

WELCOME  
to  
Historic  
DEWITT  
Founded  
Oct. 4, 1833

## DATELINE: DeWitt

July 2, 1984

Stories and Photos by Tina Steger

### LIBRARY HAS SUMMER PROGRAM

The Faye Hanson Public Library appears to be a popular place to spend hot summer afternoons. According to librarian Judy Gerred, 83 children, in grades 1 - 6, are enrolled in this summer's reading club. Centered around a clown motif, the club is strictly for fun.

Children in the reading club come in any time and pick any books they wish to read. For each book read, the reader receives a gold star after his/her name. All names are prominently displayed on a library bulletin board. The Friends of the Library sponsor the program and plan to have a party, complete with a clown, August 10, the end of the reading club. Each participant will receive a certificate noting hi/her achievements in the club.

In addition to funding the summer reading program, the Friends of the Library purchase books, contribute to the library's general fund and contribute to the expansion fund. President of this support group is Rita Violetta. Librarian Gerred recently noted that the group does "a great deal of work for the library".

Located in the DeWitt Memorial Building, the library is named after Faye Hanson, librarian for 22 years, who died in 1982. Gerred said there are 35,000 books in the library's collection. Also available are 64 different magazines; all issues except the newest are loaned out. The library has about a three-year backlog of the more popular magazines.

Overdue books are a problem, said Gerred. Fines are five cents a day

per book. "It's still a problem", she said, "people are inconsiderate in not bringing books back for those who are waiting." Gerred, who has been at the library since 1975, said she hasn't seen any changes over the years in what people read but she noted that younger children are reading adult things at a younger age.

Other activities at the library include a pre-school story hour held during the spring and the fall and conducted by a volunteer group. Also during the school year, the library is used once a week by a special reading class from Fuerstenau School. Gerred said the class encourages students to read just for pleasure. She said she likes "to encourage younger readers" and would like to see more reading testing done at earlier ages.

The library operates on a budget of about \$35,000 a year from city and township appropriations. Gerred said the largest percentage of money, though, is from penal fines. There are also some donations. Presently for sale at the library is a series of books on the history of DeWitt. Written for the Sesquicentennial by the local historian Kenneth R. Coin, the set of 12 books sells for \$20 and all proceeds go to the library.

Working with Gerred are Trish Brock and Merib Kruger, assistant librarians, and high school students Tim Wineland and Emily Thornton.

In addition to the main library, a branch office is located at the township office on Brooks Street in the old Valley Farm School Building. Branch office librarian is Joan Smith.



Although he's not old enough to join the summer reading club at the Faye Hanson Public Library, Christopher Rypstra, son of Penny and Bart Rypstra, 1004 E. Dill Rd., enjoys finding interesting books to take home from the large selection of children's books available.

### CITY POLICE HAVE SCOTTISH PEN PAL

New "pen pal" of the DeWitt City Police Department is Officer Jim McDonald of Greenoch, Scotland. According to Marjean Pelkey, city police dispatcher, correspondance with Officer McDonald came as a result of the telephone number mix up last month in which the DeWitt Police received calls from Great Britain.

McDonald and Dispatcher Pelkey have since exchanged information on each other's departments, local customs and laws. For instance, police in Scotland do not carry guns. McDonald was curious about our speed

on television, but that he didn't like John McEnroe because of his temper.

McDonald wondered what Americans hear about England and the Queen. He asked how much of President Reagan's recent visit to England was shown on American TV. And, he asked, why did President Reagan cry every time the National Anthem was played?

McDonald's wife Margaret is a nurse and they have two small daughters. He has mailed a package (which hasn't arrived yet) to the DeWitt City Police Department, with pictures of him and his family pictures.



Librarian Judy Gerred calls parttime worker Tim Wineland, tenth grader at East DeWitt Baptist School, "Our Resident Spy", since Tim wants to go into intelligence work after graduation

#### MAIN LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	9 - 4:30, 7 - 9 pm
Wednesday	9 - 4:30
Thursday	12:30 - 4:30, 7 - 9 pm.
Friday	9 - 4:30
Saturday	9 - 1 pm.

#### LIBRARY BRANCH HOURS

Monday	9 - 12, 12:30 - 4:30
Tuesday	1 - 4:30
Wednesday	1 - 6:30
Thursday	1 - 4:30
Friday	Closed
Saturday	Closed

## In This Corner . . .

by Tina Steger

Your response to the news items about DeWitt have been encouraging! In my wanderings around town and talking to several of you on the phone, I'm impressed with the helpfulness and friendliness of everyone. I've met some interesting residents who have made my job much easier!

Driving around the DeWitt area has been pleasurable. Riverside Park is well-equipped place for kids and a good place for picnics. And the high school - once I finally found it! - looks new and inviting.

