



CITY OF WHITEHALL

Our City, Our News



City Council Members

Mayor Steve Salter

Mayor Pro Tem Sean Mullally

Scott Brown

Richard Connell

Keith Heidelberg

Jeff Holmstrom

Steve Sikkenga

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Hydrant Flushing - October 10th - 21st
- Fall Leaf Pickup - October 27th - November 24th
- For daytime sewer or water emergencies call 894-4157. After hours call 911.
- Utility bills are mailed quarterly.
- Building and Zoning permits are available on our website at www.cityofwhitehall.org
- Winter Tax Bills - coming to your mailbox December 1st

Visit us at:
www.cityofwhitehall.org



Like us on
Facebook



"Because I Said So"

Message from the Mayor

It's been a fantastic summer full of wonderful community events and great weather! Now that its over and fall is here, its time to prepare for winter. That means raking leaves for pickup and getting our homes winterized.

There are still many cool events this time of year so watch your favorite social media sites for weekly notices of what's happening.

Take advantage of the fruits and vegetables of the season. Apples are the best right now! (Maybe my wife, Leslie will bake me an apple pie?) Enjoy this beautiful time of year in the White Lake Area and *Lets Work Together* to make it even better!



Water & Sewer E-Billing

You asked—we found a solution! The City of Whitehall now offers it's residents paperless e-billing for their water/sewer bills. To sign up quick and easy, visit the City website to fill out the enrollment form. Once signed up, check your email for your quarterly bills. Quarterly billing dates are Jan, April, July, and October 10th. If you decide you'd like to change back to an old fashioned paper copy sent to you via regular mail it's as easy as filling out the online form to change your billing preferences.

A huge benefit of utilizing our new e-billing service is instant delivery... no waiting on the mail to receive your bill, no misplacing your paper copy, or wondering if the dog ate it. It's in your email inbox!

To sign up go to: <https://cityofwhitehall.org/live/e-billing-signup/>

"And So it Goes"



Fall Leaf Pickup

The Fall Leaf Pick-up Program will begin **Friday, October 27th**. The last day to have your leaves out for pick-up is **Friday, November 24th**. **Fall pickup does not include brush**. 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.

Sidewalk Snow Removal:

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.



REMINDER:

There is no parking on any city street from 2:00 am - 6:00 am from November 15 to March 31 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 Gillroy's Do-It Center.

Please do not park across sidewalks or block pedestrians and school children access to use the sidewalks.

Your help and cooperation are greatly appreciated.



"Something's Gotta Give"

Winter Tax season is coming... December 1st.



Please contact the City Treasurer's office if you believe your mailing address may be incorrect as failure to receive your tax bill, does not relieve you of the responsibility of on time payment. Post marks are not accepted so plan to mail your tax payment at least 7-10 days in advance of the due date.

Property tax calculations can be confusing and we're here to help you make sense of them. Property taxes are calculated based on the assessment at "Tax Day" December 31st of the previous year. Muskegon County mails out an Assessment Notice to homeowners each year in early February to let you know where your taxable value will be set. The MI Constitution protects homeowners with limits on annual increases in taxable value.

Whitehall (2023) collected 27.3797 mills in the Summer: City Operating; State Education; and County Operating. Winter collection is estimated at, 35.2769 mills: Whitehall District Schools; MAISD; MCC; County Museums, Veterans, and Seniors; Central Dispatch; White Lake Fire Authority; and White Lake Library. These rates are based on passed millages from ballot proposals.

PROPERTY TAX 101- CALCULATION

Multiplier

TV \$159,000/1,100 = \$159

Summer

\$159 X 27.3797 = \$4,353.38

Winter Non-homestead (PRE 0%)

\$159 X 35.2769 = \$5,609.03

Winter Homestead (PRE 100%)

\$159 X 17.2769 = \$2,747.03



*Amounts do not include Administrative Fee

To easily estimate your tax bill, take your "taxable value" and divide by 1000. This number is then multiplied by the millages for each season to get the base tax amount. Homeowners with a Homestead Exemption (100% PRE) reduce the Winter millages collected to 17.2769. When purchasing a new home your title company will often prorate the portion of taxes for the new owner based on the full year, amount due, and closing date.

See the example above for estimating tax on a home with taxable value of \$159,000.

New Ordinance - Deer Hunting



A new ordinance has been established that allows hunting within the City of Whitehall with an approved hunting permit. Hunting in the city is limited to bow, archery, or cross-bow ONLY during the regular DNR established bow hunting season.

The first step in obtaining a hunting permit is getting approval for an eligible property. Eligible property shall be located within the City on private property, and comprises no less than 6 contiguous acres. Adjacent landowners may apply jointly to meet the 6 acre minimum for designation as eligible property.

