

Crossroads



Official Newsletter of the City of Wixom, Aug./Sept. 2000

From the Mayor's Desk...

With all the controversy about kids and sports today, it reminds me of an experience I had a few years ago. You might recall that back then the Wixom Christian School at the First Baptist Church had some teams that were state-championship caliber. I asked the pastor, Claude Wiggins, how he and his coaches approach the downside of losing when talking with their young athletes. Pastor Wiggins explained to me how they teach the youngsters that, in any competition, there are three keys to winning.

He said, the first is doing your best – giving it your best effort to make that perfect pass, run your fastest time or hit the shot when it really counts. The second key is the fellowship and camaraderie that must be shown during the course of the competition – not only with your teammates, but also your opponents. The third key, Pastor Wiggins went on to say, is the least important of all – winning the competition. He said that too many times we dwell on the score and

not the complete experience of competition - the other two keys.

Trying your best and gaining the respect and friendship of your fellow competitor are even more important than the score or winning the event. The true winners, we must reinforce to our children, are those who do their best, practice good sportsmanship and play by the rules. And, yes, sometimes they also have the best time or score and win the competition. Wixom continues to be the best place to live in and work in.

Mayor Mike McDonald



The Time Is Ripe For A Farmer's Market

Join the City of Wixom Saturday mornings for the new Farmer's Market.

Beginning Sept. 9th – October 28th (8 weeks) come to the Community Center from 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to see what local vendors have to offer.

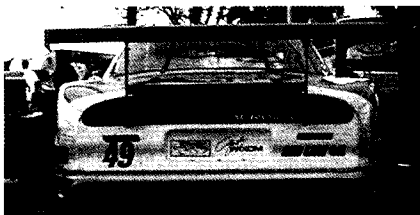
Reminders...

- Refuse containers *cannot* be any larger than 32 gallons in size. If you do have one larger than this, please do not use it in the future. Waste Management workers are not required to lift containers larger than 32 gallons. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Tuesday, Aug. 1 is National Night Out. Please keep porch lights on and interact with neighbors from 7-9pm.
- Don't forget to vote! Primary Election August 8. See story on page 4.

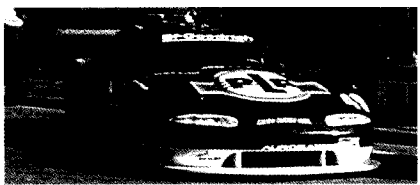
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Wixom Logo On Race Car



Sporting a City of Wixom Logo, #49 "The Coyote," Randy Ruhlman, his crew and Ruhlman Motorsports, placed sixth in the Detroit Grand Prix Trans-Am Series.



Ruhlman Motorsports maintain their shop in Wixom. Their next race will be August 19th in Elkhart Lake, WI.

Thanks for showing your Community Spirit and Good Luck from all your Wixom Racing Fans!

The Circus is Coming to Town

Monday, Aug. 14

The Kelly Miller Circus is coming to Gilbert Willis Park

CVISION TECHNOLOGIES

Tickets are available for the 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. shows at Community Services.

DPS & Building Department News

- Industrial permits issued are up 6% from last year with 23 buildings currently under construction with 15 more in the planning stages.
- There are currently 121 homes under construction within the city.
- Site Plan reviews and engineering activities are up 20% from last year with 158 single family home occupancies being issued thus far. This is up 56% from last year.
- We are anticipating the opening of a Wendy's Restaurant in September at the corner of Wixom and West.
- We are also anticipating the opening of the Baymont Inn & Suites Hotel in January 2001.
- You will notice new pedestrian signals at Wixom and Potter and Wixom and West Maple Roads in conjunction with the bikepath projects this fall.

Water Main Update

- The elevated storage tank is now in operation.
- Final restoration work has been done for Wixom, West, Grand River and 12 Mile Roads. All watermain and water service leads have been installed.
- Watermain installation has been completed with the system placed on line and available for use in the Hickory Hills (& Finn Camp Areas) Subdivision. Final restoration is nearing completion.
- Watermain installation has been completed and is available for use in the Birch Park Subdivision area (Lake View and Loon Lake Road area). Restoration work is nearing completion.
- Transmission water main installation along Wixom Road north of Pontiac Trail, W. Maple, Loon Lake and Charms Roads has begun with more than 50% of the pipe having been installed.
- DWSD has awarded the contract for the 42" water main extension from the East Side of Walled Lake to W. Maple & Beck Roads.

These are just a few of the highlights taking place in the Public Service and Building Departments. We would like to thank you for your continued patience with the water main project. This is a huge undertaking, which will be of great benefit in the end. Should you have any questions or need information please do not hesitate to call us at: Public Services (248) 624-4664 or Building (248) 624-0880.



FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Late Payments

Penalty and interest will be applied to all tax bills received after August 31, 2000. If this amount is not included in the payment mailed to us, we will accept your payment as a partial payment and bill you for the balance due.

August, 2000

Beginning in August The City of Wixom will be implementing a program that will allow residents to pay their property taxes by credit card over the telephone or via the Internet. American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa are the cards that will be accepted by the program. The new system is scheduled to go live some time in August. This service will be provided by Official Payments Corp. and they will charge the customer a fee for using this payment method. The fee schedule for payments up to \$6399.99 is listed below. You can also access a fee schedule for higher payment amounts, along with other information on the service, via the Internet at www.officialpayments.com

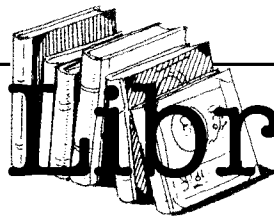
		Payment Amount	
From	To		Fee
0	99.99		\$3
100	199.99		\$6
200	399.99		\$11
400	599.99		\$16
600	999.99		\$25
1000	1399.99		\$35
1400	1999.99		\$49
2000	2699.99		\$68
2700	3499.99		\$87
3500	4399.99		\$109
4400	5399.99		\$133
5400	6399.99		\$159

A property tax information line will also be available in August that will allow you to access your tax information over the telephone. The toll free number for the tax line will be 1-888-600-3773 or 248-858-0025.

Payment Methods

Our office is open from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday-Friday. For your convenience, we have also enclosed an envelope for payments to be made by mail. There is also a drop box located outside the front doors of City Hall for your payments. If you are a homeowner who pays us directly, you have received an OCR encoded bill. This is perforated through the middle for easy separation. You must return the top half of the bill. The lower half of the bill is your receipt, along with your cancelled check.

CVISION
TECHNOLOGIES



Library News

From the Library Director, Kim Potter

Are you sitting at home wondering what you have checked out on your library card and when it's due? Well, you can check from home if you have internet access. Here's how:

From The Library Network website (<http://tln.lib.mi.us>) choose the Catalog button. Then choose TLN Web Catalog followed by About My Account. After you enter your library card number and your PIN number (which is normally the last four digits of your phone number) you will see a listing of materials you have checked out on your card along with each due date. If you have any fines owing they will be listed as well as any outstanding requests you have made. At this time you may not renew items over the internet, although that option will be available in the near future.

While you are at The Library Network website, you might also want to check out the Databases Accessible From Home or click on the Homepages button to access our own Wixom Public Library website. If you have any problems, let us assist you.

The verdict is in — you love our new music CD collection! We have quite a variety, and it's growing each week. Don't forget, we have music CD's in our children's department as well. If there are artists or particular CD's you would like to see added please let us know, and we will see what we can do.

Children's Department News

If you have joined our Summer Reading Club for children ages 2-10 or the Retro Readers for those entering grades 5-8 there is still time to finish up your reading in order to be invited to the Closing Celebration for your club. See you there!

Fall will be here before you know it, and registration for Fall Children's programs will begin on September 11th. We have expanded our offering of storytimes. We have added "Mother Goose" for one-year-olds and "Fantastic Fridays" for children age 2 to 6 with an adult. Check our Children's Newsletter in the library for details.

CHECK THE LIBRARY OR THE COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM BROCHURE, WHICH IS MAILED TO YOUR HOME, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CURRENT LIBRARY PROGRAMS.

Friends of the Wixom Public Library

Join us for the next meeting of the Friends of the Wixom Library on Wednesday, Oct 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library meeting room. The Friends actively support the Library by raising money through an annual book sale, and on-going sale of paperback books from the lobby. Money raised will be used to purchase a large fish tank for the library for everyone to enjoy. The Friends will also be supporting the monthly maintenance of the fish tank. It should be in place by the middle of August, so watch for it!

Our big fundraiser each year is the Annual Fall Used Book Sale, coming up October 19-21. Donations are appreciated, although we cannot accept books that are in bad condition, textbooks or any magazines. Help, of course, is always appreciated and much needed. Call 624-2512 for more information.

Hey...What Are You Dumping In My River??

The Rouge and Huron Rivers and their many branches that run through the City of Wixom are home to numerous species of animals and plants. The banks and bottom of the river offer shelter to American Toads, Western Chorus Frogs, and Wood Frogs. The banks of the river provide a safe place for young maple trees, as well as towering oaks. These natural resources make Wixom a distinguished place to live and work.

