



# WHITEHALL

## Our City, Our News

JULY 2015

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Tax Info—page 1.
- For daytime sewer or water emergencies call 894-4157. After hours call 911.
- Utility bills are mailed quarterly.
- Building and zoning permits are available at the Department of Public Works.

### City of Whitehall

#### City Council Members

- Mayor Mac Hatch
- Mayor Pro Tem Edd Whalen
- James Bartholomew
- Tanya Cabala
- Jeff Holmstrom
- Steve Sikkenga

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And Like us on Facebook

## “REMIND ME”

### IT'S REAL

The problem of distracted driving is real. Drivers can become complacent because driving sometimes seems simple and we can make several mistakes and still escape the consequences of a crash. The police department has seen a surge in crashes this year involving distracted drivers. Often we think about texting and talking on cell phones as the source of distractions, but in recent crashes it has been more than those electronic devices.

A common crash occurs while waiting in stopped traffic and the driver's attention drifts. In May a driver stopped on Thompson St, reported that after looking away and hearing a horn, she started to move without looking, striking the car ahead of her. Another is failing to notice cars stopped to make turns. A 20 year old driver, after a June crash on Colby St, admitted to looking into a parking lot for a friend and struck the car ahead that was stopped to make a left turn.

Reaching for objects in the car was the cause of 3 crashes on Colby St. One

woman reached to pick up a cell phone that fell on the floor then struck a car stopped to make a turn. A man picking up a cigarette lighter caused a chain reaction crash, striking a car stopped in front of them and pushing that car into a third car headed the other direction. In the third crash, the driver looked over at a drink that had spilled on the passenger seat, crossed two lanes of traffic and crashed head-on into another car that had moved into the parking lane trying to avoid the crash.

Yes, there was one crash on Mears Ave where a young driver admitted to looking at his cell phone texts before striking a car that was stopped for a stop sign. These crashes all happened in April, May and June. Whatever is required of a driver, your undivided attention is the MOST important.

The next time you see a car weaving on the roadway in broad daylight, they probably aren't drunk, they're probably texting. Also, buckle up, you've seen how other people drive.



## “JUST IN TIME”

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 2015 tax deferments are being currently accepted for the eligible taxpayers who are 62 years of age or older, 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.



## HOWMET PLAYHOUSE

### 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  
Callender  
894-4157  
2055 Warner Street

### Meeting Dates

#### City Council

2nd and 4th Tuesdays at  
7:30 p.m.

#### Planning Commission

1st Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

#### BRA/LDFA/TIFA

2nd Thursday of  
January, April, July and  
October at Noon

# “That’s Entertainment”

## Howmet Playhouse Summer Schedule

July 9-11	Unnecessary Farce
July 16	Don't Dress for Dinner
July 17	One Slight Hitch
July 18	Jerry Finnegan's Sister
July 23-25	Around the World in 8 Plays—Presented by the White Lake Youth Theatre program
July 30-31, Aug. 1	Deathtrap
August 6-8	Cotton Patch Gospel
August 13-15	Outside Mullingar
August 20-22	Love, Loss and What I Wore

July 16-18: The talented students of CMU's Summer Theatre touring company will return to the Playhouse stage with three performances that will knock your socks off!

Show times are 7:30 pm.

Tickets are available at [www.howmetplayhouse.org](http://www.howmetplayhouse.org), the Playhouse Box Office Monday—Friday: 1:00 pm—5:00 pm or by calling 231.894.2540.

# “Have I Told You Lately”



## Election: August 4, 2015

There will be a special election on August 4th, 2015 with one proposal on the ballot for Muskegon County Central Dispatch “9-1-1” Millage Renewal. To see a sample ballot and find out if and where you are registered to vote, check out [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). A sample ballot is also available for viewing at City Hall.

All registered voters for the City of Whitehall vote at City Hall, 405 E. Colby Street. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

**Voter Registration** - The last day to register to vote for the August 4th Election was **July 6, 2015**.

Absentee ballots are available for eligible residents: college students or anyone planning on being out of town on Election Day; physically unable to attend the polls without assistance; 60 years or

over; appointed as election inspectors in a precinct other than where they vote; confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial; with religious tenets that prohibit one from attending the polls.

The City Clerk will be in the office on Saturday, August 1st to issue and receive absentee ballots. Absentee ballots must be returned to the City Clerk by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

And remember, as always, picture identification is required for someone to vote without signing an affidavit. Voters can satisfy the picture identification requirement by showing a Michigan driver's license or a Michigan personal identification card. Other forms of identification may be used, check with your local clerk for a list of accepted documents.