

August
2023

— THE CITY OF —
CHARLOTTE
— MICHIGAN —

Charlotte Chronicles

COMMERCIAL MARIHUANA LICENSING—PUBLIC HEARINGS



The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **August 1 at 7pm** for residents to provide comments and feedback on a proposed Zoning Ordinance that would create three, overlay districts where the commercial marihuana uses would be permitted. On **August 21 at 7pm**, City Council will conduct a public hearing to receive feedback from residents on a proposed Ordinance that would allow and regulate the commercial marihuana permitting process. See page 5 for more information on the proposal and locations.



Unable to attend? You may submit written comments to the City Clerk at 111 E Lawrence Ave or mlarocque@charlottemi.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Are you looking to give back? Do you have skills that can benefit the community? The City has several opportunities for citizens to participate in their local government. The following boards/committees need volunteers: Board of Review (2), Downtown Development Authority (3), Airport Advisory Board (1).

Want to know more? Contact the Mayor at marmitage@charlottemi.org. Interested persons can also find more information here: www.charlottemi.org/board-and-commission-volunteer-opportunities-available/



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CITY MEETING CALENDAR

August

- Tuesday, 1 Planning Commission
- Tuesday, 1 Parks Advisory Board, Community Room (City Hall basement)
- Monday, 7 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 8 Camp Frances Board, 6:30pm, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
- Tuesday, 15 Downtown Development Authority, 6:30pm
- Wednesday, 16 City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Monday, 21 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Thursday, 31 Summer Taxes payable without penalty, must be received by 5:00pm

September

- Monday, 4 City Hall Closed—Labor Day
- Tuesday, 5 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 12 Planning Commission
- Tuesday, 12 Camp Frances Board, 6:30pm, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
- Wednesday, 13 City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Monday, 18 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 19 Downtown Development Authority, 6:30pm

October

- Monday, 2 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 3 Planning Commission
- Tuesday, 3 Parks Advisory Board, Community Room (City Hall basement)
- Tuesday, 10 Camp Frances Board, 6:30pm, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
- Wednesday, 11 City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Monday, 16 Airport Advisory Board, 8:00am, Fitch Beach Airport, 1325 Island Hwy
- Monday, 16 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 17 Downtown Development Authority, 6:30pm

Agendas, meeting details, and zoom links are available online at www.charlottemi.org.

Meetings are in-person at City Hall Council Chambers at 7pm unless noted otherwise.

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Lead Service Line Replacement. The City of Charlotte Department of Public Works (DPW) is verifying the material of water service lines throughout the City as a requirement of the 2018 Michigan Lead and Copper Rule. EGLE is requiring a complete inventory of the water service lines by January 1, 2025. The inventory must include material verification at 3 locations along the service line, including inside the home where the water service comes into the house. The City received a Grant from EGLE to help with the material verification. Contact DPW at 517-543-8858 to schedule an inspection.

In place of an in-home inspection, a self-completed survey is available to residents which includes taking a picture of the water service line at the in-home water meter. Contact DPW at 517-543-8858 or edean@charlottemi.org to complete the self-survey of your home's water service.

Notice: Permit and/or Registration Required to Solicit or Canvass within City.

What is soliciting or canvassing?

Soliciting is to seek out sales for profit. A permit and registration is required, background check and fees apply.



Canvassing is to seek votes, contributions or sales for non-profits or to conduct surveys, or public discussions. Registration is required, but no fees apply.

A copy of the ordinance and forms can be found on our website: www.charlottemi.gov/forms-applications/, then scroll down to find the appropriate form.



Notice of Election Location Change.

Voting for all precincts will take place at City Hall for the November 7, 2023 City Election. City Hall is located at 111 E Lawrence Ave. Voters who typically vote in another location will receive a mailed notice regarding the change.

Please note, this change is only for the November 2023 City Election.



It's a dirty job, but someone's got to do it! Please make sure to pick up after your dog. Not only is it neighborly, it's the law! City code requires pet owners clean up after their pets. Please do your part to keep our city clean.

NEWS FROM CITY HALL



From the Police Chief Frontier Days is coming to town September 6th through September 10th. On Saturday, September 9th there is the annual 5K and Parade. Beginning in 2022, the 5K is now starting at 9:15 am and the Parade will now be at 10 am.

