

## Department of Public Safety Leadership Transition

Wyoming Fire Department Chief Bob Austin has announced he will retire on March 3.

Frank Verburg has been hired as the new Director of Fire Services beginning on March 10.

Firefighting veteran Verburg brings nearly 30 years of experience in fire safety to the City of Wyoming to this new role, which was developed as part of the re-engineering of the City's public safety services department.

Prior to joining the City of Wyoming, he worked for the Grand Rapids Fire Department where he started in the repair shop and worked his way up to a firefighter and eventually deputy fire chief.

"We are pleased to welcome Frank to Wyoming," said Wyoming Mayor Jack A. Poll. "As we move into a new public safety service model, we are excited about the experience he brings and his vision for public safety and fire services.

"We'd also like to thank Bob for his many years of service. He's created a strong fire department for the City and is leaving Frank with an exceptional team of firefighters.

Verburg holds a bachelor of science degree in political science from Grand Valley State University. He also serves as a Michigan representative the International Association of Firefighters.

## New American Academy

On Wednesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m., approximately 30 individuals will participate in a graduation ceremony honoring their completion of the second New American Academy program offered by Wyoming's Department of Public Safety, or WDPS, in partnership with Bethany Christian Services to honor each student's dedication and service to their community.

The mission of the New American Academy is to build trust and understanding among new citizens, refugees and resident aliens with their local government, especially with regard to public safety.

Topics include:

- The functions of a police officer
- Specialty police units
- Community policing
- Traffic enforcement
- Criminal investigations
- Neighborhood crime prevention

The WDPS is committed to engaging community members to improve quality of life for residents, workers and visitors of the City of Wyoming. The academy is designed for individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds and cultures within the greater Grand Rapids area. Translation services have been provided by Bethany Christian Services.

For additional information on this or future classes, please contact Lt. Scott Beckman at 530-7366.

MAYOR'S

## Message



Be involved and be informed. I encourage this at every City Council meeting and each month here in the Wyoming Record. An easy way to become more informed of what's happening around the City is to engage with us on social media.

You can find the City on a variety of social media outlets. We tweet and re-tweet news from the City at [www.twitter.com/WyomingCityHall](http://www.twitter.com/WyomingCityHall). We share status updates on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofWyoming](http://www.facebook.com/CityofWyoming). City Manager Curtis Holt's blog is updated regularly at [www.wyomingmi.gov/wordpress/](http://www.wyomingmi.gov/wordpress/).

We use social media to provide additional methods for citizens to ask questions and to give feedback and to share news quickly.

Topics vary across Twitter, Facebook and the City Manager's blog. We hope to see your re-tweets, posts and comments as we continue to be a City of Vision and Progress. Again, we invite you to take these opportunities to be involved and be informed.

Mayor Jack A. Poll

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT NEWS** ADULT SOFTBALL LEAGUE registration is open. Co-ed league teams are offered Mondays through Fridays for 10 games at a cost of \$465. Men's league teams are offered Mondays through Thursdays for 14 games for \$565. All leagues include a single-elimination tournament. Call 530-3164 or email parks\_info@wyomingmi.gov for more information. ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUE registration is open. This coed league plays on Wednesday nights beginning May 14. The cost is \$225 for eight games plus a single-elimination tournament. Call 530-3164 or email parks\_info@wyomingmi.gov for more information. PARK RESERVATIONS for 2014 family reunions, graduation parties, baby showers and birthday parties are now being accepted. Most park reservations are available May 1 through Sept. 30. The Pinery Park lodge is available year round. Visit <http://www.ci.wyoming.mi.us/ParksRec/reservations%20info.asp> for more information.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS** CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS will be available Thursday, March 13 and Thursday, April 10 at Wyoming Fire Station #1, 1500 Burton St. S.W. from 5 to 8 p.m. Pre-register by calling Safe Kids of Greater Grand Rapids at 391-7233 ext. 2.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS** A FAIR HOUSING 101 & DISABILITY RIGHTS UNDER LAW SEMINAR will provide practical, up-to-date information to assist landlords, rental agents, property management personnel, real estate agents, housing professionals and residents understand federal, state and local fair housing laws. This free, three-hour educational training seminar on fair housing is sponsored by the City of Wyoming Community Development Office and hosted by the Fair Housing Center. The seminar will be held on Thursday, March 27, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Wyoming branch of the Kent District Library, 3350 Michael Ave., SW.

**LIBRARY NEWS** FREE TAX ASSISTANCE from IRS-certified student volunteers is available on Wednesdays from 2 - 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. through April 12. Volunteers will prepare and e-file taxes for people whose income falls below \$52,000. This program is free and sponsored by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, or VITA. For more information or for an appointment, please call 616-871-6147 or visit [taxhelp.davenport.edu](http://taxhelp.davenport.edu).

## Wyoming Reads 2014

"Enrique's Journey" by Sonia Nazario is based on a series of riveting articles that won the Los Angeles Times Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for feature writing. The book has been announced as the book selection for Wyoming Reads 2014: "The Immigrant Experience."

A number of events have been scheduled to bring awareness to and encourage participation in the Wyoming Reads program. These include:

- An ethnic food fair at the Wyoming Branch of the Kent District Library on Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m. Participants of all ages will receive a stamp in their Wyoming Reads Passport they sample foods from a variety of cultures and enjoy a selection of international music.
- An adult book club discussion on Tuesday March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the library conference room.
- A Goodreads "live chat" with Nazario. Participants can chat with the author on the KDL Goodreads page on Monday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. A Goodreads account is required for participation. Visit [www.goodreads.com/topic/show/1633701-live-chat-with-sonia-nazario](http://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/1633701-live-chat-with-sonia-nazario). Contact a staff member for assistance setting up an account.

Wyoming Reads is presented in partnership with Wyoming Public Schools, Godwin Heights Public Schools, Wyoming Community Foundation, the Friends of Wyoming Library, Marge's Donut Den and Weller Auto Parts. For more information, call 784-2007.

## 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.....	784-2007

## Meetings

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

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

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

**Parks & Recreation Commission** | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conference Room

## Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor  
 Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,  
 Council Member-at-Large  
 Dan Burrill, Council Member-at-Large  
 Kent Vanderwood, Council Member-at-Large  
 Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Council Member  
 Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Council Member  
 Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Council Member

## Reach Us Online

[www.wyomingmi.gov](http://www.wyomingmi.gov)  
[www.twitter.com/WyomingCityHall](https://twitter.com/WyomingCityHall)  
[www.facebook.com/cityofwyoming](https://www.facebook.com/cityofwyoming)