



CITY OF SHREWSBURY
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
EDITION I— 2018



Letter From the Mayor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Happy New Year to all of you, I hope you are staying warm in this frigid weather. Spring will surely be especially welcomed this year. With the passage of the 2018 budget, the City was able to improve the lagers pension plan for our employees, add another fire fighter position and for the first time, hired a horticulturist in the parks department. All of these are welcomed improvements for the city.

Filings for the 2018 elections closed at 5:00 pm on January 16 and the people, below, filed to run:

*Sam Scherer, Mayor *Keith Peters, Alderman Ward I *Nicholas Lindley, Alderman Ward I

*Greg Lauter, Alderman Ward II *James (Kent) Barnett, Alderman Ward II, *Chris Gorman, Alderwoman Ward III

After 8 years of holding the office of Mayor, I have decided not to seek re-election as you can see. It has been truly a joy and a privilege to serve the community in this capacity, but it is time for me to step aside. I have complete confidence that the next group of elected officials will continue to make Shrewsbury a wonderful place to live and work. Although I am stepping down, there is still a lot of work to be done over the next few months. **The City is presently working on the City's comprehensive plan.** We are seeking residents' input on the future of our City and what that future looks like to you; we hope you will drop by our upcoming Open House on Wednesday, January 31, 2018 from 5-7 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers. We greatly value your feedback and ideas and look forward to learning about your vision next Wednesday!

Warm Regards,
 Felicity Buckley,
 Mayor, 2010—2018



Quarterly Update from the Finance Department

Director Danielle Oettle

In October of 2017, the City of Shrewsbury was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. This award represents a significant achievement by the City and reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. The Fiscal Year 2018 budget was passed on December 12th and projects a surplus of \$155,603 in its General Fund. The City plans to build upon its reserves in the General Fund with the anticipated surplus. The City issued \$4.37 million in leasehold revenue bonds in 1999 to purchase and make renovations to the building that is now called the Shrewsbury City Center. In March of 2018, the City will make its final payment on the lease and retire its outstanding debt on the bonds.

Shrewsbury Parks Department Update

Director Chris Buck



The New playground in Wehner Park was completed mid-November and is now open to the public. We have been very excited to see the community use the playground and heard nothing but positive feedback. In December we replaced the lobby furniture at the City Center and again are very pleased with the finished look. We will be doing several projects at the Aquatic Center this winter including, leak repair, lazy river pump replacement, replacing the accessible lift, painting, caulking and much more. We will be refinishing the gym floor and painting the walls this month, both are much needed projects and will give the space a fresh look. Finally the Parks Department is in the process of hiring a Horticulturist to help with the City's green spaces.

Quarterly Update from the Administration Department

Director Jonathan Greever



The administrative department has been busy over the fall and winter months. With the FY18 Budget in place, we have been able to hire our long time, part-time **Building and Housing Clerk, Evelyn Schindler, on a full time basis**. We are excited to have her be a part of our team, and to be back up to full strength in this department. As you may know, I have been writing the **City's Comprehensive Plan** over the past year. This is the plan that guides all land usage throughout the City. The Plan Commission has been meeting with me monthly to discuss each element of the Plan. These meetings are public and you are welcome to attend and provide input. This year we will also be replacing our outdated DOS-based Building and Housing Software. This upgrade will greatly enhance the services we provide. Lastly, as part of my Director of Administration duties, I continue to serve as the Chairman of EC-DC's Board of Directors. Our FY16-17 Audit has just been finalized and issued to the Board, and I am pleased to announce that the organization's financial fundamentals are robust and firm. Next, I plan to lead the Board through a strategic planning initiative to ensure our organization is continually adapting and improving our levels of service provision for the eight member cities. 2018 is shaping up to be a busy, productive year, and we look forward to accomplishing these goals.

