

# City of Leslie

## Newsletter Volume XI

## June 2009

### 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](mailto:reedb@cityofleslie.org).

We hope you enjoy our efforts! Thank you!



### Pool To Open June 11th

The Leslie Community Pool will be open starting Thursday June 11, 2009. Opening day will be a free swim from 12-6pm and 7-9pm. Memberships can be purchased at City Offices or at the pool once the pool opens. The new pool rates are posted on the City Website. You may view them by [clicking here](#).

This year the pool committee voted to raise pool rates in order to keep up with the rising costs of running the pool. Costs such as utilities, chemicals, repairs, and staffing have increased. In addition to pool memberships and daily passes, the City of Leslie regularly receives donations for the pool from private donors, the Downtown Development Authority, and Leslie Township. The City is grateful for these donations. The City has recently applied to the Capital Regional Community Foundation for a grant to help purchase supplies for the pool. If you are interested in donating to the pool, please contact City Offices at 589-8236.

### Online Payments for Water/Sewer Bills, Taxes, and Special Assessment Payments

The City of Leslie is excited to announce that you can now make your tax, special assessment and utility bill payments online. Just go to our website at [www.cityofleslie.org](http://www.cityofleslie.org) and click on "City Property Info" on the left side of the screen. You will be directed to our internet services website, where you can choose from any four applications to review: Assessing, Current Tax, Utility Billing and Special Assessment. Click on one of the applications on the left side of the screen, click on the appropriate "Search", then search by address, parcel number or owner name (last name first).

To make a payment on your taxes, specials or utility bill, click on the button to "pay". Verify the dollar amount and indicate whether you want to pay by credit card or e-check.

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- Recycling Center Changes

### Quick Links

- City of Leslie
- Ingham County

### City Council

**Mayor:**  
Ron Schmit  
**Mayor Pro-Tem:**  
Pete Zamora

**Council:**  
Pam Beegle

Click "pay now" and you will be redirected to a site where you will be able to again verify the dollar amount and the fee that will be charged before finalizing your payment. The fees for making online payments are three percent (3%) of the payment amount for credit cards and a flat \$3.00 fee for using an e-check.

You may also make your payment by phone. Just call 1.800.272.9829 and follow the prompts. You will need to know the City of Leslie's jurisdiction code which is 7111. The same fees apply as online payments.

Of course, you can always drop your payment off in our convenient drop box located at the front of City Offices at 106 E. Bellevue Street. Payments received after hours will be processed the next business day.

Please be aware that payments must be received by 4:30 on their due date to avoid penalty charges.

## City Receives Grant for Downtown Apartments

The City was notified that it received a grant for \$256,000 from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for Downtown apartment development. The grant will be used to assist building owners in the downtown to develop their currently uninhabitable space into apartments on the 2nd or 3rd stories.

The City will receive some of these funds in order to administer the program. Some of these funds will be used to contract with the Ingham County Housing Commission to administer the grant, and the rest will go into the City general fund.

The City will hold a public meeting for downtown building owners on June 29, 2009 at 5:30pm, City Hall. If you have any questions, please call Brian Reed at 517-589-8236.

## Gus Macker and Softball Tournament

The Gus Macker basketball tournament is coming to Downtown Leslie on July 24, 25, and 26th. Main Street and parts of Carney and Commercial will be closed off for the tournament. In addition, the Sixth Annual Softball Tournament and Street Dance will take place Saturday July 18th. For information or registration materials for either of these events, please contact Pete Zamora at (h) 517-589-0324 or (c) 517-896-3651.

## Summer Tax Bills

Look for your tax bill on a new color next month! You will be receiving your 2009 summer tax bill around the first of July, but it won't be pink. 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. We are hoping this will cause less confusion for taxpayers if we send the summer bills on one color and the winter bills on another. Let us know what you think.

Eligible Senior Citizens can defer their summer taxes. A deferment form is available at City Offices or on the City of Leslie's website. [You may access the deferment form by clicking here.](#)

## Reading Month

The Summer Reading Program has begun at the Leslie Library. Free programs for the family will be held at the Woodworth Elementary cafeteria on Tuesday afternoons starting June 16th. Monday nights at 6 pm will be Family Movie Nights starting June 15th. Wednesdays at 3:30 will be crafts for children so they can "Get Creative". Thursdays at 3:30 will be Creative Expression crafts for the tweens and teens. Register and READ with us to earn your prizes. Stop in or call for more details. We look forward to you joining us this summer. For questions, please call Barb Keeler at 589-9400.

## Blossoms Etc. Keeping Downtown Beautiful

Blossoms moved downtown on October 1, 2008 and have already made an impact. The improvements they have made to their building at 200 S. Main St have been tremendous. In December Blossoms approached the DDA and presented a proposal to manage the downtown planters on a volunteer basis. Bill Robertson (owner) and Dawn Meyer (manager) indicated that they wanted to find some way to give back to the community. They are doing that now by planting the necessary flowers, shrubs, and plants to have flowers blooming in all three seasons; maintaining the planters including weeding and fertilizing; working with the DPW to establish a watering schedule. If you stop in to Blossoms, remember to thank them for their public service.

D.K. Beyer  
Randy Fox  
Shelly Motes  
John Stewart

## L DFA Opening

Currently there is an opening on the Local Development Finance Authority. The LDFA oversees the Tax Increment Financing for the Leslie Business Park. If you have interest in serving on the LDFA, please contact Brian Reed.

