

At Your Service



A Newsletter for the Citizens of Midland, Michigan

November 2008

Fall Leaf Collection Begins in the City

Autumn is a perfect time to enjoy nature's beautiful color changes, but dealing with fall leaves can be a chore. The City of Midland can help!

The Department of Public Services' fall leaf collection program began on Monday, October 27, with collection starting in area B followed by areas C, D and A (*see map below*).

When most leaves have been collected city-wide, a final collection round will be announced. A street sweeper will thoroughly clean each area after its final collection. Any leaves

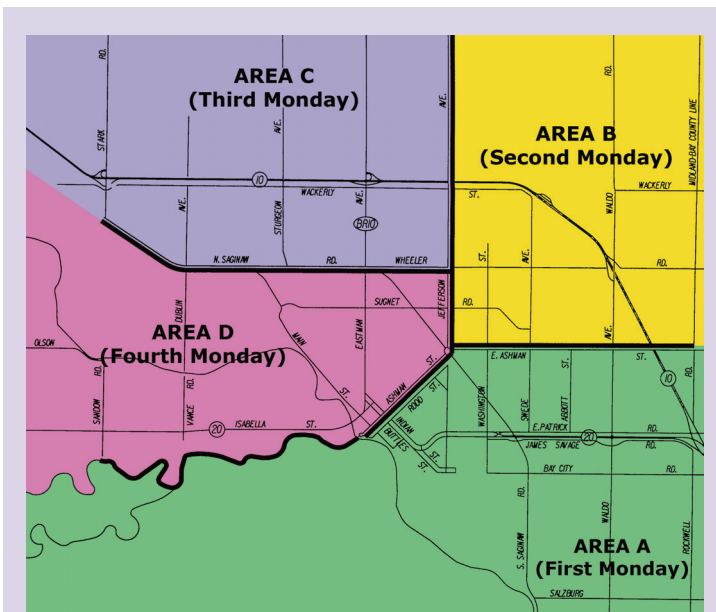
you wish to dispose of after the final collection round must be placed in kraft paper compost bags or in yard waste bins and set out for weekly refuse collection.

The City's "Three Free" weeks of yard waste collection has been extended to the end of the fall collection season. During "Three Free," kraft paper compost bags containing yard waste may be placed at the curb without the regular 25-cent sticker.

Leaves are collected from the street during the fall leaf collection program only. In the spring, leaves must be placed in kraft paper compost bags or yard waste bins and set out for weekly refuse collection.

How to Prepare Leaves

- Residents on major streets: (*see list below*) place leaves on the outlawn, *not* in the street.
All other streets in Midland: as collection crews near your area, rake leaves into the gutter. Leave at least one foot of gutter space between the leaf pile and the curb to allow a path for water to properly drain from streets.
- Keep brush – such as sticks – and refuse out of leaf piles, as these can damage equipment, cause injury to work crews, and slow the collection process.
- To ensure that crews can reach leaves, refrain from parking in the street when collection is in your area.



Follow the Collection Process

Check any of these sources to find out the location of leaf collection crews throughout the city:

- **Leaf Collection Hotline** – call 837-3405 for daily updates
- **MGTV-5 Message Board** – updated as information becomes available
- **City of Midland Website** – www.midland-mi.org
- **Department of Public Services** – Call DPS at 837-6900

Major Streets

(Residents on the following streets should place leaves on the outlawn; all others should rake them into the roadway, one foot from the gutter.)

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Ashman St. (Circle to Main) | • Bay City Rd. |
| • Buttles St. | • Eastman Ave. |
| • Indian St. | • Isabella St. |
| • Lyon Rd. | • Main St. |
| • Patrick Rd. (Indian to Waldo) | • Rodd St. |
| • George & Cronkright Streets
(between Indian & Ellsworth) | • Saginaw Rd. |



City Budget Update

Thank you to the nearly 180 Midland citizens who took time out of their busy schedules in early October to hear about and provide input on City of Midland budget issues (*see photo at left*). Through a series of seven Roundtable sessions, citizens gave City leaders their views on ways to tackle a nearly \$4 million shortfall in the 2009-10 budget. Making up for this shortfall will require a combination of budget cuts and property tax increases.

Citizens will have additional chances to provide input on this important community issue during the 2009-10 budget adoption process. Opportunities for public input are listed at left.

Keep watching the MGTV-5 message board, MGTV-5's "City in 15" news show, and City Council meetings for more on the budget preparation / approval process. In addition, more detailed info on the budget can be found at www.midland-mi.org.

What Happens Next?

