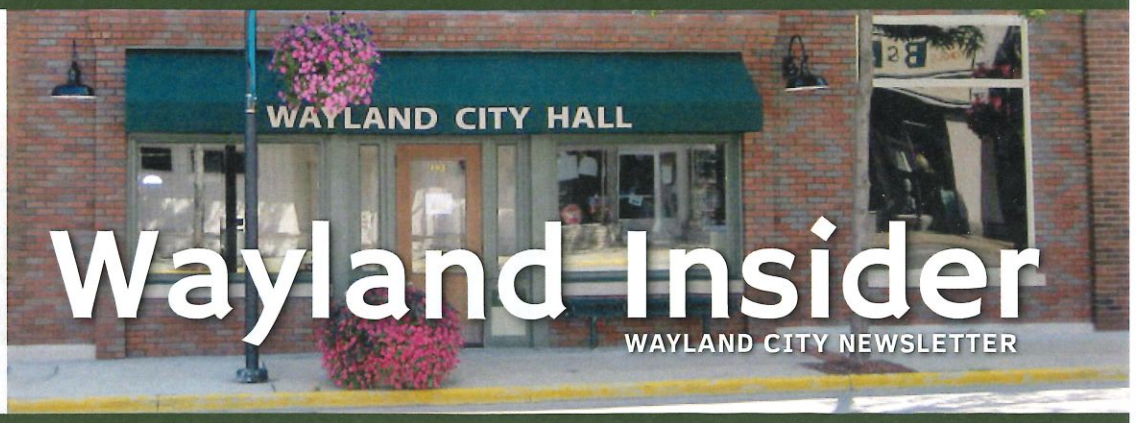


VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 2
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025



NEW WAYLAND CITY POLICE OFFICER



Meet Daniel Forman



My name is Daniel Forman, and I'm honored to introduce myself as I begin serving in the City of Wayland. I grew up in a small town where neighbors truly knew one another and community pride ran deep. Those roots shaped who I am, and I'm excited to return to a place that reflects that same closeness and strong sense of connection.

I am bringing with me nearly three decades of law enforcement service, with extensive experience in patrol, school safety, training, and community engagement. I currently serve as a School Resource Officer with Kentwood Public Schools, where building relationships and strengthening safety within our schools has been a rewarding part of my career. Throughout my years of service, I've learned that the most effective policing comes from communication, respect, and genuine partnership with the community - and I'm committed to bringing that approach to Wayland.

Outside of work, I am a proud father of three sons, and I enjoy spending time on Gun Lake, golfing, and traveling. These activities help me stay grounded and connected to the things I value most -family, community, and the outdoors.

I am truly grateful for the warm welcome and look forward to getting to know the residents, supporting local initiatives, and contributing to the close-knit spirit that makes Wayland such a special place to call home.

- Daniel S. Forman

SIDEWALK SNOWPLOWING

As a reminder, the City of Wayland is returning to snowplowing services. The service will first focus on sidewalks along the main roads, followed by school zones, parking lots, then neighborhoods and local streets.



Please help us by shoveling around fire hydrants.



When the City is plowing streets, we are also plowing sidewalks, usually around 3 inches of snow depth. Given the labor demands of snowplowing the streets, the sidewalks may be delayed. Please help us by shoveling around fire hydrants.

If you feel your sidewalks have been missed, please call the Department of Public Works at 269-792-0686.

WATER AND SEWER BILL PAYMENTS



Did you know you can set up automatic payment (ACH) from your bank account to pay your water/sewer bills at no additional cost? Payments are deducted on the due date each month, so there's no need to worry about mailing in a payment, calling in, or coming to City Hall. Contact City Hall to get the form to get started at 269-792-2265

IMPORTANT WAYLAND CITY CONTACTS

CITY MANAGER:
Erik J. Wilson 269-792-2265

FINANCE DIRECTOR:
Kate Balfourt 269-525-2358

FIRE CHIEF:
Jonathan Timmers 269-792-6300
Emergency 911

POLICE CHIEF:
Scott Matice 269-792-9366
Emergency 911

UTILITIES DIRECTOR:
Dave Paul 269-792-0686

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:
Cole Lutz 269-792-0686

DDA/MAIN STREET DIRECTOR:
Holli McPherson 269-525-2323

UTILITY BILLING:
Kristin or Cami 269-792-2265

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. The holiday season is a special time in Wayland—when our homes glow a little brighter, our community feels a little closer, and we take stock of all we've accomplished together this year. I'm grateful every day for the kindness, resilience, and spirit that define our city.



