



# Election Changes

Michigan Election Commission is requiring the City of Gladwin to have a precinct for each ward as written in the Gladwin City Charter. Therefore, since the charter stipulates that the City have four wards, we will have four (4) precincts for the November election. Due to space requirements the election will be moved to the **Sacred Heart Activity Center at 330 N. Silverleaf St.** The election will be held on November 3, 2015.

The ballot shall consist of election of Mayor for a two (2) year term, a council member from each ward each for a four (4) year term and a council member to complete the partial term ending 2017 for Ward 2. There will also be two proposals regarding Charter amendments concerning these election issues. One proposal will be to change the Charter so Council members will be elected at large rather than by wards, with a phase-in period. That would eliminate the need for so many precincts and result in lower election costs. The second proposal would eliminate City Council and Mayor primary elections so those elections would be similar to School Board elections where the candidates with the greatest votes win in the election. The two proposals are tied together so they will take effect only if both are adopted. The changes are requested to meet state election laws and to keep election expenses within reason. There will be more in the newspaper on the proposals in the future.

## Notes from Chief Duane Bean

As Fall and Winter seasons are coming soon, I want to take a minute to remind Gladwin homeowners and businesses of some local issues.

### **No parking on the grass:**

In an effort to keep the City looking nice and attractive, the City has ordinances against parking on grass or other unapproved areas.

### Zoning Ordinance, Section 603. OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS.

3. Required residential off-street parking spaces shall consist of a parking strip, parking bay, driveways, garage, or combination thereof and shall be located on the premises they are intended to serve, and also subject to the provisions of Section 306, Accessory Buildings and Structures for garages.

4. All residential driveways and parking strips shall be paved (asphalt or concrete) when constructed or, in the cause of existing facilities, when the garage, driveway or parking strip is added, changed or modified.

### **Snow removal on sidewalks:**

The Winter season always brings with it that dreaded cold weather and snow. I would like to remind everyone about the one ordinance that is brought to the forefront, due to Old Man Winter, is sidewalk snow removal. The ordinance requires that each property and/or business owner keep their sidewalks free from snow and ice. During the last couple of years, extra efforts have been made to ensure voluntary compliance in making our sidewalks safe for

# Notes from Chief Duane Bean cont.

travel for our children walking to and from school, for our less mobile citizens who depend on electric mobile devices to get around the city, and for those that walk for the exercise. To our senior citizens, children and visitors of Gladwin, clean sidewalks are indicative of community pride, genuine concern for everyone's safety, and displays a lasting impression that Gladwin is really a great place to live, work, or visit. An overwhelming percentage of our citizens and businesses have maintained their sidewalk through the years. Thank You for your continued cooperation. (Gladwin City ordinance 96.29).

## **Overnight parking prohibited on Gladwin City streets:**

Vehicles cannot park along the City of Gladwin streets between the hours of 3:00 AM and 6:00 AM. Gladwin Cities parking ordinance can be viewed at [www.Gladwin.org](http://www.Gladwin.org), City Ordinance section, Ordinance number #71.05. Finding a long term parking spot away from the City streets is the best solution. Gladwin City has numerous spacious parking lots throughout the downtown area of the City. If you cannot locate a City owned parking spot in the business district, please call our office, (989-426-7879) and we would be glad to help.

## **ORV's on the Gladwin City streets:**

At the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 City Council meeting, the Gladwin City Council approved allowing ORV's on all of the City maintained streets. But, ORV's are still banned from State of Michigan maintained streets. "No person shall operate an ORV on the roadway, shoulder, sidewalk, or any other portion of a state road within the City (such as M-61 or Cedar Avenue and M-18 or Silverleaf Street)". An ORV can be "pushed" but not ridden or operated, on the restricted street sidewalks (see below), if feasible. All of the ORV rules and laws apply and can be viewed at the City of Gladwin website at [www.gladwin.org](http://www.gladwin.org), under City ORV Ordinance. Ordinance #311. #2010-04.

## **ORV's are not allowed to be operated on sidewalks.**

According to Michigan Law, 750.419. Sec. 419. A person who operates or rides a motorcycle, moped, or other motor vehicle, excepting motorized wheelchairs upon a bicycle path or a sidewalk regularly laid out and constructed for the use of pedestrians, not including a crosswalk or driveway, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Thank You for your help and understanding. Have a safe and healthy Fall and Winter.

