

August 2022

THE CITY OF ____ HARLOTTE MICHIGAN

Charlotte Chronicles

AUGUST 2ND PRIMARY ELECTION

The City of Charlotte is conducting an election for the State Primary on August 2, 2022. Polls open 7:00 am and close 8:00 pm for in-person voting.





An application for an absentee ballot must be submitted to obtain an absentee ballot. The deadlines for absentee ballots for the August 2 election are below:

- Saturday July 30. The last day a ballot can be mailed to you if your application is received by the clerk <u>before</u> 5pm. The Clerk's office will be open 9 am to 1 pm and 2pm to 5pm for the purpose of issuing absentee ballots only.
- Monday August 1. Absentee ballot must be applied for and received in-person at the Clerk's office until 4:00 pm. A ballot issued on this day cannot leave the building, you must vote the ballot and return it to the Clerk before leaving.

Return your voted absentee ballot to the Clerk at your earliest opportunity. All voted absentee ballots must be returned/ received to the Clerk no later than 8:00 pm (close of polls) on election day August 2, 2022 to be processed in the election.

There are two drop boxes available at City Hall, 111 E. Lawrence, to deposit your applications and voted ballots: the lobby vestibule at the front door, and drive up/drop off along rear parking at N. Washington St. (cont. on page 3)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

City Meeting Calendar2
City News3
Public Safety Updates4
Public Hearings5
Assistance Programs6-7
Recycling Events8
Concerts and Events9
Events-Library10
Events- Alive!12
City Council Update14

CITY MEETING CALENDAR

<u>August</u> Monday, 1	City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 2	Primary Election, in-person voting from 7am to 8pm
Tuesday, 9	Planning Commission
Tuesday, 9	Camp Frances Board, 6:30 PM, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
Thursday, 11	City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Monday, 15	City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 16	Downtown Development Authority, 6:30PM
<u>September</u>	
Monday, 5	Labor Day—City Hall Closed
Tuesday, 6	City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 6	Parks Advisory Board, City Hall Community Room—basement
Thursday, 8	City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 13	Planning Commission
Tuesday, 13	Camp Frances Board, 6:30 PM, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
Monday, 19	City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 20	Downtown Development Authority, 6:30 PM
<u>October</u>	
Monday, 5	Labor Day—City Hall Closed
Tuesday, 6	City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 6	Parks Advisory Board, City Hall Community Room—basement
Thursday, 8	City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 13	Planning Commission
Tuesday, 13	Camp Frances Board, 6:30 PM, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
Monday, 19	City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
Tuesday, 20	Downtown Development Authority, 6:30 PM
	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.

2

Voting, continued from page 1. Reminder: update your voter registration if you had any changes to your address, your name, or other personal information. If registering within 15 days of the election that you wish to vote in, including on election day, you must appear in person to the Clerk and bring proper residency and identity documentation

Questions? You may contact the City Clerk's Office by emailing clerk@charlottemi.org or by phone at 517 -543-2750. Or, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center for more information: https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/Index

Blight, Weeds, or Junk Vehicles 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. A code enforcement inspector will take action on properties that are not maintained. They may also have weeds/grass cut at the property owner's expense. Please keep shrubs and trees trimmed back at corners to prevent traffic hazards, and away from sidewalks for pedestrian safety. Do not put lawn clippings or leaves in the road, alley, or gutters since they may clog storm drains, which can be costly to clear out.



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/

Rave Alerts—Utility Billing. The City of Charlotte uses Rave alerts to keep residents, business owners,



everyone informed! 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. We also use the system to post other city information. Starting in July, we expanded the service options to include targeted text and email messaging for quarterly utility billing. We will send out a notice to registered users when we send out the bills for their cycle area. This alert will notify them the bill has been mailed and provide other billing related information. 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.



From the Police Chief Reminder: Frontier Days is coming to town September 7th through September 11th. On Saturday, September 10th there is the annual 5K and Parade. New for this year, 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 de-

tour route on our Facebook Page (Charlotte Michigan Police Department) the week before.

Business Owners—scan the QR code to update the police department keyholder contact information quickly and easily.





From the Fire Chief Prior to burning this spring and summer, don't forget to get a Burning Permit from the Charlotte Fire Department. This permit can be issued at either the West Side Fire Station or the Downtown Station, by calling (517) 543-0241, or online at https://www.charlottemifire.org/content/permits/.

The permit is issued at no cost.

