

City of Leslie

Newsletter Volume XVIII

June 2010

Greetings!

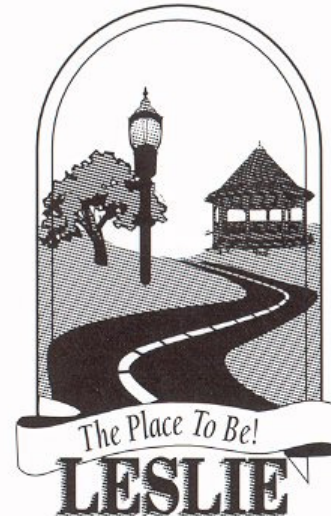
Welcome to the City of Leslie electronic newsletter.

We will be using this newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in Leslie. Your e-mail has been added to our database as an interested community member. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please see the bottom of this newsletter for the unsubscribe link.

We are interested in your feedback. Over the coming weeks and months our format and content will evolve to provide the best product for you. We will keep you up-to-date on the latest important news and events in the City of Leslie.

Please let us know how we can improve this newsletter by e-mailing us at reedb@cityofleslie.org.

We hope you enjoy our efforts! Thank you!



Leslie Receives Pool Grant from Capital Region Community Foundation

The City of Leslie is pleased to announce it has received a grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation's Patrons Fund in the amount of \$5,462 to be used for the Leslie Community Pool. Department of Public Works Director Martha Owen, who also oversees the operation of the pool, submitted the grant application in April. The grant will be used to purchase needed equipment at the pool. Director Owen stated "She is very thankful to the Capital Region Community Foundation for this award and the new pool equipment will greatly benefit the pool and the community."

Tea in the Garden

The fourth in a series of "teas" of the Leslie Area Historical Society is being held on June 26, 2010, called "Tea in the Garden." The Society will present the gardens of Ms. Ann Nims of 4202 Meridian Road, Leslie, MI for your afternoon enjoyment as you walk around the gardens. Members of the Society will be serving tea, lemonade and finger desserts for you to enjoy as you tour the garden areas.

The afternoon begins at 1:00 pm and ends at 4pm. The tour will take place rain or shine. A harpist, Miss Miller, will be playing the harp adding a special musical touch as you visit that afternoon. The tea is for all ages from the youngest, the older, the oldest whether male or female, it's open to everyone.

Tickets are \$10.00 per person and will be available on site before the tour. This series of teas are part of the Historical Society's fundraisers for Leslie's 175th birthday celebration that will take place in September of 2011.

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City Council

Mayor:

Ron Schmit

Mayor Pro-Tem:

Randy Fox

Council:

Pam Beegle

D.K. Beyer

Pete Zamora

Summer Tax Bills

You will be receiving your 2010 summer tax bill around the first part of July. If you have an escrow account, your bill will still be green and stamped with "THIS HAS BEEN SENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY". If you don't have an escrow account, your bill will be yellow for summer.

Eligible Senior Citizens can defer their summer taxes. A deferment form is available at City Offices or on the City of Leslie's website by visiting <http://www.cityofleslie.org/forms.shtm>.



700 Riders spending time in Leslie

PALM Riders

Earlier this week more than 700 bicycle enthusiasts road into Leslie. The ride was part of the Pedal Across Lower Michigan Tour. Feedback from PALM's organizer was very positive and he thanked Leslie for all its hospitality. In the future, the City will have more advanced notice from PALM in order to help local businesses prepare and welcome these riders back to Leslie.

Street Dance and Softball Tournament - July 17, 2010

The annual Street Dance and Softball Tournament to benefit the Leslie Area Education Foundation will take place on July 17th. The Street Dance will include a food and beverage tent in the Downtown. The Street Dance will last from 5pm to 12am. The Softball Tournament will take place during the day. For more information you may [click here](#) or contact Pete Zamora at 589-0324 or 896-3651.

Gus Macker in Leslie - July 24th and 25th

Planning is underway for the 2010 Gus Macker Basketball Tournament. The Tournament is run by Pete Zamora and underwritten by the Downtown Development Authority. This year Allegiance Health has generously stepped in to be the major sponsor of this event. The Macker will once again be downtown and hopes to incorporate more activities this year. Several Leslie Businesses have stepped up to support this event. Participants may register online at <http://www.macker.com/> or by picking up an entry form at City offices or other locations throughout the City. For more information, please contact Pete Zamora at 517-589-0324 or 517-896-3651.

