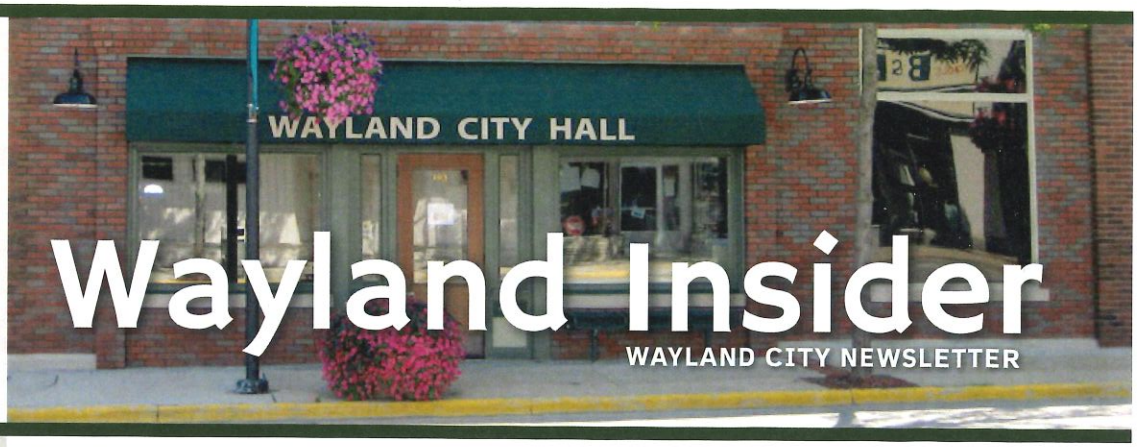


Wayland Insider

WAYLAND CITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2026

WAYLAND CITY CONTACTS

Interim City Manager:
Amanda Rodriguez
269-792-2265

Interim Finance Director:
Peter Haefner 269-792-2265

City Clerk/HR Manager:
Amanda Rodriguez
269-792-2265

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

DPW Director:
Cole Lutz 269-792-0686

DDA Director:
Holli McPherson 269-525-2323

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Wayland begins its annual leaf pickup service on **Monday, October 12, 2026.** Crews will collect leaves placed curbside, helping residents keep their yards clear during the fall.

Residents are reminded to rake leaves to the curb—not into the street—to keep roadways and storm drains clear. Sticks, branches, and other yard debris should not be mixed in. Leaf pickup will continue through the fall until weather no longer permits.

For schedules, guidelines, and updates, visit:
https://www.cityofwayland.org/services/leaf-pick-up

WELCOME WAYLAND CITY POLICE OFFICERS



My name is **Lance Snell**, and I'm excited to take the next step in serving the Wayland community. I have called Wayland home for the past seven years, and I'm beginning my service with the Wayland Police Reserves. I have also been a member of the Wayland Fire Department. Through these experiences, I've learned a great deal about our community and had the opportunity to meet many of the residents who make Wayland such a great place to live. I look forward to continuing to get to know the people in our community. If you see me at a local event or around town, please stop and say hello. I'd be happy to introduce myself and get to know you as well. Outside of serving the community, I enjoy hunting, fishing, and working in my garden. I've also been a residential builder and remodeler for the past 27 years, so working with my hands, using tools, and putting in a little hard work have always been a big part of my life. I'm excited about this next chapter and the opportunity to serve the community I'm proud to call home. I hope to make a positive impact and look forward to working alongside the residents of Wayland to help make our community an even better place to live.

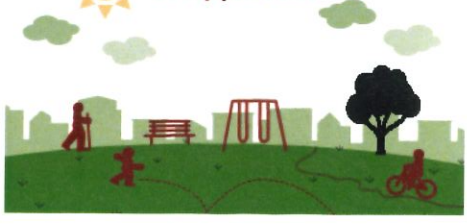


My name is **Cristobal Gandara**, but most people call me Cris. I grew up near Wyoming and now live in Gaines Township. I recently graduated from the Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy, and I'm excited to begin my career with the Wayland Police Department. I was drawn to Wayland for its commitment to community policing and the tight knit connection with the community. I hope to build a special relationship with the community while also upholding my duties as an officer. I decided to become a police officer because I wanted a career where I could make a difference, help people through tough situations, and do my part to keep the community safe. Outside of work, I've played soccer since I was 5 and still enjoy getting on the field. I also love spending time with my fiance, family, and friends. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Wayland, and as a new officer, I'm committed to continuing to learn, grow, and serve with professionalism, fairness, and integrity every day.

We need YOUR input, Wayland!

The City is updating its 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan to assess its existing parks and recreation facilities and programs and to define goals for future improvements. Your feedback is important, as the goals and actions identified in the Plan are intended to reflect the community's needs and desires! Please complete this confidential survey to help inform the City's future of parks and recreation planning!

Your Feedback is Appreciated!