There are many threats to these natural resources that endanger the livelihood of our rivers. Individuals and companies alike sometimes dispose of waste by tossing it into the river or on the riverbanks. There are also

discharges of untreated wastewater from unregulated pipes. These are called *illicit discharges*. An illicit discharge is the discharge of untreated sanitary wastewater or other polluting materials into a river, stream or other water from improper sewage connections; effluent from improperly designed and/or



operated septic systems; sanitary sewer overflows, improper disposal of waste products, or other discharges not composed entirely of storm water. The Oakland County Drain Commission has initiated a hotline, providing access to a wide variety of environmental services 7 days a week: (248) 858-

0931. If you are witness to suspicious activities, or know of a possible illicit discharge, please call this number.

These illicit discharges can cause significant problems for our rivers, as well as degrade the quality of the natural resources. The City of Wixom needs help to locate these illicit discharges

and eliminate the source. If you see someone dumping waste, refuse or an odd-looking substance anywhere in the City of Wixom, especially near the River, please contact the City of Wixom Department of Public Services at (248) 624-4664.

City Clerk's Office

Michigan voters will be casting their votes at the Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2000. Polls will be open that day from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absent voter ballots are now available at the City Clerk's Office for duly qualified and registered electors who (1) are 60 years of age or older, (2) expect to be absent from the community for the entire time the polls are open on election day, (3) are physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another, (4) cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of their religion, (5) have been appointed as an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the one where they reside, or (6) cannot attend the polls because they are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

If you're in City Hall, try to stop by the City Clerk's Office to meet the new face in our office, Anna Crippen. Anna, with her pleasant personality and willingness to work and learn, has been with us for about six weeks now and is proving to be a valuable addition to our staff. If you get a chance, we encourage you to join us in welcoming Anna to our City Hall family.

Wixom Historical Society

In today's hurry-scurry world, with schools focused on so many current issues, it is important for us to help our children learn about our past and the people and events that forged our nation.

The Society welcomes new members, young and

old to join us in celebrating our history and preserving the physical reminders of an earlier day. The Society meets on the third Monday of each month, September through June at 7:30 at Wixom City Hall. Membership dues are nominal: Family: \$10 - Adult: \$5 - Seniors (65+): \$3. We would be happy to see you in September.



From the Wixom Police Department

Citizens Police Academy Begins September 13th

The Wixom, Novi, Walled Lake, and Wolverine Lake Police Departments will again sponsor the Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy beginning September 13, 2000. The purpose of this academy is to explain the operations of our community's police agency and to describe the complexity of the criminal justice system. Its goal is to enhance each student's understanding of police practices and procedures.

The communities of Wixom, Walled Lake, and Novi collaborated and formed this academy (Michigan's first citizens police academy) in the spring of 1994, and the Wolverine Lake Police Department became a partner in 1998. The Lakes Area Citizens' Police Academy is held semi-annually and is a thirty-hour block of instruction that culminates in a graduation and banquet ceremony for participants and their spouses. Each academy consists of ten three-hour units of instruction that cover such diverse topics as police training, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, juvenile law, and the manner by which police typically interact with courts and prosecutors' offices. Instruction in these and other topics consists of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and hands-on experiences. It provides opportunities for academy students to ride with patrol officers and participate in police training. Police personnel from each police agency and representatives of other criminal justice agencies (e.g. County Prosecutor's and Medical Examiner's Office, District Court, MSP Scientific Analysis

Unit, and etc.) furnish academy instruction. There is no cost to participate as a student.

Academy students are selected from applications filed by residents or business-owners of each community. Applicants are required to be +21 years-of-age and to pass a criminal background check.

Applications are available at police offices between 9 AM & 5 PM weekdays, or by mail. We encourage residents to consider attending this academy and getting-to-know their police department better. Persons with questions can call (248.624.6114) and speak with Sgt. Richard Howe, Police Operations Supervisor or Melody Ziegler, Police Secretary.

Back To School

With school back in session soon, the Police Department asks all drivers to be alert for children walking to and from school. Please remember that it is unsafe and illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped and displaying its flashing stop-lights.

Parents should also advise their children to promptly report anyone that stops and talks to them when going to or from school. Parents should report these incidents to the Police Department immediately if they should occur.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 1, 2000 is National Night Out. We ask that all residents keep their porch lights on and interact with your neighbors from 7-9 p.m. on this date. Police patrols will be visible in all subdivisions.

Household Hazardous Waste Day

A member community of RRRASOC (248-208-2270) you are invited to participate in the NOVI Household Hazardous Waste Day collection scheduled for Saturday, September 9, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Novi DPW, 26300 DelWal Drive (north of 11 Mile and West of Meadowbrook). Another collection will be held on Saturday, October 14th in Southfield. For more information please call RRRASOC or pick up a flyer at City Hall (DPW Dept).

