



Crossroads

City of WIXOM

Official Newsletter of the City of Wixom, Aug./Sept. '99

From the Mayor's Desk...

The roads are torn up so it must be summer in Wixom!! The new twist to the construction this season is that the roads are being worked on to accommodate water mains and fire hydrants. Major construction in Hickory Hills Subdivision is in full swing to repave roads and lay water lines.

Please understand that many of the utilities in the northern portion of the City have been in place for many years. Contractors throughout the region are "accidentally" disrupting gas, electric and phone service in these areas because some of these lines are difficult to identify. Many times, not due to contractor negligence, lines break or services are disrupted because of the age of the utility lines or locations of a service that has been paved over. While the loss of these services seems traumatic, please realize that contractors view these line breaks as valuable time lost and would not purposely disrupt these services. Let's not get too worked up about these inconveniences and develop another "utility rage" that some do-gooder legislator in Lansing has to pass a bill about. We should all be happy that no one is hurt or

injured. Look at this as another one of life's little adventures.

In case you haven't heard, our long-time City Clerk, June Buck, decided to retire. We will miss her charm, humor and her wisdom. June Buck served our City for almost 30 years and left us better for it. The City Council appointed Linda Kirby to the position of City Clerk. Linda is a newcomer to Wixom, only having worked for the City 14 years. Linda has served as Deputy Clerk for 9 years and has been instrumental in bringing our records department into the computer age. Stop in and say congratulations to our new City Clerk, Linda Kirby.

Life truly lived is a risky business, and if one puts up too many fences against risk, one ends by shutting out life itself.....

—Kenneth S. Davis

—Mayor Michael L. McDonald

P.S. — On behalf of the city of Wixom, I would like to extend a warm welcome to NMB's World Headquarters test facility. They held their official open house on Thursday, July 15.

DPS news

WATER IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

The interconnection to the City of Detroit's water system and Wixom's move towards our improved system is on schedule, with the City's water tower, water mains, and Detroit's water mains all under construction. Under these projects Detroit water will be made available by the end of November 2000.

■ **Elevated Storage Tank:** The Wixom water tower is 75% constructed. The project is on schedule with a projected October/November 1999 completion at which time the tank will be placed in operation.

■ **Watermains South of Pontiac Trail:** The watermains along Pontiac Trail, Wixom Road (south of Pontiac Trail), Twelve Mile Road and West Road Watermains will be starting mid-July 1999. Private utilities have been relocated. Included within this project will be the resurfacing of Pontiac Trail from Wixom to Beck Road.

■ **Hickory Hills (and Detroit Finn Camp) Subdivision:** This project is underway with the con-

tractor proceeding with the watermain installation along Loon Lake Road and starting water mains being installed the Detroit Finn Camp Subdivision. A fall 1999 completion is projected. Included within this project will be the resurfacing of several of the Hickory Hills roadways. Questions on this project please contact Andy Malczewski, HRC at (248) 338-9241.

■ **Birch Park Subdivision** – This project has now been completed (sod repair, grading, etc.). If you feel that there are items which may have been missed or need to be addressed, please contact Charles Hart with HRC at (248) 338-9241.

■ **Detroit Water Extension:** The City of Detroit is proceeding with the extension of the 42" diameter water main that will service the City of Wixom. This project will be under construction summer 1999 with part of the project being built with the Maple Road extension project in the City of Walled Lake, which is under construction.

■ **Watermain Projects:** The City consultant engineer's are proceeding with the design for the construction of

these projects. These will include watermains along Wixom Road (north of Pontiac Trail), Potter Road, West Maple Road, Loon Lake Road and Charms Road. Construction of this final phase of City of Wixom Detroit water interconnection will be under construction in early 2000.

Questions on how to proceed with the connection to the City water system or for more information call the Department of Public Services at (248) 624-4664.

continued on page 4

Mayor Honored

Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce named Mayor Mike McDonald the 1999 Citizen of the Year. An active member of the community for most of his life, Mike can always be counted on to provide not only input in the planning but manual labor as well for all community events. In his spare time he participates in the Christmas in April program. He continues to actively work with the Southeastern Oakland County Mayor's Association, State Legislature, and the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.



Library News

From the Library Director, Kim Potter **Something's New at the Library**

Beginning Tuesday, September 7th, the library will be open additional hours to serve the public. The library will open on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. instead of 12 noon; Fridays will be open all day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays will stay open later - until 5:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. This makes our new hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

We have added additional staff in order to provide you with the same good service. Thanks to our Library Board and the City Council for deciding to fund these additional hours.

We also have new computers, thanks to a Library Services and Technology Grant administered by the Library of Michigan. Our new terminals are faster and more reliable than our old ones, and we have been able to add an additional Internet terminal as well as CD-

ROM server that will provide programs like SIRS, which is a research database of periodical articles dealing with social issues.