General Election – November 3rd



9-Day Early In Person Voting
Oct 24 - Nov 1 @ Wayland City Hall
103 S Main St - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

IN PERSON VOTING
November 3 @ Wayland Fire Department
160 W Superior St - 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Submit a ballot application at mi.gov/vote or **Complete** an application and return it to City Hall or email it to Deputy Clerk jjenkins@cityofwayland.org
NOTE: Ballots can be returned by mail or dropped into the designated drop box (located at the front door of City Hall or behind City Hall in the alley)

WAYLAND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

I'm **Jennifer Antel**, and I'm proud to call Wayland home. My husband and I have lived here for 27 years, raising our five children, all of whom attended Wayland schools. I've been honored to serve our community on the Planning Commission, Parks Committee, DDA, and City Council. My professional experience includes local government, education, and nonprofit leadership, and I currently work for West Michigan Trails in Grand Rapids. Wayland is a community with an incredibly active and engaged citizenry, and I'm running for mayor because I love this city. While we've made great strides in recent years, there is still work to do, and I'm excited to help move our community forward and see the plans we've worked toward come to fruition.

My name is **Tracy M Bivins**. I was a 1988 graduate of Wayland Union schools. I have three grown children, two girls, and boy. I have a very cute puppy named Aurora who keeps me very busy. I worked in the medical field for 17 years as a medical and surgical assistant and loved every minute of it. I previously served on the city council for 11 years.

Along with the parks and recreation, tree board and policy committees. I am currently working with the DDA and Wayland Main Street putting my skills to work where possible to help run events in the city. I am running for city council to focus on the city's infrastructure and parking issues. We have grown exponentially and these areas need to be addressed. I look forward to serving the city of Wayland.

Hello, my name is **Joe Kramer**, a proud resident of Wayland for 45 years. Many of you know me because of my public service work with Wayland Area Emergency Medical Service (45 years), Boy Scout Troop 97 (over 25 years), as a high school sports official and as a member of the Wayland City Council for the past eight years, the last four as Mayor Pro-tem. I got into these positions because I was raised to give back to those around you. My wife and I have raised five very successful children here, all WUHS grads, which kept us busy with the local school district as well. I bring an extensive knowledge of this city's past, a history of public service and a commitment to researching today's issues to my position on the council. And I promise to continue to do the work necessary to make Wayland the great place it is to live and raise a family.

I am **William Tolliver II**. I proudly call Wayland my home, and I believe a strong community starts with people supporting one another, getting involved, and making sure everyone feels welcome. Over the years, I've had the opportunity to serve my community in many ways—from mentoring youth and coaching track at Wayland Union Middle School to owning a health and strength training business and helping others reach their goals. I earned my associate degree with honors, am a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and hold a Master Technician Certification. Athletics have also been a big part of my life, and I'm proud to have earned 15 World Titles in powerlifting. One of my most meaningful honors was receiving the City of Wayland Inspiration Award in 2023. For me, that recognition represents what matters most; making a positive difference in the lives of others. I care about Wayland, the people who live here, and the future of our community. I believe we make Wayland stronger by working together and supporting each other; one person, one family, and one block at a time.

TIPS FOR DRIVING IN SNOW

Drive Safe • Arrive Safe



DRIVE SLOWLY.

Always adjust your speed down to account for lower traction when driving on snow or ice.

KNOW YOUR BRAKES.

Whether you have antilock brakes **or not**, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

ACCELERATE AND DECELERATE SLOWLY.

Apply the gas slowly to regain traction and avoid skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry and take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

DON'T STOP IF YOU CAN AVOID IT.

There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

INCREASE YOUR FOLLOWING DISTANCE TO FIVE TO SIX SECONDS.

This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

DON'T POWER UP HILLS.

Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads will just make your wheels spin. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed downhill slowly.

DON'T STOP GOING UP A HILL.

There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

Clear Roads • Safer Communities • Brighter Tomorrows

FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION



The Wayland Fire Department is notifying area residents that the State of Michigan's MI Prevention smoke alarm program, administered through the Bureau of Fire Services, did not receive a Fiscal Year 2027 state appropriation, and the standard state-supplied inventory of smoke alarms is largely exhausted. As a result, the state-backed distribution network is currently **unable to fulfill new bulk smoke alarm requests** from local fire departments.

The MI Prevention program has played a vital role in supporting local fire departments across Michigan and has allowed us to reach residents who may otherwise have difficulty obtaining properly functioning smoke alarms. However, with the current state funding shortfall and limited inventory, local fire departments are facing challenges in maintaining a normal supply of state-provided alarms.
This does not change the importance of smoke alarms, nor does it change the Wayland Fire Department's commitment to fire prevention.

Our Message to Residents

The Wayland Fire Department encourages every household to make sure it has properly installed and functioning smoke alarms.

Residents should:

- Test smoke alarms regularly.
- Replace alarms that do not function properly.
- Have smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level of the home.
- Replace smoke alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Make sure carbon monoxide alarms are installed on each level of the home.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Make sure everyone in the household knows two ways out of every sleeping area when possible.
- Contact the fire department with questions about home fire safety.

