manager, Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor, Attorney, and Planning and Zoning Administrator. It also establishes the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals and requires that the city provide police and fire protection. Police and fire protection can continue to be provided by contract (as it is now with the Washtenaw County Sheriff and Dexter Area Fire Department). Other positions and boards can be established by Council as needed.

Article 8: Legislation - This section deals with legislative powers, including the procedure for the creation of ordinances.

Article 9: Financial Management – This section outlines the process for adopting the annual budget, making amendments to the budget and creating a Capital Improvement Plan. It sets the City's fiscal year as July 1 – June 30.

Article 10: Taxation – This section states that the millage rate cannot exceed 17.5 mills, of which a maximum of 12.5 mills can be for operating and 5 mills for streets. The actual millage rate will be set by the City Council each year as part of the budget adoption process. This section also addresses assessing, the Board of Review, and procedures for the handling of the tax roll as set forth by state law.

Article 11: Special Assessments – This section provides that the City Council is responsible for establishing an ordinance that outlines the procedure for the creation of special assessment districts.

Article 12: Borrowing – This section provides guidance on borrowing money, including requiring public notice and ensuring that the funds are used only for the project they were borrowed to support. It also addresses borrowing limits.

Article 13: Purchases, Sales, Contract and Leases – This section addresses purchasing, and establishes the rules for bidding and entering into contracts.

Article 14: Utilities, Franchises and Permits – This section establishes that the city has a right to own public utilities (The Village currently has water, storm sewer and sanitary sewer), enter into franchise agreements, and set rates for utility services.

Article 15: Miscellaneous – This section covers general topics such as definitions and the process for charter amendments.

Village Meetings

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

October 13, 2014
October 27, 2014
November 10, 2014
November 24, 2014
December 8, 2014
December 22, 2014

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

October 6, 2014
November 3, 2014
December 1, 2014

Parks & Recreation Commission 7:00 p.m. at the Village Offices 8123 Main Street

October 21, 2014
November 18, 2014
December 16, 2014

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

October 16, 2014
November 20, 2014
December 18, 2014

Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee 7:00 p.m. at the Dexter Senior Center 7720 Ann Arbor Street

October 7, 2014
November 4, 2014
December 2, 2014

Interested in serving your community? The Village is always looking for people interested in serving on our various committees and commissions. Application forms can be downloaded from the Village website.

Daylight
savings time
ends on
November 2nd.
Please
remember to
set your clocks
back one hour!

Border to Border Trail

Working with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPRC), the Village of Dexter will complete the final segment of the Border to Border Trail within the Village limits in the Spring of 2015. While the majority of the trail was completed between Dexter Huron Metropark and the Village limits in 2013, there is still a 1200' stretch of trail that has not yet been constructed. This segment was left unfinished due to a number of issues that included the railroad and the lack of available right of way to construct the improvements.

Since that time, the Village has completed a property acquisition which has made completion of the trail possible. As a result of this, the Village will bid the project for construction in the winter and intends to proceed with the completion of work in the spring.

The purchase of right of way has also made additional improvements possible such as a dedicated driveway to the DPW and storm water improvements. The trail itself will be configured to avoid any conflicts between DPW vehicles and non-motorized traffic. Areas around the

trail will be fenced to protect bicyclists and pedestrians from debris that can be moved by high speed passenger trains which will use the rail corridor in the near future.

In exchange for the Village's efforts to obtain the necessary right of way and finalize designs, the WCPRC has dedicated \$225,000.00 to the project towards its completion. With construction beginning in the early spring, the Village anticipates that the trail will be completed and open to users by June of 2015.

Make Your Dog a "Legal Beagle"

Did you know that Washtenaw County requires that all dogs in the County be licensed? If you live in the Village, licenses can be obtained from the Washtenaw County Treasurer's office at 200 North Main, Suite 200, Ann Arbor, (734) 222-6600 or on-line at <http://dogs.ewashtenaw.org>. The cost is \$6 per year for a neutered or spayed dog, and \$12 per year for unaltered dogs. Service dogs are free. Please have your

dog's most up to date rabies vaccination information on hand before applying for a license.

If you own an unlicensed dog, you may be subject to a citation and fines ranging from \$50 to \$500.

Licensing your dog will help to ensure that if he gets loose, your identity will be easily available to Washtenaw County

Animal Control, or to the Humane Society of Huron Valley, which serves as our County's stray animal holding facility.

Please remember, when walking your furry friend through our parks and streets, to be a pooper-scooper and clean up after your dogs. Your neighbors will appreciate it!

2014 Asphalt Program

The Village is pleased to announce that construction is already underway on several roadways throughout the Village’s neighborhoods as well as the Dexter Business and Research Park. These areas will be improved using a combination of pavement rehabilitation methods ranging from crack sealing to base crush and shaping with new asphalt pavement overlay.

