

**73rd Annual DeWitt Ox Roast  
Downtown DeWitt  
August 16-18, 2018**

**President's Letter**

On behalf of the DeWitt Memorial Association, I welcome you to the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual DeWitt Ox Roast. Even mid-construction, the streets of downtown DeWitt will be bustling with excitement, fun, and friendship- and, of course, the delicious aroma of our signature "Ox Burgers."

Highlights from this year:

- An expanded Hungry Howie's Refreshment Tent that includes an open air patio area and extended family-friendly hours during Friday and Saturday afternoons until 7:00 pm (no cover charge during this time); local craft beers, domestic beer and wine on tap; and a rocking good time starting at 7:00 pm with Oxymorons on Friday night and El Kabong on Saturday night
- The return of our highly popular car show at Riverfront Park on Saturday afternoon
- Our popular Arts and Crafts show Friday and Saturday
- Your chance to become the next DeWitt Idol on Saturday on the newly renovated Main Stage
- Our official food tent serving our signature "Ox Burger," brat, and hot dog meals, upgraded carnival midway, annual children's giveaways and contests and much, much more.

My wife and I have lived in downtown DeWitt for 29 years and raised our children here. We are proud of the great community that DeWitt has grown into over the years.

Please have a safe and fun 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual DeWitt Ox Roast- we look forward to seeing you there!

Dave VanArsdall  
President  
DeWitt Memorial Association

*INCLUDE PICTURE OF DAVE VANARSDALL*

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**2018 DeWitt Ox Roast Schedule**

Stop by downtown DeWitt on August 16-18 for the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual DeWitt Ox Roast. The celebration features great food, creative arts and crafts, live entertainment and plenty of fun activities for the entire family.

See more details of the event on the Ox Roast website [www.dewittoxroast.org](http://www.dewittoxroast.org), like the Dewitt Ox Roast Facebook page and share your thoughts and pictures from the three-day celebration on Twitter and on Instagram at #dewittoxroast.

Thursday, August 16

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|--------------------|--|
| 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm  | Pot-of-Gold Raffle Ticket Sales (Downtown)           |
| 4:00 pm – 11:00 pm | Family Fun Tyme Amusement Carnival Midway (Downtown) |
| 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm  | Body Bubbles (Riverside Park)                        |
| 5:00 pm            | Main Stage Dedication (Main Stage)                   |
| 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Redeemer Methodist Church (Main Stage)               |

Friday, August 17

3:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Arts & Crafts Show & Sales (Downtown)
3:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Pot-of-Gold Raffle Ticket Sales (Downtown)
4:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Family Fun Tyme Amusement Carnival Midway (Downtown)
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Body Bubbles – (Riverside Park)
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Ice Cream Eating contest – Sponsored by Scoopy Doo’s (Main Stage)
5:00 pm	Bike Giveaway (Main Stage)
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Bingo – DeWitt Memorial Building (East Side)
4:00 pm – 11:30 pm	Hungry Howie’s Refreshment Tent
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Food Tent (catered by Family Tree Café featuring the Original Ox Burger)
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	El Kabong (Main Stage)
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Oxymorons (Hungry Howie’s Refreshment Tent)

Saturday, August 18

9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Arts & Crafts Show & Sales (Downtown)
10:00 am – Noon	DeWitt Ox Roast Grand Parade (Downtown)
11:00 am – 9:00 pm	Food Tent (catered by Family Tree Café featuring the Original Ox Burger)
11:00 am – 9:00 pm	Bingo – DeWitt Memorial Building (East Side)
11:00 am – 11:00 pm	Family Fun Tyme Amusement Carnival Midway (Downtown)
12:00 pm	Annual Car Show (Riverside Park)
12:00 pm	Frog Jumping Contest Registration (Memorial Park)
12:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Body Bubbles (Riverside Park)
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm	Boy Scout Troop 77 Ceremony (Main Stage)
1:00 pm – 8:00 pm	DeWitt Idol Sponsored by the Dewitt Area Chamber of Commerce (Main Stage)
1:00 pm – 11:30 pm	Hungry Howie’s Refreshment Tent featuring El Kabong
3:00 pm	Children's Tractor Pull (Riverside Park)
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	El Kabong (Hungry Howie’s Refreshment Tent)
8:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Exit 86 Band (Main Stage)
10:00 pm	Fireworks