Look for our new Children's Audio Compact Disk Collection beginning after Labor Day in September. Over 100 titles will await your check-out, and will be available for one week loan periods.

Stop in and let us know how you like our new hours, computers and children's compact disk collection.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Join us at the Wixom Public Library for informal book discussions:

August 10, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Slaves in the Family by Edward Ball. An exploration of a family's slave-holding past and the search for the descendants of the family's slaves.

September 14, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden. This well researched novel tells the story of the rise of a Japanese girl from virtual slavery to renown as a geisha before World War II.

Copies are available at the library about a month before the discussion date. Please be sure to pick yours up to read before the program date.

Designing Landscapes for Year-Round Color

Janet Macunovich, Garden Columnist for the Detroit News, will offer tips on making your garden colorful and attractive throughout the year on Tuesday, September 28th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please register at the reference desk or call 248-624-2512.

YOUNG ADULT PROGRAMS

An Extremely Chilling Experience - the summer reading club for young teens comes to a close with these three programs:

Volunteer Opportunity: Tuesday, August 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Attend the Library Kids are Cool Closing Celebration and help with refreshments and distribution of Certificates of Completion

Volunteer Opportunity: Wednesday, August 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Window Washing Event - help clean up, have a snack and brainstorm our plans for 2000!

Closing Celebration: Wednesday, August 18th at 6:30 p.m.

A dinner party, complete with Halloween treats and storyteller Jenifer Ivinskas who will entertain us with Michigan Urban Legends. This program is by invitation only for all club members who have completed club requirements.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The annual Summer Reading Club "Library Kids are Cool" will be wrapping up for club members.

On Tuesday, August 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. children will gather in the Children's area of the library to work on our annual group mural project.

Drop-In Story-time: Wednesday, August 4 at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday, August 5th at 10:30 a.m. for "Potluck" stories.

Children who have read (or listened to) 8 or more books will be invited to the Closing Celebration on Tuesday, August 10 at 10:30 a.m. This program, featuring Ben Spitzer, will provide a morning of magic and juggling.

Thanks to Meijer of Wixom for providing programs, books and materials for this year's summer reading club!

Coming in the Fall...

Family Play-Time

Learn the secrets of effective play with your preschooler! "Family Play-Time" will help parents learn how to: increase communication and understanding with their child; help children express their feelings safely, increase their child's sense of self-worth; allow children to practice problem solving; have fun! Child and adolescent therapist, Betty Wagner, M.S.W. will conduct the program. Sponsored by the Lakes Area Youth Assistance and the Wixom Public Library, this six-session program will begin on Friday, October 1 and continue each Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. through November 5th. Parents and preschoolers ages 3-5 residing in Walled Lake School District are able to register. A \$15.00 registration fee is required to reserve your space since class size is limited. Scholarships are available. Registration begins on August 2; for registration and information, please call Lakes Area Youth Assistance at 960-8521.

News from the Friends

Join us at our next meeting, Wednesday July 21, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Library to make plans for the upcoming book sale to be held October 13 through the 16th.

The Friends of the Library have had an active year, raising money to support the Library. During the Fiscal Year of 1998/1999 the Friends have donated a total of \$5,324.15 to the Library for a variety of needs. The largest was additional shelving in the Adult Fiction room which cost in excess of \$3500. The Friends also paid for new book ends, new framed posters for the children's area, book baskets, anniversary magnets, a subscription to Book Page, a suggestion box, as well as a children's program by the Spoon Man. Thanks to the members for all their hard work.



Mother Daughter Book Club

Girls in Grade 5 and 6, and their mothers are welcome to sign up for the Mother-Daughter Book Club. We will meet with girls and mothers from Wixom, Highland and Milford in this program sponsored jointly by the libraries in those three communities. The program will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 16th with a discussion of *The View from Saturday* by E. L. Konigsburg at the Wixom Public Library. Please call Jane Kahan at 624-2512 to register.

Back to School Special

Join Ron Loyd "The Bubbleman," on Saturday, September 18th at 10:30 a.m. for stories and bubble sculptures. Children in grades K-5 are invited to register for this unique program.

Gala Halloween Happening

Children of all ages are welcome to register beginning September 13, for our extra special Gala Halloween Happening on Monday, October 18th from 6-7:30 p.m. You may trick-or-treat in the library, do three Halloween craft projects and experience Close-Up Magic with strolling magician Chris Linn. All activities will be simultaneous, so sign-up to come and enjoy.

Mommy and Me

Registration begins on Monday, September 13 for Mommy and Me, a four week program for two year olds accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Mommy and Me will meet on Thursdays from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in the Craft Room beginning October 7th.

Please note: the first and second days of registration are limited to Wixom residents only and on the first day registration will be in person only.