The work planned for this fall represents the first phase of a three-year program intended to upgrade the quality of roadway surfaces throughout Dexter’s local streets. To expedite this program, the Village Council authorized the issuance of \$800,000 in bonds to help address the Village’s aging roadway infrastructure. This was made possible because of a modest, 0.5 mill increase to the Village’s existing road funding millage. The Village Council Road Committee began planning for this work in late 2013 and finalized the program earlier this year.

As mentioned previously, this fall’s improvements includes several different types of work. The type of work is driven primarily by the quality of the road surface as determined from a Village-wide pavement assessment completed every 2 years. A summary of each type of work planned for the 2014 construction season is shown below. Some

areas may not be completed until Spring 2015.

CRACK SEALING:

The road program includes a preventative maintenance plan to install hot rubber crack sealant on certain asphalt streets. This method is chosen on roads that are in fair condition and prolongs the life of the surface. This is done with material that prevents the migration of water through and below the pavement surface which in turn prevents damage from the freeze-thaw cycle.

CRUSHING AND SHAPING WITH OVERLAY:

The crushing and shaping work will include a technique that pulverizes and compacts the existing asphalt in place. This work will allow for the existing material to be recycled for the new road base. After completing the compaction work, new asphalt will be placed over the base. The new roadway surface will typically be a few inches higher than the current elevation. This will require some driveways to be replaced as well as some grass restoration where necessary. Grass restoration will be performed using seed and mulch due to the anticipated small areas of work and seasonal constraints. The anticipated duration of work is 5-10 days in length.

Under this scope of work, it may become necessary for driveway access to be limited to allow for either partial driveway replacement or preparation of the roadway base. The contractor will provide at least one day of advance warning before driveway closures become necessary. During these closures, parking on adjacent streets will be made available to impacted residents.

MILLING WITH OVERLAY:

Streets slated for milling will have the edges of the existing pavement milled to create a uniform base for the placement of a new asphalt surface. In addition to milling, some pavement cracks and failures will be removed and replaced with new asphalt base by the Village DPW. The nature of the milling work will not require any driveway closures. It is anticipated that the milling work and placement of new asphalt will be performed while maintaining local traffic and driveway access. The anticipated duration of work for milling and asphalt overlay generally one week or less.

PROJECT NOTIFICATIONS:

Residents in affected areas will receive notifications throughout the construction process via mail as well as direct contact from Village DPW staff. News will also be disseminated via the Village website, Facebook and weekly e-mail updates.

Street	Start	End	Type of Work
Huron	Broad	Central	Mill & Overlay
Central	Main	5 th	Mill & Overlay
Dover	Ann Arbor St	2 nd	Crush & Shape
Edison	5 th	2 nd	Crush & Shape
Hudson	Ann Arbor St	4 th	Mill & Overlay
Inverness	Ann Arbor St	End	Mill & Overlay and Crush & Shape
Second	Central	Cushing Court	Mill & Overlay
Cushing Court	Second	Cul-de-sac	Mill & Overlay
5 th Street	Edison	Dover	Mill & Overlay
Dexter Business and Research Park	All Roads		Mill & Overlay

DDA Defending Taxable Status of Dexter Wellness Center

Dexter Residents and Businesses should know that the Chelsea Area Wellness Foundation (CWF), which owns and operates the Dexter Wellness Center, has filed a set of tax appeals with the Michigan Tax Tribunal. The CWF has filed these appeals because they believe that CWF is not only a non-profit organization, but is also a charitable institution, and that therefore the recreation center should be tax exempt.

The Dexter Wellness Center was originally built by a private entity and was intended to be a taxable redevelopment property in the Village. The Dexter Downtown Development Authority (DDA) supported the redevelopment of that property and contributed \$100,000 to the cost of the infrastructure improvements that were made to support the property redevelopment, as an investment in the redevelopment of the Baker Road

corridor. In August of 2013, CWF notified the Village of its intent to purchase the property from the private entity and their intent for the property to be tax exempt.

For the past year, including several meetings prior to the final purchase by CWF, Village and Downtown Development Authority representatives attempted to meet with the CWF to explain the negative (tax capture) effect that a tax-exempt property would have on the Dexter DDA, and to explain why they disagreed with CWF's position. The Village and DDA are attempting to resolve this before it goes to trial in front of the State Tax Tribunal, however there is no guarantee that this will happen.

The DDA and Village feel that the recreation center is not a charitable use, but rather benefits those that pay to use it, similar to other recreation facilities

within the Village and the surrounding area that are open by membership and that pay property taxes.