ARPA Funds Survey Results The City has approximately \$877,000 available for funding projects from federal American Rescue Plan Act funds. City Council asked for feedback on how to invest these one-time federal dollars. In May we conducted a survey on ideas for how to spend these funds and on Thursday, June 9th we held a townhall and reviewed the survey results. A copy of the survey results presentation and more information is available online at:

www.charlottemi.org/ARPA



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
- Camp Frances
- Ad Hoc Water Treatment Committee
 Interested persons can find more information here:

https://www.charlottemi.org/volunteers-wanted/





Property Maintenance Code. The City Council hold a public hearing on Monday, August 1st at 7 pm to hear feedback on proposed amendments to the property maintenance code. The property maintenance code regulates the standards for maintaining residential and commercial properties. The current code edition is from 2006. City Council is considering adoption of the 2021 edition to ensure standards are up-to-date and follow current best practices. City Council held a first

reading on July 18th and is seeking public input prior to considering adoption on August 1st.

Medical Marijuana Caregivers. The City Council hold a public hearing on Monday, August 1st at 7 pm to hear feedback on proposed regulations for medical marijuana caregivers. Medical marijuana caregivers are allowed by-right under State law. Recent state supreme court rulings have upheld certain regulations are permissible to ensure the operations are conducted in accordance with the state law and rules. The City Council is considering addition of these regulations to minimize impacts to residential neighborhoods. Similar to other home occupations, these standards would limit how much of a residential home could be utilized for this use, ensure safeguards are in-place to minimize offsite effects such as odors and noise, and provide a mechanism for permitting. City Council held a first reading on July 5th and is seeking public input prior to considering adoption on August 1st.

Home Occupations. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, August 9th at 7 pm** to hear feedback on proposed amendments to the city's home occupations ordinance. The term home occupation primarily means a small business based at a residence.

Current regulations have not been updated in many years, and are not reflective of the diversity of economic opportunity presented by the modern, 21st Century economy. In simplest terms, the existing ordinance has a short and outdated list of allowed home occupations, and a short list of prohibited occupations. Anything else is presumed to be prohibited unless special permission is granted by the Planning Commission in the form of a Conditional Use approval.

After reviewing a range of newer ordinances adopted by other communities, the Planning Commission determined that a better approach is one relying on a set of standards for home occupations that protect neighbors and neighborhoods from potentially negative effects and nuisances resulting from nearby home occupations. This approach presumes that all legal economic activity that can be conducted from an individual residence is permitted, as long as it does not create off-site problems such as increased traffic and parking, noise, dust, smoke, vibration or unsightliness.

The City Council has approved the first reading of the new ordinance and set a public hearing before the Planning Commission for August 9. The hearing will be at City Hall in the Council Chambers at 7 p.m. At that time, anyone who would like to comment on the issue will be heard. Following the hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council on whether the ordinance should be permanently adopted. Questions regarding home occupations ordinance should be directed to Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director, (517) 543-8853 or bmyrkle@charlottemi.org.

A copy of each of the proposed ordinances can be reviewed online at www.charlottemi.org/city-code/proposed-ordinances/ or in-person at City Hall, Clerk's Office, 111 E Lawrence Ave.

Persons with disabilities who require assistance in order to participate in the public meeting should contact the City at the earliest opportunity by emailing the City Clerk at clerk@charlottemi.org or by calling (517) 543-2750.



Michiganders in crisis now have an easy-to-remember three-digit number to call for help – 988. Michigan has joined the nation in <u>transitioning to the 988-dialing code</u>, 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 <u>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline</u> This action expands the existing Lifeline beyond people who are feeling sui-

cidal to all individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis, including suicidal thoughts or 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:

- Mental health-related distress.
- Thoughts of suicide.
- Substance use crisis.
- 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.

Prior to the development of 988, the Michigan Crisis and Access Line (MiCAL) was funded by the Michigan Legislature in December 2018. MDHHS was charged with the development of MiCAL, which is currently operating in Oakland County and the Upper Peninsula, and with 988 implementation.

MiCAL is built on the SAMHSA's National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care which is also the foundation for 988. In Michigan, MiCAL is responsible for answering 988 calls in all areas of Michigan. In Macomb and Kent counties, Macomb County Community Mental Health and Network 180 will answer 988 calls with MiCAL providing back-up call coverage.

For more information, visit 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and Michigan Crisis & Access Line.

Charlotte Adopts New Sign Ordinance. The City of Charlotte recently adopted new regulations for signs in the City. It addresses signs for all zoning districts and uses, including residential, commercial and industrial. The new regulations improve formatting and layout of the text to help users find information more easily. It allows for more modern, digital signage; and brings local regulations in-line with a U.S. Supreme Court decision related to content-neutral regulations. The new regulations improve formatting and layout of the text to help users find information more easily. It allows for more modern, digital signage; and brings local regulations in-line with a U.S. Supreme Court decision related to content-neutral regulations. Among the other updates, temporary signage in residential districts was changed to permit a temporary sign for not more than 180 consecutive days. This is a change from the current regulations which allow longer or shorter times based on the sign's content.