From the Fire Department...

What is the meaning of volunteerism?

When there is a raging storm and wires are down, they are there.

When there is a roaring fire and someone needs to be rescued, they are there.

When someone in our community needs help, these dedicated individuals are there.

Of all the words that could be used to describe George Lasich, the ones that stand out most are giving and caring. He exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism.

George joined the Wixom Fire Department in 1961, while it was still a fledgling, coping with organization and procedures. He committed his time, talents and devotion to a depth that made an enormous contribution to the department's growth and development. As well as spending many, many man-hours "under a truck", he helped to establish a comprehensive mechanical division, including regular maintenance schedules, systematic ordering of supplies and record keeping. With his professional background, George has literally **kept the department rolling** over the last 30 years. His maintenance duties have been in addition to his regular fire related responsibilities including training, fire fighting and later his duties as Lieutenant, Captain and now Assistant Chief.

George and his wife Corinne decided to settle in Wixom in 1957, setting down roots for the first time, having moved about during their early years of marriage. This included several years in Alaska, while George honed his mechanical skills, training and working at a General Motors dealership.

Born in Marquette, raised in Munising with later school years spent in Walled Lake, he enlisted in the Navy in 1941, and served on the aircraft carrier Langly in the South Pacific. After the war, he worked aboard an iron ore carrier for the Cleveland Cliffs Shipping Company on the Great Lakes. In 1950 he moved to Alaska. In 1954, while training in Michigan, George and Corinne (Garchow) were married, living in Cordova and Anchorage before their move back to Michigan and to Wixom. While he worked in the Executive Garage of the Ford Motor Company, George and Corinne raised a family of 5 children, which now includes 13 grandchildren.

The Lasich's are a fire-fighting family. Their oldest son Tom started as a fire fighter for Wixom. Tom's wife Marilyn (Croft) was also a Wixom fire fighter. Their son David is now an Assistant Chief with the Wixom Fire Department. For many years Corinne was responsible for one of the five Fire Department fan-out phones placed in fire fighter's homes to alert volunteers of an emergency.

In addition to the time spent at the Fire Department, George has always devoted his time and talents to his church, St. Matthews Lutheran in Walled Lake, serving as trustee, usher and volunteer for countless undertakings. This devotion to his faith nurtured the new church, helping it to develop and grow.

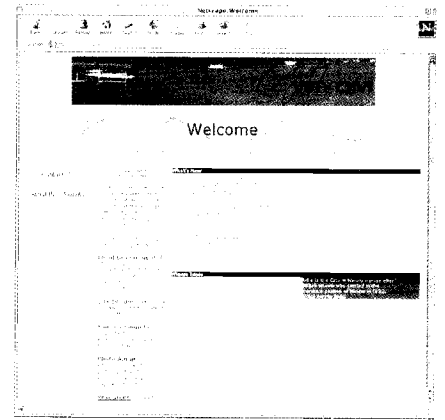
Since retiring from Ford in 1980, George has not slowed down. Along with all else, he worked with the FISH Organization of the Department of Social Services, gathering and distributing food and clothing to those in need and spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. If there is a toy to be fixed, or hand to be held, George is there.

Volunteering means **GIVING** and **CARING**.

George Lasich means **GIVING** and **CARING**.

After 39 years with the Department, George is retiring.

Thank you and you take with you all our good wishes and sincere appreciation George. You will be missed more than you will know.



WIXOM WEBSITE

Visit the Wixom Website at www.ci.wixom.mi.us

Any questions, comments, suggestions can be directed to the Web Editor.

Wixom Goodfellows

From time to time, the question is raised, "who are the Wixom Goodfellows"? It is an organization that has been active in Wixom since 1957. Their Mission Statement is: "The Wixom Goodfellows" shall provide support to families so all the Wixom children know the joy and spirit of Christmas. The Wixom Goodfellows will also provide meaningful temporary support to Wixom families in need through the year. This activity will be accomplished through community outreach programs, education and community involvement.

This past Christmas, working through the Fish Program in Walled Lake, aid was extended on an average of \$300 per request for a total of \$8,100. Also, 52 floral arrangements and poinsettia plants were given to the elderly and shut-ins. This is all funded by the annual paper drive of the Wixom Goodfellows, which will take place this year on the weekend following Thanksgiving.

Membership in the Goodfellows is open to any resident of Wixom, any employee of the City of Wixom or any representative of any Wixom business.

If you are interested in joining, please contact our Secretary, Russ Miner at 669-1365.

New Fire Hydrants

With new hydrants popping up all over town we wanted to remind you that it is unlawful to park within 15', any direction, of a fire hydrant.