Puppet Play

Registration also begins on Monday, September 13 for "Puppet Play," a story-time program for children between the ages of 3 and 5, who are not yet in Kindergarten. Children will meet in the Craft Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. for 30-45 minutes of stories, songs and simple puppet projects. Programs begin on October 5 or 6th. One sign-up registers you for all 4 dates. A parent or caregiver must remain in the library.

Please note: the first and second days of registration are limited to Wixom residents only and on the first day registration will be in person only.

Library Calendar

Monday, Aug. 2 – Registration begins for Family Play-Time

Tuesday, Aug. 3 – Group Mural Project

Wed/Thu, Aug. 4/5 – Drop In Story-time

Tuesday, Aug. 10 – Library Kids are Cool Closing Celebration (for younger kids and volunteer opportunity for young teen group)

Tuesday, Aug. 10 – Adult Book Discussion

Wednesday, Aug. 11 – Annual Window Washing Event (young teen group)

Wednesday, Aug. 18 – An Extremely Chilling Experience Closing Celebration (young teen group)

Tuesday, Sept. 7 – new library hours begin

Monday, Sept. 13 – Registration begins for Gala Halloween Happening; Mommy and Me; Puppet Play

Tuesday, Sept. 14 – Adult Book Discussion

Thursday, Sept. 16 – Mother Daughter Book Club

Saturday, Sept. 18 – Back to School Special

Tuesday, Sept. 28 – Designing Landscapes for Year Round Color

Friday, Oct. 1 – Family Play-Time begins

WIXOM

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Make those special extra touches to your yard now. The Committee will be judging this month for the Summer Awards Contest. Winners will be notified by end of September.
- Committee is currently accepting new members. Call 624-2850.
- Downtown Scarecrows — Please drop off old jeans, hats, ties, purses, shirts, artificial flowers, etc. by Sept. 7 at the Community Center. Wixom Elementary Students will construct scarecrows in Sept.

Good News from Goodfellows

The Wixom Goodfellows is proud to announce the recipient of this year's scholarship. She is Amy Salley, a graduate of Walled Lake Western High School. Amy is a life-long resident of Wixom and is going to pursue a college education at Western Michigan University. Under the guidelines of the Wixom Goodfellows Scholarship Fund, a graduate student must be resident of Wixom, have maintained a 3.0 plus grade point average through the academic years of the high school and meet the family income levels of the Oakland County Home Improvements Loan Program to qualify for the scholarship.

The Wixom Goodfellows was formed in 1957 to make sure that there is "No Kid" without a Christmas. The Detroit Goodfellows was formed many years earlier to make sure the needy kids would receive gifts at Christmas, and that concept was carried over into Wixom. Newspapers are sold in December on street corners as a fundraiser to carry out this cause.

The Wixom Goodfellows are in need of new members. It is a great civic organization and you can be proud to be a member. Please contact secretary, Russ Miner, at 248-669-4365 on joining.

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lakes Area Citizen Police Academy Debuts

During the past two decades, law enforcement has expanded the involvement of private citizens in various community-based crime prevention, and community policing efforts. The Academy provides a mechanism for education the public about the criminal justice system and ways to prevent crime.

Together with the Novi, Walled Lake, and Wolverine Lake Police Departments, the Wixom Police Department has begun the Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy.

Each academy consists of ten three-hour units of instruction that cover such diverse topics as police training, criminal investigation, and principles of law.

The Police Department is currently accepting applications from residents who would like to be students in our next academy and who are 21 years of age or older.

The Fall '99 session of Lakes Area Citizen Police Academy or the application process, and ask for Sgt. Clarence Goodlein, or Melody Ziegler, Monday – Friday 9am –5pm at (248) 624-6114.

General Crime Prevention Tips

Keep your garage door closed when not using the garage – especially at night; While on vacation have a neighbor or post office hold your mail; Notify neighbors when going on long weekends; Use light timers; Call the Wixom Police Department so they can give special attention while you are gone.

Congratulations ! Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Beautification Winners

Quadrants Plaza on Wixom Road, Clover Communications, Inc. on Grand River and Leon's Food & Sprits Wixom Road all received outstanding beautification awards recently through the Chamber of Commerce.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

■ **FAST-TRAC signal to be installed at West and Beck Roads intersection.** The Road Commission for Oakland County will be installing a new signal, cameras, and traffic detectors this spring/summer at this intersection. This is just one of many signals now linked to the counties system whereby improving traffic movements within the City.

■ **Pontiac Trail Resurfacing:** As part of the water main installations and the City major road program Pontiac trail will be widened to three lanes and resurfaced this summer 1999, this will include the intersection of Beck and Pontiac Trail. Access to all businesses will be provided with detours being posted.

