

April
2023

— THE CITY OF —
CHARLOTTE
— MICHIGAN —

Charlotte Chronicles

CONSTRUCTION 2023

The City is gearing up for three major projects this construction season. Safe Routes to Schools program will install sidewalks through \$1.8mill grant funding in partnership with Charlotte Public Schools; Hall/Washington/McClure streets will be completely reconstructed, including underground utilities; and Island Hwy will be reconstructed in partnership with the Eaton County Drain Commissioner's Office.



Want to keep up-to-date on the latest construction news? Check out the city's website here: www.charlottemi.org/construction-updates-2023/

PUBLIC HEARING—APRIL 3RD

The City is considering modifying city elections from odd to even years. This change would **not** affect the 2023 city election. A public hearing will be held at the City Council meeting on Monday April 3, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 111 E. Lawrence, Charlotte, MI.



A copy of the proposed resolution is available for inspection in the front vestibule of City Hall, on the City's website www.charlottemi.org , or you may request a copy by email to clerk@charlottemi.org



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CITY MEETING CALENDAR

April

- Monday, 3 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 4 Planning Commission
- Tuesday, 4 Parks Advisory Board, Community Room—Basement City Hall
- Tuesday, 11 Camp Frances Board, 6:30pm, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
- Wednesday, 12 City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Monday, 17 Airport Board, 8:00am, Fitch H Beach Airport, 1325 Island Hwy
- Monday, 17 City Council workshop meeting at 6:00pm
- Monday, 17 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 18 Downtown Development Authority, 6:30pm

May

- Monday, 1 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 2 Planning Commission
- Tuesday, 2 Parks Advisory Board, Community Room—Basement City Hall
- Tuesday, 9 Camp Frances Board, 6:30pm, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
- Wednesday, 10 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
- Monday, 29 City Hall Closed—Memorial Day

June

- Monday, 5 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 6 Planning Commission
- Tuesday, 13 Camp Frances Board, 6:30pm, Camp Frances Bldg, 1501 S Cochran
- Wednesday, 14 City Council workshop meeting, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Monday, 19 City Council, in-person and remotely via Zoom and Facebook Live
- Tuesday, 20 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

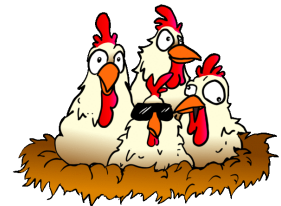
Blight, Weeds, or Junk Vehicles Properties must be kept in good repair, including exterior siding and roofs, and free of junk/debris. Additionally, city code states that vehicles must be registered and operable. Grass and vegetation be maintained so as not to exceed 10 inches in height. A code enforcement 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.

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/

Backyard Chickens. Did you know that backyard chickens are allowed in Charlotte if you obtain a permit? It's true - residents can keep up to 6 egg-laying chickens (No roosters!) in a coop and fenced enclosure after getting a permit from the City Clerk's Office.

The permit costs \$50 and is good for two years, after which it can be renewed for no charge. The permit is easy to obtain and the rules are easy to follow. This regulation only covers chickens, however; it cannot be extended to other fowl, like ducks or geese, and it does not allow for the keeping of other farm animals such as rabbits or goats.



If interested, call (517) 543-8853 for more information and a copy of the application.

Utility Flags. Comcast is coming to Charlotte and will be installing fiber lines during the spring and summer. If you see flags marking underground utilities, don't pull them out!

These flags are required to ensure any underground utilities are not damaged during the installation.

Comcast will leave door-hangers when they're in your area with more information.



► Digging into an outdoor project soon?

Dial 811 or visit 811.com first to protect yourself and underground utility lines. For your safety, Michigan law requires that all utility lines be flagged before beginning any excavation project.

NEWS FROM CITY HALL



From the Police Chief

Parking Permits for Downtown Residents—Parking permits expire on April 30th, please make sure to complete an application online at www.charlottemi.org to get your updated 6m permit (May through October).

Please call 517-543-1552 with any questions on parking permits.