I have been reporting regularly on this situation in my Village President reports and there have been some articles in the newspaper about it over the course of the last year, but I wanted to provide an update on this. I feel it is important for all residents to know why the Village and DDA are defending the position that this should be a taxable property. The Village and DDA are proud that CWF has chosen to invest in the Village of Dexter; however, we do not believe that the use of this facility should qualify for tax exempt status. Ultimately, we will either resolve this through some sort of settlement or the Tax Tribunal will decide whether it is taxable or not.

~Shawn Keough, Village President

Snow Will Come - Here's What to Do When it Does

Winter will soon be here. Below are reminders on Village snow plow procedures and the responsibility of residents.

During a snow storm the roads are generally given the following priority: main roads (Central, Baker, Main, Broad), local/subdivision streets, alleys and parking lots. During this time it is critical that vehicles are removed from the streets so that they can be cleared. Once the roads are open, the village crews work on clearing out intersections, cleaning sidewalks/paths, and relocating snow piles. Snow in cul-de-sacs is often cleared in the middle of the night for the safety of the crews and because there is less traffic.

Please remember that it is the responsibility of the property owner to remove snow from the sidewalks adjacent to their property. In commercial districts snow must be cleared within 4 hours of snow cessation and in residential districts snow must be cleared within 48 hours of snow cessation.

Please help keep the sidewalks clear for your patrons and neighbors. We can all help make our sidewalks safe by keeping them clear of snow and ice. Clearing snow early and often helps reduce the need to use salt and sand. If de-

icing chemicals are required pick types that are less harmful to the environment and your pets. Please shovel the snow onto your property. It is against Village Ordinance to shovel the snow into the street or onto a neighbor's property.

We also request that you please help the fire department by making sure that fire hydrants around your home or business are cleared of snow, accessible and visible from the street as soon as possible after a snow storm. Every second counts in an emergency situation.

The Village Department of Public works strives to keep public areas, such as the Mill Creek Park boardwalk and stairs, free of snow and ice, however they can still be slippery. Please use caution when using these amenities in the winter months.

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

Pay Your Utility Bill the Easy Way

The Village offers several ways to pay your utility bill electronically - via the Village's website, by phone, or by automated bill pay.

Automated Bill Pay: The Village will automatically deduct the balance due on your utility bill from your designated bank account, on the bill's due date. To sign up for this service, please fill out the form below and return it to the Village Office. *There is no charge for this service.*

Credit Cards On Line: You can pay your bill on line using a credit card by going to the Village's website at www.DexterMI.gov/utility-billing and clicking on the Credit Card Payments link. The first time you access your account, you will need a pin that is provided by the Village. Please call the utility billing clerk at (734) 426-8303 x 12 to obtain it. *There is a user fee for this service.*

Payments By Phone: To pay you bill by telephone, please call (855)461-9800. Credit cards and checks are accepted, and *there is a user fee for this service.*



Authorization for Automatic (ACH) Debits

I (we) hereby authorize the Village of Dexter, hereinafter called ORIGINATOR, to initiate debit Entries and, if necessary, credit Entries and adjustments for any debit Entries sent in error to my/our bank account indicated below, and the depository/bank named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to debit/credit the same to such account.

Depository Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Routing #: _____ Account #: _____

Account Type (checking/Savings): _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until the ORIGINATOR has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford ORIGINATOR and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act upon it.

Name(s): _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date: _____

Village of Dexter
8140 Main St
Dexter MI 48130
(734) 426-8303

Village President:
Shawn Keough

Village Trustees:
Jim Carson
Paul Cousins
Donna Fisher
Julie Knight
Joe Semifero
Ray Tell

Village Clerk
Carol Jones

Village Staff
Courtney Nicholls,
Manager
Marie Sherry,
Treasurer/Finance
Michelle Aniol
Community Development
Dan Schlaff,
Public Services

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The Village Offices are located at 8123 Main St, 2nd Floor, above the PNC Bank. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Elected Officials:
Shawn Keough, President: skeough@DexterMI.gov (313) 363-1434
Jim Carson, Trustee: jcarson@DexterMI.gov (734) 502-4257
Paul Cousins, Trustee: pcousins@DexterMI.gov (734) 548-3293
Donna Fisher, Trustee: dfisher@DexterMI.gov (734) 649-5169
Julie Knight, Trustee: jknight@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4961
Joe Semifero, Trustee: jsemifero@DexterMI.gov
Ray Tell, President Pro Tem: rtell@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-3398
Carol Jones, Clerk: cjones@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8114

Staff:
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Treasurer: msherry@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 14
Community Development: maniol@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 15
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Administrative Assistant: btuscano@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8303 x 10
Public Works: kaugustine@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-8530
Public Utilities: dschlaff@DexterMI.gov (734) 426-4572

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**Please VOTE
November 4th!**

**Don't forget the City
Charter Proposal at the
very end of your ballot!**

**Please remember to place
political campaign signs
outside of the Village
right-of-way.**

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