Last week I mentioned I would give you a schedule of when and where to contact me. That's a difficult thing to do, I'm finding. I seem to be traversing the counties - Jackson, where I live, Ingham, where the Shopping Guide's main office is located and where I teach a summer class at MSU, and Clinton, where I meet and talk to people for these news items. But don't give up. Call or leave a message at the Lansing Office of The Shopping Guide, 372-4800, if you have any information for me.

## COUNCIL ADOPTS BUDGET

"The last few years, we've had several people at the budget meeting," said city clerk Marge Lotre, "but this year there was only one." Austin Knapp, 117 Manchester, attended last Monday's meeting.

City Council adopted the proposed budget for the fiscal year 1984-85 and adopted millage of 12 mills for general operating, .75 mills for sewer debt and .50 for street debt.

July 16 is the date for the public hearing for the E. Webb Road sewer extension project. The hearing will begin at 7:30 at City Hall.

McDonald was curious about our speed limits and other traffic laws.

Ms. Pelkey said McDonald wanted to know what Americans think of Scots. "Do they think," he wrote, "that we live in castles and drink lots of whiskey?" Pelkey said she jokingly wrote that she thought "Scots were red-haired, had long beards and wore kilts."

Officer McDonald wrote that his favorite singer was Diana Ross. "She is just brilliant," he wrote. He planned to watch some of the Wimbledon tennis

pictures of him and his family, pictures and maps of Scotland and other informative items.

Pelkey said she sent him a package which contained maps of Michigan and the City of DeWitt, a brief history of the city, copies of the new drunk driving law, some clippings on the Detroit Tigers and even who the popular musical groups are now.

Ms. Pelkey said there are two other police officers in London who have talked to the DeWitt Police and who are planning to send some items.

## TOWNSHIP STRESSES CORRECT FIRE DEPARTMENT NUMBER

Officials of DeWitt Charter Township are stressing to area residents the correct number for the DeWitt Township Fire Department: 485-9492. The number was incorrectly printed in the DeWitt booklet published for the Sesquicentennial last year.

Thomas Woodruff, service coordinator and township assessor, said there had been complaints from people who called the listed number and who had received no answer. The number listed rang at the fire barn; the correct number rings into the Sheriff's Department in St. Johns who dispatches the fire department for the township.

Approved at last Monday's township meeting was an out-of-court settlement with Gordon Long. The township had filed suit against Long in regard to a water system he had built and deeded to the township. The Township felt Long failed to complete an agreement made to paint the water tower. The settlement states that Long will pay the township \$10,000.

and will waive paybacks of \$5,000 he had advanced the township. Long will also waive any water credits he had up to June 25, 1984. The water system was installed by Long ten years ago in the Country Meadows Subdivision.

Four parcels of land on Highway 27, across from Eberhards, were rezoned from Agricultural to Business Community. Other land in the area was already zoned Business Community.

Township passed a resolution to repair the Dunham Drain between State Road and Stoll Road, west of US-127. The township will pay 20 percent of the estimated \$3,000, said Woodruff. The remaining amount will be assessed to property owners involved.

Township approved the purchase of a larger memory computer. The new Tele-Video, 40 mega-byte computer will cost \$6,000, said Woodruff. The township uses the computer for taxes, voters' registrations, police files and utility bills.



Members of the DeWitt Business Association, Marge Lotre, Christine Farmer, Tammy Guastella and Michael Brown, enjoy the noon business meeting luncheon June 20.



## DATELINE: *DeWitt*

July 9, 1984

Stories and Photos by Tina Steger

### PLANNING COMMISSION DENIES GRAVEL PIT PERMIT

DeWitt Charter Township Planning Commission last Monday denied a special use permit to Dagget Sand and Gravel to mine an area off DeWitt Road. About 25 DeWitt Township residents were in attendance at the meeting to protest the proposed gravel pit.

Residents cited the problems of dust, ground shaking from the heavy equipment and the possibilities of partiers and motorcycles using the gravel pit area. Some cited the dangers to children, noting that two children died last year at a gravel pit on Turner Road. A petition with 94 signatures protesting the granting of the special use permit was submitted to the township office last Monday.

This is the third time Curtis Dagget has requested the special use permit. Although the Planning Commission has denied the request, the Township Board of Trustees will officially act on the request at the July 23 meeting.

In other business, the Commission denied a farm land agreement to two men who had applied for the agreement for the same property.

With a farm land agreement, the property owner agrees to keep the land in farm production and thus would then receive a tax benefit from the state.

### OX ROAST EVENTS

### SCHOOL OPENS SEPT. 4

Word from the superintendent's office is that a tentative agreement has been reached between the DeWitt Board of Education and the DeWitt Education Association regarding the 1984-85 school calendar. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 4, 1984.

Debbie Johnson, secretary to the superintendent, urges all new residents of the DeWitt School District who have school-age children to call 669-2260 or 669-2270 for a packet of registration materials that will be mailed to them. This information will help children become registered with as little as possible lost time and helps the school to serve all new students.