Grace Lutheran Leslie 5K Run

Grace Lutheran will host a 5K run/walk for families in Leslie on July 31, 2010. The race will begin at 9am and will start at Grace Lutheran Church at 212 S. Sherman Street. There will be awards for different groups. Entry forms are available on the City's website by [clicking here](#). For additional information you may call 589-0250.

Leslie Chamber of Commerce to Sponsor Community Wide Garage Sale

Join your neighbors in an area-wide weekend of yard/sidewalk/garage/etc. sales on Friday August 13 and Saturday August 14, 2010.

Provide information about your sale and we'll add you to the Garage Sale map. No permits required for city or township residents; just contact Marie Charnley at 589-5612 to register.

Advertising in local papers, Internet and maps will be paid for by the Leslie Area Chamber of Commerce. We hope to draw many people to the Leslie area that weekend so that everyone wins!

White Pine Academy To Sponsor 5K Run

White Pine Academy will sponsor a 5K run on September 19, 2010, beginning at 8am in Leslie. You can find more information on [White Pine Academy's website](#). You can also register for the run at <http://www.active.com/>. For more information please call 517-589-8961.

Shelly Motes
Jennifer Shuster

Leslie 175 Celebration

Did you know the Leslie area will celebrate its 175th birthday from its settlement in 2011? Make sure you reserve the weekend of September 23-25, 2011 for the festivities. Stay tuned for more details...

Crossing Guards Needed

Currently there are three crossing guards every school day that assist children crossing busy intersections. Next year, we will need new crossing guards to fill vacancies from retirement and for substitutes. If you are interested, please contact Chief Bob Delamarter for more information at 589-9700.

Pool Donations

The Friends of the Leslie Community Pool are still looking for donations for the pool. Each year the costs of operating the pool increase. Currently the pool is funded by donations, allocations from the City Budget, and through user fees. Donations are a large part of pool operations. If you have any questions, please contact City offices at 589-8236.

Need Assistance Fixing The Appearance of Your Home?

If you are interested in fixing up your home but need financing or help, you may be eligible for low interest loans from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority or the USDA Rural Development office. Both agencies specialize in low interest loans for rural Cities and Townships less than 10,000 population. For more information you may call Brian Reed at 517-589-8236 or visit each agency's website below:

[Michigan State Housing Development Authority](#)

Leslie Fall Festival - September 25th

The Leslie Community welcomes back the Fall Festival this September. The activities will include a parade, carnival, car show, antique show, craft show, tractor show, beverage tent, and entertainment. Planning is underway. Volunteers and donations are needed. For more information please call Sherry Feazel at 589-8201 or 589-9129.

Neil and Jeanie Valentine

Longtime safety crossing guards Neil and Jeanie Valentine have retired. The City will host a small reception for the Valentines at 6:30pm on June 29th. The reception will take place at GAR Hall before the City Council meeting at 7pm. Stop by to thank Neil and Jeannie for their service to the City and the Leslie Public Schools.

Ingham Conservation District News

The Ingham Conservation District is hosting a "Make Your Own Rain Barrel" Workshop on Saturday July 17th. There will be an introduction on the benefits of rain barrels then each participant will convert a 50-gal food grade plastic barrel into a ready-to-use rain barrel that they can take home with them. The cost is \$45 per person. All materials are provided. Space is limited. Please RSVP to the Ingham Conservation District at 676-2290 by July 8th.

To learn about other events and environmental education opportunities offered by the Ingham Conservation District visit <http://www.inghamconservation.com/>. This event is affiliated with the Upper Grand River Implementation Project, which is funded in part by the Michigan DNRE's Non-Point Source Program, to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality in key areas of the Upper Grand River Watershed. For more information visit www.theugrip.org.

Leslie Library Happenings (June and July)

The Leslie Library has several events happening. Please remember to support our Library by attending programs and events!

Summer Reading Programs

Acting Up Theatre Company

Tuesday, June 29 @ Woodworth Elementary Cafeteria
1:00 pm
All ages welcome.