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### **DeWitt Memorial Association, Building & Ox Roast History**

In 1945, by invitation of assistant librarian Mrs. Earl Pierson, DeWitt Township organizations came together to discuss raising funds to build a combination library and community center on West Washington Street property donated by Mr. and Mrs. Rogerson.

The groups formed a non-profit organization named the Memorial Association which would oversee the construction and maintain the building in future years. Original incorporators of the building included L. J. Griswold, J. B. Vincent, Leo Spayde, Leon Blizzard, Mildred Carris, Hazel Norris, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Walker, and Mr. and Mrs. William Rogerson. Mr. and Mrs. Verne Walker made the first donation pledge of \$1,000.

Once completed, the building was dedicated to all veterans of all wars. A bronze plaque placed in the building by the DeWitt Blue Star Mothers reads: “Lovingly dedicated to the men and women who served in all branches of military service and to those who gave their lives to their country.” The plaque also lists the names of the eight local men who gave their lives in World War II.

The building was opened for partial use for the second annual Ox Roast in 1947 and was dedicated at the annual event in 1948. From this point on, the Ox Roast has provided the principal annual funding of the Memorial Building's mission and building maintenance expenses.

The non-profit DeWitt Memorial Association maintains the Memorial Building and its mission as well as planning and overseeing the DeWitt Ox Roast. Its Board of Directors consists of area residents volunteering their time to continue the mission of the building's creators.

Although the library (now located on Schavey Road) is no longer housed in the Memorial Building, the building has been and continues to be a meeting place for local organizations. In addition, the building is available to rent for special occasions- the lower level features a meeting room and complete kitchen while the upper level boasts a large reception area that can accommodate groups of 50 to 150 people.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Memorial Board, at the annual Ox Roast or are interested in building rental opportunities, visit us on Facebook or call 517-669-9602.

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### **Welcome to Historic DeWitt**

Dear Friends-

The DeWitt Ox Roast is one of the longest, continually held event of its kind in the state of Michigan. It is the major fundraising event of the DeWitt Memorial Association, the governing body of the DeWitt Memorial Building. Constructed as a remembrance to veterans who served in all wars, the Memorial Building serves as a meeting place for countless services organizations as well as a gathering space for graduation open houses, wedding and baby showers and other family celebrations.

DeWitt is a small town with a big heart and the Ox Roast symbolizes the best in our community. We are so happy to welcome you to DeWitt!

Sue Leeming  
Mayor, City of Dewitt

*PICTURE OF SUE LEEMING*

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### **Stop By and Pick Up Your Own DeWitt Ox Roast T-shirt**

Again this year, the DeWitt Memorial Board and DeWitt High School art program sponsored a t-shirt design contest. The Board narrowed down the submissions to the top four designs and then posted on the Ox Roast Facebook page and voted on by the public.

Pictured below left to right are this year's winners along with board President Dave VanArsdall- 1st place Molly Brandell, 3rd place Anthony Hiers and 2nd place Isabella Dominquez.

T-shirts featuring Molly's design will be available for sale for \$15 available on your choice of size (children x-small – adult xxl) in your choice of color printed on-site by Hot Prints, Inc.

*PICTURE OF WINNERS AND 2018 OX ROAST LOGO*

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## **2018 Ox Roast Parade Grand & Junior Marshalls- Representing The Best of DeWitt's History and Future**

Born in city of DeWitt in 1928, this year's Grand Marshall, John Hiatt, was a volunteer at the very first Ox Roast in the spring of 1946 and continued to volunteer at the event for the next 30 years.