Shrewsbury Police Department—Protect Your Home from Burglary

Police Chief Jeffery Keller



A residential burglary occurs approximately every 15 seconds in the United States. On average, a home burglary results in a dollar loss of about \$1,600. Nearly 66% of all burglaries are residential and, of those, 62% occur during the daytime. Most of the time, burglars are simply looking for an easy mark; unlocked doors, empty houses and valuables left in plain sight. There are several steps you can take to deter criminals from burglarizing your home. Secure the outside of your home by installing lighting, keeping trees and shrubs trimmed, and by prominently displaying a home alarm system decal. A few well-placed motion sensor lights, some thorny bushes or plants and a couple of pruned trees can do wonders for your home's security! To secure the inside of your home, keep doors and windows locked. Just tossing a steel rod or even something like a baseball bat in the door channel is an easy way to secure your sliding doors. Strong deadbolt locks and secured windows can discourage potential thieves just by making their jobs a little bit harder. Install an alarm system and cover your windows with curtains. To protect your home while you are on vacation, install timers on your lights, have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail, and let your neighbors know you will be out of town. Take steps to ensure your house doesn't look uninhabited. And, don't advertise on social media that you'll be away! By taking just a few simple precautions, you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

Fire Department Update

Fire Chief Chris Amenn

Your Fire Department would like to remind you that we are only half way through the typical season when homeowners use their fireplaces or wood burning stoves. Chimney or flue fires are a real threat, that can be safely managed by having your chimney/flue inspected and cleaned annually. Chimney fires are caused by a buildup of creosote that is a natural byproduct of burning wood. A certified Chimney sweep will clean the creosote from your flue and inspect the entire system to check for cracks or open joints that could allow a fire to start in the surrounding materials.

Signs you may have a chimney fire include:

- Smoke coming from the fireplace or stove into the room. (Check to ensure damper is open)
- A loud roaring sound coming from the fireplace or stove.
- Smoke puffing from walls or through the masonry joints.
- Fire or sparks shooting from the top of the chimney.



Our fire department also recommends homeowners who use wood burning appliances keep a chimney fire extinguisher on hand. This is a device that looks like a road flare, that is ignited and tossed in the hearth when you have a chimney fire. The gases from the device go up the flue and extinguish the fire. These are sold under the brand name Chimfex® and are available on Amazon and at fireplace and stove retailers.

The Fire Department is pleased to announce three recent promotions. Lead Firefighter Michael Lepsky was promoted to the rank of Captain. Captain Lepsky is a 10-year Fire/EMS Veteran. Firefighter Steven Gray was promoted to the position of Medical Officer. Firefighter Scott Willbanks was promoted to the Rank of Lead Firefighter.

Quarterly Update from the Public Works Department

Director Tony V. Wagner



Christmas Tree Recycling

Shrewsbury will designate a drop off area at the recycling center for Christmas Trees only, (no wreaths) until February 28, 2018. Please remove all ornaments and lights from trees.

Snow Removal

Here are some helpful hints to aid in snow removal. When the snow starts to cover the ground, throw a light layer of ice-melt on your driveways, sidewalks, etc. This should make for easier shoveling. Park your car in your driveway this is that much less snow to shovel. If you have to park on the street, please try not to park across from another car or in a cul-de-sac. This makes snow plowing much safer and greatly increases the effectiveness for clearing snow/ice from the streets, also by doing this increases the possibility of emergency vehicles passing without incident. When shoveling snow, place the snow in the yard or between the curb and the sidewalk, not into the street. This way the plow trucks will not push as much snow back into the driveway.

Water Main Breaks

The public works department and the water utility co have been busy since the beginning of the New Year, keeping the streets clear of ice due to the many water main breaks that have developed with the freezing temperatures.

City of Shrewsbury Emergency Contact Information:

Police Department

Jeffery Keller
Police Chief
314-647-5656

Fire Department & Ambulance

Chris Amenn
Fire Chief
314-645-5077

Public Works Department

Tony V. Wagner
Director
314-645-7441

Life Threatening Emergency—Fire, Police, Ambulance—Please call 911