Mayor Jennifer Antel

As we look ahead to 2026, I'm excited to share a new opportunity for us to stay connected: Coffee with the Mayor gatherings will begin this February. These informal meetups are designed to give residents a relaxed and welcoming space to ask questions, share ideas, and talk about what matters most to you. No speeches, no set agenda—just conversation, community, and a chance to get to know each other better.

Each month, we'll meet at a local Wayland business for one hour. The schedule is as follows:

February 17, 7:30 AM–8:30 AM
Henika District Library (149 S. Main)

March 3, 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM
Biggby Coffee (1114 W. Superior St.)

April 3, 7:30 AM–8:30 AM
McDuff's Bar & Grill (105 E. Superior St.)



Dates and locations will be posted on the City's website and social media. I encourage you to stop by, whether you have a concern to raise or simply want to say hello.

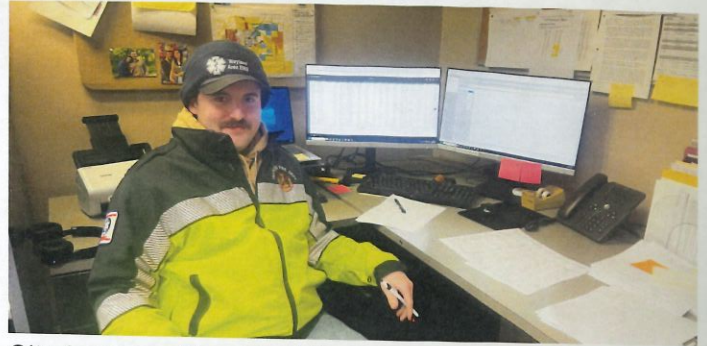
Thank you for being part of what makes Wayland such a wonderful place to live. I wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

I look forward to many good conversations—and cups of coffee—with you in 2026!

Happy holidays!

Jennifer Antel
Mayor, City of Wayland

WHAT DOES THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE DO?



City Assessor Grey Castello

Ever wondered how your property's value is set for tax purposes? That's our role. The assessor's office estimates the market value of all properties to make sure taxes are shared fairly across the community.

We do this by:

- Keeping an accurate inventory of all taxable properties
- Valuing properties using professional appraisal methods
- Ensuring assessments are fair and consistent

We follow industry standards from the International Association of Assessing Officers and use three main approaches to value:

- Sales comparison (looking at recent nearby sales)
 - Cost approach (replacement cost minus depreciation)
 - Income approach (for commercial properties)
- IMPORTANT TO KNOW:** we do not set tax rates. Local governments set budgets and tax rates. Our job is to determine fair property values.

Your property taxes help fund schools, public safety, roads, and parks. Any questions can be directed to the Assessor Office at City Hall 269-792-2265.

WINTER

Tax Deadlines

Winter taxes are due before the end of the day on February 17, 2026, to avoid interest and penalties. Postmarks are NOT accepted.

Payments can be made by check, cash, cashier's check, or money order at City Hall. There is a drop box next to the front door for your convenience. Payments can be made by credit or debit card online, at City Hall or over the phone. Please note there is a 3% convenience fee charged by the processing company for electronic payments.

SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES



The Wayland Fire Department continues to encourage everyone to ensure they are protected by working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced every 7 years. Through our partnership with MI Prevention, the Wayland Fire Department has FREE smoke alarms and combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms available.

It is our goal to save lives and property by ensuring all homes have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

To schedule installation for the free alarms, please contact Firefighter Ryan Penny at 269-509-6185 or rpenny@cityofwayland.org.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The Wayland Fire Department is actively training for a wide range of emergencies to keep our community safe. When you see our firefighters out conducting training exercises, we invite you to observe from a safe distance. Feel free to ask questions about our training or emergency response—our firefighters are always happy to share how we work to protect Wayland. Your interest and support help us serve you better.



SMELL GAS?

During cold weather, the Wayland Fire Department experiences an increase in gas odor reports, often caused by temperature inversions on clear, cold nights and mornings with high pressure. Gas meter regulators may occasionally release small amounts of gas to prevent excess pressure—a normal process. However, during temperature inversions, this gas can remain near ground level and become noticeable, particularly in neighborhoods. While the fire department will investigate all outdoor gas odor reports, these situations are typically not emergencies and will be resolved as weather conditions change.