After graduating from DeWitt High School in 1945, John joined the Army and served at the Battle of the Bulge. Upon returning home after 18 months of service, he married his high school sweetheart- they still dance together every Saturday night to Lawrence Welk and just celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last summer. They have four daughters, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren (expecting their sixth in February).

John retired from AutoAir. He served as President of the Lions Club, coached Little League, ran the DeWitt movie theater, was a part of the original DeWitt Vet Club and was one of the original developers of Prairie Creek Golf Course.

Our two Junior Marshalls are two of DeWitt's youngest, strongest cancer fighters, Lily Bowen and Luci Cichocki.

Lily Bowen just turned five and lives in Dewitt with her dad, Chris, mom, Natasha, and two brothers, Eli and Greyson. Just after her 3rd birthday, she was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma cancer and has been undergoing treatment at the University of Michigan Children Motts Cancer Center since August of 2016. Lily just finished her current protocol treatment on July 29. You can learn more about Lily's fight on her Love for Lily Facebook page and follow her at [#LilySTRONG](#).

In July 2017, Luci Cichocki was diagnosed with Burkitts Lymphoma, a rare and very aggressive form of cancer. Chemotherapy was started immediately and we spent a majority of the following 4 months inpatient at Sparrow Hospital. She went through five rounds of chemo, has been in remission since after her second round of chemo and finished treatment in October 2017. Luci is scheduled to go back to preschool in Dewitt this fall.

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## **Main Stage: Newly Renovated and Ready to Entertain All Ages**

The DeWitt Memorial Association would like to recognize Sam Fitzgerald, a recent DeWitt High School graduate and Senior Patrol Leader with Boy Scout Troop No. 77, who took on renovating the Main Stage as his Eagle Scout Project over the past year. Historically, a large blue tarp was used to weatherproof the large mobile stage that's long been the centerpiece of the annual Ox Roast. By reaching out to local businesses, establishing a Go Fund Me account, and organizing a car wash and several restaurant fundraisers, Sam raised nearly \$3,000 to construct permanent sides and a metal roof for the stage. Thank you to Sam, his sponsors and all the volunteers who helped to turn his project into a reality.

Thursday, August 16

The main stage will be formally dedicated and Sam Fitzgerald honored for all his efforts at 5:00 pm. Entertainment kicks off with music provided by Redeemer Methodist Church from 7:00-10:00 pm.

Friday, August 17

The stage jumps into action at 4:00 pm with two favorite annual contests- the ice cream eating contest sponsored by Scoopy Doo's and kids' bike giveaway sponsored by Jim and Lynn Johnson. These two events have become hometown favorites.

Following the contests, the main stage area will be the setting for El Kabong, a classic rock cover band, covering tunes from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's, and known for cover dance tunes, strong vocals and harmonies, and power driving guitars. El Kabong will also be playing in the Hungry Howie's Refreshment Tent on Saturday, August 18 from 7:00 – 11:00 pm.

Saturday, August 18

Boy Scout Troop 77 will be honored for their 85 years of service to the DeWitt community immediately following the Grand Parade.

Then- dim the lights... and here we go- this is DeWitt Idol. Hosted by the DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce, this contest is open to all residents ages 5-30+. Channel your inner Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson or Phillip Phillips and take the stage to impress your friends and neighbors. There is an entry fee of \$10 per contestant- each participant will receive a t-shirt while 1<sup>st</sup> place in each age group will receive \$100 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive a gift card. The overall Grand Prize winner will receive \$250 and the runner-up will receive \$100 (special thanks to BridgeStreet Real Estate, DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce, Grubaugh Orthodontics and Sparrow Clinton Hospital for sponsoring the event).

