



“AT YOUR SERVICE”

July 2010

POLLING LOCATION CHANGES

The decision to close several Midland Public Schools (MPS) elementary schools affected not only kids and parents; it also caused a change for eight polling precincts within the city.

For years, the City of Midland partnered with many school locations throughout our voting districts to provide convenient polling locations for Midland voters. When MPS announced their need to close several schools that were also Midland polling locations, the City Clerk’s Office began identifying possible substitute locations within each affected ward and precinct.

State Election Law instructs the City Clerk to look for publicly-



owned buildings – like schools or municipal buildings – first. All locations need to be handicap accessible.

When public buildings are not available, facilities that are non-profit or tax-exempt – such as civic organizations, service clubs, and community organizations – are considered.

With that search criteria in mind, Midland Civic Arena, Midland City Hall, the American Legion Berryhill Post 165, and New Life Vineyard Church were selected to replace the now-closed Longview, Chippewassee, Cook, Parkdale, and Ashman schools.

(cont. on back cover)

MIDLAND’S CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM CHANGES ABOUT TO START

Beginning the first week of August, the City of Midland will start a fully-automated, single stream recycling program that utilizes a larger, 96-gallon cart.

The new program provides for a wider variety of items that may be collected at the curb. Some new items that will be collectable curbside include the following:

- #3 - #7 plastics
- office paper
- plastic/paper grocery bags
- pizza boxes *(with food removed)*
- junk mail



Republic Waste Services, the City’s contracted service provider for recycling collection, will provide each resident with a **brown** 96-gallon cart. Cart delivery will begin the last week of July and continue through the third week of August. Until the new cart arrives, residents should continue to use their green 14-gallon recycling bins on their regular monthly recycling collection day. Collection days will remain the same after residents start using the new carts.

Carts may only be used for recycling.

(cont. on pg. 3)

In This Edition

Flood Rating
News & Hazard
Info..... 2

Act on
Offering for
ACT Help... 3

Summertime
Fun in the
City..... 3

DETAILS ON FLOOD INSURANCE & HAZARD AREAS

New Rating = Cost Savings... As a result of the City of Midland's exemplary floodplain management programs and services, Midland received a rating by the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) Community Rating System (CRS) as a Class 5 community. What does this mean for the residents of Midland? 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). Per the NFIP, a home located within a 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 participates in the NFIP, anyone who owns or rents property within Midland can purchase flood insurance through a local insurance agent and receive the 25% rate reduction. There's a 30-day waiting period for coverage to begin. Call 1-800-427-4661 with any questions regarding the NFIP, or call your 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... Several flood hazard areas exist in 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 reached 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.

Contact Midland Planning & Community Development (837-3374) to find out if your home / business is located in the SFHA (commonly referred to as the 100-year or 1% chance/yr. floodplain). Elevation certificates submitted since 2007 are also available.



Maintaining Drains... Keeping smaller drains, ditches, and streams debris-free can greatly improve the outflow of water run-off from low-lying areas and reduce the occurrence of ice jams. It's a violation of City ordinance to dump materials into these waterways. There are many 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, vegetation, or debris, call the Utilities Department (837-3500), and crews will be scheduled to clean these waterways.

Flood Hazard Maps and Floodplain Determinations...

The Planning Department has copies of all Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-issued Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), which can be purchased directly from FEMA at 1-877-FEMA-MAP. When purchasing maps, please reference Midland's community number: 260140.

Planning also has copies of all Letters of Map Amendments on properties and structures that have been removed from the SFHA. Contact Certified Floodplain Manager & Planning Director Keith Baker about floodplain-related issues or concerns, at 837-3379 or by e-mail to kbaker@midland-mi.org.

For More Information...

- www.midlandcounty.org/emergency
- www.midland-mi.org



SUMMER FUN IN THE SUN

Two events celebrating summer are just around the corner. Be sure to mark your calendar to join in the fun.



ShooBooty Performing at Currie Golf

On Fri., July 23, from 8 p.m. – Midnight, local band ShooBooty will perform outdoors under the pavilion at the Currie West Clubhouse. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks as well as food specials will be offered as the seven-person band plays music from the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Sit outdoors at Currie’s picnic tables or bring your own chairs or blankets to sit back, relax, and enjoy a fun and entertaining evening at Currie Municipal Golf Course. You must be 21 years old to attend the concert.

