

JULY, 2013

# WHAT KNOTS OF WHITEHALL

## Whitehall City Council Members

Mayor Emery "Mac" Hatch  
Mayor Pro Tem Edward Whalen  
James Bartholomew  
Tanya Cabala  
Jeff Holmstrom  
Steve Sikkenga  
Orville Smith

## Administrative Officers

Brian Armstrong, DPW Director/  
Zoning Administrator  
Laurie Audo, Finance Officer/  
Treasurer  
Scott Huebler, City Manager  
Roger Squiers, Chief of Police  
Katie Trzaska, Playhouse Manager  
Karen Williams, City Clerk/Editor

## Office Hours

City Hall  
405 E. Colby Street  
894-4048  
Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## DPW

2055 Warner Street  
894-4157  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Inspections

Building - Chris Hall  
Electrical - Tim Chorney  
Plumbing/Mechanical -  
- Jim Shereda  
894-4157  
2055 Warner Street

## Meeting Dates

City Council - 2nd and 4th  
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
Planning Commission - 1st  
Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
BRA/LDFA/TIFA - 2nd  
Thursday of January,  
April, July and October at  
Noon

Visit us at

[www.cityofwhitehall.org](http://www.cityofwhitehall.org)

And Like us on  
Facebook

Whitehall's historic **HOWMET PLAYHOUSE** *All About CHARACTER* 2013 Summer Fine Arts Festival  
304 S. Mears Ave., Whitehall, MI 49461 all shows 7:30 PM

<p><b>July 11-13 Harvey</b> By MARY CHASE, Directed by Debra Freeberg</p> <p><b>July 18 Anybody for Murder?</b> By BRIAN CLEMENS and DENNIS SPOONER Directed by Keeley Stanley-Bohn</p> <p><b>July 19 The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</b> By NOAH SMITH; based on the novella by Robert Louis Stevenson Directed by Tim Connors</p> <p><b>July 20 Robert Fulghum's All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten</b> By ERNEST ZULIA; music and lyrics by DAVID CALDWELL, Directed by Steve Berglund</p>	<p><b>July 25-27* WLYT The Fearsome Pirate Frank</b> By PAT LYDERSON Directed by Cindy Beth Davis-Dykema and Kurt McCoal</p> <p><b>August 1-3 MCT's Leaving Iowa</b> By TIM CLUE AND SPIKE MANTON Directed by Kirk Wahamaki</p> <p><b>Aug 8-10* You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</b> Based on the Comic Strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz Book, Music and Lyrics by CLARK GESNER Directed by Alice L. Gambel</p> <p><b>Aug 15-17 Love Letters</b> By A.R. GURNEY Directed by Jim Query</p> <p><b>Aug 22-24 Steel Magnolias</b> By ROBERT HARLING Directed by Derek Roof Benson</p>
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**Tickets \$18 adults • \$14 students\* • Available at Whitehall City Hall, 231-894-4048**  
\*The WLYT July 26 performance will be a 2 pm matinee • Tickets for all WLYT are \$10 • Students \$6  
 \*Tickets for YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN are \$12 • Students \$8  
[www.howmetplayhouse.org](http://www.howmetplayhouse.org) ~ just minutes north of Muskegon ~  

## CITY GENERAL ELECTION

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

The November 5th Election is coming soon and there will be four (4) seats available on the Whitehall City Council.

Nominating petitions are available in the Clerk's office and will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2013. To be a qualified candidate one cannot be in default to the City, must be a duly registered elector of the City, and shall have been a resident of the City for at least 6 months prior to the election. Standard forms and instructions for filing petitions may be obtained at the office of the City Clerk, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The last day to register to vote in the November Election is October 7, 2013. Register at your local clerk's office or at the Secretary of State's office. Unsure whether you are registered? Go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) or call City Clerk Karen Williams at 894-4048 to find out now if you are registered.

## REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR TAXES

Summer property taxes are due by July 31. Payment must be received on or before July 31 otherwise penalties will be applied.....postmarks are not accepted.

Applications for summer 2013 tax deferments are being currently accepted. For the eligible taxpayers who are 62 years of age or older, or paraplegic, quadriplegic, serviceperson, veteran, widow or widower or blind. To qualify, taxpayers must certify that their gross household income for the preceding calendar year did not exceed \$40,000. Forms are available at City Hall, 405 E. Colby Street in Whitehall.

## NOTES FROM THE DPW

**Water and Sewer Emergencies:** If you have a water or sewer emergency please call the Department of Public Works office at 894-4157 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For after hours and weekend emergencies, call 911 and Dispatch will contact the individual on call to assist you.

**Brush Pick Up: There will be no Fall brush pickup.** All brush can be disposed of at the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority's Transfer Station at 2100 W. Holton Whitehall Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays year round.

**REMEMBER!** Water and Sewer bills are mailed quarterly and are now in full-page format. They are generally mailed by January 10<sup>th</sup> /due by February 10<sup>th</sup>; mailed by April 10<sup>th</sup>/due by May 10<sup>th</sup>; mailed by July 10<sup>th</sup>/due by August 10<sup>th</sup>; and mailed by October 10<sup>th</sup>/due by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Building & Zoning Permits:** Do you have a deck to build? A fence to put up? Need a new roof? Need to replace your water heater or furnace? Or going to start a new business? Remember these are just a few of the projects that need zoning approval or building permits so be sure to obtain the necessary permits **BEFORE** you begin any project. Call Brian Armstrong, Zoning Administrator for zoning permits and Pam Atchison, DPW Office Coordinator for your building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical Permits. Both can be reached at 894-4157 and are located at 2055 Warner Street.

## CITY BUDGET

The Fiscal Year 2013/14 General Fund budget, with a \$769 surplus, reflects revenues that have remained flat for eight years in a row. This makes modest adjustments for inflation difficult and new expenses all but impossible. Match funding for improvements to Covell and Goodrich Parks, both high priority Council goals, was not included.

Our downtown fund, with \$766,000 in outstanding debt and great uncertainty over personal property taxes, will take a very conservative fiscal stance this year with a significant fund balance. There is funding available for beautification on Lake Street, façade grants, stamping crosswalks, flower baskets, improved holiday decorations, and snow removal.

Due to a treatment increase by the County Wastewater System, the City will raise our sewer rates by 6% beginning January 2014. This equates to an increase of less than \$8 per bill for the average family. For the third year in a row, there will be no need to increase water rates.

The City currently has \$1.5 Million in outstanding debt. Within the next three years, \$959,000 of that will be retired.



## Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs.....

The City has an established sign ordinance developed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the City Council. This spring, we have received numerous complaints about illegal signs. As most have been directed toward residential areas, please be reminded the only signs allowed on private residential properties are house numbers, historical markers, standard flags, election signs, vehicle for sale signs, real estate signs, temporary construction signs, subdivision signs, home occupation signs, and development entry signs. There are detailed regulations that accompany these. Signs are regulated in ALL zoning districts *so PLEASE check with the Zoning Administrator prior to installing any sign* as fines range from \$15 to \$200. This means the BOW NOT, Look out for Motorcycles, United Way, estate sale, garage sale, and Lil Vikes signs are all prohibited.

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

The following are areas of concern that have been expressed to City staff and Council Members by local residents:

- Abandoned or junk vehicles are prohibited within the City. An unlicensed vehicle is by definition "inoperable" and likewise prohibited.
- Trash containers can only be placed near the roadway for a period of 24 hours to provide for pick up.
- Grass and noxious weeds shall be no taller than six inches.

These ordinances along with general nuisance ordinances pertaining to blight and rubbish are available for review at City Hall.

**Please Help!** Report any vandalism to the Whitehall Police Department as soon as possible so that an accurate report can be filed and the vandalism can be cleaned up in a timely manner.