Anyone wishing to view the ordinance in more detail should check the 'recent ordinances' section of the City website at www.charlottemi.org – it can be found under the 'city code' tab on the



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-

FAIRGROUNDS AND RECYCLING EVENTS-2022



RECYCLE-PALOOZA

August 13, 2022 in Charlotte

Registration for this event is required for participation. Registration will be available until the Wednesday prior to the date of the event at 12:00 pm or until maximum participant capacity is reached. Events are for private (noncommercial) residents of Eaton County ONLY. The event location is released upon completion of registration.

Specific Accepted Materials and Participant Rules for this Event: RECYCLE-PALOOZA 2022 FLYER

Event Registration (REQUIRED): RECYCLE-PALOOZA REGISTRATION

Volunteer Sign-Up: RECYCLE-PALOOZA VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

Eaton County Fairgrounds

The events at Eaton County Fairgrounds are managed by the Eaton County Agricultural Society. The Eaton County Agricultural Society is a Non-Profit 501(c)(5) corporation established in 1855. ECAS is operated by the Board of Directors, AKA the Fairboard. The Fairboard consists of 15 members who make the majority of the decisions regarding the operation of the Eaton County Fair and the grounds. Learn more here: https://eatoncountyfair.com/pageserver/ag-society.

The Fairboard has a full slate of exciting events planned for 2022. Come visit the fairgrounds for all the fun events this year:

August 6: Dairy Goat Show

August 6: Horse Show

August 12-14: Mid-Michigan Gospel Fest

August 26-27: Horse Show

September 7-11: Charlotte Frontier Days

September 16-18: Dog Show September 23-24: Horse Show

October 1: Horse Show

October 14-15: Horse Show



CHAMBER EVENTS-SUMMER 2022

Summer Concert Series 2022



6/2 SEA CRUISERS:50'S/60'S
6/9 THE ROLLING HILLS: INDIE FOLK
6/16 DWAYNE SPAW: COUNTRY
6/23 KATHLEEN &

THE BRIDGE STREET BAND: BLUES
6/30 FRENDZ: THRU THE DECADES
7/7 LAURIE & THE LEFTIES: COUNTRY
7/14 ACOUSTIC LIBERTY: FOLK
7/21 SPOONFUL: YACHT ROCK
7/28 CHOSEN: GOSPEL

8/4 CLAIM JUMPERS: COUNTRY 8/11 PARTED WATERS: OLDIES 8/18 EZY STREET BAND: 50'S/60'S

CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS—SUMMER









CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS—SUMMER









ALIVE! EVENTS — AUGUST



A list of July events at Alive! can be found below. Check out the complete Summer Brochure here: My Alive! Brochure

August 1 (Monday) – Gift of Heart Support Group 6-8PM | FREE

A support group for foster, adoption and kinship families in Eaton County and the surrounding areas. Free childcare provided. Please contact Amy Nierenberger at 517.749.4136 for more information.

August 3 (Wednesday) - Country Line Dancing BEGINS

6:30-7:30PM | COST: \$45/six-week session | MOVE Member: \$30/six-week session

AL!VE group fitness participants will learn a few dances to perform at our hometown festival the Charlotte Frontier Days. Participants will have access to pre-recorded videos to practice at their convenience as well as our scheduled in-person lessons. Performance dates are September 7 and 8.

August 8-11 (Monday-Thursday) - MyPlate: Around the World BEGINS

1-2:30PM | COST: \$80/child (4-day series)

Kids ages 5-12 learn about the different components of a healthy plate and explore foods from around the world. Kids will learn about one of the MyPlate components during each session in this **four-day**, **hands-on** healthy cooking class.

Mon.: Fruit - Jamaica (fruit salad) & Vegetables - Thailand (spring rolls)

Tues.: Grains - Mexico (brown rice burrito bowl)

Wed.: Dairy - Italy (caprese salad)
Thurs.: Protein - India (butter chicken)

August 8 (Monday) - Canning: A 3-Part Series - PRESSURE CANNING 6-8PM | Cost: \$25/class (or \$60/series)

Learn what items are needed to get started, recommendations for the easiest way to begin the canning process, and even ideas for sourcing ingredients to preserve when you don't have your own garden. And of course, sample some of our favorite canned products. **Pre-registration required as space is limited.** Childcare available; regular GROW fees apply.

