



## From The Mayor's Desk Road Construction Set For August

DeWitt Mayor Lynn Thayer reports that construction on the DeWitt Road-Bridge Street improvements project will probably begin in August. He said it will be a 90 day project, 75 percent of which is federally funded. Cost is estimated at about \$600,000, said Thayer. When completed Bridge Street will connect with DeWitt Road and then to a entrance to I-496.

The city first applied for federal funds in 1979. Delay in the project was because of the federal stipulation that did not allow angle parking. Thayer said the city felt angle parking was more advantageous in that it allowed for more parking spaces and was easier and more convenient for drivers to park. According to Thayer, the city did a parking study, an accident study and a traffic count. He said the traffic count was quite high but that the studies showed that angle parking was no more hazardous than parallel parking. Bridge Street is 99 feet wide, he said and was thus wide enough to allow cars to back safely out onto the road.

With help from U.S. 10th District Congressman Don Albosta, a waiver was obtained, allowing DeWitt to keep angle parking, and opening the way for construction to begin. Thayer credited local store owner Peg Guilford with getting the parking problem to Albosta's



## Pastor Eastman Leaves DeWitt Takes New Post In Kalkaska

Rev. Murl Eastman, having served as pastor of the DeWitt Community Church for the past 14 years, is leaving next week to begin a new pastorate at The People's Church in Kalkaska. He and his wife Virginia came to DeWitt from Mason where he was pastor of the First Baptist Church.

"It's been a pleasant 14 years," said Rev. Eastman. "It was a difficult decision to leave here. The people have become like family. I have never lived in a nicer community and will miss the people."

Although the Eastmans have enjoyed DeWitt, Virginia said that they "really felt this was God's calling" and that "it was time for one more challenge."

Rev. Eastman's pastoral duties extended beyond the DeWitt Church and the 200 member congregation. He has also been jail chaplain for Clinton County for 14 years. Previously, he served as jail chaplain for Ingham County for 16 years.

In addition, he has been an active civic citizen. On August 24, 1973, he was sworn in as mayor of DeWitt; he was then elected to a full term, serving until Nov. 1976. According to the DeWitt City Clerk's office, Eastman served as a parttime police officer with the city police department from Dec. 1970 until his recent resignation.

When he first came to DeWitt, Rev. Eastman

## DEWITT OX ROAST

The 38th Annual DeWitt Ox Roast, sponsored by the Memorial Association, is set for August 18. Chairpersons Lee and Linda Hodges report that this year's event, held on the streets of downtown DeWitt, will again serve the cafeteria-style beef sandwich meal with all the trimmings.

In addition to the food, other attractions include a bingo tent, a beer tent, an arts and crafts fair in Riverside Park, carnival rides and a frog leaping contest. The petting zoo will be back with pony rides added this year. According to Linda Hodges, the events annually attracts 10,000 to 20,000 people. She said there were rumors of a Las Vegas-Style Night, but plans for this were not final. A cooperative babysitting service will be available for parents who want to the arts and crafts without their small children. Babysitters will even paint clown faces on the youngsters.

The Parade, which last year had 68 units, will leave Milbrook Meadow at 10:00 a.m., march to the downtown area and then back to Milbrook Meadows.

Proceeds from the festivities go toward the upkeep of the Memorial Building, a city facility which houses a library, banquet rooms and meeting rooms. Civic organizations can use the building free in exchange for helping with the Ox Roast, said Linda.

## In This Corner . . . by Tina Steger

With this issue of The Shopping Guide begins a news page for the DeWitt area. And as "Guinea Pig" writer for this endeavor I thought I would introduce myself and extend to you readers and invitation to call me with any news items you might have.

In addition to being the mother of two teenagers, I am a parttime student at Michigan State University where I am working on my masters degree in journalism. It was after much thought that I decided last year to pursue this change of careers. I had previously taught high school English for 13 years, most recently in Jackson where I still live. But since I had always loved writing and had advised school papers and done freelance writing and photography, I took the plunge and became another financially poor student. (It was easier being poor as an undergraduate student years ago and having a mom who sent occasional checks to bail me out of debt!) Nevertheless, I'm

crossman Don Albosta, a waiver was obtained, allowing DeWitt to keep angle parking, and opening the way for construction to begin. Thayer credited local store owner Peg Guilford with getting the parking problem to Albosta's attention and getting the necessary waiver.