■ **Napier Road** reconstruction project is proceeding with design for a three lane concrete roadway between Twelve Mile Road and Grand River this summer 1999 with a fall 1999 completion.

■ **Railroad Crossing Upgrade to take place at Beck Road and CSX tracks.** This project is underway with new signals having been installed at the railroad crossing. A rubberized crossing and the balance of the concrete roadwork will be installed at this location in the next few months. This

will involve temporary closure of the roadway at the rail crossing during this section of the project. Detours will be posted.

■ **2000 Road Projects:** The City has completed the survey work for these road projects with design taking place over the summer and fall for a construction in the spring 2000. Next year these roads will see resurfacing/improvements – Courts of Highgate and Highgate on the Green (Kings Crown, Cranberry Court, Bishops Terrace, Cherrystone Court, Teaneck Circle, Fox Hollow Court and Roxbury Run)

Bikepaths:

■ One more link to the Citywide bikepath system to be built this summer. Wixom Road – west side from Charms Road to Loon Lake Road. A new 8-foot wide concrete safety path will be installed this summer with some areas as elevated boardwalks in order to preserve the wetland areas. This project will also include pedestrian crosswalks at Wixom & Potter and Wixom & Charms Roads.

Other 1999 Road Improvement Projects

■ **W. Maple Road Extension** – The City of Walled Lake will reconstructing an extension of W. Maple this summer. This will involve the closure of W. Maple Road at Ladd Road. Detours have been posted. This project includes the extension of the 42" diameter Detroit watermain. The intersection of projected to open at the end of September 1999.

■ **I-96 Resurfacing** – The Michigan Department of Transportation will be resurfacing I-96 from Kensington Lake Road to Novi Road this spring/summer 1999. Some delays and temporary ramp closures will occur with this project. Detours will be posted.

■ **West Road** in Novi will be temporary closed for the next several months as the intersection of West and Taft Road Extension is built. Detours have been posted.

As you can see a lot of work is planned and we are working to try to create as little disruption as possible during the pending construction. Remember that the end result will be worth the inconveniences.

For more information please call the Department of Public Services at (248) 624-4664.

We have Moved

The City has moved some of the administrative staff employees around in order to improve City services. Public Service Director Greg McCaffery and DPW Administrator "Benny" McCusker have moved to a new location in City Hall in order to combine their efforts on water, road, utility and development projects. The new telephone numbers are (248) 624-4664 for Public Services and (248) 624-0141 for Public Works. If you have general questions on Public Service activities; Permits, Code Enforcement, Engineering, Building, Planning you can still reach staff members at 624-0880. For the DPW the telephone number (624-0141) will remain the same.

WIXOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Stop in and see us.....

The Wixom-Wire House Museum, across from the Wixom Cemetery at Maple and Wixom Roads, will be open to visitors from 1-4 p.m. each Sunday in August. There is no charge. Donations welcome.

In September.....

The society's first meeting, September 20, will be a trip to the Plymouth Historical Museum. We will tour the Abraham Lincoln Collection purchased by Plymouth two years ago from Dr. Weldon Petz. A special wing is being planned to house this sizable collection.

Dr. Petz, a well-known Lincoln authority, has been a Wixom Society guest at each February meeting for the past twenty-some years. He has delighted and informed us each time. We look forward to welcoming him back this year.

The Wixom Historical Society meets on the third Monday of each month. September-June at 7:30 p.m. at the Wixom City Hall. (Unless otherwise noted)

There is no charge for programs and all are welcome.

Memberships are nominal

General \$5.00

Senior \$3.00

Call Graham Bennett at 248-624-2478 for more information.

Senior Citizens Corner

The dog days of summer will find the Senior Center offering a cool and pleasant haven from the heat. Ongoing programs include:

■ **BINGO**—1st Wednesday at 12:30

■ **Eucre**—1st Tuesday at 12:30

■ **Pinochle**—3rd Tuesday at 12:30

■ **Exercise**—Monday and Wednesday 10:00-11:00

■ **Blood Pressure Van available**—1st Tuesday between 11:12:30

"Every Thursday will feature a Meal Day. We invite you to join us for Pizza and Movie Day, Brown Bag and Bingo Day," Mystery Lunch Day (with program) and Potluck day (with program).

Day Trips

■ **August 11**—Senior Spirit Day at Kensington Metropark. (U-drive)

■ **August 20**—Put-in-Day Put-in-Bay

■ **August 25**—Soaring Eagle Casino

■ **September 10**—A Touch of New England in Ohio (tentative)

■ **September 15**—Stars and Swipes Forever. Luncheon and play (U-drive)

■ **September 21**—Shipshewana

■ **September 30**—AuSable River Cruise

Many of these events require a fee and/or advanced registration.

Please call the center at 624-2030.

Stop by and pick "up a book" at our events and meet Joan, the new Senior Coordinator."