Classroom Critters

Tuesday, July 13 @ Woodworth Elementary Cafeteria
Shows at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm
MUST REGISTER - Program Size Limited

Howell Nature Center

Tuesday, July 20 @ Woodworth Elementary Cafeteria
1:00 pm

Bryan Hayes and Ulyseus, the Frisbee Dog

Tuesday, July 27 @ Woodworth Elementary Cafeteria
1:00 pm

The Bubbleman

Tuesday, August 3 @ Woodworth Elementary Cafeteria
1:00 pm

For Teens and Tweens

Making Rope

Friday, June 25
3:00 pm
Learn to make rope. Each participant will create their own 6 foot rope from twine by working in small groups.

Make a Hammock

Thursday, July 8 (Part 1)
Thursday, July 22 (Part 2)
3:00 pm

Using a fisherman's needle and knot-tying techniques participants will attach cotton string to a 6 foot rope to create a loose-woven hammock. In Part 2, participants will return to finish the hammock and attach the final rope. If you took the Rope Making class, bring your hand-made rope to use!

[USDA Rural Development Office](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

The City of Leslie is always looking for volunteers. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, or have any volunteering ideas please contact Brian Reed (589-8236) or Martha Owen at (589-5115).

Newsletter Archive

Past issues of the Electronic Newsletter will be available on the City of Leslie website. You may visit <http://www.cityofleslie.org/news-archive.shtm> to view past issues.

Starting A Business in Michigan

If you were going to start a business where could you go for advice? The State of Michigan has created a one-stop guide to visit for new businesses or for those interested in starting a new business. The website has plenty of valuable resources to answer many of your questions. You can visit the one-stop center at <http://www.michigan.gov/business>.



City Now on Facebook

The City of Leslie is now on Facebook. [Sign up](#) to be a fan and receive updates on what is happening in the City.

Planning Commission position open

Interested in serving on the City's Planning Commission? Send a letter of interest to City Offices at 106 E Bellevue St., POB 496, Leslie, MI 49251.

Zoning Board of Appeals Position

For Adults**Sit 'n Knit: Hugs for Hospice**

Mondays 6 - 8 p.m.

Knit or crochet projects for Hospice patients.
Volunteers welcome.**Adult Book Discussion**

Wednesday, July 14,

1:00 pm

July 14: Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

For information on any Library events, please contact the Leslie Library at 589-9400.

Open

Interested in serving on the City's Zoning Board of Appeals? Send a letter of interest to City Offices at 106 E Bellevue St., POB 496, Leslie, MI 49251.

City to Partner with United States Tennis Association (USTA) and Leslie Public Schools to Develop Youth Tennis in Leslie

The City of Leslie is working to develop a youth tennis program for the summer. The program would target 7-10 year olds. Eventually the hope would be to expand the age group. The City would work with Leslie Public Schools to use existing tennis courts.

Currently the City is looking for people interested in teaching sessions this summer. It is expected that each session will be twice a week for two weeks. Sessions may be expanded based on demand. Instructors would be paid through participant dues and based on experience. Instructors would get training materials from the USTA. If you are interested in becoming an instructor please contact the City of Leslie at 589-8236.

If you are interested in signing your child up for this summer, you may also call 589-8236. We hope to begin sessions in the next few weeks once an instructor is in place.

Leslie Public Schools On The Ballot August 3, 2010

The Non-Homestead 18-mill restoration and renewal will be on the ballot August 3, 2010. Additional details will be available soon.

Absentee Ballots Now Available

Please be notified that Absent Voter Applications for the upcoming Election to be held Tuesday, August 3, 2010 are now available at Leslie City offices during regular business hours. Phone (517)589-8236.

Following are qualifications, one of which must be met as an Absent Voter:

- I am 60 years of age or older.
- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

For more information please call Leslie City Clerk, Denae Davenport at 517-589-8236.

