

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

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www.cityofwhitehall.org

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STREETS

The City's Transportation Asset Management Plan rates 61% of our 26 miles of roads in poor condition. Most of us probably do not need an engineering study to tell us this. The study does quantify things by calling for an annual investment of \$375,000 to improve the streets. Our focus has been on major streets with the greatest need now on local roads.

The City Council has determined that a more aggressive approach needs to be adopted by securing adequate revenues and looked at several options including a dedicated millage, an income tax, grant funding, debt soon to be retired, and existing revenues. The chosen course is to squeeze as much revenue as possible out of current sources with a likely need to supplement the revenue stream with a small annual millage increase.

CITY GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013

The November 5th Election is coming soon and there are four (4) seats available on the Whitehall City Council, five candidates filed to petitions to be eligible to be on the ballot. Also on the ballot is a proposals to amend the city charter to eliminate term limits for city council members along with a bonding proposal for Muskegon Community College.

A sample ballot can be viewed at city hall or at www.michigan.gov/vote by entering your personal information.

If you plan to be out of town or are physically unable to attend the polls, absentee ballots are available at city hall, 405 E. Colby Street.

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR TAXES

Winter tax bills will be mailed on December 1st. If you don't receive the bill in the mail give us a call.

Do you need help filing your income tax return? There is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) to help you out. They will be at Baker College, Goodwill Corporate Office, Sacred Suds, and Workforce Development Center in Muskegon for 2014. There is an income limit of \$26,000 for a single person to get the service for free. Just call 211 for more information.



Event and ticket information available
 at www.howmetplayhouse.org.

Purchase tickets in advance at Whitehall City Hall or at the Playhouse one hour before performances.

- Oct. 18-20** *Folkwood* A tale for the whole family of magic in the Michigan woods!
 Oct. 18 & 19 7:30 pm & Oct. 20 2:00 pm
- Oct. 25** **Lou Reid and Carolina in Concert 7:30 pm**
- Nov. 2** **The River City Road Show 7:00 pm**
 Music and fun imported from GR, featuring Fauxgrass & Big Dudee Roo
- Nov. 16** **The MSU Accafellas Sing! 7:30 pm**
 Fundraiser for White Lake Youth Theatre & Nuveen Theater Workshop
- Nov. 22** **The Crane Wives in Concert 7:30 pm**
- Dec. 15** **Christmas with Ruth & Max and Friends 7:00 pm**

Check out our upcoming events and fall White Lake Youth Theater classes on our website at www.howmetplayhouse.org



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 10th /due by February 10th; mailed by April 10th/due by May 10th; mailed by July 10th/due by August 10th; and mailed by October 10th/due by November 10th.

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.

Signs: Temporary signs, in all zoning districts, such as election, informational, real estate and yard sale signs can not be located in the public right-of-way or be a hindrance to vehicular or pedestrian traffic

Sidewalk Snow Removal: City sidewalk snow removal will be back this year. The priority will be routes leading to and from the schools and also downtown. Other sidewalks will be cleared subject to available funding and manpower. It is still, by local ordinance the adjacent property owner's responsibility to clear their sidewalk in a timely manner.

LEAF REMOVAL PROGRAM

The Fall Leaf Removal Program will begin October 28 and end around November 22, weather dependent. Some guidelines to follow are:

- ◆ Leaves cannot be bagged. Please rake them to the edge of the pavement where they will be collected.
- ◆ If you have a curb and gutter, leaves must be raked over the curb into the street.
- ◆ Make sure sticks are not mixed in with the leaves because they clog the vacuum machine and will be left behind.

Every effort will be made to pick up leaves once per week depending on the weather, amount of leaves, and holidays. The pickup will begin at the north end of the City and then work south.

UTILITY RATES

The City Council has adopted a 5.2% increase in the sewer rates to match the County's 5.2% increase for transmission and treatment. We estimate the average family of four will pay an additional \$8 per quarterly bill. The rate increase will be effective January 1. Even with this increase, we are anticipating a \$129,000 deficit in the operating budget, to be covered with fund reserves. Water rates remain the same and have not increased for the last two consecutive budgets.

SNOW REMOVAL

It is once again approaching the snow season. Remember that when removing snow from private property it is unlawful to deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush on any roadway or highway. Traffic Codes may be viewed in their entirety at City Hall.

The Fire Authority asks that property owners keep fire hydrants clear of snow to assist them in accessing the hydrants during an emergency.

Please make sure that your mailbox and post are in sound order. **IF** the City's plow truck physically hits the box or post the City will make repairs or replace it. However, **IF** the snow load damages the box or post it will be the responsibility of the property owner to repair or replace it.

REMINDER – NO PARKING

Just a reminder since we are coming into the snow removal season. There is no parking on any city street from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. from November 15 to April 30 regardless of snow fall. This is for snowplowing city streets and parking lots.

Downtown residents may park overnight on the south side of Lot #5 which is located behind Hunt's Do It Center.

Please do not park across sidewalks to allow pedestrians and school children access to utilize the sidewalks.

Your help and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

City of Whitehall
Department of Public Works