

## Voters To See 1.25 Millage Proposal on May Ballot to Preserve Public Safety Services, Maintain Quality of Life in Wyoming

After several months of deliberation, the Wyoming City Council has recommended that Wyoming residents be given the choice in May to approve a 1.25 mill increase for public safety, including police and fire services.

The decision to pursue a 5-year, 1.25-mill increase will help the City achieve financial stability by generating \$2.6 million to maintain public safety services, which represent nearly 65 percent of the City's general fund.

To further stabilize the budget, in November voters will be asked to allow the 2 mill dedicated Capital Improvements Millage for sewer, water and street improvements to be used for general operations of the City. This request allows the City to use a portion

of the Capital Improvements funding for general operations such as public safety.

"It comes down to a matter of choice for our residents to invest in our community and to preserve public safety services," states Mayor Jack Poll. "If they approve the public safety millage we will be able to maintain our current levels of protection. If they do not, we will have to start eliminating services. Simply put, there will be fewer police officers who will take longer and be able to respond to fewer calls for help."

If voters do not pass the millage, Wyoming will be forced to:

- Make personnel reductions in the police department.
- Reduce the number of police road patrols.

- Cut police response to certain calls for non-emergency service, such as minor traffic complaints, larceny, and fraud.
- Cut firefighter response to medical calls.
- Rely on paid on-call firefighters at fire scenes. If enough firefighters are not available, the department will not be able to fight interior fires.

Citizens are encouraged to contact Council Members or staff with questions and concerns.

## City Employee Detects Gas Leak, Prevents Explosion

While out on an inspection of abandoned structures in the community, City of Wyoming employee Harold Post recently detected a gas leak at a vacant home. Understanding the danger the leak presented, Post quickly called the appropriate authorities and had the situation fixed. Had the leak gone undetected, it may have resulted in the home's explosion and additional damage to adjoining properties and neighbors.

This story is one of many related to the success of the City's Abandoned Structure program. In January of 2009, the Inspections Department started the program in response to the foreclosure crisis and the growing number of abandoned structures. Currently, the Department monitors over 700 properties to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. For more information about this program, please call (616) 530-7285.



MAYOR'S

## Message

In my recent State of the City Address I focused on two areas of importance to our city today. The first was my vision for Wyoming from this point forward. I shared about the unique opportunity we have today to make changes that will propel Wyoming into the future. Instead of looking at what we have lost during these down times, I proposed we look to the future to see what opportunities are now available that will spur us forward. It will

take bold decisions like those of past leaders to find a unique path that sets Wyoming apart in West Michigan.

The second part of my address focused on my desire that all Wyoming voters be informed about the May 4th millage election. We want to be sure that you have all of the information you need, and we will be scheduling public forums for you to attend in order to get your questions answered. Please check our website in the coming days for locations and times.

Together we can continue to be a City of Vision and Progress, and I appreciate your partnership and investment in the community. Be involved and be informed!

# News Briefs

## LIBRARY NEWS

**TAX FORMS.** Basic forms and instructions for Federal, Michigan and City of Grand Rapids tax preparations can be found in the Copy Center. In addition, the KDL web site [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org) provides links to the various taxing agencies' complete collection of forms and publications. **CENSUS ASSISTANCE AT THE LIBRARY!** The U.S. Census Bureau will have an employee on-site in the library to help people with questions about filling out the census form. The Census employee will be in the library approximately 15 hours a week from March 19 to April 19. Hours will be Wednesdays 4:00-8:00 p.m., Fridays 2:00-5:00 p.m., Saturdays 1:00-5:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00-5:00 p.m. **DANCE TO THE MUSIC!** A Rhyme Time Music and Movement program (for ages 6 and younger) will take place on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. starting March 12th and ending April 16th. **ADULT BOOK CLUB.** We have a friendly, informal discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. March's discussion book is *Blink*: by Malcolm Gladwell.

For further details on these and all of our programs, stop in the library to pick up a program guide, check out our web page at [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org), or call us at (616) 784-2007! Plus, KDL is now on Twitter! Follow us @KDLNews for all the latest updates on programs, events and resources at your library.

## MONTHLY E-MAIL NEWSLETTER KEEPS YOU UPDATED!

The Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department began sending out a monthly e-mail newsletter in January to keep you informed of important activities and events, plus provide additional information to assist you in the enjoyment of your recreation and leisure experiences. If you would like to receive future newsletters, please e-mail us at [parks\\_info@wyomingmi.gov](mailto:parks_info@wyomingmi.gov) or call (616)530-3164 to sign-up today.

## ADULT SPORTS OPPORTUNITIES

It is time to think spring! Get your friends together and come play in one of our Kickball or Softball leagues. Whether you are a seasoned vet or just looking to have fun, we have a spot for you. For more information on league offerings, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 616-530-3164.

## Census Assistance Center at City Hall

Have questions about the 2010 Census? If so, stop by City Hall and visit the Census Assistance Center. The Center will be open 15 hours each week between March 19 and April 19.

This year the U.S. Census Bureau is conducting its 22nd national census. Your participation is crucial, as census numbers are used to distribute over \$400 billion in federal funds to communities each year. In mid-March, your ten minute, ten question census form will arrive in the mail. Complete and submit the form by April 1st, and visit [www.2010census.gov](http://www.2010census.gov) for further information.

## Spring Clean-up Just Around the Corner

The Public Works Department has two great programs to assist you with spring cleaning. Check below for details and get your plans in order! Call (616) 530-7260 for reservations and more info.

**RENT-A-TRAILER:** Beginning March 29, rental trailers are available for yard waste disposal. City personnel will drop off and pick up the trailers. 24 hour advance reservations required.

**CURBSIDE PICK-UP DAY:** On April 17, place your items at the curb by 6:00 a.m. for pick-up. Leaves must be in paper bags and brush must be tied in bundles less than 4 feet in length.

## Telephone Numbers

Mayor's Office .....	530-7227
City Manager.....	530-3173
City Clerk .....	530-7296
Police Department.....	530-7300
Fire Department .....	530-7250
Public Works.....	530-7260
Utilities .....	261-3550
Planning & Community	
Development.....	530-7258
Parks & Recreation.....	530-3164
Building Inspections.....	530-7285
Assessor .....	530-7231
District Court.....	257-9814
Treasurer.....	530-7280
Utility Billing.....	530-7389
Wyoming Senior Center.....	530-3190
Wyoming Public Library.....	647-3980

## Meetings

**City Council Meeting** | on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**City Council Work Sessions** | on the second Monday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Planning Commissions Meetings** | on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Zoning Board Of Appeals** | on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Parks & Recreation Commission** | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conf. room.

## Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor

Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,  
Councilmember-at-Large

Dan Burrill, Councilmember-at-Large

Kent Vanderwood, Councilmember-at-Large

Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Councilmember

Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Councilmember

Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Councilmember