Thank you, Police Chief Duane Bean II 989-426-7879 Gladwin City Police Department

### **Skunks**

Skunks are out and we are still catching them in the City. If you see one in your yard, or your yard is torn up with holes, then you probably have a skunk, who is living there or just visiting. The City will have a trapper come and get them at no charge to you. Call Dee Jungman at 426-7127

### **Parks Commission**

We have 2 openings for the Parks Commission. We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday every month at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall. Contact City Hall if you are interested in serving on the Parks Commission.

## FOCUS On Volunteers

Volunteers are many times the unsung heroes of our communities and their efforts result in a better quality of life for our town. This is the fourth in a series of articles focusing on volunteer organizations in our area.

In the late 1950's and 1960's this country and state saw a boom in the construction of expressways, improved roads, shopping malls and the advent of 'big box' stores. Add to that cheap fuel prices, a booming economy and we were on the move! While these things sound great, it was a double-edged sword as the downtowns which were the center of communities began to fade. Ask long-term residents if they remember our downtown in its heyday. Friday and Saturday nights buzzed downtown with area families coming to town to do their shopping. There was not a vacant storefront and the area was a vibrant hub of activity. Jumping in the car and running to larger cities to shop was a major event and largely unheard of.

But times have changed. As the years went on, malls and internet shopping gained in popularity and downtowns struggled to remain afloat, many deteriorating greatly in the process. This phenomenon was occurring with such alarming speed, the state legislature enacted a series of laws to arrest this decline and assist downtown areas with tools to rejuvenate and re-invent. Public Act 197 of 1975 granted local units the ability to create Downtown Development Authorities and the City of Gladwin exercised this option in March 1991. As the aforementioned Public Act is very specific as to what DDA's can and cannot do with taxpayer funds, the first several months were an educational process. The twelve-member board which was appointed by the Mayor also prioritized projects which would assist in achieving the objective of maintaining and improving the current economic health of the business community. Input was requested from community leaders, residents and business owners as to which projects were needed. They included a unified streetscape, utility upgrades and a new bridge / widening the Cedar Avenue Bridge as just a few of the many ambitious plans for the DDA area.

When the City Council created the Downtown Development Authority, they first needed to create a district. Gladwin City's DDA district encompasses roughly the area from the west city limits to Buckeye Street, and includes approximately a block north and south of Main Street. Areas added to that route are both city parks, the airport and a great deal of the industrial areas. It also travels south to Buzzell Road on the east side of M-18 and extends about a block east-west to include the property upon which the water tower was constructed in 2010. Finally, it runs north up M-18 to Clendening Road and jogs south and east to the city limits. DDA's receive their funds via tax revenues, but no *additional taxes* are levied to fund the various projects and operations. When DDA's are formed, the taxable values for each individual parcel become the "base value" or "initial value". As improvements are made in the DDA district, it is theorized that these investments will enhance the values of properties, further enticing more businesses to locate in the area and ultimately, values will increase. When these values increase, the DDA is able to use the tax funds which are the difference between the base value and the current value for their various projects. Unfortunately, various tax legislation has limited the DDA's ability to capture as much revenue as when they were created, but Gladwin City's board still has managed to accomplish a great deal by partnering with other entities to meet

their goals. Because of their purpose and legal organization, DDA's are in a very good position to obtain grants and bonds for various projects.

Ambitious jobs such as the water tower and water and sewer line installations are just a few projects which the DDA has funded or has partnered with local, state and federal organizations to accomplish. We often take for granted that we have water when we turn the tap or disposal systems when needed. While these projects do not always generate the excitement that others do and it is easy to take things for granted, the DDA board could see the wisdom in making these upgrades for not only the current property owners but also in hopes of enticing future stakeholders in our community. They have also provided funds for the Gladwin Business and Professional Association, Farmer's Market and Historical Society to promote various activities including the Christmas parade by purchasing advertising. More visible projects include the downtown sidewalks, street lights, and banners advertising various community functions. There is a much longer list of improvements they have funded or partnered with others to accomplish but a couple of the more recent is the conversion to LED lighting in the downtown area. It is projected that the city will realize nearly a 50% savings on their light bills. Following Mayor Winarski's research and urging, the board also allocated funding to procure the creative talents of a woodcarver to "re-purpose" some of the trees in our community that have succumbed to age or disease. The regal eagle across from the post office and the likeness of our earliest non-native settler, Marvel Secord by the courthouse parking lot were courtesy of DDA funding. They hope to continue this practice of carvings as to not only beautify our city but possibly create a tourist draw for our area. The DDA also purchased all the hanging baskets you see gracing the downtown this year and more notably, allocated funds for maintenance. When many of us are just having their first cup of coffee or making their early morning commute, City/DDA employee Gale Inscho is tirelessly watering and dead-heading the flowers which add so much to our streetscape. Her cheerful "can-do" attitude and applying herself 110% to any given task have earned her the moniker of "The Flower Girl". When you add the GBPA planters (which Gale also maintains) and the Master Gardener efforts that's a who-ole lotta Flower Power to be sure! More importantly, it illustrates cooperation, ingenuity, foresight and much dedication that the Downtown Development Authority members have exhibited since their board was created in 1991. If you are interested in serving on this board or would like more information, please contact Chairman Jeff Zettel or Mayor Winarski.