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.

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.



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. The City has hired Fishbeck to help complete the in-home inspections.

We ask that you contact Fishbeck at (517) 882-0383 or by filling out this form <https://forms.gle/JbbSFVnGsGU74SJC9> to set up an appointment for the material identification. The inspections require Fishbeck or DPW staff to enter your home for a brief period to identify water service material where your water service enters your home.

All personnel associated with the verification will have identification verifying they are either a Fishbeck or DPW employee.

In place of an in-home inspection, an online survey is available to residents to complete which includes taking a picture of the water service line at the in-home water meter. Scan the QR code below to complete the self-survey of your home's water service.



NEWS FROM CITY HALL



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 by phone at 517-543-8841 or email mdensmore@charlottemi.org.

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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
- Downtown Development Authority
- Airport Advisory Board
- Camp Frances

Interested persons can find more information here:

www.charlottemi.org/board-and-commission-volunteer-opportunities-available/



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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.

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.



Do you have an idea to improve the City? Are you passionate about something happening in your neighborhood? Reach out to your elected officials to share your thoughts: [click here for their contact information](#).



Streetlight are owned and maintained by Consumers Energy. Report outages, check status, and more online at streetlights.consumersenergy.com/

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 PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS—APRIL

**The Library will be closed for
Easter on Saturday,
April 8, 2023.**



517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind

**Wednesday, April 12th
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

at the

Charlotte Community Library

Eileen Delaney will explain the process of breeding the dogs, the types of training they receive, and how to become a volunteer breeder. A blind person who requests and qualifies for a leader dog does not have to pay anything.



Two retired dogs will be in attendance and children will be allowed to pet them!



Charlotte Lions Club
100 West Lawrence Ste B
Charlotte, MI 48813



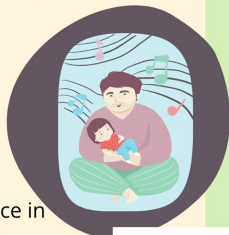
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

BABY & ME

SONGS, RHYMES, AND PLAY!

For babies and toddlers with
their caregivers.

THURSDAYS
10-10:30 am



This event will take place in
the Spartan Room.



517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

AN ALL TOGETHER NOW CONTEST

Charlotte Community Library wants to make a community-created activity booklet for kids! We are asking you to create an activity sheet, i.e. color by number, color-in picture, maze, a "I Spy" sheet, etc. If the sheet is chosen, it will be included in the booklet! The activity booklet will be available Thursday and Saturday during the Eaton County Fair in July at our booth.

DETAILS:

We will be selecting 16 sheets to feature in an activity booklet.

- Create an activity sheet with the following guidelines:
 - Must fit a 8x11 sheet.
 - Be in black, white, and gray color scale.
 - Include simple instructions.
 - Can either be hand drawn or completed in graphic art. If hand drawn, remember that the sheet will be scanned to be printed, so make sure lines and other drawings are bold.
 - Extra points will be given if the activity sheet is Eaton County themed.
- See more examples of activity pages on our web page.

TO SUBMIT:

- Entrances can be made beginning April 1. The last day to submit is April 29.
- Submit electronically on our website: charlottelibrary.org.
- Submit a hard copy at the library. Fill out the entrance form when dropped off.
- Persons can submit more than one activity sheet.



517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org



Charlotte
Community
Library

Library Hours:

M-F 9am-7pm

Sat 10am-2pm


Address: 226 S. Bostwick Charlotte, MI 48813

Phone: (517) 543-8859

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS-APRIL

Saving and Sharing Seeds



Monday, April 10th
6:00 pm

Author Bevin Cohen highlights the importance of saving and sharing our garden seeds and how to successfully do it at home. You'll learn why planting, saving, and sharing seeds is essential to the cultivation of sustainable neighborhoods and healthy communities.

Charlotte Community Library
Adult Services Programming
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

FAMILY STORY TIME

MONDAYS AT 2:30 PM
SPARTAN ROOM
APRIL 10TH - MAY 8TH

Join us for some fun!