Approximate start times for ages are:

1:00 pm	5-8
1:30 pm	9-13
2:00 pm	14-18
3:30 pm	19-23
5:00 pm	24-30
6:00 pm	30+
7:00 pm	Age group winners compete for Grand Prize

After the 2018 DeWitt Idol is crowned, Exit 86 Band takes the stage. Established in 2003, this classic rock band from Grand Ledge counts the Eagles, Gun's N' Roses, Bob Dylan, BTO, Elvis, Johnny Cash, Van Halen, Sammy Hagar, Jimmy Buffet, ZZ Top, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Van Halen, AC/DC and Toby Keith as their major influences.

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## DeWitt Ox Roast Events

**Pot of Gold-** Continuing a long-standing tradition, the DeWitt Breakfast Lions Club will be selling Pot-of-Gold Raffle tickets out of the Lions Club trailer (located at the four corners of the festival)

Tickets will be sold on Thursday, August 16, from 3:00 to 8:00 pm; Friday, August 17, from 3:00 to 9:00 pm; and Saturday, August 18, from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Tickets will be sold for \$2 each or three for \$5 and are good for each drawing during the day. Even if your name is drawn once during the day, your ticket will be placed back into the drawing for added fun!

Prizes will be drawn from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturday on the hour for \$100. At 6:00 pm, you won't want to miss the \$500 drawing and make sure to be in town for the 9:00 pm Grand Prize drawing of \$1,000.

**Carnival-** Everyone loves carnival midway! A continuing long time favorite of the DeWitt Ox Roast, the carnival midway in the downtown area begins on Thursday, August 16, at 4:00 pm and will continue until the close of the festival on Saturday! Rides and concessions for all ages will bring back the feel of old time fairs.

**Arts and Crafts-** Again this year, a large variety of hand-crafted items will fill the booths at this year's DeWitt Ox Roast Arts and Craft area. There will be over 60 crafters, artisans and commercial vendors displaying wares such as wood crafts, jewelry, candles, wood signs, apparel, and much more. Some of our favorite vendors return each year, continuing to delight customers with a large variety of items at reasonable prices. Many of these seasoned vendors have displayed their items throughout the Great Lakes area successfully at various shows.

In addition to the arts and craft vendors, you'll also find a good mix of commercial-type vendors where you can find everything from home improvement companies to cash and carry items from Thirty One, Avon, Life Expressions, Thrive, LuLaRoe, Pampered Chef, Tupperware and much more! Don't forget to visit Hot Prints, an on-site t-shirt printer, where you can pick up your official 2018 DeWitt Ox Roast t-shirt for \$15 in your choice of color (available sizes from children x-small to adult xxxl).

Show hours are Friday, August 17, from 3:00 to 9:00 pm, and Saturday, August 18, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

**Bingo-** Always a popular event, Ox Roast Bingo is slated for Friday, August 17, from 5:00 to 9:00 pm and Saturday, August 18, from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm at the Memorial Building. Special games and cash prizes will highlight the afternoon activities. Come buy your cards, find your lucky chair and get ready to yell, "Bingo!" loudly so that our floor workers can hear you (workers will also exchange cards upon request).

**Bingo Rules:**

- You must be 18 years of age to play
- 25 cents per sheet per game
- No ink daubers to be used
- You must have the last number called for a valid Bingo
- Ways to win: horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and all V's and four corners
- Specials on the hour
- Winner take all Friday and Saturday at 9:00 p.m.

**Ice Cream Eating Contest-** Come join Scoopy Doo's at the annual DeWitt Ox Roast ice cream eating contest on Friday, August 17, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm in front of the Main Stage. The contest is open to everyone with three age divisions- children 8 and under; youth ages 9-16 and adults 17 and over. Prizes will be awarded to winners in each division. Please stop by to watch the fun as the families, friends and neighbors slurp their way to victory!

**Youth Bike Giveaway-** Immediately following the Ice Cream Eating Contest on Friday, August 17, DeWitt residents Jim and Lynn Johnson are sponsoring the annual Youth Bike Giveaway. There will be a drawing for two bicycles- one boy's and one girl's. Children between the ages of 5 and 11 can fill out registration

forms (name, address and age) at the Main Stage during the Ice Cream Eating Contest and must be present to win. Thank you to Jim and Lynn Johnson for donating the bicycles each year!