“Taste of Downtown” Set for August 12

Enjoy a taste of the food, beverages, and atmosphere of downtown Midland at the first-ever “Taste of Downtown,” set for Thu., August 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Your \$30 ticket gets you:

- Hearty hors d’oeuvres from downtown restaurants featured at various locations throughout the district; and
- Three complimentary adult beverages at downtown Midland pubs.

Afterwards, gather at the H Hotel for more food, beverages, and entertainment by the Scott Michael Robertson Band beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Limited tickets are available, so get yours today by purchasing online through the Downtown Midland website, www.downtownmidland.com. Contact the Downtown Development Authority at 837-3330 for more information. Ticketholders must be 21 to participate. Event held rain or shine!



ACT ON ACT PRACTICE TEST OFFERING

In joint partnership with Kaplan Test Prep, the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library will host a free ACT Practice Test with a follow-up seminar for high school students and their parents to review test results and provide strategies for improving scores.

Students and parents may register for the Test Strategies Seminar separately from the ACT Practice Test Session.

Library’s Sunday Hours Resume

The Grace A. Dow Memorial Library will resume Sunday hours of 1-5 p.m., on September 12.

- **ACT Practice Test** – Tues., August 17, 2-5:30 p.m.
- **Test Strategies Seminar** – Sat., August 28, 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

This program is only open to juniors and seniors. Please call the library to register at 837-3466. Space is limited.

RECYCLING

RECYCLING CHANGES *(cont. from cover pg.)*

Residents may also use up to three 14-gallon recycle bins for additional recyclables if they find they have more items than will fit in the new 96-gallon cart.

Residents will have the option to exchange the 96-gallon cart for a smaller, 65-gallon cart after October 1, 2010, if they find they don’t need the larger model.

Carts are owned by Republic. If a resident moves from their current address, the cart should remain at the initial delivery location.

Along with their new cart, residents will receive a packet of information and refrigerator magnets noting the recycling collection schedule.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Services at 837-6900.



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POLLING LOCATIONS *(cont. from cover pg.)*

Here's what the change will mean for voters in the following wards and precincts:

- **Ward 1 Precincts 1 and 2**, which historically voted at Parkdale Elementary School and Ashman School, respectively, will now vote at New Life Vineyard Church, 1014 E. Ashman Street.
- **Ward 1 Precincts 3, 5, and 6**, which historically voted at Longview Elementary School, will now vote at the Midland Civic Arena, 405 Fast Ice Drive.
- **Ward 2 Precinct 4**, which historically voted at Chippewassee Elementary School, will now vote at Midland City Hall, 333 W. Ellsworth Street.
- **Ward 3 Precincts 2 and 4**, which historically voted at Cook Elementary School, will now vote at the American Legion Berryhill Post 165, 5111 Hedgewood Drive.

New voter registration cards were sent to all voters affected by the polling location change in the beginning of June. All other polling locations not affected by school closures will remain the same.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER: In addition to new polling locations, another unusual twist to the August Primary will find Ward 3 voters selecting a new City Council representative. Former Councilman Scott Gaynor of the third ward resigned his position in May, and four potential candidates will appear on the August ballot to take over that Council seat. Voters in Ward 3 only will get the chance to vote for one of these candidates:

- J. Dee Brooks
- Lee Heronema
- Roy C. Green
- Cathy Nelson Price

The candidate receiving the most votes during the Primary Election will be sworn in as Ward 3 councilman at the August 9 City Council meeting. The new council member will fill an unexpired term that ends in November 2011.

MORE ELECTION NEWS: Absentee ballots are available for the August Primary. Qualified electors may obtain an absentee ballot at the City Clerk's Office, 333 W. Ellsworth St., Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Some important dates:

- Saturday, July 31, 2 p.m.: Deadline to vote absentee by mail
- Monday, August 2, 4 p.m.: Deadline to vote absentee in person at City Hall
- Tuesday, August 3, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Polls open

More information on the August 3 Primary Election can be found on the City's website (www.midland-mi.org), or by calling the Clerk's Office at 837-3310.



New Life Vineyard Church



Midland Civic Arena



City Hall



American Legion Berryhill 165