

THE record

THE CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN NEWSLETTER

January 2012

A Look at the 2012-2013 Budget Process

If you have attended or viewed a City Council meeting recently chances are you have heard Mayor Jack Poll say, "We can provide services at any level, but we need our residents to let us know at what level they want their services provided."

City of Wyoming Director of Finance Tim Smith agrees. "Right now is the perfect time for residents to take a look at the materials we have provided on the website, www.wyomingmi.gov, and provide feedback about City services for the 2012-2013 budget," Smith said. "The website offers the current audit report, the 2011-2012 budget and a dashboard for increased transparency reporting. The dashboard includes revenue, expenses and debt information as well as the fund balance. Pretty much, all of the funds supported by property taxes."

The final budget will be approved during the May 21, 2012, City Council meeting, which follows a public hearing on May 5 that will offer citizens an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget.

Prior to the approval of the 2011-2012 budget City Manager Curtis Holt said, "For the City Council, the budget represents the most complex and comprehensive policy statement it will make in any one year. The budget holds the funding for all of the services the City expects to deliver in a fiscal year and, as a result, it provides limitations (funding) or exclusions (no funding provided). It can also provide funding for new programs or services if that appropriation is approved in the budget document."

One of the greatest challenges the City faces each year is to develop a balanced budget that provides the City services required by residents at the desired level. "There is only so much money available and we have to prioritize services in a way that fits within the constraints of what is financially possible," Smith said.

"We are glad to hear from residents during this process. I also encourage people to attend the May 5 meeting and share what services and programs they care about."

Wyoming Community Reads in 2012

On Saturday, Jan. 7, the Wyoming Library is kicking off its first ever Community Reads program. The program is designed to bring the community together, educate, generate ideas and create discussion through reading.

The library has chosen the theme, "Bridging Barriers Through Friendship," and has selected books that are focused on ways in which human difference, such as race, disability, gender, etc., can be overcome by developing friendships.

Book selections include: *The Night Train* by Clyde Edgerton (adults), *Black and White* by Paul Volponi (teens), *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had* by Kristin Levine (upper elementary), *A Friendship for Today* by Patricia McKissack (lower elementary) and *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson.

The library will facilitate several opportunities for adults, teens and children to participate in Wyoming Reads. Scheduled events include: small group book discussions, craft activities for children, staff readings at local schools, a jazz concert at Frankie V's and a visit from *The Other Side* illustrator E.B. Lewis.

A kick off party will be held on Jan. 7 at the Wyoming Library beginning at 12 p.m. There will be speakers, live music, crafts and food at the event.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at 6:30 p.m. illustrator E.B. Lewis will discuss the illustration process at the Wyoming Library. He has illustrated more than 50 books and received several awards for his work.

Jazz trio Son's of the Desert will perform on Thursday, March 29, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Frankie V's.

The Wyoming Community Reads program concludes on March 31. Visit the Wyoming Library at, <http://www.kdl.org/branches/18>.

MAYOR'S

Message



Happy 2012!

I hope your New Year has started off well and that this year brings much happiness and good things your way.

Wyoming had a very good year in 2011. It was a great year for investment by new and existing businesses, which have invested more than \$60 million in Wyoming. These investments secured more than 2,000 jobs and brought nearly 800 new jobs to our city. 2012 looks like it will be very similar in investment, and we are anticipating that this sluggish economy is making that long

anticipated turn.

In setting goals for the New Year, I encourage you to "be involved and be informed" about what is going on in your city. Please keep in mind that I am available to discuss your concerns as I continue the privilege of being your mayor.

Jack Poll
Mayor, City of Wyoming

LIBRARY NEWS 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. January's title is Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay. PROGRAMS FOR TODDLERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN – A variety of stories, rhymes, music and movement activities are available for children and their caretakers. The programs run through February. BOOKSALE -- The Friends of the Wyoming Library will be holding a two day book sale from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Jan. 20 and 21. For further details on library programs, stop in the library to pick up a program guide, check out www.kdl.org or call the library at (616) 784-2007.

PUBLIC WORKS The City of Wyoming yard waste drop off site will be open on Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and Jan. 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to accommodate Christmas tree drop offs. This is in addition to the site's regular winter hours, Monday – Thursday, 7:30 – 4:00. Please call the Public Works Department at 530-7260 if you have any questions. REMINDER - The winter odd/even parking ordinance is in effect.

SENIOR CENTER Beginning on Jan. 23, the Senior Center will be partnering once again with the students from Godfrey-Lee Middle School to run the "Bridging the Community" program. Students will come to the Wyoming Senior Center once a month from January through May to assist older adults with the computer and the Wii gaming system. They will interview older adults for school projects, play games and when the weather allows may go to Pinery Pary to walk and visit.

Wyoming Employees Gave Back in 2011

In 2011, City of Wyoming employees participated in several efforts to give back to the community. Their donations totaled more than \$12,500.

Employees are presented with many opportunities to give back throughout the year, including annual giving campaigns and payroll deduction programs.

Most significantly, the employee payroll deduction program Wyoming Employees Community Outreach raised more than \$7600 in 2011. These funds will assist 125 children in the Wyoming community from 50 families in purchasing clothing and school supplies.

Additional 2011 fundraising efforts included, the United Way campaign, which raised \$2205, the Lady's Charity event, which raised \$1627 for the Hospice of West Michigan, and the Toys for Tots campaign, which raised more than \$1100 in toys.

Collections were also taken up for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and for a local family through the Adopt-a-Family program.

"Girls Count" Math Program

Know an elementary aged girl who enjoys math or maybe needs some help improving in that subject? The Wyoming Branch Library has announced that from Jan. 23 to Feb. 27 it will offer the free math program "Girls Count" to girls in grades 3-5.

The drop-in program is part of Mind Boggle, a Grand Rapids-based program aimed at encouraging math, science and engineering skills in children. The "Girls Count" program supports and encourages girls to succeed in math.

It was hugely successful at the KDL Kentwood branch this past fall and is now being expanded to the Wyoming and East Grand Rapids branches.

The one hour program makes math fun by focusing on activities and games. It meets on Monday's from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Rita Dunn, youth specialist for KDL's Wyoming Branch, said, "The community benefits from a program like this. Math is an important component to the education of our children. Giving kids another opportunity to improve their math skills while having fun supports their educational goals as well."

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 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