**Hungry Howie's Refreshment Tent-** The Hungry Howie's Refreshment Tent has been expanded this year to include an open air patio area. There will also be extended family-friendly hours during Friday and Saturday afternoons until 7:00 pm (no cover charge during this time). Drinks in the refreshment tent will include local craft beers, domestic beer and wine.

At 7:00 pm each night, a rocking good time starts with our live entertainment. On Friday night, Oxymorons, a trio of friends that have played together for over 20 years, will perform nostalgic folk rock through the present. On Saturday, El Kabong, a classic rock cover band known for cover dance tunes, strong vocals and harmonies, and power driving guitars, will perform hits from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's.

**Ox Roast Food Tent-** The DeWitt Ox Roast carries on the 73-year tradition of serving "Ox Burgers" in the food tent located next to the main stage downtown. Catered by Family Tree Cage, the official "Ox Burger" is smoked, shaved beef on a classic bun and can be found ONLY in the downtown food tent. In addition to the original "Ox Burger," the food tent also serves brats, hot dogs, salads, beans, chips and dessert. Items may be purchased separately or try a specially priced Adult or Child meal.

The food tent will be open on Friday, August 17, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm and Saturday, August 18, from 11:00 am – 9:00 pm.

**Grand Parade-** Each year, the Ox Roast offers this great local parade tradition and continues to add entries while bringing you the best in family entertainment. Bands, school sports teams, community activity groups, area festival royalty, equine units, local emergency vehicles, antique cars and much more make this the place to be on Saturday, August 18, at 10:00 am. This year's parade announcer is local radio celebrity Tim Barrons.

You will want to bring you own chair to have a front row seat as the parade travels from the Fire Station to Washington, down Franklin and ending at the corner of Scott and Madison Streets. For everyone's safety, it is the policy of the parade committee not to allow any throwing of candy or merchandise to viewers by parade entries. Please watch your step and also the placement of your chairs as the parade will take the full width of each street.

This year's Grand Marshall is 90-year-old John Hiatt, who volunteered at the original Ox Roast, ran the game tent for the festival, and served the DeWitt community for over 30 years. Serving as Junior Marshalls are 5-year-old Lily Bowen and 3-year-old Luci Cichocki, two of DeWitt's youngest, strongest cancer fighters. To learn more about these amazing DeWitt representatives, please see the 2018 Grand Marshall feature article.

**Car Show-** Back by popular demand, this year's car show will cruise into Riverside Park on Saturday, August 18, at 12:00 pm. This event has proven to be a treat to all car enthusiasts, with the competition open stock, modified, trucks, specialty and classic cars and trucks. Owners will be on hand to answer questions and possibly provide a pointer or two for those wanting to join in the fun of owning and/or restoring one of these beauties of their own.

For those not pre-registered, onsite registration will begin at 10:00 am (there is a \$15 entry fee). There will be raffles, music, door prizes throughout the show and dash plaques will be available to the first 50 participants.

Awards for the top 20 cars will be given out at 3:00 pm, culminating with the coveted Best in Show award.

Sponsors for this year's car show include One Stop Wash-N-Lube, Sawyer Chevrolet, Remax DeWitt and Consolidated Electric.

**Frog Jumping Contest-** Each year, the Frog Jumping Contest brings kids of all ages to compete or just to watch the fun. Families and friends gather to cheer for their favorite jumper as the excitement grows. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 18, with registration at 12:00 pm and the jumping starting at 1:00 pm in Memorial Park, making it a great place to be following the Grand Parade.

All kids are invited to bring their own frog (or toad...if it jumps, it counts!) and competitive spirit to the park. Registration is just \$1 and prizes will be presented to the best of the best.

This event is hosted by DeWitt City Mayor Sue Leeming and sponsored by the DeWitt City Council, the City of DeWitt staff, Clinton County, Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC, and C2AE.