## 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](#)  
[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

## City Council Elections

Nominating Petitions for the Leslie City Council will be available July 1, 2009. The term of office for a position on council is four (4) years. On the November 2009 ballot, there will be three council seats and the mayoral seat.

Qualifications: You must be a registered voter of the city who has resided within the city for at least one year immediately before the date of election. The mayor must serve as a member of council for at least one year.

Nominating Petitions are due back to the city clerk not later than August 10, 2009. For more details contact Leslie City Clerk, Denae Davenport.



## 2010 CENSUS - Important Information

The U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount every 10 years, of everyone residing in the U.S. Determining congressional seating and federal funding for states is just a hint of the many uses of census data. Approximately \$300 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year. Programs for the elderly, emergency food and shelter, road construction, and Title 1 grants to educational agencies are just a few of the programs receiving federal funding. The population totals also affect funding in your community by informing decision makers how your community is changing. The 2010 Census will be a short form with 10 easy questions. A Census Bureau letter will be sent to alert households that the Census questionnaire will be mailed or delivered to them soon. Your census answers are strictly confidential and it is illegal for the Census Bureau to share your personal information with other government agencies. **Information submitted for your census will NOT affect your taxes, social security, or any type of benefits you receive. It is critically important that everyone in the City, Township, School District, and County fill out their census information.** For additional information you may access their website: [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

## Business Services from the Leslie Library

Are you interested in starting a business? Do you own a business but are looking for help finding funding or marketing opportunities? Do you need help preparing a business plan? The Capital Area District Library can help.

To learn more about their business services or to check out CADL's new business blog [click here](#). Otherwise you may contact Elizabeth Kudwa at 517-367-6301 for more information.

## City Brush Pickup

### Brush Pickup

Brush Pickup will be weekly through the month of May. After May, Brush will be picked up the first week of every month. Residents must have their brush piles out by the first Monday of each month beginning in June.

### Burning Brush

Residents are allowed to burn brush in the City limits, however residents should consult the City outdoor burning ordinance to ensure that they comply with local code.

### Dropping off Brush or leaves

At anytime throughout the year, City residents may drop off leaves or brush at the City's DPW site. Please contact the DPW for questions at 589-5115.

If you have any questions, please call Martha Owen at 589-5115 or City Offices at 589-8236.

## City Recycling Center Changes - No more colored glass jars or #3-#7 plastics

Northwest Refuse Inc. has informed the City that they can no longer accept colored glass jars or #3-#7 plastics. Due to circumstances beyond their control, Northwest Refuse no longer has a market for these materials and cannot accept them.

For Glass and Plastics, the Recycling Center will continue to accept:

## 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>.

- Clear glass jars only
- #1 and #2 plastics only

All other items will remain the same.

Residents are reminded that the City of Leslie enjoys one of the most comprehensive recycling sites in Ingham County. The use of the recycling center has continued to grow as more residents learn about it. We ask that you please use the recycling center responsibly. Much of the abuse has unfortunately been from people who do not live in the City, who travel here just to leave their recyclables. There are a few rules to follow to ensure that the recycling center continues to be an asset for the community and not a disgrace.

- Never leave anything on the ground.
- Break down all cardboard boxes which will allow much more cardboard to fit within the bin.
- Always put your recyclables in the appropriate bin.
- Report those you see leaving materials on the ground or misusing the recycling center.
- Have patience - if the bins are full, come back another day with your recyclables.

## Recycling Information

### Where do I recycle computers, cooking oil, paint???

Thanks to Northwest Refuse, Inc., the City of Leslie has a wonderful recycling center that is located on Commercial Drive next to the police station. However, have you ever wondered where you can recycle the many different things you may acquire throughout the year such as old computers, cooking oil, books, propane tanks, athletic shoes and almost anything you can think of? Ingham County recently sent out an inventory of different recycling activities, dates, and centers where you can bring different materials. That information can be found by visiting the City of Leslie's website or visiting this link <http://www.cityofleslie.org/forms/Recycling%20Info.pdf>.

Please remember, recycling centers are for everyone. If a recycling bin is full, please alert the appropriate people and do not leave materials on the ground.

## Cemetery Sexton Hired

The Woodlawn Cemetery Board finalized its hiring of a new Cemetery Sexton on Thursday April 23rd, by hiring Ron Bogart of Leslie. Ron will manage and maintain the cemetery. Ron brings a wealth of experience and abilities to the position.

The Cemetery has been without a Sexton since Arthur Raymond passed away last summer. Ken Modert who has been a part-time employee of the cemetery for several years filled in throughout the past year and did an excellent job to keep the cemetery in order. Ken will continue working at the cemetery under Bogart. Steve Ryan also worked as a temporary employee to help keep the cemetery maintained.

The Woodlawn Cemetery Board consists of one member of the Leslie City Council, the Leslie Township Supervisor, and another member that rotates from either the City or Township. Currently this position is filled by a Township resident.

## Upcoming Events In Leslie

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

- MSHDA Grant Public Meeting, City Hall, 5:30pm, June 29, 2009
- City Council Meeting, 7pm at City Hall, June 29, 2009
- City Council Meeting, 7pm at City Hall, July 7, 2009
- Fifth Annual Leslie 5K Run/Walk, July 17, 2009 events beginning at 6:30
- Sixth Annual Softball Tournament and Street Dance, Saturday July 18, 2009
- Gus Macker Basketball Tournament, July 24, 25, and 26th, 2009 - Downtown Leslie

### 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

## HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

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