

# CITY OF *Flushing*



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees at the road until Monday, January 9th or Tuesday, January 10th, whichever is your pick-up day. Christmas trees may also be disposed of at the entrance to Riverview Park until February 6, 2024. After that, you may call the City to have them chipped, so long as the trunk is no more than 4 inches in diameter. In all cases, the trees must be free of decorations.



## SNOW ON SIDEWALKS & FIRE HYDRANTS



### AND SPEAKING OF S.N.O.W.

Did you know that the sidewalks on your property must be cleared within 24 hours of a snow event? If not, and the city receives a complaint, we will order it done by a contractor and bill the homeowner? This is pursuant to Ordinance 99.43. It would be greatly appreciated if you could clear the snow from the fire hydrant as well.

## YARD WASTE DATES

Please do not take any loose leaves out to the road after November 24th. The DPW will make their last circuit around the city beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving. We do not know the route, or when the DPW will get to your street (it is dependent upon the weather and the number of leaves), so to ensure your leaves are picked up, have them to the road no later than Thanksgiving Day.



Waste Management will pick up bagged leaves for the last time on Monday, November 27th and Tuesday, November 28th. After these dates, you will need to hold onto your bagged leaves until Spring. We anticipate Spring pickup will begin with your first pick-up day in April 2024.

## STREETLIGHT OUT?

If you have a streetlight out, you can be proactive and turn it in! And if you turn it in directly to Consumers Energy, it may even be done quicker! <https://streetlights.consumersenergy.com/> or call 1-800-477-5050.

## BOARD OF REVIEW NEWS

Disabled Veterans Exemptions no longer go to the Board of Review for review. They will now be reviewed and granted/denied by the Assessor.

The next Board of Review meeting is December 12, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. for Correcting Qualified Errors and reviewing Poverty Exemptions.

Watch for your Assessment Change Notice around the middle of February. It will include the dates and times of Board of Review in March, which is the only time you have to protest the assessment.

## TREES IN POWER LINES

Consumers Energy is responsible for trimming trees that interfere with power lines. If you have trees growing into power lines, you should call Consumers Energy at 800-477-5050 or online at <https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/report-an-issue>. When Consumers Energy trims your trees, this is what to expect:

- A Forestry Planner marks trees or brush that need maintenance.
- Trees to be trimmed are marked with a blue dot.
- Trees to be cut down are marked with a blue X. If outside the easement they will be marked with a blue A.
- Brush to be cleared may be marked with a blue slash (/).



*Consumers Energy assigns qualified tree-trimming contractors.*

### Here's how Consumers Energy handles clean-up.

- On lawns brush is usually chipped. Larger wood is cut into pieces and left onsite.
- In unmaintained areas brush is either piled in windrows (creating habitat for wildlife and suppressing future tree growth) or mulched and scattered within the easement area.
- If trees are cut down, stumps are cut as close to the ground as possible and treated with a herbicide to prevent regrowth.
- Following storms, trees and limbs may be cleared so crews can make repairs to electric service. In this case wood, limbs and debris are all left on-site.

If you need tree limbs and branches picked up, for whatever reason, take them to the road where you normally would put garbage and stack them neatly with the cut ends toward the road, then call the City Offices to have them removed. 810-659-5665. City Crews are out every Wednesday to chip tree limbs, and the take anything with no root bulbs or pickers, as long as it is no more than 4 inches in diameter and the pile is no more than about 6 feet by 8 feet.

For more information and what to do if a tree or branch takes down a power line go to <https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/trees-and-power-lines>.

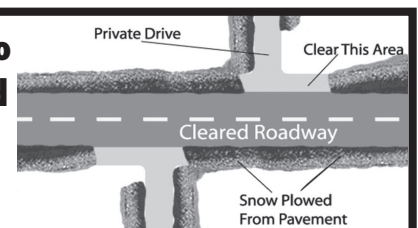


**NO OVERNIGHT PARKING  
ON CITY STREETS 2:00AM-6:00AM**

## NO PARKING

City Ordinance restricts parking on the streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. During leaf removal season or if there is a prediction of snow, please DO NOT park on the streets at any time. Cars parked on the street can be ticketed, towed, snowed in, and/or damaged by snow while plowing, or drivers who lose control in icy conditions. Don't take a chance that it could be you!