**“Tractor” Pedal-Pull-** A long-standing tradition of the DeWitt Ox Roast is the children's Tractor Pull, offering area youth a chance to pedal for prizes. Scheduled for Saturday, August 18, at 3:00 pm, at Riverside Park, this is a free competition open to boys and girls ages 3 to 10. Children will be divided into several age group competitions and each contestant is allowed two pulls per weight, keeping their best pull. Each participant will be awarded a ribbon and the top three contestants in each category will also be awarded a prize. The contest is sponsored by David McCleary of State Farm Insurance.

**Fireworks-** The grand finale fireworks show takes place at dark on Saturday, August 18, at approximately 10:00 pm. There isn't a bad seat in the house as the sky above DeWitt lights up with a fireworks display sure to please all. The fireworks are shot from the park area and will offer a free light show to all, whether you are seated in front of the Main Stage downtown, parked along one of DeWitt's picturesque streets or relaxing in your own backyard.

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### **The Original, the Only, the Official- The DeWitt Ox Roast “Ox Burger”**

The DeWitt Ox Roast carries on the 73-year tradition of serving “Ox Burgers” in the food tent located next to the main stage downtown. When the Ox Roast first began 73 years ago, a whole ox was roasted in the streets of DeWitt. Today, the official “Ox Burger” is smoked, shaved beef on a soft, classic bun and can be found ONLY in the downtown food tent, catered by Family Tree Café.

The food tent will be open on Friday, August 17, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm and Saturday, August 18, from 11:00 am – 9:00 pm, and will offer the following menu:

Classic “Ox Burger” Sandwich	\$7
Brat	\$5
Hot Dog	\$3
Potato Salad	\$2

Baked Beans	\$2
Chips	\$1
Dessert	\$1
Drink (Soda, Milk or Water)	\$1

The Ox Roast Meal includes an "Ox Burger," choice of two sides and a drink for \$10. The Kids Meal includes a hot dog, choice of one side, drink and a dessert for \$5.

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**Volunteers Play a Key Role** *please include on page with Memorial Board member pics*

Each year, many DeWitt residents come together to showcase the DeWitt community and offer family entertainment to mid-Michigan guests. Indeed, it is the efforts of these volunteers that makes the annual Ox Roast such a success.

The Dewitt Memorial Association Board would like to take this opportunity to thank this year's volunteers- individuals, service groups and businesses- for their time and effort in making our annual event a festival to be proud of and helping us to achieve our goal of maintaining the Memorial Building. When you see one of these volunteers in an official blue volunteer shirt, please make sure to thank them as well.

Please also consider volunteering next year- we have positions available on the Memorial Association Board as well as needing volunteers to help out during the festival. If interested, please contact us at [www.DeWittOxRoast.org](http://www.DeWittOxRoast.org) or on our DeWitt Ox Roast Facebook page.

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**DeWitt Ox Roast Thanks Our Supporters**

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors- without you, the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ox Roast could not be a success!

Jackson National  
Diversified Insurance Group-Auto Owners Insurance  
Mercantile Bank  
Berkshire Hathaway- Jamie Bates  
Mercantile Bank of Michigan  
One Stop Wash-N-Lube  
BLT's Wearable Art, Inc.  
BridgeStreet Real Estate  
C2AE  
City of DeWitt  
Consolidated Electric  
DeWitt Area Chamber of Commerce  
DeWitt Bath Review - [Michigan.com](http://Michigan.com)  
DeWitt City Council  
DeWitt City Maintenance Crews  
DeWitt Fire & Rescue Department  
DeWitt City Police Department  
ReMax DeWitt  
ReMax Realtors - Deb Good

Farm Bureau - Kyle Laurent  
Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC  
Grubaugh Orthodontics  
Mancino's Pizza of DeWitt  
Mike Mollitor's Designs  
Hungry Howie's Pizza  
Jim & Lynn Johnson  
K & T Electric  
Keller Williams Realty - Mary Jo Garascia  
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Sawyer Chevrolet  
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