



FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 750 • Madison WI 53701 • (608) 256-8900 • www.ffrf.org

April 30, 2010

The Honorable John Fouts
Mayor
City of Warren
One City Square
Suite 215
Warren MI 48093-6726

Re: National Day of Prayer Advertised in City of Warren Water Bills

Dear Mayor Fouts:

Our national organization, which works to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, wrote to you recently regarding the constitutionality of National Day of Prayer events. We write again separately on behalf of a local Warren resident and taxpayer, who objects to the City's promotion of National Day of Prayer activities.

It is our information and understanding that recently the City of Warren ("City") sent out a notice in city water bills, which publicized this year's National Day of Prayer event. Our complainant informs us that this year's event is scheduled on May 6th from 12PM-12:45PM at Warren City Hall. The notice does not list the official sponsor of the prayer breakfast. Please find enclosed a copy of the notice included in residents' water bills. Our complainant informs us that this flier was included as an insert with the city's bill and has reason to believe that all Warren residents using City water services received this flier.

It is grossly inappropriate for the City to use its invoicing system as a mechanism for promoting the National Day of Prayer. The City cannot expend, even temporarily, government funds and resources to print and mail promotional materials for the National Day of Prayer event at City Hall. In order to comply with the law the City must discontinue the practice of expending any taxpayer dollars and public resources to promote the religious prayer event.

Any reasonable Warren resident would logically conclude that the City, and no other entity or private organization, is hosting the event. This also leads to the inevitable conclusion that the City, and you, as Mayor, favor religion over non-religion. Therefore, the City must take immediate action to disassociate itself from this religious event, which inevitably becomes an exclusively Christian event. Any promotional materials failing to indicate who the actual sponsor of the event is, or failing to provide an adequate disclaimer notifying the public that the City is not sponsoring, hosting or endorsing this particular religious event, must be taken down immediately to avoid further confusion.

We would appreciate a response in writing about the steps you are taking to end this violation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca S. Markert
Staff Attorney

Enclosure

National Day of Prayer May 6 at City Hall

The annual National Day of Prayer gathering will be held at Warren City Hall
 Thursday, May 6 from 12-12:45 p.m.
 City Hall is located between 12-13 Mile Rds. off Van Dyke. All faiths are invited. For
 information, e-mail lcjjoy@aol.com or staff@warrenwoods.org.

Help Warren Fight Breast Cancer Friday, April 23

The Mayor's Student Advisory Committee is partnering with the Warren Rotary Club to help fight breast cancer by sponsoring the first annual Pink Out Day Friday, April 23. This event provides an opportunity not only to raise awareness of breast cancer, but also to raise money to be donated to the Karmanos Cancer Institute for Research.



Pink t-shirts can be purchased at the Mayor's Office for \$6 with \$3 going for breast cancer research. Bracelets are \$1. Call the Mayor's Office at 574-4520 or e-mail: mayorcityofwarren.org for more information. T-shirts and bracelets will also be sold at the Annual Warren Rotary Club Spring Carnival on Friday, April 23.

Book Signing by Warren Author Saturday, April 17



Martha Ruth Burczyk, author of a new book on Warren, titled "Images of America: Warren," will sign her book for purchasers Saturday, April 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the City Hall Atrium. Ms. Burczyk, a Warren resident, is a member of the Warren Village Historical Commission. The price for the 128-page pictorial book is \$21.99 plus tax. Call Ms. Burczyk at 586-751-5380 for more information.

Animal Vaccination Clinic	Recycling Information	2010 Road Improvements
Affordable vaccinations for dogs and cats! Saturday, April 24 9 a.m-3 p.m. Warren DPW Yard-12801 Stephens (between Hoover & Schoenherr) Cost is \$24 per pet or \$8 per shot. Dogs and cats must be on a leash or in a carrier. Sponsored by the Animal Welfare Commission For more info: (586) 754-9629	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Phones • GPS Devices • Inkjet Cartridges • Laser Cartridges • iPODS • Digital Cameras • Laptops • PDA's • DVD's • Video Games & Consoles Drop off items at Mayor Fouts' Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair of the 14 Mile Rd. bridge over the Red Run Drain • Resurfacing of 14 Mile Rd. from Mound to Van Dyke • Reconstruction of 9 Mile Rd. from Dequindre to Ryan • Resurfacing of Chicago Rd. from Mound to Van Dyke

Grass Height City Ordinance (6 inches) goes into effect May 1!

WARREN BEGINS THIRD SEASON OF 'NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN SWEEP'

Warren is beginning its third season of "Neighborhood Clean Sweep," a neighborhood-by-neighborhood, street-by-street, house-by-house cleanup program by city inspectors.

The first section scheduled for clean-up is 8 Mile Rd. to 9 Mile Rd. and from Van Dyke to Hoover April 19-23.

Warren Mayor Jim Fouts, who initiated the program, said city inspectors from the city's property maintenance, building, DPW and sanitation departments will issue 5-day warning notices to commercial, industrial and residential property owners who have violated the city's property maintenance code.

"In 2008, we began the first sweep in Warren's 53-year history, and residents welcomed our inspectors," said Fouts. "The vast majority of residents comply after receiving a warning notice, so we only have to issue a small number of tickets."

B E F O R		A F T E R		Neighborhood Clean Sweep Results <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>2008-2009</td> </tr> <tr> <td>•</td> <td>33,275 Buildings Inspected</td> </tr> <tr> <td>•</td> <td>15,400 Warning Notices</td> </tr> </table>		2008-2009	•	33,275 Buildings Inspected	•	15,400 Warning Notices
	2008-2009									
•	33,275 Buildings Inspected									
•	15,400 Warning Notices									