- 12-2008 Council receives Budget Roundtables report
- 1-17-09 Council strategic planning
- 4-13-09 Proposed budget to Council
- 4-20-09 Council work session
- 4-27-09 Budget hearing #1
- 5-4-09 Council work session
- 5-11-09 Budget hearing #2
- 5-18-09 Scheduled budget adoption

Learn More About the City of Midland

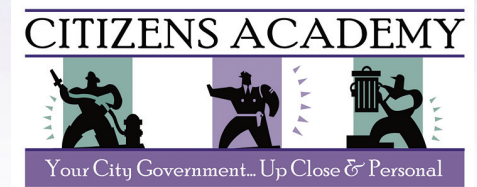
The 3rd Annual Citizens Academy is just around the corner. This innovative educational opportunity will give Midlanders an up close and personal look at how city government functions and helps shape our community.

The academy will take place on nine consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning January 14, 2009. Through presentations and facility tours, City staff will explain the role and responsibility of City departments and the services they provide to Midland.

The application deadline is Friday, December 19. Apply online through the City's website (www.midland-mi.org) or by completely filling out the form below and returning it to City Hall.

Space is limited, and class size will be capped at 25 participants. Citizens will be notified by the first week in January if they have been selected for the 2009 academy.

Call the City's Manager's Office (837-3301) with any questions.



Citizens Academy Application Completely fill out this form, clip it out, and mail it in a stamped envelope by **Friday, Dec. 19** to: *City Manager's Office, 333 W. Ellsworth St., Midland, MI 48640.*

Name: _____

Mailing Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone No.: _____ Work Phone (*if applicable*): _____

Cell Phone No. (*if applicable*): _____ Fax No. (*if applicable*): _____

E-mail Address (*if applicable*): _____ Are you a resident of Midland? (*check one*) Yes No

City ward in which you live (find out your ward at www.midland-mi.org/government/council/wardmap.htm) _____

Please list any civic activities in which you participate: _____

Why are you interested in participating in the Citizens Academy? _____



Be Prepared

Tips on Flood Safety and Insurance

New Rating Means Cost Savings... As a result of the City's exemplary floodplain management programs and services, Midland received a rating decrease in the Community Rating System (CRS) - from a Class 6 to a Class 5.

What does this mean for the residents of Midland? As of October 1, 2008, all residents wishing to purchase or renew flood insurance policies for their properties will automatically receive a 25% discount over standard insurance rates, just for living in the city! Midland now has the lowest flood insurance rates in the state of Michigan, according to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which determined the rate decrease.

According to the NFIP, a home located within the special flood hazard area (SFHA) or floodplain has a 26% greater chance of being damaged by a flood over the life of a 30-year mortgage than by fire or other loss. Your homeowner's insurance will not cover flood damage. This is why flood insurance is mandatory for all federally-backed mortgages. Your home does not have to be in the floodplain to get flooded.

Because the City of Midland participates in the NFIP, anyone who owns or rents property within the city can purchase flood insurance through a local insurance agent and receive a 25% rate reduction. There's a 30-day waiting period for coverage to begin. Call 800-427-4661 with any questions regarding the NFIP, or call your local licensed insurance agent to find out more about the city's excellent flood rating and the savings it will bring to you.

Local Hazard Areas... There are several flood hazard areas throughout Midland. Most flooding occurs from the Tittabawassee and Chippewa rivers, Sturgeon and Snake creeks, and Inman Drain.

The Tittabawassee is the largest source of flooding in Midland, with the last 100-year flood event occurring in 1986, when the river crested at 33.94 feet. Since then, the river has reached flood stage (24 feet) 11 times and most recently crested at 24.6 feet in March 2007.

To find out if your home or business is located within the SFHA (commonly referred to as the 100-year floodplain), contact the Midland Planning and Community Development Department at 989-837-3374. Elevation certificates that have been submitted since 2007 are also available.

The Flood Warning System... Many times, flooding within Midland can be predicted days in advance, giving ample warning for preparation and evacuation. In the event of flash flooding, public safety officials will assess the damage after the flooding has subsided, per Midland County's Emergency Operations Plan.

For more information during a flooding event, contact Midland County's Emergency Information Hotline at **1-888-TELL-MORE**, or tune in to **MGTV Cable Channel 5, WMPX 1490 AM or WMRX 97.7 FM**. These sources can provide the latest on flood levels and road closures.

Flood Safety... Many roads and low lying areas in Midland are quickly covered by water during yearly flooding events. If you come upon "Road Closed" barricades while driving, locate an alternate route. Most flood-related injuries and deaths occur when unsuspecting citizens drive on flooded roadways. Your vehicle can become buoyant in as little as two feet of water, causing you to lose control of your vehicle. A simple way to avoid flood-related accidents is to follow this simple adage: **Turn Around Don't Drown!**

More flood safety information can be found online:

- www.midlandcounty.org/emergency
- www.midland-mi.org (under the Services header, select A to Z Services Directory, then Flood Information)

Flood Protection and Permits... If your property is located within the 100-year (or 1%) floodplain, there are several regulations that the City of Midland enforces to ensure that homes and businesses are reasonably safe from flooding.