Mill Street Bridge

Preliminary design and engineering work has been completed on the Mill Street Bridge in order to have this project ready if funding becomes available. The City has once again applied for Critical Bridge Funding through the State of Michigan's Local Bridge Program. This is the main source of funding for local bridges. The City's application scored highly last year, however there was not enough funding available to meet the number of critical bridges in the area. The City of Leslie competes with 10 other Counties

in the MDOT University Region. Leslie has also worked with Senator Levin and Stabenow in order to seek transportation appropriations that may assist with reconstructing the bridge. Congressman Rogers' office has declined to help seek appropriations funding at this time for the Mill Street Bridge.

The Mill Street Bridge is critically important for economic development as it connects the City's business park to US 127. A complete reconstruction of the bridge is expected to cost nearly \$1.5 million.

MSHDA Apartments Downtown

Construction has begun on two apartment projects in the downtown. Last year, The City of Leslie received a grant of \$250,000 in order to convert unused 2nd story space into apartments. The first two projects should be completed near the end of the summer. For more information, please call Brian Reed at 517-589-8236.

Farmer's Market

Local Farmer Frank Sheppard is interested in starting a farmer's market beginning on July 3. The market will run from 8am to 12pm on Saturday mornings in the parking lot of 207 E Bellevue. For more information you may call Frank at 517-569-2667.

Ingham County Fair - August 2-7th

Mark your calendars for the Ingham County Fair which takes place annually at the County Fairgrounds. The Leslie Area of Chamber of Commerce will have a booth during the fair so please stop in and say hello.

Dollar General

Construction on the new Dollar General has begun. Dollar General will likely host a job fair in the near future for local applicants.

For more information, please contact Brian Reed at City Offices (589-8236).

Trash Burning Within City Limits is Prohibited

Residents are reminded that burning refuse, trash, rubbish, animal waste or garbage on any lot or parcel of ground within the city limits is strictly prohibited. You may report any burning to City Offices or the Leslie Fire Department. The burning of leaves and brush is legal with permission from the Fire Department.

Brush Chipping

Brush chipping is now the 1st Monday of the month as needed. City residents are welcome to drop brush off at the DPW yard any time the rest of the month. The brush pile is at the far south end of the leaf compost pile. For questions, please contact Martha Owen at 589-5115.

Downtown Planters

The City of Leslie is fortunate to have donors and volunteers to help maintain the downtown planters. Blossoms Etc. has planted and maintains the planters. Joel A. Van Douser and Paul Ghinelli of American Electrical Contractors and Fabinelli's (two of our new downtown businesses) have graciously donated the red mulch and is working on filling each of the downtown planters. If you get a chance to stop into one of these businesses, please thank them for making the downtown look good.

East End Apartments

East End Apartments in Leslie currently has vacancies. East End Apartments serves low and moderate income residents including special needs or disabled. Currently there is a barrier free unit available along with other low and moderate income apartments. For more information, please contact East End Manager Teresa Brandt at 589-9568.

Cemetery Bricks

The Woodlawn Cemetery is offering the opportunity to purchase personalized bricks for a brick walkway that will begin construction in the fall of 2010. The money raised from brick sales will be used to benefit a mapping project at the Woodlawn Cemetery. The project is expected to be dedicated during the 175th celebration of the settlement of Leslie (the weekend of September 23rd-25th of 2011). Order forms are available at City Offices,

Township Offices, and the cemetery. A form will be available on the City's website soon. For any questions regarding the project, please contact Patti Wade or Sherry Feazel at the Leslie Township Hall 589-8201.

Upcoming Events In Leslie

For information on any of these events, please call 517-589-8236.

- City Council Meeting - June 29, 7pm GAR Hall
- City Council Meeting - July 6, 7pm GAR Hall
- Softball Tournament and Street Dance July 17th
- Gus Macker Tournament - Weekend of July 24th
- Grace Lutheran 5K, 9am, July 31, 2010
- Community Wide Garage Sale- August 13-14th
- White Pine 5K - September 19th, 2010
- Leslie Fall Festival - September 25th, 2010

Contact Information

City Administration:

Phone: (517)589-8236

Fax: (517)589-0156

[Brian Reed](#) - City Manager

[Cheri Neu](#) - Finance Director/Treasurer

[Denaë Davenport](#) - City Clerk

[Carrie Fancher](#) - Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

[Martha Owen](#) - DPW Director

[Robert Delamarter](#) - Police Chief

Thanks for Making Leslie The Place To Be!

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