On another note, Thayer reported that the population of the city of DeWitt had increased by 70 percent from 1970 to 1980. Population according to the 1970 census was 1800 people. The 1980 census showed 3260 people living in the city of DeWitt. Thayer estimated the city has today grown to about 3500 people. Why the rapid growth? "It's a nice place to live!" said Thayer. He also pointed out that many DeWitt residents work in Lansing and it was only a five mile drive to downtown Lansing.

## Special Meetings Slated

The DeWitt Board of Education will be holding two special meeting in the next few days. Tonight's meeting at 7:30 pm. in the Administration Building is for the adoption of an appropriations budget for the 1984-85 year. This budget would be a tentative one since the Michigan legislature has not yet passed any state aid for the upcoming school year, and according to the superintendent's office, teacher contract negotiations are still going on.

State law requires that a budget be drafted by July 1, said Debbie Johnson of the DeWitt Superintendent's Office. The special meeting was called because the budget was not ready for the regular monthly board meeting. The Board waited as long as possible before submitting the budget to see what the legislature would do in regard to state aid.

Another special meeting is scheduled for July 2, 7:30 pm. in the Administration Building. At that time board officers for the 1984-85 school year will be elected. New board members elected this month are Glenn Tarrant and James Osborne.

## DeWitt City Council

Marge Lotke, DeWitt City Clerk, reports that the special council meeting tonight is to adopt the 1984-85 budget and to set the millage rate for 1984 taxes. Meeting begins at 7:45 tonight in the city hall; the public hearing is at 8 pm.

DeWitt City Clerk's office, Eastman served as a parttime police officer with the city police department from Dec. 1970 until his recent resignation.

When he first came to DeWitt, Rev. Eastman joined the volunteer fire department and served several years. As if this didn't keep him busy enough, he was on the DeWitt School Board for six years.

Another of Rev. Eastman's talents is magic. He conducts his "Gospel Magic" act for summer camps, banquets and club meeting. He calls his act "Magic with a moral" and illustrates stories with magic tricks.

Some local residents will remember Rev. Eastman fondly. Peg Guilford, owner of the DeWitt Hardware, said that Rev. Eastman was her first customer when she and her husband Bob took over the store in Jan. 1980. And said Peg, "Virginia Eastman came over, and with Bob's mother, dusted the entire store when we were getting ready to open." Virginia said "I had just retired and felt this would keep me busy helping out these people."

Virginia retired from the Ingham County Health Department in 1979 where she was a clerk in a north Lansing Clinic and prior to that with the Civil Defense Department of the County.

The Eastmans have three grown children. Their older daughter, Joanne Phelps, has lived in Japan for seven years where her husband Jon is with the Federal Aviation Agency. The Phelps and their sons James and Jason will be returning to the United States this August.

Son Stephen and his wife Barbara live in Middleton where he is pastor of the United Brethren Church. They have a daughter Bethany. The Eastmans younger daughter Lois Schriemer and her husband James live in Ann Arbor. He is an attorney and they have a son Peter.

True to his busy nature, Rev. Eastman was in Carson City (Michigan) this week conducting a Bible School and returned to DeWitt Wednesday for a brief interview during his lunch.

papers and done freelance writing and photography. I took the plunge and became another financially poor student. (It was easier being poor as an undergraduate student years ago and having a mom who sent occasional checks to bail me out of debts!) Nevertheless, I'm enjoying my new career so far. And I'm enjoying DeWitt.

My first day in town last Monday was a pleasure. The Shopping Guide Publisher, George Raymond took me to Sam's Kitchen where we had delicious vegetable soup and where we met some helpful friendly people. Restaurant owner Sam Terranova was accommodating in giving me names of city officials and pointing out locations. Sam introduced me to Bill Reed who was kind enough to run to his insurance office to get me a copy of the Sesqui-centennial booklet with all the city and township officials and businesses. Such Service!

I also met hardware store owners Peg & Bob Guilford. Peg filled me in on many things in the community like the Ox Roast set for August 18 (sure I'll be there!) and Rev. Eastman's new pastoral duties. I grew up in another small town, Blissfield, southeast of near the Ohio border. It's a pleasure to return to a small community, I hope I can serve the news page well.

Feel Free to call me at the Lansing Office, 372-4800. If I'm out, leave a message. As soon as my schedule is more definite, I'll post some regular office hours.



The popular petting zoo will return to this year's DeWitt Ox Roast August 18. Shown at last year's Ox Roast is Roy Gibbins II getting a boost from his dad, Roy Gibbins of Lansing.

Photo Courtesy The DeWitt-Bath Review