August 8 (Monday) - Summer Beach Market Series - ZUMBA

6:30-7:30PM | Cost: FREE

Come down to Beach Market on West Lovett St., in Charlotte (across from post office) and enjoy the fresh air as you workout. Please register in advance, and bring a yoga mat and a water bottle!

August 10 (Wednesday) – Helping Hands at HARVEST

3-4PM | Cost: FREE

Inspired by Rebehak Yeary's 'Season to Thrive' program, our dietitians will demonstrate quick, easy recipes that can be made using food pantry items. This free class is offered to all Helping Hands Food Pantry clients. Participants will take home a budget-friendly cookbook filled with recipes using food pantry items.

ALIVE! EVENTS - AUGUST

August 13 (Saturday) - Parents' Great Escape: Water Wars' Super Soaker Fun

5:30-9PM Cost: \$25/first child (\$20/additional child, same household)

GROW Members: \$20/first child (\$15/additional child, same household)

Parents, drop the kids off for some fun at AL!VE while you take the evening to relax or go out. Supervised activities include themed crafts/snacks, singing songs, group games, group stories and more. Pizza dinner provided. Ages 3-12 (young children must be fully potty-trained). Preregistration is required by the Wednesday prior to the event; call 517.541.5803.

August 16 (Tuesday) – Kids' Table: Quesadillas & Garden Fresh Salsa 6-7PM | Cost: \$12/child

Kids ages 5-12 learn valuable culinary skills and new recipes with a hands-on cooking experience. Our goal is to expand young taste buds to discover that "real food" can be delicious and fun to prepare.

August 22 (Monday) - Summer Beach Market Series - YOGA

6:30-7:30PM | Cost: FREE

Come down to Beach Market on West Lovett St., in Charlotte (across from post office) and enjoy the fresh air as you workout. Please register in advance, and bring a yoga mat and a water bottle!

August 24 (Wednesday) – Eat the Rainbow: Lunch Series – BLUE/PURPLE 12:15-12:45 PM | Cost: \$12/person/class

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables for health means including all of the colors. Learn from our dietitians about what beneficial nutrients are in each color of food and the health benefits they provide.

August 25 (Thursday) – Diabetes Support Group

1-2PM | Cost: FREE

Assistance for all individuals with diabetes and their families. Healthcare professionals and speakers present topics ranging from new medications and treatments to healthy eating. For more information about this monthly offering, contact deborah.dillon@sparrow.org.

August 26 (Friday) - Friday Movie Night

5-7PM | Cost: \$5/child | GROW Member: FREE

Lights, Camera, Action! Children of all ages are invited to join us for a PG film. Kids snack boxes (popcorn, sweet treat, bottled water) will be available for purchase \$5.

All programs are held at 800 W. Lawrence Avenue, Charlotte, MI unless otherwise noted

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

Eric Smith—Finance Director/Treasurer

Amy Gilson-DPW Director

Paul Brentar—Police Chief

Mark Jordan-Fire Chief

Bryan Myrkle—Community Development Director

Randy Jewell-Assessor

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



The City of Charlotte is conducting an election for the State Primary on August 2, 2022. Polls open 7:00 am and close 8:00 pm for in-person voting.

Do you have a great idea to improve the City? Are you passionate about something happening in

office 517-543-8850 cell/text 269-223-9809 email elapere@charlottemi.org your neighborhood? Contact me via phone/text/email. Or, reach out to your elected officials to share your thoughts:

click here for their contact information.

You can also learn more about what's happening in Charlotte online at the city's website: www.charlottemi.org; the city's face-book page, or twitter: @CityCharlotteMI

- Erin E. LaPere

Recent City Council Actions—July:

- Proclaimed July 10th as Chuck Jensen Day.
- Approved updates to the City's Sign Ordinance (see page 7 for details)
- Held first reading on amendments to regulations on Home Occupations; Medical Marijuana Caregivers; and the Property Maintenance Code (see page 5 for more details).
- Approved Charter Amendment ballot proposal to consider modifying Mayoral term to 4-years
- Approve purchase of replacement fire hose
- Approved purchase and outfitting of two police vehicles
- Approved reimbursement request to MDOT for easement acquisition project
- Approved Collective Bargaining Agreement with IAFF
- Continued discussion on ARPA funding and road improvements
- Appointed members to Planning Commission, Library Board, and Elected Officials Compensation Committee
- Appointed delegate to MERS conference

Want to know more? Check out www.charlottemi.org/category/2022-city-council-meetings/ to see prior meeting agenda packets 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