Traffic control will start at 9 am where no one will be allowed to cross Cochran and will have to use the posted detour route. We will post a map of the detour route on our Facebook Page (Charlotte Michigan Police Department) the week before.

DO YOU KNOW?

Streetlights are owned and maintained by Consumers Energy.

Report outages, check status, and more online at streetlights.consumersenergy.com/

Blight, Weeds, or Junk Vehicles Warm weather means more time outdoors! It is also a great time for yard clean-ups and general outdoor property maintenance. Residents who have a concern about the condition of a specific property, because of an accumulation of junk, refuse, improperly stored recreational vehicles, or unregistered vehicles should contact Code Enforcement so it can be evaluated.

Properties must be kept in good repair, including exterior siding and roofs, and free of junk/debris. Additionally, city code states that vehicles must be registered and operable. Grass and vegetation be maintained so as not to exceed 10 inches in height. Residents who own larger lots in the city (5 acres or more) must also keep those areas within 100 feet of a street, alleyway or neighboring property line at 10 inches or less. Please keep shrubs and trees trimmed back at corners to prevent traffic hazards, and away from sidewalks for pedestrian safety.

A code enforcement inspector will take action on properties that are not maintained. Residents who are not mowing will be given notice of the violation and a reasonable time to remedy the problem. If the problem persists, the City may mow the lot and the homeowner will be charged for the work. Continued violations may result in the issuance of a civil infraction ticket.

If you see a property in your neighborhood in need of maintenance, please call 517-543-8837, ccummings@charlottemi.org, or report it online at www.charlottemi.org/contact-us/.

Individuals in need of assistance can find resources on our website at www.charlottemi.org/assistance-programs-available/



NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Commercial Marihuana Licensing Program

The Charlotte City Council is considering whether to permit certain commercial marihuana businesses in the City. The discussion includes what license types may be allowed and where the businesses may be located. Regulations permitting this type of use must conform with state laws and regulations for marihuana licensing. The City Council is evaluating ordinance language that would permit retail, processing, safety compliance (testing), and secure transporter licenses in designated areas of the City.

The Charlotte Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 1 at 7pm for residents to provide comments and feedback on a proposed Zoning Ordinance change that would create three overlay districts where the commercial marihuana uses would be permitted. An overlay district is a zoning district where special rules apply for specific uses, such as commercial marihuana activities.

Proposed District 1 is generally the Combs Industrial Park area. Proposed District 2 generally the commercial properties along Lansing Street from East Harris Street in the south to Otto Road on the north end. Proposed District 3 includes commercial properties around M-50 and the I-69 expressway interchange, including those near Meijer. Maps detailing the exact district boundaries can be found on the City's website:

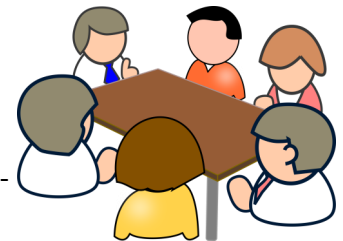
Proposed District 1: <https://charlottemi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Proposed-Cannabis-District-1.pdf>

Proposed District 2: <https://charlottemi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Proposed-Cannabis-District-2.pdf>

Proposed District 3: <https://charlottemi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Proposed-Cannabis-District-3.pdf>

At the August 1 meeting, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council based on its review of the zoning ordinance language and any feedback it receives from the public.

On August 21 at 7pm, City Council will conduct a separate public hearing to receive feedback and comments from residents on the accompanying General Law Ordinance that would regulate the marihuana permitting process. They will also consider the Planning Commission recommendation and public input when determining whether to adopt both of the proposed ordinances.



A copy of the draft Zoning Ordinance language can be found here: www.charlottemi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-06-Ch-82-ART-XXV-Commercial-Cannabis-Overlay-district.pdf

A copy of the draft General Law Ordinance language can be found here: www.charlottemi.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/11-2023-06-Ordinance-CHAPTER-15-Commercial-Cannabis-Operations-6-29-2023.pdf

If adopted, these ordinances would permit individuals and businesses to apply for a commercial marihuana permit in the City of Charlotte. All applicants would also be required to hold an appropriate license from the State of Michigan and comply with state regulations.

