

Summer Newsletter

SUN DRIED MUSIC FESTIVAL



The Sun Dried Music Festival will be held Downtown Mason on August 26 & 27. The event showcase a variety of musical performances ranging from rock, jazz, blues, Latin jazz, salsa, and country.

This 2nd annual event is featuring some of the most recognized names in the mid-Michigan area. The emphasis of the event is to promote Mason as a regional destination.

Thanks to our sponsors, The Sun Dried Music Festival is a FREE event. There will be music, food, activities for the family, merchandise vendors, and a beverage tent.

The City of Mason Downtown Development Authority is proud to be hosting The Sun Dried Music Festival in beautiful Downtown Mason. We hope you enjoy the show and look forward to seeing you soon!

NEW ELECTION DATE OPTIONS

By Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

The regulation of prescribed election dates was among the many voting improvements that the Help America Vote Act of 2002 provided to American citizens. This resulted in four to five elections being held a year. Legislation has been passed to refine the scheduling of elections. Significantly, on December 15, 2010 regulations were passed to allow a local school district, intermediate school district or community college district that currently fills its board positions on the odd-year November election date to choose to conduct its regular elections on the even-year November election date.

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*Summer Property Taxes were
Mailed July 1, 2011*

*Summer Taxes are Due
August 31, 2011*

CITY OF MASON

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Facsimile 517.676.1330
201 W. Ash St. Mason, MI 48854
WWW.MASON.MI.US

Beware of Internet Scams

In a previous article, we began discussing “Advance-Fee Transactions”—a popular form of computer fraud where victims are duped into advancing sums of money so they can realize much larger gains. What occurs instead is that they end up losing the money they have “advanced.” The first type of Advance-Fee Transaction fraud discussed was the “Lotteries” scam. If you don’t remember entering a lottery or contest, it is unlikely you have won anything—no matter what you are told or how official the communication looks. Be wary of lotteries that charge a fee prior to the delivery of your supposed prize—and beware of demands for you to send additional money so you’ll be eligible for future winnings. Mason Police Department members are happy to review any correspondence that looks suspicious.

A second scheme that is very popular with criminals is referred to as “Nigerian 419”, or just “419.” It is one of the largest internet scams and has been going on for many years. Most internet users have been targeted by this scam, including the Mason Police Department. Some of the emails the potential victim receives advise that huge amounts of money (up to \$80 million) are “surplus” to a public contracts account or available following some compensation arrangement.



Beware of Internet Scams, *Cont.* By Jann Lifsey

If the recipient will secretly provide details of an available bank account, he/she can earn 20% of this sum (up to \$16 million)—and it’s “risk free!” Most of these communications begin, “From the desk of Mr. [Name]”, and “Your assistance is needed.”

The success of the “Advance-Fee Transactions” scam relies on the theory that many people are greedy and eager to amass a lot of wealth without having to work for it. Stay safe by not giving your personal information to anyone or any organization that you are unfamiliar with—especially your full name, address, phone number, credit card number, social security number, and bank account information. To avoid falling victim to “Advance-Fee Transactions,” it is important to remember that if a get-rich-quick scheme sounds too good to be true, it definitely is.

Please contact the Mason Police Department for more information at 676-2458.

For beautification of our City Parks, the City of Mason would be delighted to accept donations of trees, benches, flower bulbs or other similar items. These generously donated items would greatly enhance the beauty of our parks. If you are interested in making a donation to the City of Mason please contact Rob Selby at 517-676-5041.

Sump Pump Draining

The City of Mason has two separate systems to convey wastewater and storm water. Catch basins collect storm water from rainfall and snowmelt from streets, yards and parking lots and then discharge it to local streams and rivers. Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from toilets, sinks, washing machines, etc. and transport it to the wastewater treatment facility to be treated. Rainwater and groundwater are nominally clean water and do not need to be treated at the wastewater treatment facility.

A sump pump is an appliance in some basements that pump ground water out from around your basement. Often the pump is improperly connected to the sanitary sewer system when it should be directed to a garden, yard or storm sewer if available. During abnormal storm events and the heavy ground water saturation that we have experienced in the last couple years, this excess rainwater going to the sump pump would then be pumped into the sanitary systems and can overwhelm the City's sanitary systems by surcharging the pipes. A surcharged sewer flows at a level greater than the "normal" level. If the home has sanitary fixtures or floor drains at an elevation below the surcharge level, basement flooding can occur. The sanitary sewers have been designed to transfer sanitary waste only and reducing extraneous flow will reduce surcharging and sewer back-ups.

Removal of illegal connections will significantly reduce the flow of extraneous storm-related water in the sanitary sewer system. The cost of treating this clean water could be lowered by reducing the quantity of water from the sanitary sewer.



Disconnect Your Sump Pump From the Sewer Pipe

Before you disconnect make sure your sump pump is only draining clear floodwater from your basement. Sump pumps used to drain a washing machine or sink drain should **NOT** be discharged into your yard or the storm sewer. Not only is it important to ensure the pumped water is draining properly away from your home, but once the sump pump is disconnected from the sanitary pipes, the pipes need to be properly sealed to prevent potentially dangerous sewer gases from escaping into your home.