Once the eligible property has been approved for hunting, hunters may submit an application for a City hunting permit. Licensed bow, archery, or cross-bow hunters must meet the requirements established by the DNR and may apply annually to the City for a permit to deer hunt on eligible property.

For hunting permit application forms and information on hunting you may review **Ordinance - 51.10 Deer Control** which can be found online at cityofwhitehall.org or at City Hall.

"5 Flights Up"

Voting Information

If you know anyone who has not registered to vote, would like to vote by mail or just has questions about voting, the **Michigan's Voter Information Center** is filled with valuable resources www.mi.gov/vote. From here you can:

- ☒ See if you're registered
- ☒ Register to Vote
- ☒ Find your polling location
- ☒ See what's on your ballot
- ☒ Apply for an absentee ballot
- ☒ See the status of your absentee ballot

What's New With Proposal 2?

Michigan voters approved Proposal 2 in November 2022, expanding voting options. See the new rights below and stay updated as we detail these changes on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cityofwhitehallmi>.



Permanent Mail Voter List

Voters can now enroll as permanent mail (absentee) voters with one signed application, ensuring they automatically receive ballots for all future elections.



Early Voting

From the 2024 presidential primary onward, voters can vote early for nine days leading up to each state and federal election.

Military and Overseas Ballots

The absentee ballots of military voters and voters living overseas will be accepted if they are postmarked by Election Day and received by the clerk's office within six days of the election.



Election Integrity

Election audits, under the Secretary of State, must be secure, transparent, and non-partisan with disclosed funding. Only ballots cast determine results, and neither the Board of Canvassers nor legislature can overturn the voters' choice.

Voter Identification

Prop 2 reinforced the current voter ID law into the Constitution. In-person voters must show an approved photo ID or sign an identity affidavit if not in possession of one to cast a regular ballot.



Charitable Contributions

Local governments can still accept openly-disclosed donations for election administration.

Absentee Voting Improvements

The State now ensures more accessible absentee voting with prepaid postage, ballot tracking, and secure drop boxes for all jurisdictions.



Fundamental Right to Vote

No person or legal entity can act to interfere with or unreasonably burden the fundamental right to vote, either by act of law or by harassment or intimidation.

Did You Know...

That we're now featuring different actors & actresses in each newsletter by using their movie titles as our article titles?

July's newsletter featured...



Kevin Costner

Can you guess who's movie titles we're using this time?

"Book Club"

City General Election: November 7, 2023



There will be a City general election on November 7, 2023. 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. All voters have the option to vote by absentee.

For the Nov. 7th election, the last day to register online or by mail is **October 23rd**. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency at the Clerk's office.

The City Clerk will be in the office on **Saturday, November 4th from 8 am - 4 pm** to register voters and issue/receive absentee ballots.



Brush pick-up only in the spring

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 -

Robert Tufts

Electrical -

Jeff Johnson

Plumbing/Mechanical -

Jim Callender

Rental-

Toby Fredericksen

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 & October

at Noon

Visit The Playhouse website for more information and event ticketing.



www.theplayhouse
atwhitelake.org

"Smother" Playhouse Events



Cartoonversation

FREE Books, FREE Food, FREE Games

Saturday, October 14th, 12:00 - 3:00PM

Cartoonversation has something for all ages and is an entertaining and informative way for adults to spend time with the kids they love.



The Witches Ball

Saturday, October 21st, 3:00 - 7:30 PM

Join Wilma Witch and all her ghoulish friends for The Witch's Ball. This fun show is for young and old alike in this puppetry adventure by Joey Emory.

Adults \$20

Kids 12 and under \$7



Stage Combat and Creative Drama

Saturday, November 11th, 10:00AM-12:00PM

Learn stage fighting with a certified Stage Combat Choreographer, Chris Farrar. Students will learn combat choreography and participate in age specific drama with their new skills.

\$20 Fee (2 groups: Ages 7-8 & 9-12)

WLACE eligible



First Fridays Michigan Music Series



Rachael Davis — Michigan Songstress

Friday, October 6th at 7:30pm

Rachael Davis is a multi-instrumentalist renown for her expressive and explosive voice as she is for uniting the often disparate worlds of folk, blues, country, and pop.

\$20 in advance

\$25 day of show



Third Coast Swing

Friday, November 3rd at 7:30pm

Third Coast Swing has been playing music of the late Belgium born Romani Gypsy, Django Reinhardt and his band, The Hot Club of Paris 1930's-1940's. Think Louis Armstrong with a French accent.

\$20 in advance

\$25 day of show



The Ragbirds

Friday, December 1st at 7:30pm

Led by dynamic, multi-instrumentalist Erin Zindle, The Ragbirds music that is equally danceable, intelligent, and vulnerable. They incorporate indie-pop melodies, global-infused beats, rock guitar riffs, and folk sensibilities into a high-energy live show.

\$20 in advance

\$25 day of show