Want to share your thoughts? Please attend either or both of the public hearings. If you are unable to attend, you can submit written comments to the City Clerk at 111 E Lawrence Ave or mlarocque@charlottemi.org

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Rave Alerts. The City of Charlotte is using Rave alerts! Get notified with important information about what is happening in the community such as street closures, water system work, or emergencies that may affect you. There are several ways to register: Text CHARLOTTE to 67283; Download the Smart911 app; or Register for a free and secure safety profile online at [Smart911.com](https://www.smart911.com).

The City also sends out notifications specific to users by address, such as notices when quarterly utility bills are sent out. If you're already registered, make sure to update your profile address so you're receiving accurate information.



2023 Park Reservations Planning a party or event for later this spring or summer? Host your event at one of our beautiful facilities!

Bennett Park pavilion rental calendar is now open for 2023 reservations. Find the rental registration information and forms online at <https://www.charlottemi.org/serviceadministration/parks/park-reservation-applications/>

You can also contact the Clerk's Office with questions about reservations and date availability at 517-543-2750 or email mdensmore@charlottemi.org

Camp Frances is taking reservations for the 2023 calendar year. Visit the website at <https://www.campfrances.org/> Under the tab "Rental Information" you will find the "Guidelines for Use of the facility". By clicking "Rental Request" you will be taken to the City's website where you can complete a request for dates. Please register as early as possible for your date as it could take up to 7 business days to process your paperwork once submitted.



From the Fire Chief Effective June 1st, 2023 residents in the City of Charlotte will no longer need to contact the Charlotte Fire Department to obtain a burn permit. Residents are permitted to have a recreational, cooking, or ceremonial fire any time of the year without a permit. Township residents may still be required to have a burn permit.

§3.3.226 Recreational fire. Fuel used for a recreational fire shall be untreated dry-season wood or charcoal. The total area for the fire shall not exceed 3 FT in diameter and 2 FT in height.

Burning of leaves, brush, yard waste, and trash is prohibited within city limits. Residents may be subject to a fire response charge if found in violation of city ordinance.

Additional information can be found at www.charlottemifire.org

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

Do I need a building permit for my home improvement project?

Depending on your project, whether it's performed by a contractor or you the homeowner, a building permit may be required. Understanding when a permit is required, and making sure to get one prior to starting can save a lot of time and trouble.

Many smaller projects do not require a building permit. These include fences, small accessory buildings, re-siding, re-shingling and window replacement. However, there are circumstances when the project must be reviewed for zoning compliance even when a building permit and inspections are not required.

For fences and shall sheds, city zoning approval is required even though a building permit is not. If more than two sheets of roof decking will be replaced during the shingling, or if window dimensions are changing, then a building permit is necessary. Larger sheds, garages and pole barns require zoning reviews, building permits and inspections.

Decks that are accessed by an exit door from your home (which is most decks), do require a building permit, even if they are not attached to the house. Interior remodeling projects usually require a building permit, but do not require a zoning review.

In most cases, permits and zoning reviews can be obtained very quickly and will not delay your project. However, failing to get a permit or allowing for an inspection can cause significant delays and even cost increases.

As always, if you are not sure whether a permit is required, it is a good idea to call the City of Charlotte at (517) 543-8853 to find out.

Forms are available online at: charlottemi.gov/planning-and-zoning/



**Contact
MISS DIG 811**

Doing Any DIY Projects This Season?



- Decks & Patios
- Trees or Shrubs
- Swing Sets
- Signs

- Fountains
- Tents
- Fences
- Mailbox Posts



- Room Additions
- Gardens
- Swimming Pools
- Landscaping

Know What's Below Before You Dig!

Even hand digging can cause damage.

Become part of the solution!

Over 25% of damage is from homeowners.



It's the **LAW!** It's fast and it's **FREE!!!**

What do you mean FREE?

When you contact **MISS DIG 811**, the public facility companies are notified to mark the location of their underground lines.

Public facilities are marked for **FREE** by facility company representatives known as Locators. The Locators paint lines and/or place flags to mark the approximate location of underground public lines.



NEWS FROM CITY HALL



Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF). The Fund was established under section 3206 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (the ARP) to mitigate hardships associated with the coronavirus pandemic by providing funds to prevent homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosure, loss of utilities or home energy services and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship on or after January 21, 2020 or for those homeowners who experience a coronavirus pandemic financial hardship that began before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date. For more information or to apply, visit [MSHDA's website](#).