## *Farmer's Market*

Farmer's Market is full of produce, baked goods, crafts, candles, outdoor planters, natural lotions and lip balms and much much more. It is exciting to see the abundance each week. Soon the fall vegetables will be arriving. So come and see what there is to offer each Saturday from 9-1 through October 10<sup>th</sup>.

## PARK SPECIAL

Special rates are offered to campers immediately after Labor Day until November 30<sup>th</sup>. These rates make it affordable to leave your recreational unit unoccupied in the park, avoiding the considerable haul time between week-ends of hunting, color tours, etc. Call the Gladwin City Park and Campground for more information, at 989-426-8126.



### Dogs

Remember - All dogs must be on a leash when walking in the city. It is the law and is a safety issue for not only your dog but other dogs too.

## WINTER TAX REMINDER

2015 Winter City Property Tax Bills are scheduled to go in the mail on Tuesday, December 1, 2015. Taxes are payable without penalty until February 14, 2016. You can mail your payment or bring it to City Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our drop box can be used for your tax payments, as well as utility bills, if you intend to pay by check. Please **DO NOT** deposit cash payments of any kind in the drop box. After February 28<sup>th</sup>, penalties increase and the payment can then only be made at the County Treasurers Office.

If you have a new mailing address since your last bill, please notify City Hall at 426-9231.

## The Community Garden - Another Bountiful Year

At the east end of town near the intersection of First Street / Weber Road and James Robertson Drive, the Community Garden continues to astonish us with the gardening talents and amazing generosity of area residents and organizations. In its third year, the garden offers between 24 and 28 plots depending on the sizes chosen. In true Gladwin fashion, its creation was made possible by the efforts of several area individuals and businesses donating their time and financial resources. The city-owned property was cleared by Shull Transport and plowed and tilled by Dave Cady (He has continued to do so each year). Burkhart-Presidio Insurance, State Farm Insurance, Thrivent Financial, Consumers Energy and the Gladwin City Downtown Development Authority all made contributions to install a water spigot and fence the area to prevent the local deer and rabbits from enjoying a tasty buffet courtesy of all the participating green thumbs. This year, Dan Kish, one of our nearby Buckeye Township neighbors and gardeners, kept the exterior perimeter and any unplanted areas mowed which contribute to its neat and tidy appearance. As one of the gardeners said, "When you see what Dan does for this garden it just inspires you to do better yourself!" Our thanks to good neighbors like Dan and all the others previously mentioned who gave our garden its start and continue to foster a real sense of community. Gardeners are charged \$20 per year to help defray the cost of water used during the growing season. An annual meeting in March at City Hall of all participants serves as a wrap-up meeting to discuss what worked in the past, suggested improvements and also a kickoff for the coming year as to inform gardeners of any changes to policies. We have continued to see interest and reservations increase the past three years, so if you are interested in signing up for a garden plot next year or have any questions, contact City Clerk Bonnie Klein at 426-9231, Extension 101 to reserve your own plot in March.





**PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS:  
KEEP ITEMS OUT OF STORM DRAINS**

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE & IMPORTANCE OF A STORM DRAIN?**



Storm drains are an important feature within your community because during heavy rainstorms, the drains reduce flooding in streets and neighborhoods by transporting large volumes of water into rivers quickly. Filters are not installed in the drains because they would delay the passage of water. Therefore, whatever goes down storm drains will end up in your waterways (rivers, streams, lakes, creeks and oceans).

Graphic: Naga County Mississippi Abatement District

**TIPS TO PROTECT OUR STORM DRAINS**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

One quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water—enough water to supply a family of four for one year!