New officers for the DeWitt Board of Education for 1984-85 are President - Thomas Kamppinen; Vice President - David Harfst; Secretary - Kenneth Price; Treasurer - Carol Haag. Trustees are James Osborn, William Chaar and Glenn Tarrant.

August 13 is the next regularly scheduled board meeting.



## CITY COUNCIL SETS BUSY AGENDA

Several items are on the agenda for the July 16 DeWitt City Council meeting. Beginning at 7:30 is a public hearing on the sewer extension project on Webb Road.

Mayor Lynn Thayer will also present his recommendation for the position of administrative assistant. The personnel committee is currently reviewing resumes of over 60 applicants. The final three to five applicants will then be interviewed by the committee and about 20 applicants for the position of engineering assistant are also being interviewed by the Mayor. Council must give final approval of any recommendations made by the mayor.

At the July 16 meeting the building authority will make recommendations on the fire station and the city hall. According to Mayor Thayer, "we desperately need improvements at both sites.", yet he said he would like to make these improvements without raising taxes to fund them. Needed improvements include more room for the fire department which now has to move some vehicles to get to others, said Thayer. He noted that the roof of the fire station leaks and that there is poor insulation.

City hall needs more room, also, said Thayer. He added that at the present time the computer and the air conditioning cannot be run at the same time because of faulty wiring.

### REC PROGRAM CONTINUES

Summer recreation program sponsored by the City of DeWitt's Parks and Recreation Department will continue until the end of July. Any child six years or older can still enroll, said supervisor Jill Patterson. Activities run from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. daily, except if raining, at Riverside Park.

Patterson said she and assistant Diane Lotre have between 10 and 30 children a day for organized games, free play time and arts and crafts. This week the DeWitt Senior Citizens group will have lunch with the children and participate in the arts and crafts project for

## OX ROAST EVENTS PLANNED

A Las Vegas Night is planned for the August 18 Ox Roast Festivities, said Linda Hodges, co-chairperson of the annual event. Games of chance will be set up in the Memorial Building. Participants must be over 18 years old to buy chips to play roulette, poker, black jack and other type games.

Ms. Hodges said that the lottery tickets will be out soon for chances on the Progressive Pot Of Gold. Throughout the day, drawings will be held for money prizes.

A showing of the works of DeWitt artist Joe Wheat, who died in 1971, is also scheduled for the Memorial Building August 18. Wheat did mostly portraits, including one of former Governor G. Mennon Williams, and some landscapes. Any DeWitt resident who has works by Wheat which could be used for the showing are urged to call Catherine Reed, 482-1291.

DeWitt Charter Township's summer parks and recreation program continues at Valley Farms Park, weekdays, 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Jeanne Cook, summer recreational supervisor, and Sally Buggs, assistant supervisor, organize activities, games and crafts for school-aged children. Preschoolers who wish to participate must be accompanied by an adult.



Not everyone vacations in the summer. Michael Allen, 22, works for his father, John E. Allen Construction of DeWitt, and is here painting a house on Webb Road.

## TAX CORRECTIONS SENT

Township treasurer Catherine Reed said that corrected figures for township taxes will be sent to all DeWitt Township Residents. Because of an error in programming, and incorrect tax total was printed on the recently sent tax notices. The one percent administration fee, which was voted on to be deleted, was added into the total tax bill.

for organized games, free play time and arts and crafts. This week the DeWitt Senior Citizens group will have lunch with the children and participate in the arts and crafts project for the day.

A family picnic is planned for the last week in July. More details on this will come later said Patterson.

## In This Corner . . .

by Tina Steger

My education of the DeWitt community continues! I'm finding more new and interesting people to talk to.

This week I visited the high school, getting there just when the drivers training students were dismissing. Principal Fred Goers took time out from a busy day to keep me informed on what is going on in the high school. Speaking of school, it will start again on September 4, not even two months left of vacation!

Last week I stopped at the township offices in the old Valley farm School on Brooks Road and found some surprises. For one, there is a genealogy room where residents can get help finding ancestors for a family tree. The room is staffed by Wilma Sowle, who I have yet to meet, and who volunteers her time three days a week.

After doing the story last week about the Police Department's pen pal, I returned to see Marjean Pelkey, the dispatcher, and talked to Officer Jim Wilson. He a probably one of the busiest persons I've met in a long time. (See the picture story on him on another page).

More and more intriguing things are being planned for this year's Ox Roast. A Las Vegas night has been scheduled and an art exhibit is planned, both to be in the Memorial Building. It's been a long time since I've been to a small town festival and am really looking forward to this event.

A reminder to call me if you have any information about meetings or perhaps have the name of an interesting DeWitt area personality. Call the Lansing Office of The Shopping Guide, 372-4800, and leave a message if I'm not there.



After talking to children in the Summer Recreation program about bike safety, Officer Jim Wilson of the DeWitt City Police Department explains to Tracy Slater, 6 and Art Groshong, 7, how the siren works in the patrol car.