Emergency Home Repair Program. Eaton County administers an Emergency Repair Program. No interest, no payment loans to Eaton County residents who meet federal, state and County Housing Program guidelines may be provided. This program assists with emergency repairs that are causing a health and safety risk to the occupants and the structure of the home.

The program offers up to \$20,000 in no interest, no payment loan assistance to repair and improve program participant's home. A deferred mortgage is recorded against the property for the amount invested into the home. Contact Housing at: 517-543-3710 or visit their website at <https://www.eatoncounty.org/181/Emergency-Home-Repair> for more information.

Other Assistance Programs Available. There are other programs for those having trouble paying rent/mortgage or utilities. Persons who are in need of assistance due to financial or other hardships can find information on available programs online at www.charlottemi.org/assistance-programs-available/ or by calling 2-1-1.



Email Billing Feature Now Available! Ready to ditch the paper utility bill? You can now sign up for emailed billing of your quarterly utility bill. Please complete the form below and return it to City Hall, in-person or drop-box, or you can sign up online at www.charlottemi.org/email-utility-bill-form/

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

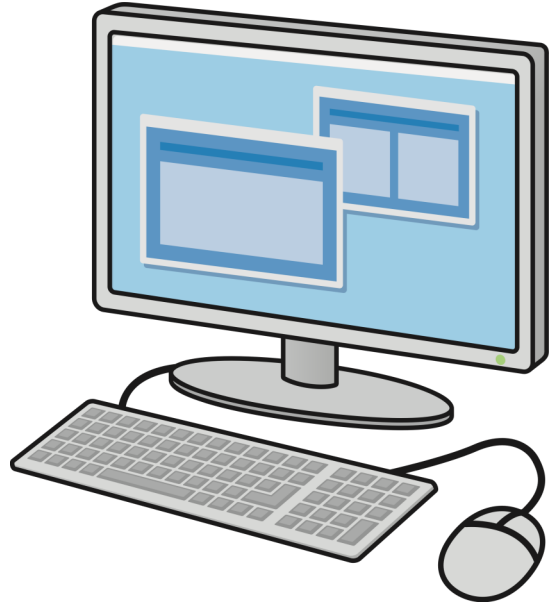
Service Address: _____



Utility Billing Customer Service. If you have questions or need to update your utility billing account, contact UB Clerk Mikayla Middaugh: in-person during regular business hours, by phone at 517-543-8841, or email mmiddaugh@charlottemi.org.

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal program run by the FCC to assist qualifying low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices such as laptops or tablets. Households may be eligible if their income is below 200% the Federal Poverty Line or if someone in the household receives a government benefit such as SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch. If eligible, households may receive up to a \$30/month discount on internet service, up to \$75 a month discount on qualifying Tribal lands, and a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50). Information regarding ACP may be found here: <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/>.



Michiganders in crisis now have an easy-to-remember three-digit number to call for help – 988. Michigan has joined the nation with 988, which will operate through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s network of more than 200 locally operated and funded crisis centers across the country.

In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to operate through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to expand the existing support beyond people who are feeling suicidal to all individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis, including substance abuse issues. Trained counselors will be available 24/7 to field calls. They will listen to the caller’s problems, assess their needs and provide support by connecting them with resources, and alert local emergency crisis teams, if necessary.

Anyone with these concerns can call, including mental health-related distress; thoughts of suicide; substance use crisis; or emotional distress. There are specialized services available for veterans, LGBTQ individuals and other groups. People who are worried about a loved one who may need support also can call.

The 988-dialing code does not replace the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-TALK (8255) or other locally operated crisis lines. Instead, it serves as a universal entry point to connect individuals in need to trained crisis counselors who can help. MDHHS is working to ensure a solid infrastructure is built through coordination with 911 and other crisis service providers as the 988-dialing code launches.

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

CHARLOTTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS 2023

LOCAL

2023



MAY- OCT.
THURSDAY

2-6 PM

BECOME A
VENDOR!



BEACH MARKET
120 W. LOVETT ST.