Drop in for stories, songs, rhymes, games, movement & more!

Charlotte Community Library
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org



CRAFT CLUB

Hand-Drawn Fantasy Maps



Friday, April 28th
4:00-5:30pm

This event will be held in person in the Spartan Room.

Pre-registration is required.
For students in 4th-12th grade.

Charlotte Community Library
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

MINECRAFT CLUB

Friday, April 14th from 4:00-5:00pm

SURVIVAL MODE



Play on the Library's private Minecraft server!

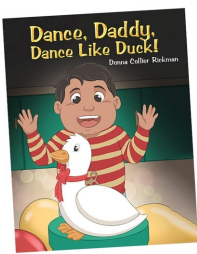
For students in 3rd grade and up.
Laptops provided.

Pre-registration required.


Charlotte Community Library
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

Children's Author Visit: Donna Collier Rickman

Enjoy an evening story time with local author, Donna Collier Rickman! Learn about ducks and hear her picture book, *Dance, Daddy, Dance like Duck!*



**Friday,
April 21, 2023
at 6pm**



For the whole family!
Books will be for sale.

Charlotte Community Library
Youth Program
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

DIY Seed Bombs

Thursday, April 27th
6:00 pm

Learn how to make seed bombs out of simple ingredients while learning about Guerilla Gardening and The Seed Library coming soon to the Library.



Pre-registration is required

Charlotte Community Library
517-543-8859
charlottelibrary.org

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

CHARLOTTE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS 2023



The Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and our Chamber Member Partners look forward to **CELEBRATING** with the **Charlotte Community** all year long!

Check out our webpage
MICharlotte.org

*Download our new app
on Android and Apple*
MICharlotte

*Call us today to learn more
about becoming a member*
517-543-0400

*Office hours are
Mondays and Wednesdays
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.*



FOLLOW US ON
Instagram



Charlotte
Chamber of Commerce

Community Events 2023

- Eaton County Expo: April 22nd - 23rd
- Charlotte Artisans & Farmers Market:
Thursdays 2-6 from May-October (120 W. Lovett St.)
- Summer Concerts on the Lawn:
Thursdays 6:30 from June - August
- Charlotte Celebrates: June 15th - June 17th
- Taste of Eaton County: August 17th
- Almost Midnight Madness: October 23rd
- Small Business Saturday and Lighted Holiday Parade:
November 25th

Chamber Member Events 2023 *To Be Announced*

- Annual Dinner - February 9th
- Golf Outing - August 31st
- Quarterly Networking and Education Events

EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS

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 2023, below is the tentative schedule: for April and May Events:

April 1: Winter Storage pick-up

May 13: Dog Show

April 14-15: Eaton Conservation District Tree Sale pick-up

May 13-14: Llama Show

April 21-22: Eaton County Home Expo

May 17-21: Spin Hoop Convention

April 22: Great Lakes Barbeque Association Competition

May 20: Cattle Show

April 28-29: Horse Show

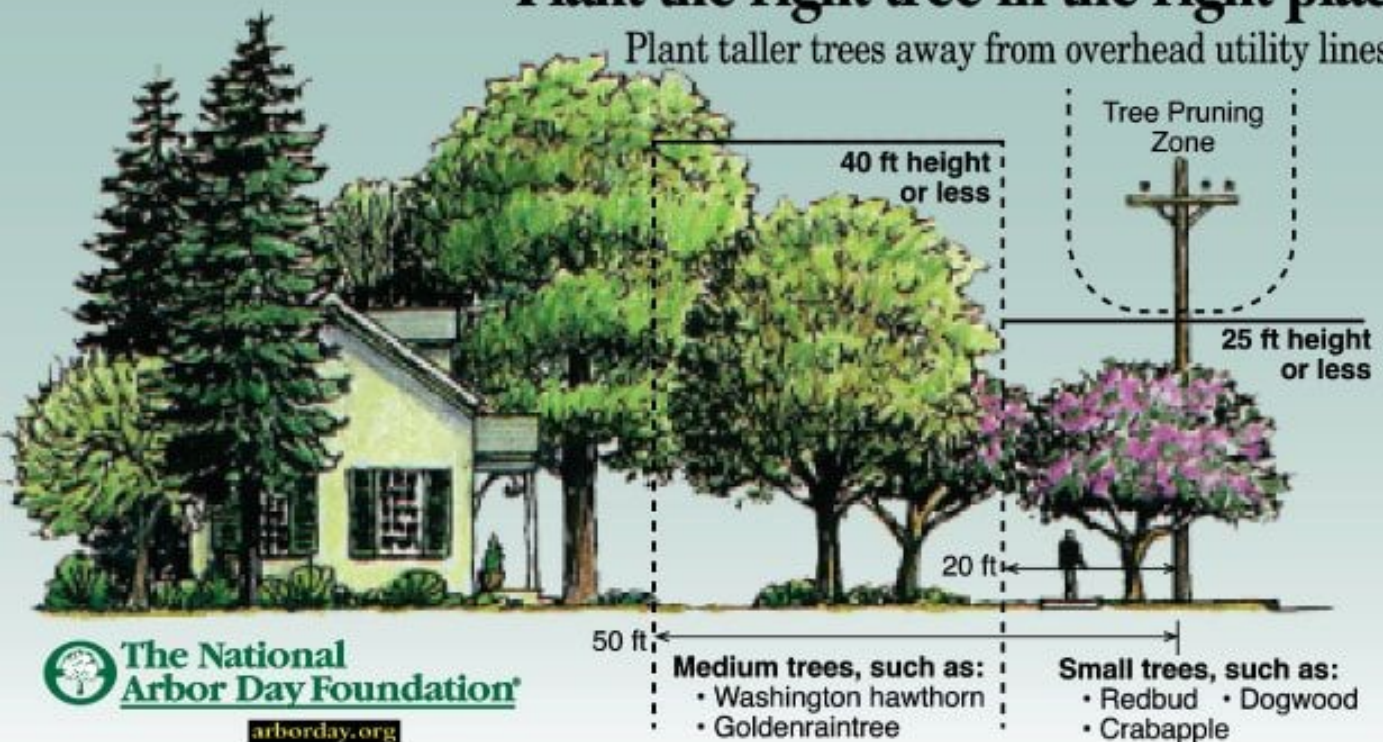
May 28: FFA Elite Hog Show

April 29: Fiber Festival



Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

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

Dan Daly—Interim Fire Chief

Bryan Myrkle—Community Development
Director

Randy Jewell—Assessor



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

This spring, as the weather warms you may begin planning home improvements. As you begin planning your upcoming projects, make sure you contact City Hall for any zoning and permitting requirements.

Spring also means the start of road construction and the City will be seeing a lot of construction activity in 2023. Comcast is installing infrastructure to bring cable/internet services to the city, we have two major road projects, and safe routes to schools sidewalk installation. You will see colored flags and paint markings identifying underground utilities. Please don't remove markers—and if you have a project planned, call MissDig at 811.

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

You can also 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

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



Recent City Council Actions—March 2023:

- Approved Mayoral Appointments to City Boards and Commissions
- Approved the City's Liability & Property Pool insurance policy renewal for April 2023 to April 2024 with MML.
- Considered a request for an amendment to the ordinance which established a PILOT tax exemption for Related Affordable, LLC owner of 535 Lansing St., commonly known as Butternut Creek Apartments, request was denied.
- Discussed the City's ordinance language related to permitting for private tree trimming of trees located in the City right-of-way.
- Approved contract with the State for annual road salt purchase for next winter
- Scheduled a workshop for 6pm on Monday, April 17th to continue discussion on commercial cannabis licensing program.
- Approved final plan for Pray Funeral Home Planned Development District
- Set a public hearing for April 3rd to consider adopting a resolution to move City elections from odd to even years.
- Discussion on city infrastructure and road projects

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