“Open the Door”

Colby Street and the Downtown Phase III Projects are DONE! A big thank you to all the local businesses, their customers, residents, and visitors for bearing through this spring with a boatload of patience. There are still some minor details to complete but the road is open and access to the businesses is back to normal.

“The City”

The Whitehall City Council has adopted a $6.5M budget for Fiscal Year 2017/18. The General Fund accounts for $2.2M of that number. City hall will see new windows that do not frost over on the inside during the winter; an upgraded server; an improved handicap ramp, and new flagpoles that do not constantly break down. The Downtown Phase III Project will continue with a north side event center – IF adequate state funding is received. The Howmet playhouse will start its $3.6M renovation/ expansion this fall with an anticipated completion date of July 1, 2018. Sewer and water rates will increase 5% beginning next January. This will still result in a combined cash draw down of $169,000. These two funds have drawn $1.8M in reserves over the last five years. Main Street is scheduled for improvements in the fall of 2018, followed by Warner and Wilshire in 2020, Livingston in 2022, then Alice and Muskegon in 2023. We have submitted a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a $62,000 upgrade to Svensson Park.
Pedestrian Safety

PLEASE keep in mind that pedestrians and bicyclists have the right of way once they have established themselves within a public right of way and especially while crossing a street.

REMINDER!

Water bills are mailed out quarterly on the 10th of January, April, July and October. Failure to receive your bill does not waive past due penalties. If you do not receive a bill, please call the City at 894-4048.

Did You Know...

That we feature different artist each newsletter by using their song titles as our article titles?

April’s newsletter featured...

Barry Manilow.

Can you guess who’s song titles we’re using this time?

“Do You Know”

Congratulations!

Two of our valued employees are celebrating service anniversaries this year.

Chris Mahoney—15 years
Brian Armstrong—25 years

Thank them for their service the next time you see them!

“In the Back of My Mind”

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 2017 tax deferments are currently being accepted for the eligible taxpayers who are 62 years of age or older, paraplegic, quadriplegic, service person, 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.
“That’s All for Everyone”

Howmet Playhouse Summer Schedule

July 6-8   The Seamstress
July 13   For the Love of Juliet
July 14   Twain by the Tail
July 15   Love/Sick
July 20-22   The Birds
July 27-29   The Rememberer, A White Lake Youth Theatre Production
August 3-5   Fox on the Fairway
August 10-12   The Seafarer
August 17-19   Exit Laughing

Show times are 7:30 pm, except for the July 28 performance @ 3:00 pm.

Tickets are available at www.howmetplayhouse.org, the Playhouse Box Office Monday-Friday: 1:00 pm—5:00 pm or by calling 231-894-2540.

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

Work Session
2nd Tuesdays at 5:00 pm

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

“As Long As You Follow”

You may have noticed that the City has changed many traffic signs including adding stop signs and increasing the speed limits on a few streets in the last year. That is the result of changes in state law and the attention it has brought to the law. There was a time when all streets in a city were 25 miles per hour. Now the law requires speed limits to be set by one of two methods; the number of access points on a road or a study that supports a different speed limit.

For example, Benston Rd would be a 55 mph zone according to the access point method so a study was done. While the speed limit increased, it was only increased 5 mph, to 40 mph, based on the study. The change also caused an examination of the crashes at Warner St and Benston Rd, leading to the 4-way stop.

The Whitehall Police Department will be conducting other studies this summer to do our best to create a safe driving environment while complying with state law. You can expect more changes in the traffic signs as we identify those traffic issues that need attention.
$3.6 Million Goal Within Reach

The Howmet Playhouse, our community’s cultural icon, is in need of extensive renovations that will be accomplished through a modest addition that will provide safe and accessible restrooms, a larger lobby, and additional barrier-free seating in the auditorium. Upgrades will also be made to the theatrical systems and mechanical systems which will improve energy efficiency allowing for year-round programming. Pledges to date are from individuals, corporations, and grants. Gifts may include appreciated stock, IRA rollovers, or donor-advised fund contributions. Pledges can be fulfilled over 10 years.

Our goal of raising $3.6 million to save this community jewel is well within reach. We are both grateful and humbled by the outpouring of support from so many. Looking back, we imagine the dreamers and builders of this theater at the corner of Mears and Slocum were just as excited as we are now. We share their vision and strive to see it continue: a place built by the community, for the community. As of this writing, we need $110,000 to push us over the top. We invite you to join your friends and neighbors who have already pledged their support by filling out the form below. You can also give online directly to our fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Simply follow this link https://cffmc.org/give/give-now/ and select under “specific funds” the Howmet Playhouse Capital Non-Endowed Fund. Your donation may be tax deductible as the Friends of the Playhouse is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Should you have any questions, please call Managing Director, Beth Beaman, at 231.894.4048.

Yes, I (we) support the capital campaign for the future of the Howmet Playhouse.

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
City/State/Zip: ________________________________
Please accept my (our) gift/pledge of $__________

[ ] This is a one time gift
[ ] This is a multi-year pledge commitment that will be paid over a period not to exceed ___ years. Please bill me annually. (Pledges may be scheduled up to 10 yrs.)
[ ] I would like to discuss naming opportunities.

Mail to: Howmet Playhouse
405 E Colby, Whitehall, MI 49461
Please make this gift in Honor/Memory of:
________________________________________

HOWMET PLAYHOUSE
My (our) gift will be:

[ ] Cash/check (payable to Howmet Playhouse Capital Fund)
[ ] Assets (contact Beth Beaman at 231.894.4048)
[ ] Credit Card

Name on Credit Card: ________________________________
Signature: ________________________________
Credit Card Number: ________________________________
Expiration: _______ CVC: _________ 3 digit code on back