(cont. on Back Cover)

Flood Information *(cont. from Page 3)*

The Midland Building Department enforces the International Construction Code (ICC), which requires that the bottom floor (including the basement) of all structures located within the 100-year floodplain must be elevated to at least one (1) foot above the base flood elevation. Also, if uninhabitable spaces (such as crawl spaces) are below the base flood elevation, flood venting must be installed to relieve pressure caused by flowing and standing water on the home's foundation. Call the Building Department (989-837-3383) with your construction questions.

Those who develop within floodplains - including filling, excavation, construction of fences, etc. - are required to have a Part 31 Floodplain Permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality before a City building permit can be obtained. Contact Joy Brooks, Saginaw Bay District Floodplain Engineer, at 989-686-8025, ext. 8364 for a permit application.

Take these steps to protect your home from flooding: clean your gutters, down spouts and drain lines; re-grade your lot; and flood proof your house with water tight doors.

Maintaining Drain Systems... As simple as it sounds, keeping smaller drains, ditches and streams free of debris can greatly improve the outflow of water run-off from low lying areas as well as reduce the occurrence of ice jams. It is a violation of City ordinance to dump materials into these waterways. There are large numbers of County and City drains and waterways that receive annual maintenance to ensure that man-made debris and naturally-occurring vegetation are removed.

If you observe any waterways adjacent to your property that are filled with sediment or vegetation and debris, please contact the Utilities Department (989-837-3500), and crews will be sent to clean these waterways.

Flood Hazard Maps and Floodplain Determinations... The City's Planning Department has copies of all Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-issued Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). FIRMs can be purchased from FEMA directly at (877) FEMA-MAP. When purchasing maps, please reference Midland's community number: 260140.

Planning also maintains copies of all Letters of Map Amendments on properties and structures that have been removed from the SFHA. The City's certified floodplain manager, Deputy Planning Director Daryl Poprave, is available to assist citizens with their floodplain-related issues or concerns. Contact him at 989-837-3377 or by e-mail at dpoprave@midland-mi.org with your questions.

City's Holiday Hours

THANKSGIVING

- Wed., Nov. 26** Grace A. Dow Memorial Library closes 5PM
Wed., Nov. 26 and Thu., Nov. 27 refuse & recycling collected
- Thu., Nov. 27 Thanksgiving** City Offices, Sanitary Landfill, Library, Dial-A-Ride closed
Thu., Nov. 27 refuse & recycling collected on Wed., Nov. 26
- Fri., Nov. 28** City Offices closed
Grace A. Dow Memorial Library closes 5PM
Sanitary Landfill open 8:30AM-Noon
Dial-A-Ride hours 6:30AM-6PM (phone service until 2PM); last pick-up 5:30PM
Fri., Nov. 28 refuse & recycling collected on Mon., Dec. 1
- Mon., Dec. 1** Fri., Nov. 28 and Mon., Dec. 1 refuse & recycling collected

CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR'S

- Tues., Dec. 23** Tues., Dec. 23 and Wed., Dec. 24 refuse & recycling collected
- Wed., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve** City Offices, Library closed
Sanitary Landfill open 8:30AM-Noon
Dial-A-Ride hours 6:30AM-6PM (phone service until 2PM); last pick-up 5:30PM
Wed., Dec. 24 refuse & recycling collected on Tues., Dec. 23
- Thu., Dec. 25 Christmas Day** City Offices, Library, Landfill, Dial-A-Ride closed; Barstow Airport unattended
Thu., Dec. 25 refuse & recycling collected on Fri., Dec. 26
- Fri., Dec. 26** Thu., Dec. 25 and Fri., Dec. 26 refuse & recycling collected
- Wed., Dec. 31 New Years Eve** Grace A. Dow Memorial Library closes 5PM
Dial-A-Ride hours 6:30AM-6PM (phone service until 2PM); last pick-up 5:30PM
- Thu., Jan. 1 New Years Day** City Offices, Library, Landfill, Dial-A-Ride closed; Barstow Airport unattended
Thu., Jan. 1 refuse & recycling collected
Fri., Jan. 2
- Fri., Jan. 2** Thu., Jan. 1 and Fri., Jan. 2 refuse & recycling collected



At Your Service

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Midland City Council

Tom Adams, Ward 1/Mayor Pro Tem
Maureen Donker, Ward 2
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Bruce Johnson, Ward 4/Mayor
Joe Rokosz, Ward 5

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