EBT & DEBIT ACCEPTED

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

CHARLOTTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS 2023



Summer Concert Series 2023

On the Historic Courthouse lawn
Thursdays at 6:30pm

- 6/1 Sea Cruisers: 50's/60's
- 6/8 Frenz: Thru the Decades
- 6/15 Claim Jumpers: Country
- 6/22 Detroit Social Club: Blues
- 6/29 Jimmy & the Mortals: 60's
- 7/6 Frog & the Beeftones: Americana
- 7/13 Dwayne Spaw: Country
- 7/20 Laurie & the Lefties: Variety
- 7/27 Soul Town: Motown Hits
- 8/3 Whistle Pig Surprise band
- 8/10 Parted Water
- 8/17 Blind Ambition: 50's/60's



EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

CHARLOTTE COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS—AUGUST



Jigsaw Puzzle Swap

Step 1: Drop Off
July 17 - August 17
Drop off your gently-used puzzles and receive one voucher per puzzle.*

Step 2: Shop the Swap
August 18: 3pm - 7 pm or August 19: 10am - 2pm
Visit the library during the swap to redeem your vouchers and shop the selection of donated puzzles.

*Donated puzzles should be in good condition, in the original box and have no missing pieces. The Library is not responsible for incomplete puzzles.

You do not need to participate in the swap to donate puzzles.

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



Summer In The Park

Joel Tacey with Mobile Nerf Games
August 8, 2023
Oak Park
11am-Noon

Join in the NERF fun as you run, dodge, dive, and blast the competition! Kids ages 6 & up will play games to test their physical and mental skills.

No charge to attend this event.
*In case of bad weather, we will meet at the library.

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



BUILD YOUR FAMILY TREE

Wednesday August 2nd
11 am - 12 pm

Families are invited to teach the young ones in their family about their history and construct a family tree. Participants can bring family photos to glue onto their paper as well.

Pre-registration requested

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



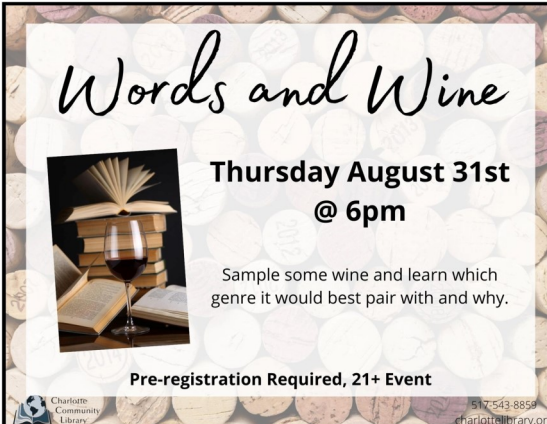
Summer In The Park

Swordsmanship Showcase: Medieval Longsword
August 15, 2023
Oak Park
11am-Noon

Learn all about the Medieval Longsword. Demonstration techniques will be included.

No charge to attend this event.
*In case of bad weather, we will meet at the library.

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



Words and Wine

Thursday August 31st
@ 6pm

Sample some wine and learn which genre it would best pair with and why.

Pre-registration Required, 21+ Event

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



Summer In The Park

Jungle Story Time
August 1, 2023
Oak Park
11am-Noon

Come and explore the jungle through stories and songs!

No charge to attend this event.
*In case of bad weather, we will meet at the library.

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



BABY & ME

SONGS, RHYMES, AND PLAY!

THURSDAYS
10-10:30 am

For babies and toddlers with their caregivers.

This event will take place in the Spartan Room.

Charlotte Community Library 517-543-8859 charlottelibrary.org



Library Hours:

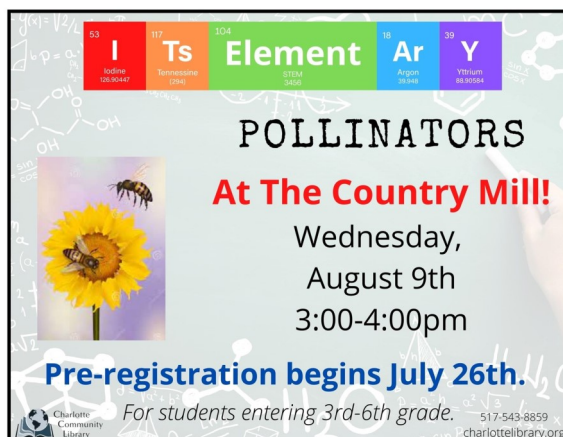
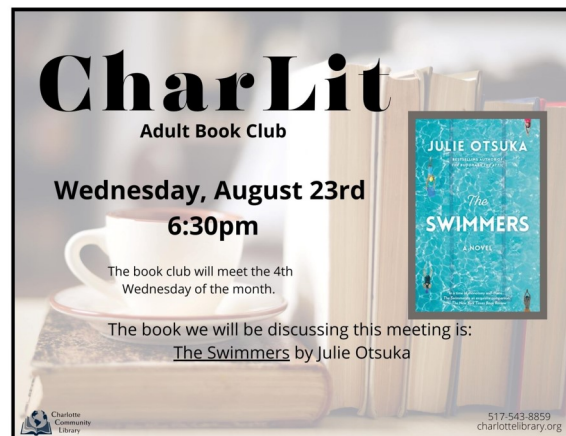
M-F 9am-7pm