Story and Photos by Tina Steger

## OFFICER WILSON A BUSY POLICEMAN

Officer Jim Wilson is not an ordinary policeman. In addition to working a regular eight-hour shift for the DeWitt City Police Department, Wilson is the crime prevention and safety officer for the city, gives talks to high school students on drunk driving, to elementary school children about safety and works with the drivers training program.

Five times a year Wilson goes to the DeWitt schools for a series of programs. Halloween safety, playground safety, bicycle safety, winter safety and a program on what youngsters should do if approached by a stranger. Funded by the Sears Roebuck Co., the "Officer Friendly" program is about a year old. Wilson said, however, that he had been doing these talks for about three years.

Last month Wilson did the "Officer Friendly" bicycle safety talk to the children in the Parks and Recreation Department summer activities at Riverside Park. After the brief talk on bike and rules around the DeWitt area - don't ride bikes on downtown DeWitt sidewalks - Wilson let the inquisitive youngsters look over the police car. He showed them all the gear a policeman carries in a patrol car and demonstrated how the siren and lights worked.



Jesse Huntley, 7, listens and watches intently as Officer Jim Wilson shows the inside of the patrol car.

"I like to help people," he said. "I've always wanted to be a cop." Originally from Lansing, Wilson has been with the DeWitt City Police for five years. He is a graduate of Lansing Community College and the Mid-Michigan Police Academy at LCC. Wilson previously was a draftsman and a truck driver.

During the school year, Wilson also does programs at the high school.

For the law class, he talks about search and seizure, arrest, drunk driving and possession. He speaks to the health class about drunk driving and the health affects.

City Police Chief Wendell Myers said "It's very beneficial to have an officer do safety and crime prevention programs. Jim does a very good job for us."

A crime prevention and safety officer for the city, Wilson has spoken to senior citizen groups and the Knights of Columbus. His files in the city office building contain a wealth of information - pamphlets, bumper stickers, posters, - that he readily shares with his listeners.

For the past three years Wilson has been a member of the DeWitt Volunteer Fire Department and an Emergency Medical Technician. In his spare (!) time, Wilson said he likes to go fishing and his favorite spot to fish is Horsehead Lake near Macomb.

Story and Photos by Tina Steger



Officer Wilson shows the special features of the back of the patrol car: no inside door handles, the "cage" and the plexiglass shield.

youngsters look over the police car. He showed them all the gear a policeman carries in a patrol car and demonstrated how the siren and lights worked.



stickers, posters, - that he readily shares with his listeners

For the past three years Wilson has been a member of the DeWitt Volunteer Fire Department and an Emergency Medical Technician. In his spare (!) time, Wilson said he likes to go fishing and his favorite spot to fish is Horsehead Lake near Mecosta. He said he is a Tigers fan but that he hadn't been to a game yet this year.

Wilson and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of James, 17, Matt, 14 and Amy, 9.

In a bike safety talk, Officer Wilson tells cyclists that bikes cannot be ridden on the sidewalks downtown DeWitt. "What would happen," he said, "if you were riding your bike down the sidewalk and someone came out of one of the stores?"



As part of the bicycle safety program he gives, Officer Jim Wilson distributes pamphlets on bike licensing, bike rules, and safety.



## DATELINE: DeWitt

July 16, 1984

Stories and Photos by Tina Steger



Wilma Sowle, manager of the genealogy room at the DeWitt Township Hall, is especially proud of the large collection of scrapbooks available for resident to use. Some are from individual families; others, like the one pictured, are from organizations.

## GENEALOGY SERVICE OFFERED TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

Wilma Sowle admits to being 82 years old. She said her hobbies are bowling, sewing and reading. Wilma also works three days a week as genealogist for the Clinton County Historical Society. Her job is to help a resident find his/her past. She has been doing this since the society began the service four years ago.

Located in room 10 of the DeWitt Township Hall, the genealogy room is amazing. Housed there are the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, marriage records for Clinton County, obituaries, county histories, church records, family histories and scrapbooks, area news-

"was a thirteenth generation from the Mayflower".

In addition to written records, the room contains a microfilm library and viewing machines. On microfilm are the Clinton County census from 1840 and county newspapers from 1863.

Helping in the genealogy room are Rita Bolles and Lisa Orta who organize and type indexes for various records and transcribe the tape recorded oral histories of senior residents.

Wilma enjoys her work and encourages county resident to use the services there. Born

### CALENDAR

JULY 16

DeWitt City Council meeting  
Township Public Safety Board  
Bath Community Days  
DeWitt Charter Township Board  
Township Board of Appeals  
meeting

### In This Corner . . .

by Tina Steger

The dog days of DeWitt . . . that's how it was last Tuesday when I drove around the area trying to use up some film!