**Winter Tip: How to  
Avoid the "Second  
Shovel" at the  
Driveway**





## RESIDENTIAL SUMP PUMP DISCHARGES

In many homes across Michigan, sump pumps remove excessive groundwater from around the home. A sump pump is a small submersible or pedestal pump located in the lowest part of your basement that removes the collected water and pumps it to an area outside of the home. It's important to make sure the pumped water doesn't cause additional problems. Below are potential options for managing the water from your sump pump.

**Option 1:** Discharge of sump pump water to the ground in an area where it can infiltrate directing the water back into the ground is the preferred management method. However, care should be taken to ensure it does not impact neighboring properties or cause nuisance conditions such as soil erosion or ponding. In addition, if basement floor drains are connected to the sump pump, the homeowner will need to make sure any pollutants or potentially spilled materials in the basement are not released to the ground as that could cause environmental contamination for which the homeowner would be liable.

**Option 2:** Discharge of sump pump water to a nearby storm sewer system or directly to surface waters. The water may be directed to the ground near a storm sewer catch basin or by connecting it directly to the storm sewer. However, permission from the owner/operator of the storm sewer (i.e., city, county road commission, or county drain commissioner) will be needed for a storm sewer connection. Sump pump water sent directly to lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands is not recommended. Experience has shown that sump pump discharges could contain pollutants (from spills, flooding in the basement, etc.). It is the property owner's responsibility to comply with all laws related to the discharge of pollutants, so you are assuming liability if you choose to install a direct connection to surface waters or a storm sewer. It is also important to note that although the discharge of sump pump water to storm sewers or surface waters may be allowed, discharges from floor drains are not authorized.

EGLE <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/-/media/Project/Websites/egle/Documents/Programs/WRD/Groundwater-Discharge/Wastewater-Sump-Pump-Discharge-Guidance.pdf?rev=34b7a298fefa4750bd5c5418981834e6>

## ELECTION LAW CHANGES

The State of Michigan Legislature and the Bureau of Elections are hard at work creating laws and procedures that guide elections staff on the implementation of Proposal 2 of 2022, approved by a majority of voters on November 8, 2022. Included in the plethora of laws, the Absent Voter Ballot process has changed. Watch for directions on those future changes. In the meantime, you can find out more information here: <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting>. In addition, you will be able to vote at City Hall for 9-days prior to any state or federal election. Please be respectful to our staff as they do not create the laws, they just carry them out.

### EMS

On October 9, 2023, your Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in the City of Flushing began. In the first 22 days (552 hours), the EMS responded to a total of 60 calls. 34 of those calls were Priority 1 (most critical) calls; 26 were Priority 2 (less critical) calls. There was no out-of-service time. The average response time for both Priority 1 and Priority 2 calls was less than 4 minutes. Our communities support of this program has been overwhelming and the City is committed to providing our residents and visitors the highest quality of care possible.

## COURTHOUSE

We have learned that pursuant to the Genesee County Capital Improvements Plan, passed by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners on September 13, 2023, that the Flushing 67th District Court will be relocated to the McCree Building in downtown Flint. If you would like to voice your opinion on this plan, call Commissioner Weighill at [dweighill@geneseecountymi.gov](mailto:dweighill@geneseecountymi.gov) or 810-341-3085.



### *Upcoming Holiday Closures:*

**December 25 and 26, 2023** your Garbage Pick-up will be **ONE DAY late**.

**January 1 and 2, 2024** your Garbage will be **ONE DAY late**.

**January 15, February 19, March 29** your Garbage pick-up will be **ON TIME**.

**May 27** your Garbage pick-up will be **ONE DAY late**

## SMALL BUSINESSES

### **If you own a small business, did you know? Small Business Taxpayer Exemption – MCL 211.9o**

The small business taxpayer personal property exemption provides a complete exemption from personal property tax for industrial or commercial personal property when the combined true cash value of all industrial personal property and commercial personal property owned by, leased by or in the possession of the owner or a related entity claiming the exemption is less than \$180,000 in the local tax collecting unit and the property is not leased to or used by a person that previously owned the property or a person that, directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or under common control with the person that previously owned the property.

**Form 5076 must be filed with the local tax collecting unit no later than February 20.**

TOTAL OVER  
23 MILLION  
IN THE U.S. ALONE

ACCOUNT FOR  
60% OF  
ALL JOBS

REPRESENT  
97% OF ALL  
U.S. EXPORTERS  
OF GOODS

PRODUCE  
13 TIMES  
MORE PATENTS  
PER EMPLOYEE THAN  
LARGE FIRMS