

May 2012

## Police and Fire Millage May 8 •

As you may have heard, a 3.5 Police and Fire millage will be on the ballot May 8th. As the City of Garden City's tax revenue continues to drop, so does its budget for services to the community. Since the fiscal year 2008-2009, the city has seen a 2.1 million dollar decrease in home values and a 1.3 million decrease in government state tax revenue. This deficit has caused the city to reduce its budget increasingly each and every year. The city has already significantly reduced the budgets that include Police, Fire and City employees by eliminating 19 positions and 11 layoffs, allowing early retirements, decreasing new employees wages and changes in health insurance benefits. In 2002, the number of employees were at 174, today the number is 99. With Another anticipated property tax reduction of 12.2%, the budget is expected to be reduced even further. Without the passing of the millage, it is reported that the only area to reduce at that point will be the number of Police Officers. 10 Officers in all will be laid off. However, with passing of the millage the current staffing would be maintained and services would not be reduced due to lay offs. To get an idea of what the millage would cost residents an example is provided. The average home in Garden City is valued at \$70,000. The taxable value of the home

would be \$35,000. .0035 X taxable value (35,000) would be approx. \$122 PER YEAR. Or approx. \$10 extra per month.

As a further note, 80% of the City tax revenue comes from residential tax. This is due to Garden City being densely populated with residential homes and not industrial business. For questions regarding that taxable value or to understand the calculations further you can contact the Garden City Tax department at 734-793-1610. Further questions about the millage proposal can be directed towards the City Manager at 734-793-1660.

For those not able to vote in person, absentee ballots will be made available. For more information regarding absentee ballots, please contact 734-793-1620. Please be informed and make your voice be heard and vote on this important ballot.

For additional information you can also go to the City Web Page at [www.gardencitymi.org](http://www.gardencitymi.org). On there you will find several links with more details and videos including an interview with the Mayor reviewing the concerns surrounding this important issue.

**SERVICE-PRIDE-INTEGRITY**



**GARDEN CITY POLICE**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

**CITY DEPARTMENT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMERGENCY-911**

**POLICE 793-1700**

**DETECTIVE BUREAU 793-1710**

**CITY HALL 793-1600**

**21ST DIST. COURT 793-1680**

**BUILDING DEPT. 793-1650**

**CITY CLERK 793-1620**

**LIBRARY 793-1830**

**MAPLEWOOD CTR. 793-1850**

**PARKS & REC. 793-1880**

**BARRIERS**

\* The following barrier recommendations are the result of identifying key parameters that typically contribute to child drowning in backyard pools. These recommendations are the minimum steps you can take to make your home a safe place for your child.

\* Barriers are not childproof, but they provide layers of protection for a child who strays from supervision. Barriers give parents additional time to locate a child before the unexpected becomes a reality.

\* Barriers include a fence or wall, door alarms for the house, and a power safety cover over the pool. Barriers also may be used to protect children from accessing hot tubs and spas. Use the following recommendations as a guide:

**FENCES AND GATES**

\* Install a fence or other barrier, such as a wall, completely around the pool. If the house is part of the barrier, the doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover. Alarm and cover details are below.

\* The fence or other barrier should be at least 4 feet high. It should have no foot or handholds that could help a young child to climb it.

\* Vertical fence slats should be less than 4 inches apart to prevent a child from squeezing through.

**DOOR ALARMS**

\* If the house forms one side of the barrier, then doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened.

\* Install an alarm that can be temporarily turned off by an adult for a single opening of the door by using a keypad or switch that is out of a child's reach.

**POWER SAFETY COVER**

A power safety cover is a motor powered barrier that can be placed over the water area. Motor-driven covers easily open and close over the pool. When the power safety cover is properly in place over the pool, it provides a high level of safety for children under 5 years old by inhibiting their access to the water.

**ABOVE GROUND POOLS**

Steps and ladders leading from the ground to the pool should be secured and locked, or removed when the pool is not in use.

**RULES FOR POOLS**

\* Instruct babysitters about potential pool hazards to young children and about the use of protective devices, such as door alarms and latches. Emphasize the need for constant supervision.

\* Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool. During social gatherings at or near a pool, appoint a "designated watcher" to protect young children from pool accidents. Adults may take turns being the "watcher." When adults become preoccupied, children are at risk.

\* If a child is missing, check the pool first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability. Go to the edge of the pool and scan the entire pool, bottom and surface, as well as the pool area.

\* Do not allow a young child in the pool without an adult.

\* Do not consider young children to be drownproof because they have had swimming lessons. Children must be watched closely while swimming.

\* Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.

\* Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Babysitters and other caretakers, such as grandparents and older siblings, should also know CPR.

\* Keep rescue equipment by the pool. Be sure a telephone is pool-side with emergency numbers posted nearby.

\* Remove toys from in and around the pool when it is not in use.

Toys can attract young children to the pool.

\* Never prop open the gate to a pool barrier.

***NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
NEWS***

***Remember Neighborhood Watch  
Meetings about beginning again.  
The dates will remain the same***

***beginning in the following  
months: March, May, October  
and December. Meetings nor-  
mally are scheduled for 7pm  
at the Garden City Police***

***Department. If you have any  
questions, please contact me at  
734-793-1715.  
Det. Sgt. Brian Aure'***

**April Crime Statistics—Cases Reported**

<b>Arson 2</b>	<b>Robbery 1</b>
<b>Breaking &amp; Entering 19</b>	<b>Public Peace 14</b>
<b>Larceny 20</b>	<b>Fraud 9</b>
<b>Stolen Vehicles 6</b>	<b>Drugs 6</b>
<b>Assaults 18</b>	<b>Property Damage 28</b>
<b>Murder 0</b>	<b>Sexual Assault 1</b>

**The numbers listed represent statistics for the entire city during the month listed**