

## Michigan Turkey Expands Operations to Increase Production

When Michigan Turkey Producers announced they would purchase the 1100 Hall Street facility back in 2005, the company received some quizzical looks regarding the decision to bring a processing plant into the city. Still, the company was committed to the location's advantages.

Six years later, the location continues to provide vast benefits said Dan Lennon, president and CEO. "Having our workforce so close to the plant is a huge advantage," Lennon said. He credits the proximity of the workforce with reducing turnover and absenteeism, and points specifically to the recent snowstorm as evidence. He notes that enough employees were able to make it to work to keep operations moving.

Company officials have continued to invest in their operations, expanding into unused portions of the facility. The first expansion occurred in 2008 and the second was completed on Feb. 4 of this year. The most recent expansion included

the addition of ovens for cooking meat.

When company officials approached the City of Wyoming they promised to add 35 jobs with the expansion. Lennon said most of these additional employees have been hired.

"It gives us the ability to add a shift in our pack out area and our raw fabrication area," explained Lennon. Business has increased for Michigan Turkey. The addition of customers, including Gordon Food Service, Meijer and Costco, created a jump in production that necessitated an increase in cooking capacity. "By increasing our cook plant capacity 50%, from 30 million lbs to 45 million lbs, our salespeople can sell with confidence."

A third expansion remains possible, with room for additional ovens still available.

Currently, the company raises approximately 4.5 million turkeys per year, processes 20,000 birds per day and 2.5 million lbs. of turkey meat per week.

Michigan Turkey's two production facilities employ 575 people.

Lennon predicts that the company will see another good year in 2011. He notes that pricing has remained positive since 2009 and should continue. The greatest challenge facing farmers is the cost of corn and soy bean oil needed to feed the birds. Yet, fuel and natural gas costs remain favorable.



The company appreciates local support. "We are extremely pleased to be here in the City of Wyoming, and I am gratified when I see our products on local shelves."

## City Council Election Process Begins

The following City of Wyoming elected offices will be on the November 8, 2011 ballot:

Councilmember at Large- four year term  
Councilmember 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward - four year term  
Councilmember 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward - four year term

The City Charter requires that candidates be registered electors of the City of Wyoming, and a resident of the City for at least one year prior to the filing deadline.

Candidate packets with required forms and instructions are available in the City Clerk's Office. The filing deadline is 4 p.m. on May 10, 2011. If more than twice the number to be elected file in any office, that office will have a primary election on August 2, 2011.

Call 530-7296 for more information.

MAYOR'S

## Message



Educational partnerships are vital to any community. At the City of Wyoming, all of our departments participate throughout the year with local classrooms to help students see the connection between what they are doing in school and how they might use those skills in the workplace.

This spring our staff participated at GVSU's Super Science Saturday and the Van Andel Museum's Engineering Week. Our City Planner presented the Turn on 28<sup>th</sup> Street design process to a GVSU Land Use Planning class and our Fire Department has three tours scheduled as well as reading hours at West Godwin for March. I am proud of our commitment to education in our community.

I encourage you to think about how your business might be able to partner with our schools to help our children apply their education outside of the classroom.

Be Involved and Be Informed  
Mayor Jack Poll

# News Briefs

## LIBRARY NEWS

**ADULT BOOK CLUB** - We have a friendly, informal discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room. March's book will be *Space Between Us* by Thirty N. Umrigar; April's will be *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.

**TAX FORMS** – The library is putting out tax forms and instructions as we receive them from the various governmental agencies. Access to federal, state and local tax forms and publications is also available on the KDL web page, [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org), under the 2011 Tax Resources link. For further details on these and all of our programs, stop in the library to pick up a program guide, check out our web page at [www.kdl.org](http://www.kdl.org) or call us at (616) 784-2007!

## CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS

Complimentary car seat inspections will be available on Thurs., March 10 and Thurs., April 14 from 5:00-8:00 PM at Wyoming Fire Station #1, 1500 Burton St SW. Please contact the Safe Kids Coalition at 391-7233 ext. 2 to schedule an appointment.

## PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

The adult softball registration deadline is March 24. To register call 530-3164. In partnership with the Greater Wyoming Community Resource Alliance, the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department now offers scholarships to Wyoming residents for use in department youth and family programs with a registration fee of more than \$5. To learn more about the scholarship program or to obtain an application, please call 616-530-3164.

## Turn on 28th Street Discussion Continues

The Wyoming community continues to progress in the redevelopment plans for 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn-on 28<sup>th</sup> Street is a collaborative public-private partnership to create a revitalized 28<sup>th</sup> Street. The primary study area is Clyde Park Avenue to Burlingame Avenue. The conceptual plans to date recommend developing an urbanized mixed use district on the south side of 28<sup>th</sup> Street and oriented along a central main street. The uses would include commercial, office, residential and educational facilities with public open spaces.

Two public outreach meetings to present the proposed redevelopment concept are scheduled at the Wyoming Public Library at 3350 Michael Avenue, on March 30 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please join us to see where Wyoming is going and share your thoughts on this vital community effort. You may also follow us on the Turn-on 28<sup>th</sup> Street link on the City of Wyoming website at [www.wyomingmi.gov](http://www.wyomingmi.gov), or on Facebook.

## Braving the Winter Storm of 2011

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 26 truck operators were utilized in clearing the snow that fell between 5 p.m. Tues., Feb. 1 and 10 a.m. Feb. 2.
- Winds reached 40 mph during the night.
- Wyoming recieved approximately 18 inches of snow.
- On average, snow plow trucks became entrapped in snow drifts 8-10 times.
- Inspector Robert Bailey snowshoed 1.8 miles into work.



## Telephone Numbers

Mayor's Office .....	530-7227
City Manager.....	530-3173
City Clerk .....	530-7296
Police Department.....	530-7300
Fire Department .....	530-7250
Public Works.....	530-7260
Utilities .....	261-3550
Planning & Community	
Development.....	530-7258
Parks & Recreation.....	530-3164
Building Inspections.....	530-7285
Assessor .....	530-7231
District Court.....	257-9814
Treasurer .....	530-7280
Utility Billing.....	530-7389
Wyoming Senior Center.....	530-3190
Wyoming Public Library.....	647-3980

## Meetings

**City Council Meeting** | on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**City Council Work Sessions** | on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Planning Commissions Meetings** | on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Zoning Board Of Appeals** | on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

**Parks & Recreation Commission** | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conf. room.

## Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor

Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,  
Councilmember-at-Large

Dan Burrill, Councilmember-at-Large

Kent Vanderwood, Councilmember-at-Large

Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Councilmember

Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Councilmember

Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Councilmember