**STORM DRAINS ARE FOR RAINWATER ONLY!**

- ✓ Keep garbage out of storm drains. Put litter in trash cans and dispose of toxic substances properly.
- ✓ Use a broom, not a hose to clean spills.
- ✓ Never fertilize before it rains. When it rains, it washes the fertilizer down into storm drains and becomes a significant problem.
- ✓ Landscape to retain rain water.
  - Create small berms and depressions in your garden to hold rain water.
  - Border your lawn with deep-rooted flowers and shrubs that soak up water and reduce runoff.
- ✓ Landscape to prevent soil erosion.
- ✓ Pick up after your pet. Double bag the waste and place it in the trash (if your community allows) or flush it down the toilet.



Graphic: University of Washington

**Auto Value** **GLADWIN BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
Parts Stores

**THUNDER ON THE STRIP!!**

**FALL 2015 Drag Race Event**

**1/8 MILE DRAG RACE OPEN TO STREET LEGAL VEHICLES**

**Car & Truck Drag**  
Registration begins at 10:00A - Racing at 1:00PM  
Registration Fee \$25.00 Car & Driver  
additional payout \$5.00

**SATURDAY 9/12/2015**  
Gladwin Fittel Municipal Airport

**Spectators \$5 (all day pass with parking)**  
Kids 10 and under FREE

For a complete listing of rules and registration forms... Visit [www.thunderonthestrip.net](http://www.thunderonthestrip.net)

- RULES:** "An Alcohol Free Family Friendly Event"
1. Drivers must be at least 18 years of age
  2. Valid Driver's License, current proof of insurance, and state registration must be presented prior to racing
  3. Driver must attend a pre-race meeting
  4. Vehicles must be STREET LEGAL and pass pre-race inspection
  5. Drivers to wear wrist bands on left wrist
  6. DOT tires OR SLICKS!!!
  7. No Passengers
  8. Seat belts must be worn.
  9. ALL PAPERWORK and waivers must be signed prior to racing.
- Concessions available on site*



Gladwin Business & Professional Association

For more race information visit [www.thunderonthestrip.net](http://www.thunderonthestrip.net) or call 989-329-2628



**RIVERWALK PLACE**  
**JEEP 2015 CREEP**

**4TH ANNUAL** Sponsored By: **LOOSE Motor Sales Inc.**

**Friday, October 23**

- 1PM-8PM: Registration Open \*RWP LOBBY\*
- 2PM-6PM: Vendor Row Open \*RWP & GRAFFS\*
- 2PM-6PM: Graff's Sale Site Open \*GRAFFS\*
- 2PM-6PM: Challenge Course Open \*GRAFFS\*
- 4PM: Ironman Offroad Maintenance Seminar \*VENDOR ROW\*
- 6PM-8PM: Jeepette Party at Oasis Salon & Spa \*RWP 2ND FLOOR\*
- 7PM-8PM: Halloween Award Judging \*MUST BE DECORATED BY 7PM\*
- 7PM-10PM: Live Music with Wil & Kat \*RIVERWALK GRILL\*
- 8:30PM: National Anthem & Jeep Creep Awards \*RWP LOBBY\*

**Saturday, October 24**

- 8AM-11AM: Breakfast \*RIVERWALK GRILL\*
- 8AM-1PM: Registration Open \*RWP LOBBY\*
- 9AM-6PM: Vendor Row Open \*RWP & GRAFFS\*
- 9AM-6PM: Graff's Sale Site Open \*GRAFFS\*
- 9AM-6PM: Challenge Course Open \*GRAFFS\*
- 9AM-6PM: Tom Gillman Chainsaw Carver \*VENDOR ROW\*
- 10AM: GLFWDA Trail Communications Seminar \*VENDOR ROW\*
- 10:30AM: GLFWDA Wheeling With Pets Seminar \*VENDOR ROW\*
- 11AM: Lunch - Burger, Chill & Hot Dog Deals \*RIVERWALK GRILL/MAIN ENTRANCE\*
- 11AM-5PM: Claws & Paws Rescue Animal Adoption \*GARAGE OF RIVERWALK PLACE\*
- 11:30AM: GLFWDA Equipping Your Rig Seminar \*CHALLENGE COURSE\*
- NOON: Mummy Challenge \*GRAFFS\*
- NOON-4PM: Kid's Coloring Station \*RWP BANQUET ROOM\*
- NOON-5PM: Lord of the Gourd Pumpkin Carver \*RWP LOBBY\*
- 1PM-10PM: Midland Brewing Company Deal \*RWP LOBBY\*
- 1PM-2PM: Trunk or Treat \*RWP\*
- 2PM-3PM: Trunk or Treat \*GRAFFS\*
- 4PM: Jeep Creep Parade \*LEAVES FROM RWP\*
- 6PM: Jeep Blessing & Giveaways \*RWP\* MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN
- Immediately After Drawings: LIVE Music with Brenda Loomis Band \*RWP\*