It was 92 degrees with high humidity. The car seemed hotter. It was also the day that my 15 year old daughter Jennie and her friend Lori decided to "spend the day with mom" to see what she did all day. We stopped first at the Mason office to check in for any messages, then rode to the Township Hall to talk with Wilma Sowle, a most interesting octogenarian. Jennie, Lori and I ate lunch at Sam's Kitchen, downtown DeWitt. The hamburgers there could best any burger in the current "Burger Wars"!

It must have been one of those days when people simply don't do much because of the heat and humidity. DeWitt area was quiet, languishing in the July heat. Impervious to the weather, though were children. We managed to get some pictures of boys who didn't seem to think it was too hot to play cops and robbers or climb trees. Kids just don't seem to mind the extreme elements as much as we older folk . . .

A couple of weeks ago I wrote about the policeman from Scotland who was planning to send pictures and maps to the DeWitt Police Department. No word yet that any package has arrived. We hope to be able to print some of the pictures when they come.

Keep in touch with me if you have any news items, notices of meetings or an interesting personality to discuss. Call or leave a message, at the Lansing Office of the Shopping Guide, 372-4800

his/her past. She has been doing this since the society began the service four years ago.

Located in room 10 of the DeWitt Township Hall, the genealogy room is amazing. Housed there are the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, marriage records for Clinton County, obituaries, country histories, church records, family histories and scrapbooks, area newspapers and school records. All records have been donated to the society.

Wilma said she has traced several families back to roots in England and has traced a few to Germany and other European countries. Her husband James, who died in 1976, said Wilma,

census from 1840 and country newspapers from 1863.

Helping in the genealogy room are Rita Bolles and Lisa Orta who organize and type indexes for various records and transcribe the tape recorded oral histories of senior residents.

Wilma enjoys her work and encourages county resident to use the services there. Born in Maple Rapids, Wilma lives in DeWitt Township. She has a daughter Frances, also a township resident, and a son James, Jr. of Cinnaminson, New Jersey. She has six grandchildren and "some great-grandchildren".



**WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? WHERE ARE THEY POSED?** Township archivist Wilma Sowle said a Clinton County resident brought in this picture to see if any area residents could identify the people or the place pictured. The back of the photo indicates it is from H.M. Face, general photographer, Maple Rapids. If you can help identify anyone in the picture, call Wilma at the township hall, 482-1291, or drop her a note with the information; Wilma Sowle, DeWitt Township Hall, 4700 Brooks Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

Department. No word yet on any pictures arrived. We hope to be able to print some of the pictures when they come.

Keep in touch with me if you have any news items, notices of meetings or an interesting personality to discuss. Call or leave a message, at the Lansing Office of the Shopping Guide, 372-4800



Dustin Smallwood, 4, son of Debbie Smallwood, doesn't find the hot, humid July days too uncomfortable for playing, as he assembles his gear for a cops and robbers session.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Catherine Reed, DeWitt Township treasurer, said that if residents add the dollar amounts on their tax forms, a correct amount will result, and if residents are paying by mail, this is the amount to be sent in. Residents who have already paid will receive a refund if an incorrect amount was sent.

Because of a programming error, tax notices were mailed with the one percent administration fee still figured into the bill. The fee had been deleted by the township board.



## DATELINE: DeWitt

July 23, 1984

Stories and Photos by Tina Steger

Several Webb Road residents listened attentively to the City Council's proceeding last Monday regarding the sewer extension project. Pictured (back to front) are Kevin Burns, Sue Burns, Chris Fedewa, Margaret Kirchen, and Frank Kirchen. Standing in back are O.E. McGuire, Austin Knapp, Paul Tate and Jim Renz.



## COUNCIL APPROVES SEWER PROJECT AMID PROTESTS

By a 5-1 roll call vote the DeWitt City Council adopted a special assessment roll for the E. Webb Road sewer improvement project. Councilwoman Virginia Martlew was the sole no vote.

About 20 residents attended the meeting to voice opinions on the project. Those who spoke raised several questions in opposition to the sewer extension. Council also has on record seven letters opposing the project.

Art Rowland, project engineer from Range Finders, Inc., Lansing, said it was a "rather straight forward project" having no particular problems in construction. He said the lines would be extended east from Locust Street along the north side of Webb Road which had

very difficult to say something will never happen".

According to Gillespie, although the council acted to proceed with the project, residents still could petition against it. Jane Perdue in the city clerk's office said the legal statute says that residents have 30 days in which to file a written opposition to the project, stating why the action was illegal. Residents then have 60 days in which to commence action against the project, she said.