Any gas odor detected inside a building is considered an emergency. If you smell gas inside, evacuate immediately and call 911. The Wayland Fire Department will respond and coordinate with Michigan Gas Utilities to address the situation.

What to Do if You Smell Gas



1: Leave the Area
Right Away

If you smell a rotten egg smell, leave without using electronics, even your cell phone.



2: Call 9-1-1

When you are in a safe place, call 9-1-1 first. Tell them the situation, your address, and where you are.

BETWEEN THE BUNS

For the month of January, Downtown Wayland and Gun Lake Business Association are teaming up to bring back the Between the Buns competition for the third year. Several restaurants will be competing in the sandwich competition. Make sure to try them all and cast your vote for the favorite!

Go to downtownwayland.com/betweenthebuns for more information.

McDuff's Bar and Grille - Big Clucking Dill: Battered chicken, bacon, pickle, lettuce, and a house made Dill aioli. Served with a pickle and choice of side.

Wayland Hotel & Bar - The 6...7.... !: Triple Custom Burger Blend, Topped w/ Custom Sweet & Savory BBQ Sauce, American Cheese, Hotel Queso, & Crispy Chopped Brisket! Who knew 6...7.... tasted so Good!

Auction House Cafe - PB&J Banana Rama: Peanut butter and Jelly with bananas, deep fried, drizzled with chocolate, and dusted with powdered sugar

4 One 2 Distillery - The Bourbon Pineapple Sensation! Bourbon Pork, creamy Guacamole, crisp lettuce, sweet corn, and the showstopper: our tangy, house-made Pineapple Salsa! It's the perfect balance of smoky, sweet, and fresh.

Hilliards Corner Lounge - Shrimp Po' Boy: Crispy fried shrimp on toasted French bread with lettuce, tomato, pickles, and zesty remoulade. Simple, bold, and straight out of the Gulf.

Russo's Pizzeria - The Russo Philly: Toasted hoagie roll filled with shaved ribeye, sautéed onions and peppers topped with creamy smooth provolone cheese. Choose between our house-made horsey sauce or kick up the heat with our bada boom sauce for a nice finish! Served with house-made chips and a pickle spear.

Sand Bar and Grill - Shrimp Po' Boy: A Shrimp Po' Boy on a cheddar jalapeno hoagie roll with southern fried shrimp, cucumbers, and covered in a southern remoulade coleslaw.

Curley Cone - Italian Chicken Grilled Cheese: Dive into tender diced chicken breast smothered in a tomato-based sauce seasoned with herbs, garlic, and onion. Topped with not one, not two, but three different cheeses: provolone, mozzarella, and parmesan for the extra bit, and gooeyness, three perfectly prepared mozzarella sticks. All between two slices of sourdough bread grilled to golden perfection with dipping sauce.

C's Pizza & BBQ - The Smokehouse Melt: House-smoked brisket layered with sautéed onions and melty Swiss, pressed between thick-cut garlic-toasted sourdough with a drizzle of BBQ sauce of your choice.

OpenRoad Brewery - Patty Melt: Two quarter pound patties, house made garlic aioli, beer braised onions, and cheddar cheese on toasted sourdough bread.

Southern Spoon - Southern Biscuit Breakfast Sandwich: A southern breakfast sandwich on a cheddar biscuit with a chicken sausage patty, topped with an egg and smothered in a bacon jam.

Bay Pointe - The Gun Lake Huntsman: Shaved prime rib, Swiss cheese, caramelized onions, smoked horsey garlic aioli, sourdough bread, house made chips.

2026

GOV. LEAF
GUN LAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

DOWNTOWN
WAYLAND

hand2hand

**BETWEEN
THE BUNS**

SCAN ME!

Visit participating restaurants to taste their entry all January long!

To vote for our sandwich, please go to downtownwayland.com/betweenthebuns or scan the QR Code.

The graphic features a green background with the year '2026' in white. At the top are logos for 'GOV. LEAF GUN LAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION', 'DOWNTOWN WAYLAND', and 'hand2hand'. The main title 'BETWEEN THE BUNS' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title are two cartoon sandwich characters, one resembling a sandwich with a face and the other a burger with a face. To the right is a QR code with the text 'SCAN ME!' and arrows pointing to it. At the bottom, there is text encouraging visitors to visit participating restaurants and vote online.