Disconnecting your own sump pump is possible if you are skilled at plumbing and electrical work. While it may appear relatively simple for the homeowner to perform the disconnection themselves, a licensed and bonded plumber will ensure the disconnection is done safely and done right.

City of Mason Ordinance No. 144.5-16-2005 Sect. 82-116: Connection of Roof Drains & Footing Drains Prohibited

- (a) No downspouts from roofs, roof drains, water from air conditioning units, refrigeration units and cooling units, sump pumps, or building footing drains shall be directly or indirectly connected to the public sanitary sewer system.
- (b) All sump pumps and building footing drains shall be connected to an available public storm sewer or such other storm water disposal facility approved by the Authority. "Available public storm sewer" shall have the same meaning as "available public sanitary sewer" as defined at section 82-1.

LOT DRAINAGE TIPS

1. Install an effective drainage system and keep downspouts clean.
2. Keep your drainage system clear so that water can move freely down and away from the side of your house.
3. Attach extensions so that water is delivered at least 10 feet from the foundation.
4. Disconnect any downspouts or 'clear' water connections that drain directly into the sanitary sewer system.
5. Grade and landscape your lot to move water away from the house.
6. Ensure a positive slope away from the wall for at least the first 10 feet. The ground should drop a minimum of 6 inches in this area.
7. Use landscaping to disperse the water more evenly.
8. Seal the cracks between your house and your driveway or sidewalk.

If You Have a Sump Pump

1. Sump pump pipes should discharge water at least one foot from the foundation wall. *(The flow from here should meet or exceed the slope of 6 inches for the first 10 feet).*
2. If your sump pump discharges on the ground, place a splash pad below where the sump pump discharge pipe comes through the foundation wall.
3. Never turn off your sump pump. If you can, have a spare pump in the house, just in case.
4. It is dangerous to drain sump water onto the sidewalk. The resulting algae and ice build-up create a slippery surface that can create a liability issue.
5. Consider a backup battery system for your sump pump in case of power outages.



TAX BILL INFORMATION

Finance Department

The City of Mason mails tax bills out twice a year. Summer tax bills were mailed July 1 and are due August 31st. Any bills paid late are assessed interest of 4%. The City of Mason does not accept postmarks. There is a drop box at the front of the building that may be utilized for payments. The drop box is checked by City Hall staff daily and at 5:00 pm on due dates. All payments received after 5:00 pm will be processed the next business day. Winter tax bills are mailed December 1 and are due February 14th of the following year. If winter bills are paid late they are assessed a penalty of 3%. All unpaid taxes are turned over to the Ingham County Treasurer March 1st.

If you have an escrow account for your taxes, your mortgage company should request the bill from the City. The City will send a listing to the mortgage company and also a copy of the bill to you for your records. If you see a mortgage code number on the left side of your bill by the dotted line, we have sent this information to that mortgage company. If your mortgage company name on the tax bill is different than your mortgage company, don't worry. Many mortgage companies use a bill paying service and that name may be listed instead.

VOLUNTEER!

By Kathy Revels

Do you have any special skills? Are you interested in becoming involved in your community? Do you want to get to know your neighbors? Are you willing to participate in unskilled labor? Are you a leader, an organizer, someone who wants to be in charge? Are you retired, but want to stay active? Are you a caregiver who craves networking opportunities outside the home?

The City of Mason is interested in creating a pool of volunteers with a variety of interests. Volunteers now work in the parks, and we encourage more of you to join our faithful group in their efforts. To sign up, go to "Rayner Park Volunteers" on Facebook or send an email to papamaddix@aol.com. There are, however, many other avenues to community service. Some of them would be outside, some inside. Opportunities are available for serving on committees, some that meet only once or twice each year.

City staff would like to hear from you if you have talents to share or a desire to give of your time to benefit your community. We would love to have you be part of our team. Contact Kathy Revels, Human Resource Coordinator, at 676-9155.



*Please contact
the City Clerk's
office if you have
questions about
elections or voter
registration at
(517) 676-9155*

New Election Date Options

Continued from page 1

Lansing Community College (LCC) and Mason Public Schools (MPS) administration acted quickly to take advantage of changing to the November even-year election date. The MPS Board held a special meeting to pass a resolution that needed to be submitted in the current year to take effect in the following year. I commend the MPS staff and Board for their efforts and success during the busy holiday season.

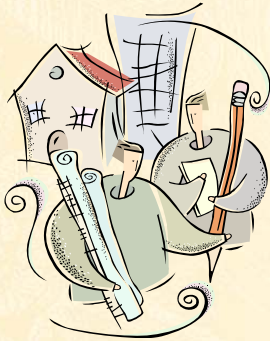
We will begin to plan for 2012 Elections soon, and it is expected that the Republican Party will call for a Presidential Primary to be held in January of 2012. The Democratic Party has determined to hold a caucus, as they most often do. The 2012 Primary Election date is August 2, 2012, and the General Election date is November 8, 2012.