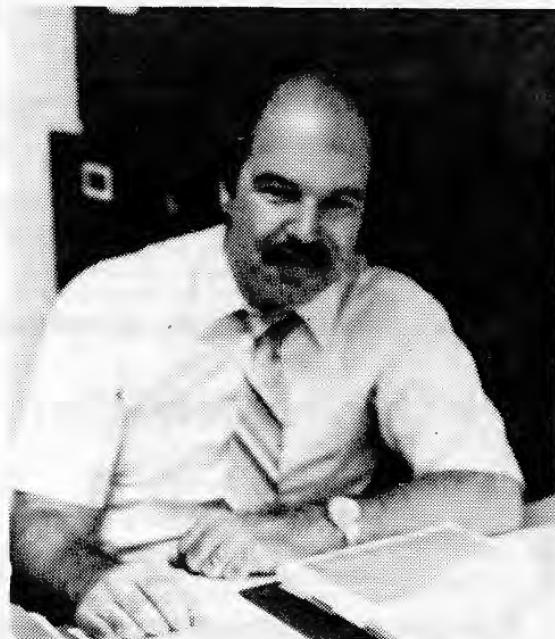
McGuire estimated the work would start in August and take about two to three weeks for completion. It is hoped, he said, that sewers would be in operation by October 1. Once the project is completed and certified by the state

## TOWNSHIP AGENDA

Only three items are on the agenda for tonight's Township Board of Trustees meeting, said Thomas Woodruff, services coordinator. The board will vote on the Planning Commission's decision to deny a special use permit to Dagget Sand and Gravel to mine an area off DeWitt Road. If the board differs with the Planning Commission on the permit denial, the matter returns to the Planning Commission for reconsideration.

Woodruff said the Board of Trustees will also adopt a resolution on truth in taxation. State law requires this if the township wishes to levy the same millage when the assessed value has risen. After adopting the resolution the Board will set a date for a public hearing on the 1.32 percent millage.

Also on the agenda is a Parks Commission report. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm. in the Board Room at the Township Hall, 4700 Brooks Road.



Bob Peterson, newly appointed administrative assistant, began his duties last Tuesday for the City of DeWitt.

## PETERSON BEGINS DUTIES

RECORD SEVEN LETTERS OPPONDING THE PROJECT.

Art Rowland, project engineer from Range Finders, Inc., Lansing, said it was a "rather straight forward project" having no particular problems in construction. He said the lines would be extended east from Locust Street along the north side of Webb Road which had more room than the south side. An eight inch pipe would be laid. Adjacent township property is already sewered and flows east.

Chris Fedewa, 819 E. Webb, asked "why sewers now? There has never been a problem." She asked council if the need was due to the new restaurant and bar on Webb Road.

Mayor Lynn Thayer responded that several home owners had requested the sewer extension. City engineer O.E. McGuire said that all surrounding areas had sewers. He also noted that there are many residential units to pay for the sewers now, thus reducing the cost to each taxpayer.

Engineers estimate total cost at \$75,984.00. Each individual benefit unit would be assessed \$1617.00 for 12 years at 9½ percent interest. The total amount could be paid at one time. Additional cost to each home owner would be about \$6 to \$7 a foot for hookup to each home.

Residents Kevin and Sue Burns, 1009 Webb, and Linda Wey, 613 E. Webb, wondered whether the construction would destroy any trees. Rowland said plans show no trees to be in the way of the digging.

Wey said the Council told her four years ago that sewers would not be built in that area so she went ahead with installation of a new drainfield. She questioned the need now and noted the added cost to her of hooking to her house which is 260 feet from the road. Her statements were echoed by Don Vorce, 806 Webb, who said Council also told him there would not be sewers in that area.

Councilman Gary Gillespie said "I don't think anyone purposely mislead you. But it's

WHEN TO COMMENCE ACTION AGAINST THE PROJECT.

she said.

McGuire estimated the work would start in August and take about two to three weeks for completion. It is hoped, he said, that sewers would be in operation by October 1. Once the project is completed and certified by the state, resident have 60 days to hookup, according to state law.

Councilman Carmen Seats said each unit of assessed property to be affected by the assessment had one vote on whether or not to complete the project. There are 19 individual property descriptions along the proposed sewer extension route. Of those present at the council meeting, an unofficial hand vote showed six opposed and two in favor.

In other business, Austin Knapp, of the Building Authority presented plans for a new site for city hall, fire department and police department. He reported that with the proposed cost allotment of \$300,000.00 the city would only be able to upgrade the fire station and not build a new city hall.

Councilman Seats said, "I'm convinced that this community can support a modern, efficient city building facility."

Fireman Lloyd Ballard said the present fire station presents many problems. Parking is a problem, he said. He noted that the building has no hot water and that trucks have to be moved to get other trucks out. "If it takes raising taxes, then that's what it takes" to get a new building, he stated.

Mayor Thayer has said he is not willing to raise taxes.

After some discussion the issue was tabled with the proposal that the council's Finance Committee meet to figure how much money the city could raise annually to support a municipal facility. The committee is chaired by Carmen Seats and will meet tonight at 7:15 at City Hall. All council members are also on the Financial Committee.

## GAME TENT LOOKS FOR WORKERS

Entries for the Ox Roast Parade are still being taken, said Linda Hodges, co-chair of the annual event. To date there are 15 parade entries. The theme of the parade is "Summer Fun".