**Sunday, October 25**

- 8AM-11AM: Registration Open \*RWP LOBBY\*
- 8AM-11PM: Breakfast \*RIVERWALK GRILL\*
- 10AM: Rocks & Valleys open 10am-7pm \$10/Jeep\* \*RWP LOCATED IN HAWKSON\*
- 11AM: Jeep Creep Trail Ride Departs \*LEAVE FROM RWP\*
  - Guided Trail Ride: Free for Registered Jeeps
  - Wait For Group Lineup Before Heading Out!

**CHILL BAR OPEN FRI & SAT**

**REGISTRATION \$15 PER JEEP**  
Includes:  
- 1 T-Shirt  
- 2 VIP Passes\*\*  
- Goody Bag\*\*

**CHALLENGE COURSE**  
1 Day Pass: \$20 Per Jeep  
2 Day Pass: \$30 Per Jeep

**ADDITIONAL T-SHIRTS \$10 Each**

**ROCKS & VALLEYS SUNDAY TRIP**  
\$10 per Jeep\*  
Open 10AM-7PM

**SUNDAY GUIDED TRAIL RIDE**  
Free for Registered Jeeps  
Must sign waiver and sign sheet to participate

**MBC BEER DEAL**  
4 Beers for \$10 or  
2 Beers for \$5  
Saturday in Lobby 1PM-10PM

**DECALS \$3 EACH or 2 for \$5**  
Various Designs Available

**Unlimited OFFROAD**  
**LOOSE Motor Sales Inc.**

**IRONMAN OFFROAD**

**Vasher's COUNTRY GARDENS**

**Brenda Loomis BAND**

**Rocks & Valleys Offroad Park**

**Must show Jeep Creep Pass. \*Items available to 1st 500 Jeeps. Includes pre-registered.**

(989) 246-9140 • [www.riverwalkplacenet](http://www.riverwalkplacenet)

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK  
FACEBOOK.COM/RIVERWALKPLACE

**Riverwalk Place**  
GLADWIN, MICHIGAN

**2015 Gladwin County Festival of Lights Christmas Parade**  
Will Be Held on December 5th at 6:00 p.m.



**How The GRINCH Stole CHRISTMAS**

To Whom It May Concern:

**SPONSORSHIP AND PARTICIPATION**

The 2015 Gladwin County Festival of Lights Christmas Parade is now in the planning stages. Last year, the 2014 parade was attended by thousands of people! The parade has many float entries and two large balloons. It was a wonderful experience that was enjoyed by all.

The Gladwin County Festival of Lights Christmas Parade Committee respectfully requests your support and participation for this important community event which brings the people of Gladwin County to celebrate this holiday season. Your contributions are tax deductible and can be sent to the Festival of Lights Parade at P.O. Box 607, Gladwin, Michigan 48624.

**2015 Gladwin County Festival of Lights Christmas Parade Committee**

- Shannon Smith – (989) 429-6565
- Lori Stout – (989) 426-4547
- Selena Volmering – (989) 426-7640
- Kim Bruner – (989) 429-3164
- Wanda McClain – (989) 942-4631

**Airport Fly In**  
**Saturday, October 3, 2015**  
**8:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.**  
Delicious Blueberry Pancakes,  
scrambled eggs, and the best  
sausage you have ever eaten.  
Also comes with orange juice  
and coffee. All for \$7.00  
Come enjoy the breakfast and  
enjoy seeing the planes at the  
airport.  
A great family affair.

## **CITY HALL STAFF**

City Administrator - Robert Moffit  
Treasurer - David Haag  
Assessor/Zoning Adm. - Bernadette Weaver  
City Clerk - Bonnie Klein  
Utility Billing Clerk/Cemetery - Kim Bruner  
Account Payable Clerk - Linda Bishop

## **OFFICE CLOSURES**

City Hall will be closed on the  
following dates:  
**LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 7**  
**THANKSGIVING - NOVEMBER 26-27**  
**CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 24 - 25**



City of Gladwin  
1000 W. Cedar Avenue  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
Phone: (989) 426-9231  
Fax: (989) 426-6942

**PRESORT STANDARD**  
**GLADWIN, MI**  
**48624**  
**PERMIT NO. 3**

**Gladwin City Resident**  
**Gladwin, MI 48624**