Sat 10am-2pm

Address: 226 S. Bostwick Charlotte, MI 48813

Phone: (517) 543-8859

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS



CITY OF CHARLOTTE

Michael Armitage—Mayor

Tammy Weissenborn—Mayor Pro-Tem/
Councilmember

Joseph Chin Jr.—Councilmember

Michael Duweck—Councilmember

Branden Dyer—Councilmember

Anthony Rodriguez—Councilmember

Adrianne Van Langevelde—Councilmember

Erin LaPere—City Manager

Mary LaRocque—City Clerk

Vacant—Finance Director/Treasurer

Amy Gilson—DPW Director

Paul Brentar—Police Chief

Dan Daly—Interim Fire Chief

Bryan Myrkle—Community Development
Director

Randy Jewell—Assessor

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



office 517-543-8850
cell/text 269-223-9809
email elapere@charlottemi.org

The summer events continue in August and we hope you take advantage of the weekly farmers/artisans market and concerts downtown on Thursdays, hosted by the Charlotte Chamber—come join us! This month we are beginning two major planning endeavors with the City Master Plan and the Community Parks Plan both getting started.

Keep a look out for surveys and more as we will be reaching out to community members for your input on our future!

Do you have an idea? Something happening in your neighborhood that you want to share? Concerned about a city matter? Reach out to me anytime via phone/text, email, or stop by the office. You can also reach out to your elected officials, their contact information is [online by clicking here](#).

You can learn more about what's happening in Charlotte online at the city's website: www.charlottemi.org; the city's [facebook page](#), or twitter: @CityCharlotteMI

- Erin E. LaPere

Recent City Council Actions—July 2023:

- Approved grant application in partnership with Charlotte Community Library
- Approved trickling filter pump purchase
- Approved two temporary grading easements for MDOT construction on Cochran in 2024
- Held discussion on creation of Social District downtown
- Amended Council Policy on order of business at Council meetings
- Approved UV bulb purchase for wastewater treatment plant
- Appointed Chairperson for August 7th Council meeting
- First reading and set public hearing for a proposed Ordinance to amend Chapter 15 to establish a commercial marihuana licensing program
- First reading and set public hearing for August 1st Planning Commission meeting on a proposed Ordinance to amend Chapter 82 to establish overlay districts for certain commercial marihuana businesses
- First reading and held public hearing for August 21st Council meeting on a proposed Ordinance to amend Chapter 68 to add groundwater protection regulations to certain parcels in the city
- Approved delegates to MERS annual conference
- Approved agreement with Carmel Township to provide fire protection services
- Approved amendment to agreement with Rural Fire Association related to equipment and vehicles purchased with grant funding
- Approved Charlotte Frontier Days 2023 street closures and related activities
- Approved purchase agreement with Anderson Construction for sale of property in Combs Industrial Park
- Approved purchase of replacement police vehicles
- Approved Mayoral Appointments to boards/committees
- Canceled the July workshop meeting

Want to know more? Check out www.charlottemi.org/ to see 2023 meeting agendas and minutes.

City Hall

111 E Lawrence Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813

Phone: 517-543-2750

Fax: 517-543-8845

E-mail: manager@charlottemi.org

Clerk/Treasurer/Police
In-Person Service Hours
Monday thru Friday
9 am - 1 pm
2 pm - 4 pm

City Hall Staff Hours
Monday thru Friday
8 am - 5 pm

Emergency Services 9-1-1
After-Hours DPW 517-543-8874