Hodges is encouraging individuals and organizations to submit an entry blank, which is located elsewhere in the

Shopping Guide. Cash prizes will be awarded to winning entries.

One of the festival changes this year, said Hodges, is a new, improved game tent to be manned by the DeWitt area Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Located on Main Street, the game tent will include 22 video games and 15 carnival games.

Scout leader Lynn (Chick) Rieves said the Boy Scout Troop 77 and Junior Girl Scout Troop 29 signed up to work. "Anyone can work," she said, "including adults. We'll be needing about 200 people to work a two-hour shift each."

Game tent will operate from 11:00 am - 9:00 pm. Volunteer workers can call Rieves at 669-3446.

Bob Peterson, newly appointed administrative assistant, began his duties last Tuesday for the City of DeWitt.

## PETERSON BEGINS DUTIES FOR CITY OF DEWITT

Bob Peterson, new administrative assistant for the city of DeWitt, began duties last Tuesday.

Peterson's recommendation by Mayor Lynn Thayer was unanimously approved by the City Council at last Monday's meeting.

Peterson said he thinks "DeWitt is an excellent small community, a place where you'd want your children to grow up."

As administrative assistant he will conduct day-to-day duties of the City Council and the Mayor. "I'll be trying to improve the quality of life in DeWitt," he said.

Originally from Ludington, Peterson attended Northwestern Michigan Junior College (Traverse City) and graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in teaching municipal recreation. He holds a masters degree in administration from Michigan State University.

Peterson's last position was with the Boy Scouts of America as a district executive of Clinton County. His term as DeWitt administrative assistant runs through June 30, 1985. His salary is \$22,000.00.

Peterson, his wife Sara and children, Anna, 2 years old, and Drew, 2 months, live in Lansing and are looking a residence in DeWitt.

## BRIDGE STREET PROJECT DELAYED

Bridge Street improvement project will not begin in August as previously announced, revealed Mayor Lynn Thayer at last Monday's Council meeting.

According to Thayer, the DeWitt project was a contingency one and since all the other projects were done, no money was left for this fiscal year to do the Bridge Street improvements.

Thayer said he has been told that the DeWitt project is number one on the list for 1985. Funds will be available October 1 and construction is tentatively set for April 15, pending any inclement weather.

Federal funds earmarked for the project are dispersed by the state and allocated by the Tri-County Planning Commission (Clinton, Ingham, Eaton).



## DATELINE: DeWitt

July 30, 1984

Stories and Photos by Tina Steger



Principal Fred Goers prepares to demonstrate one of DeWitt High School's 13 Apple IIe Computers used last year in the Computer Science Classes. This year's classes will utilize an additional 13 IBM computers.

## HIGH SCHOOL AWAITS 13 NEW COMPUTERS

Thirteen IBM double disc computers will be coming next month to DeWitt High School. Richard Hawkins, computer science teacher, said he hopes to get an exact shipping date from IBM and that the machines would probably be in by the end of August.

computer science classes were very well received by students last year. This year 11 sections of the three classes will be offered.

Funds for the new equipment were approved at the May 14, 1984 Board of Education meeting. Not to exceed

## ATHLETIC PHYSICALS SET FOR AUGUST 13

Athletic physicals will be given August 13, 9 am at DeWitt High School, said Ronald Mead, athletic director. Students should pick up a form from the high school office and have parents sign it before coming that day. Fee is \$7.00

Although students return to school Sept. 4, practices begin August 13, said Mead. Boys Golf and Girls Tennis have season openers on Sept. 5. Opening cross country run is Sept. 6 and the football team opens with a home game Sept. 7 against Haslett.

## TOWNSHIP APPLIES FOR FEDERAL FUNDS FOR PADGETTE PARK

Township clerk Greg Whitlock reported that a pre-application for federal matching funds had been accepted. The township will submit a full application to obtain a \$9000 grant for work to be done at Padgette Park. The township will also provide \$9000.

Diane Szewczyk, Parks and Recreation Director, said the matching grant money would be used to implement a master plan for the 80 acre park. Work would be done on a winter sports area that would include a lighted tubing and sledding hill and a parking lot with restrooms.

The federal funds are allocated through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Last Monday's township Board of Trustees meeting approved the recommendation of the Planning Commission which denied a special use permit to Daggett Sand and Gravel who had planned to mine an area off DeWitt Road.

The board approved the \$204 purchase of a bike rack for the Valley Farms Park and purchase of a stand, backboard and rim for the basketball/tennis court at the park.

A public meeting is set for August 27, 6:45 pm., at the township offices for the truth in taxation concerning the upcoming millage rate. The rate will remain the same; however, about \$5000 more will be raised this year because of the increased assessed evaluation. The public meeting is a state requirement.

Approval was given for the purchase of two two-way radios for the Fire Department at a cost of \$1200.



computer science teacher, said he hopes to get an exact shipping date from IBM and that the machines would probably be in by the end of August.