New Grant Program

The City of Mason and the City of Williamston received a \$258,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), to be split between the two cities. This program is to assist with deferred loans to homeowners to make energy efficient and code improvements to their homes. This program is a little different in that a targeted neighborhood district was developed, which encompasses the downtown as well as the entryways coming into the DDA area.

The Ingham County Housing Commission (IHC) is administering the program for the City. Due to the overwhelming turnout, and the need to review eligibility, the IHC has turned to a random selection process.

The program allows residents who are below 80% of the City's median income to be eligible. 25% of the program is a match by the property owners. Up to 50% of that loan may be deferred after five years.



New Grant Program, Cont.

We are hopeful that this program is such a success that MSHDA will provide additional funding in the future. Positive performance and the distribution of funding within a timely manner is important to the funding cycles that MSHDA has to follow, utilizing the Home Funding through the Federal Government. This program continues to strengthen and reinvest our housing stock within the core section of the City of Mason.

For more information, please contact about this program, please contact Ingrid Nova at 676-5891.

✦ *Consumer's Energy Company has notified the City of Mason that they will be conducting a survey of street lights in the community over the next five year period. This is to work out any discrepancy of any lights billed, as well as working towards replacing the street lamps in place. Under the Energy Public Act of 2005, mercury lighting ballasts cannot be manufactured or imported into the United States after January 1, 2008.*

Mason Organizations

ALAIEDON SCOUTS 676-6499, Tony Assaf
AMERICAN LEGION 676-1651, Terry Fobbs
CAPITOL CITY CAR CLUB 676-5046, Shirley Wilcox
COUNTY SEAT OLD CAR CLUB 676-5978, Arnold Short
DDA 244-6332, Marco Broggio
EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOC.
 663-1318, Tom Botsford
FARM BUREAU YOUNG PEOPLE 676-4034, Steve Cheney
FRIENDS OF THE MASON LIBRARY 676-4175, Elaine Ferris
GIRL SCOUTS OF MASON 676-6093, Christine Hesch
INGHAM COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 676-5115, Barb Chapman
INGHAM CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 337-8925, Grove Sandrock
INGHAM FESTIVAL CHORALE 676-4815, Anne Coady
MASON ANTIQUES/ COBBLESTONE VILLAGE
 676-1270, Larry Silsby
MASON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 676-1046, Doug Klein
MASON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 676-2209, Randy Gladstone
MASON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB
 676-2555, Loraine Larkins
MASON ART GUILD 676-5926, Bea VanAndel
MASON BAND BOOSTERS 676-9055, Beth Bousfield
MASON BREAKFAST OPTIMIST 676-2791, Pete Hanover
MASON BULLDOG BOOSTERS 676-6535
MASON CHAPTER 150 ORDER EASTERN STAR
 676-2014, Mary Ruttan
MASON COLLEGE CLUB 676-5876, Kris Taylor
MASON COMMUNITY PARTNERS 676-4519, Ext. 215
MASON FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 694-0499, Marie Sheridan
MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT 244-9025, Chief Minshall
MASON HOMESCHOOLERS NETWORK
 676-5073, Rebecca Schwartz
MASON KIWANIS CLUB 676-2272, Lawrence Howe
MASON LIONS CLUB 676-2518, Stan Jordan
MASONIC LODGE #70 F&AM 676-5040, Ivan Kerr
MASON ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY
 676-3678, Kay Rinker-O'Neil
MASON ROTARY CLUB 676-8376, Jared Browers
MICHIGAN STEAM ENGINE AND THRASHERS CLUB
 676-5160, Sandy Smalley
MICHIGAN TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION
 676-2295, Rick Shirkey
NORTH AURELIUS SCOUTS 694-3624, Suzanne Ferris
STEELE SCOUTS 676-8569, Wade Johnson
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 676-7309, Bob Jordon



RECYCLING IN MASON

CELL PHONES

Mason City Hall, 676-9155

COMPUTER RECYCLING

Mason Goodwill Store, 244-9306

COOKING OIL

Delhi Township WWTP,
699-3873

Delta Township Recycling Center,
323-8500

CREATION STATION WISH LIST

(517) 371-2451

MID-MICHIGAN FREECYCLE NETWORK

www.freecycle.org

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

887-4521

MERCURY THERMOMETERS

887-4521

OIL, ANTIFREEZE, & CAR BATTERY

Carquest, 676-2464

NAPA Auto Parts
676-5481

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

Meijer, 244-1900

POLYSTYRENE

Dart Container, 500 Hogsback Rd.
24 hours a day/7 days a week

PROPANE

Kerr Hardware, 676-5040

SHARPS COLLECTIONS

272-4145

TIRE RECYCLING

887-4521

*View the Mason Chamber of Commerce Events
 Calendar Online at www.MasonChamber.org*



Mayor Leon
Clark



Mayor Pro Tem
Mike Waltz



Councilmember
Jon Droscha



Councilmember
Elaine Ferris



Councilmember
Neal Johnson



Councilmember
Robin Naeyaert



Councilmember
Barb Tornholm