ENSURING SAFE, RELIABLE DRINKING WATER: The City of Wayland moves forward with complete distribution service material update



Our community relies on clean, dependable drinking water every single day—and ensuring that reliability starts long before water reaches your tap. The City of Wayland is continuing the important steps forward with a comprehensive review and update of all materials used throughout our drinking water distribution system.

Why This Matters

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) now require all public water systems to complete a full inventory of service line materials and replace all lines that contain lead or may have contained lead by 2041. By identifying the types of pipes and connections used throughout the network—public and private—the city can better ensure that water remains safe and lead-free, infrastructure is responsibly maintained, and future improvement projects are planned with accuracy and transparency.

This initiative focuses on documenting the materials used from the water main in the street all the way to the service line entering each building. These materials may include copper, PVC, galvanized steel, or other approved piping. Understanding exactly what is in place helps the city protect residents, apply for funding opportunities, and meet new federal standards that will become essential for future water projects.

What the City Is Doing

City staff, in partnership with engineering specialists, are currently:

- Reviewing historical records of water service installations
- Inspecting service lines when routine maintenance or replacement work is performed
- Updating digital GIS maps to ensure long-term accessibility and accuracy
- Communicating with residents and property owners to verify unknown materials

This systematic process will create a complete and transparent inventory of our water infrastructure—an important tool for maintaining safe delivery of drinking water for years to come.

How Residents Can Help

Community participation plays an important role in this effort. If your property's service line material is not documented, you may receive a mailed notice or request for additional information. Simple steps, such as providing photos of your service line entry point or allowing a brief on-site inspection, can significantly support the accuracy of the city-wide inventory. If you receive the letter that states your service line material is "unknown", please contact Utilities Director, David Paul, at (269) 792-0686 or dpaul@cityofwayland.org.

A Commitment to Quality and Safety

The City of Wayland is committed to maintaining a modern, safe, and efficient water system. Completing this distribution service material inventory is not only a regulatory requirement—it's an investment in public health, community trust, and long-term infrastructure planning.

As this project progresses, the city will continue sharing updates through newsletters, city council meetings, and the city website. Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support as we work to preserve the quality of our drinking water for generations to come.



BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review plays an important role in ensuring property tax assessments are fair and equitable for all taxpayers. Board members serve the community by carefully reviewing appeals and making impartial decisions that help protect taxpayer rights and maintain confidence in the local assessment process.

We are looking for additional community members to serve on the Board of Review.

Adding new members is essential to keeping this process fair, timely, and effective. This is a great opportunity to serve your community and take part in an important local function.

Upcoming Board of Review Meeting Dates in 2026

- March 3, 10:00 a.m.
- March 9, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- March 11, 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- July 21, 10:00 a.m.
- December 15, 10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in serving, please contact the assessor's office for more information. 269-792-2265.



CITY OF WAYLAND MI
103 S. MAIN STREET
WAYLAND MI 49348

Happy Holidays & Joyful New Year



The Wayland City Council wishes you and your family a happy and safe holiday season!

WAYLAND MAIN STREET - PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

Your opinion matters!

Wayland Main Street, in collaboration with the Michigan Main Street program, is thrilled to invite you to participate in a crucial Public Input Survey designed to guide the future of our downtown district. This survey is your direct opportunity to tell us what you love, what you think needs improvement, and what kind of projects or services you would like to see in downtown Wayland over the coming years.

The survey will officially launch and be available starting on Monday, February 17th. We need your voice to ensure our planning and investments truly reflect the vision and needs of the people who live, work, and shop here. Whether you visit downtown daily or just occasionally, your perspective is valuable.

How to Participate:

1. Find the Survey: Starting February 17th, you can access the survey directly at this link: <https://www.research.net/r/downtownwayland> or use the QR Code
2. Timeline: The survey will be open for two weeks. Please ensure your response is submitted by March 3rd.



We look forward to reviewing your input and using this information to create a more vibrant, accessible, and successful downtown Wayland for everyone.

ICE SKATING!!!



The City's Department of Public Works will be flooding the City's tennis courts at the Wayland City Park to allow for ice skating (weather permitting). The park is located off Church Street. Please enjoy the facility.