If you have a smoke alarm that is not working, don't ignore it and contact the fire department so we can maintain an ongoing list of needs. Early warning saves lives. If you can afford to purchase the 10-year lithium smoke or carbon monoxide alarms, we would be happy to install them for you. We also have a small quantity of alarms remaining in our local inventory and can assist those in need until the supply runs out.

While the current state-funded smoke alarm supply is limited, the Wayland Fire Department will continue to monitor the availability of MI Prevention resources and look for additional funding opportunities to obtain smoke alarms and for our community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Farmers Market - *Through October*
Wednesday 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wayland City Park
The Farmers Market will continue through October, weather permitting. Each market day brings a new activity and a food truck, along with an abundance of fresh fall produce. Stop by, support our local vendors, stock up on seasonal favorites, and grab a bite to eat while you're here.



Monster Mash *October 24th*
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. | Downtown Wayland
Get ready for a night of haunted family fun! Join us on October 24 from 5–8 p.m. for Monster Mash. Enjoy food trucks, local vendors, Trunk-or-Treat, a haunted mini-park, and plenty of spooky surprises. Bring the whole family and come dressed for a frightfully fun evening!



Harvest Market *November 14th*
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Pine Street Gym
Start your holiday shopping early at the Harvest Market, which takes place November 14 at the Pine Street Gym from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. The gym will be filled with unique gifts, handmade goods, delicious baked treats, and plenty of goodies perfect for holiday giving—or keeping for yourself! Come browse, shop local, and get into the holiday spirit.

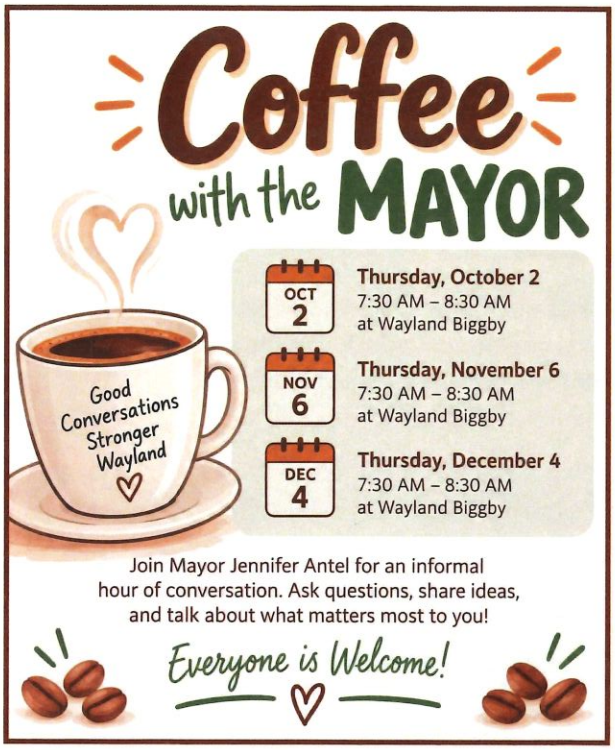


Snowfest *December 5th*
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. | Downtown Wayland
Holiday magic is just around the corner! Join us downtown for Snowfest, where the community will light the Christmas tree, sing carols, and celebrate the season. I also hear Santa will be making a stop! Let's hope the Grinch doesn't get there first!



The Best of Wayland
The month of December
The Best of Wayland is back! Pick your favorite spot in several different categories. Each winner will be recognized and hold the title of the Best of Wayland all year! Keep an eye out for the survey link!

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



THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL SUMMER CONCERT SERIES!



A huge **thank you to our amazing performers** — Scottville Clown Band, 6 Pak Band, The Leprecons, and Matt Gabriel — for bringing great music and fun to our community this summer!

We're also grateful to our **wonderful food vendors** — JD's Lemonade Stand, Cousins Maine Lobster, Hoggsnest BBQ, and Airborne Burrito — for keeping everyone fed and happy!

And a special thank you to our **generous sponsors**: Wightman Engineering, Brik Plumbing, Elhorn Engineering, Baugh Shoe Repair, Boniface Heating & Air, and Professional Code Inspections.

Most of all, **thank you to our community** for coming out, enjoying the music, and making these evenings so special. We couldn't do it without you!

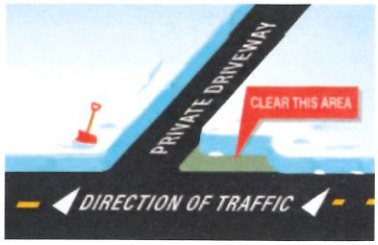
Here's to many more great community moments together!

CITY CONTINUES SIDEWALK SNOWPLOWING SERVICES



The City of Wayland has announced the continued sidewalk snow plowing services this winter, bringing added convenience and safety for residents.
The service will focus first on sidewalks along main roads, followed by school zones to ensure safe routes for students, and then extend into neighborhoods and local streets.

KEEPING YOUR DRIVEWAY CLEAR



While plowing is underway, driveways that have already been shoveled may become filled back in with snow. Shoveling the area along the roadway on the oncoming traffic side of your driveway will help avoid additional work after plows have gone through.
If you can, help neighbors and relatives who may have difficulty removing snow in front of their properties.