"We'll have the first lab in any Lansing area high school with this sophisticated of equipment", he said.

The high school began teaching computer science last year using 13 Apple Computers. This year the Apples will be used by other classes and the IBM machines will be used for the three computer science classes.

Computer Science I is the introduction to basic computer language; Computer Science II is an advanced basic class that also deals with a file and graphics. Advanced Computer Science will instruct in different computer languages and is a year-long class. The other two classes are one semester each.

Classes are open to tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students. Hawkins said the five section of

classes will be offered.

Funds for the new equipment were approved at the May 14, 1984 Board of Education meeting. Not to exceed \$45,000, the allocation includes cost of modification of the classroom to be used, tables, wiring, installation and the new machines.

Hawkins said the move to IBM equipment was made because IBM is the most commonly used business computer and the school could best teach students using these machines.

He also said the IBM had more advantages in programming and that programs such as Visicalc needed more sophisticated equipment.

According to Hawkins, the school took a year to make decisions on what was needed and what equipment to purchase.

In addition to teaching computer science, Hawkins also will teach a trigonometry class. He has been at DeWitt High School for 12 years.

## MEMORIAL TREES

Gunnisonville Cemetery was recently increased in size with the purchase of two additional acres. Fencing is to be installed on the south and east sides and new roads and plots established.

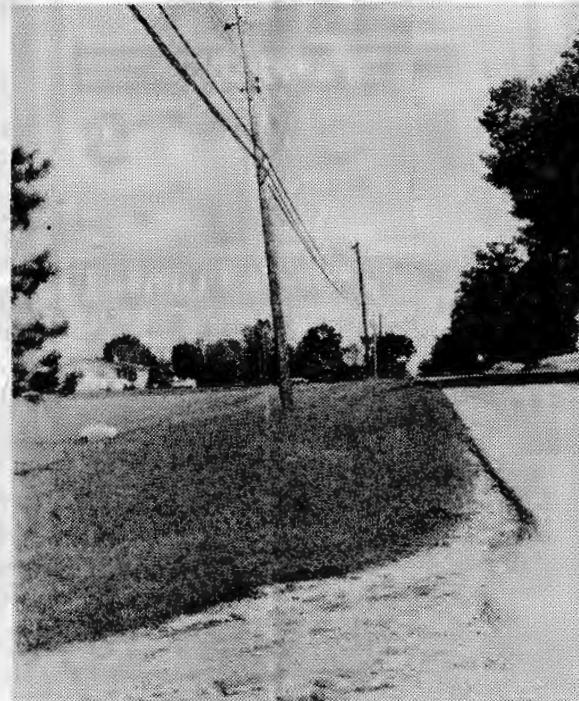
Area resident may purchase a memorial tree to be planted in the new area by sending \$30 to the DeWitt Township Hall, 4700 Brook Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906. Trees purchased will be mostly spruce.

## ARTIST'S WORKS NEEDED FOR AUG. 18 EXHIBIT

A public showing of works by DeWitt artist Joe Wheat, who died in 1971, is scheduled in conjunction with the August 18 Ox Roast Festivities.

Wheat did primarily portraits, including one of former Michigan governor G. Mennon Williams, and some landscapes which will be exhibited in the Memorial Building that day.

Catherine Reed, who is in charge of the exhibit, encourages residents to call her, 482-1291, if they have any available works which could be used for the exhibit.



Work on the E. Webb Road sewer extension is scheduled to begin next month. Eight inch pipes will be laid six feet deep along the north side of the road.



High schools don't just sit empty during the summer months when students are vacationing. Among the summer activities are drivers education classes. DeWitt High School senior Tammy Keener checks around the car before pulling out into the parking lot. Instructor Gery Rehmann also teaches fourth grade at Ovid-Elsie, and is in the front seat with Tammy.

## In This Corner . . .

By Tina Steger

It's easy to tell that the day for the big Ox Roast Festivity is getting nearer - the banner is hanging across Bridge Street in downtown DeWitt! I noticed, also, the numerous ads on local radio stations, even WIBM in Jackson where I live.

Last Wednesday was another one of those days when I had company as I made my rounds checking with people at the township and the city as to what was going on. My son, Mike, accompanied me, using some of his newly acquired photographic talents to shoot some pictures. We lunched at Sam's Kitchen and again I found the hamburger to be one of the best.

The friendliness of the people of the DeWitt area really continues to impress me. Whenever I go to talk with someone, even without an appointment, they are hospitable, courteous and helpful, just like Ron Mead, DeWitt High School athletic director and assistant principal.

I dropped in unannounced and found him cleaning out a storage closet. Nevertheless, he took time to answer my questions.

Last week I talked with Wilma Sowle at the genealogy room at the township hall. She said no one had yet come forth to identify anyone in the old photo that was printed three weeks ago. There must be someone who would recognize someone - or is the photo really older than we thought?

My phone numbers are 372-4800 or 676-5100. Call or leave a message there if you have any news items for this page.