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October 27, 2017 City News

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Halloween Trick-or-Treating hours are 6 - 8 p.m.

Senior Housing Study Committee meeting Wednesday, November 1st at 7 p.m. View the agenda [here](#).

Historic District Commission meeting on Wednesday, November 1st canceled due to lack of business.

City Considers Updates to Zoning Ordinance

The Planning Commission has been reviewing the City's Zoning Ordinance since August 2015 and it has prepared an updated ordinance for the City Commission to consider at its December meeting. Prior to that, a public hearing will be held during the November 27th Planning Commission meeting which begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

A copy of the proposed [ordinance](#) is available on the City's website or email hberry@hwmi.org if you would like a copy emailed to you. Hard copies are also available by contacting Hank Berry at hberry@hwmi.org or 248.581.2637.

For the convenience of residents, the City's Planner will be available on Thursday, November 9th from 4 - 7 p.m. at City Hall to discuss the changes being proposed in the ordinance. This is a drop-in event for residents who want to ask questions or make comments on the ordinance. Here is a [summary](#) of the proposed changes.

The last complete redraft of the ordinance was in 1988. Since then, the Michigan Planning and Zoning Enabling Act has been amended and the City's Master Plan has been updated at least three times. The City's planner, Carlisle Wortman Associates, and the City Attorney recognized that the ordinance needed to be updated to make it consistent with state statues and zoning best practices. They also realized that streamlining and reorganizing the ordinance would make it more user-friendly and easier to understand.

As part of the comprehensive ordinance rewrite, the City held six focus groups over the summer to get feedback on selected topics being considered. In total, 412 invitations were sent out and 30 people participated in the focus group discussions. Feedback from the participants was presented to the Planning Commission in September and a final draft of the ordinance was prepared and is now available for review.

The expected timeline for consideration of the proposed ordinance rewrite is:

Thursday, November 9th - Planner to be available for answering questions or taking comments on the ordinance from 4 - 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Monday, November 27th - Planning Commission to hold public hearing at 7 p.m. on the ordinance rewrite and make a recommendation to the City Commission.

Tuesday, December 19th - City Commission to consider the Planning Commission recommendation.

Any questions on the proposed ordinance can be directed to Hank Berry at hberry@hwmi.org or Amy Sullivan at 248.581.2632 or asullivan@hwmi.org.

Trick-or-Treating Tips

The recommended hours for trick-or-treating on Tuesday are 6 - 8 p.m. Please leave your porch light on during this time if you are passing out treats. Trick-or-treaters should wear light, reflective material or carry a flashlight or glow sticks. Be sure costumes have a clear line of vision. A responsible adult should accompany children and normal street crossing safety rules apply. If you discover something that raises concerns when checking your children's candy, please call Public Safety at 248.541.1180.

Public Safety Offers Programs for Homeowners

The Public Safety Department reminds residents of two valuable City programs: Kindcall and Knox-Box for emergency home access.

Kindcall is an automated telephone calling service for residents who want to receive personal daily phone calls from the Public Safety Department. A Public Safety Dispatcher calls the resident daily at a pre-approved time. If no one answers the phone a Public Safety officer responds to the home to assure the resident is safe. The service is upon request and without charge. Sign up by calling the Public Safety Department at 248.541.1180.

The Knox Company has been the leading provider in Rapid Access Solutions to the fire service, government and security industries for more than 30 years. The Knox-Box Residential Program is an extension of the Knox Rapid Entry system that provides first responders with safe and immediate access into a residential property in the event of an alarm or an emergency. Residents who are interested in the program should contact Public Safety at 248.541.1180 for program information.

Summer Taxes Due

For residents without an escrow that paid half of their summer taxes, the second half is due October 31st. Payment received after the 31st incur a penalty from August 10th of 1% per month until paid. A drop box is located in the west City Hall parking lot for your convenience. While we cannot waive penalties and interest, we will accept partial payments. Interest will

accrue on the unpaid portion of taxes. Property taxes may be paid online at www.hwmi.org. Payment by credit card or e-check will incur a fee for processing.

Winter Hometown Herald

The winter newsletter will be available online and ready for Recreation registration beginning Tuesday, October 31st at 1p.m. It will be in mailboxes by Nov 17.

Looking Ahead

Election Day - Tuesday, November 7th

BART Board - Wednesday, November 8th

Office hours to meet with Planner on Zoning Ordinance rewrite - Thursday, November 9th



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