OCTOBER 2015

WHITEHALL

Our City, Our News

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **New Water Shutoff Policy—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 Salter

Steve Sikkenga

Visit us at www.cityofwhitehall.org

And Like us on Facebook

"I Guess I'll Have to Change My Plan"

New Water Shutoff Policy

As of July 1, 2015, the City has adopted a new Water Shut Off Policy. We will no longer be collecting deposits on delinquent accounts in order to have the water turned back on. The policy is as follows:

If water service is shut off, the resident is responsible for the following fees and fines:

Turn on fee $50.00 (regular hours) ***AND* an additional** $50.00 (if after 3:30 p.m.)

IF water service shut-off should occur again, in addition to the Turn On Fee, the following will also apply:

Non-refundable fines

$50.00 (2nd offense), $100.00 (3rd offense), $200.00 (4th offense)

$200.00 will also be assessed for all subsequent offenses after 4.

We will also be refunding any deposits that we have collected in the past to have water service restored. Deposit refund checks are being processed and should be mailed out within 30 days.

"On the Sunny Side of the Street"

Slocum Street is done! This, along with Lincoln and Mary streets, was our first street project under the new dedicated millage. While the project took a little longer than anticipated, the City is very pleased with the work done by White Lake Excavating. The engineers estimated the street, water, and sewer improvements would cost $1.6M. The low bid came in at $1.2M.

So now the burning question is what streets are next? Streets are chosen using an engineered rating system combined with necessary sewer and water upgrades. Next on our list will be Livingston, Main from Mears to Lake, Muskegon from Mears to Warner, and Wilshire. Based on cost estimates and available funding, our next major millage funded project including some or all of the above will be done in 2017. Thanks to federal and state grants, Misco Street will leapfrog these for completion next summer.

"Snowfall"

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.

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.

"Remind Me"

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.

"Have I Told You Lately"

Election: November 3, 2015

There will be a general election on November 3rd, 2015 with four (4) City Council seats and one proposal for the White Lake Ambulance Authority on the ballot. To see a sample ballot and find out if and where you are registered to vote, check out 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 November 3rd Election was **October 5, 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, October 31st 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.

"Autumn Leaves"

Leaf Pick-up

The Fall Leaf Pick-up Program will begin **Monday, October 26th**. Last day to have your leaves out for pick-up is **Sunday, November 15th**. 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.

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.

"That's Entertainment"

Howmet Playhouse Fall/Winter Schedule

I Want to Be an Astronaut
October 14 at 7:30 pm

Free Family Movie Night
December 4 at 6:00 pm

Wiley and the Hairy Man
November 5, 6, 7 at 7:30 pm
Nov 7 Matinee at 2:00 pm

Holiday Concert: Ruth & Max Bloomquist and Friends
December 12 at 7:30 pm

Visit www.howmetplayhouse.org for more info!

"Just in Time"

Late/Delinquent Dog Licenses

The Muskegon County Treasurer's Office has sent out notices to anyone that had a licensed dog but has failed to renew the license. They are offering a one time amnesty from late fees until 10/31/2015! You MUST renew your license at their office (173 E. Apple Ave, Muskegon, MI 49442) in order to take advantage of their amnesty offer. If you no longer own the dog or the dog has passed away, please notify their office immediately. The Muskegon County Treasurer's Office phone number is 231-724-6261.

"As Time Goes By"

Congratulations to our valuable employees! This year we are celebrating the following service anniversaries.

Laurie Audo—25 years

James Duram—35 years

Neal Martell—10 years

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 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission
1st Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

BRA/LDFA/TIFA
2nd Thursday of January, April, July and October at Noon