

CITY OF WHITEHALL

Our City, Our News

City Council Members

- Mayor Steve Salter
- Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Holmstrom
- Scott Brown
- Tanya Cabala
- Debi Hillebrand
- Steve Sikkenga
- Tom Ziemer

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 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 - Bills were mailed Dec 1st. Payments are due February 14, 2025. Please call City Hall if you have not yet received your tax bill. 231-894-4048

Visit us at:
www.cityofwhitehall.org



“Cool Runnings” Message from the Mayor

Now that the holidays are behind us and we settle into the long winter, please remember to keep your sidewalks clear. If there is a fire hydrant near you, make sure it isn't buried in snow.

As we look forward in 2025 there are many changes coming to our town. The new Harwood Flats apartment building will be accepting renters and the former Big John's building will be removed to give a passerby a beautiful view of White Lake! The open space area will feature a beautiful community gathering space and will be completed sometime next year.

Visit the White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce website (<https://www.whitelake.org>) and be sure to sign up for their weekly update of events happening all year long. There is lots to do in the White Lake Area, even in the cold winter months ahead!

“Roman Holiday”



Shop with a Hero

Whitehall Police Department in partnership with the local Whitehall Township Walmart store hosted the annual Shop with a Hero event on Wednesday, December 11th. The event brings together area students and public safety personnel. A total of 25 students participated in the event.

Each student and their public safety shopper were allotted \$150 to purchase gifts for the student's family. Several schools participated in the event including Whitehall District Schools, Montague District Schools, and Duck Creek Learning Center.



Volunteer shoppers for the event were from multiple jurisdictions and public safety disciplines. The following agencies/ departments had staff volunteers to assist: Whitehall Police Department, Montague Police Department, Michigan State Police, DNR, Montague Fire Department, White Lake Fire Department, and White Lake Ambulance Authority.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Shop with a Hero event possible and thank you to Walmart for providing the funding to help so many children this Christmas season!

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 2:00am—6:00am 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.



“Delirious”

ALL THE THINGS - PROPERTY TAX

POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

For property owners wishing to file or renew a Poverty Exemption for the 2025 tax year, please check the City website under “Links & Documents” for the 2025 guidelines, forms, and required documents. Exemptions must be filed in February for action to be taken at the March Board of Review.



ASSESSMENT NOTICE 101

Annually, in late January/early February, Muskegon County Equalization Department mails homeowners an Assessment Notice. This document (Form L-4400) is a yearly explanation of your real property assessment and contains information that can affect the calculation of your property taxes.

When you receive your assessment notice it is important to check the information provided. Your taxable value will be used to calculate your Summer/Winter tax billings. Homeowners may appeal their values annually at the March Board of Review.

The bottom of your assessment notice provides information on when, where, and how to appeal your valuation. Appeals may be made by letter or in person. Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling the Treasurer's office at 231-894-4048. The 2025 Board of Review will meet the second week of March. Please check the City website and local paper for exact dates & times.

Find more info at <https://www.co.muskegon.mi.us/722/Equalization>

VETERAN'S EXEMPTIONS

Disabled veterans and surviving spouses wishing to claim a property tax exemption on their homestead should contact the Veteran's Affairs office if they have not received a benefits letter. Form 5107 must accompany the benefit letter and can be found online or at City Hall. To avoid mortgage escrow issues and receiving a summer tax bill, it is recommended that letters and applications be turned in by May 31st, although exemptions may be granted through December 30th. For more info visit <https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/exemptions/veterans/disabled-veterans-exemption>

SMALL BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX

On October 24, 2023, Governor Whitmer signed into law P.A. 176 of 2023. This act made changes to MCL 211.9o, requiring all eligible claimants with personal property totaling \$80,000 or more but less than \$180,000 in true cash value within the local assessing unit to annually file both the Small Business Property Tax Exemption Claim (Form 5076) and a personal property statement (Form 632) to qualify for the exemption. Taxpayers wishing to claim the small business property tax exemption with true cash value greater than or equal to \$80,000 but less than \$180,000 must file both forms each year in which they wish to receive the exemption.

Taxpayers receiving the small business exemption with property valued at less than \$80,000 true cash value within the local assessing unit will continue to receive the exemption until they are no longer eligible for the exemption or until the true cash value of their property exceeds \$80,000.

Find the 2025 form MI - 5076 online or stop into City Hall to fill one out for your eligible small business to receive a personal property tax exemption. Forms should be filed by February for action to be taken at the March Board of Review.

“Uncle Buck”



Did you know?

Did you know you can receive your ballot by mail (via the permanent ballot list) but still place it in the tabulator on Election Day if you prefer?

Have more election questions?

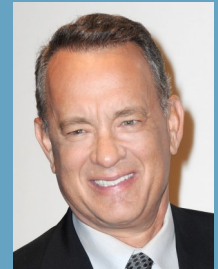
Visit: MI.gov/vote
or
contact your clerk:
cityclerk@cityofwhitehall.org
894-4048



Did You Know...

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

October's newsletter featured...



Tom Hanks

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

Did You Know...

The quickest way to find a form, application, map, permit, etc. on the City's website is through the quick links menu on the main page that takes you to LINKS & DOCUMENTS. Can't find something? Just ask!



Water & Sewer Auto-Pay Option

We are currently working on the automatic payment option for residents. We are hoping to roll this out some time in the 2025 year. Stayed tuned!

“The Great Outdoors”

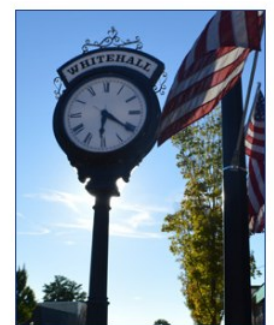
Snow Reminders



As a reminder 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.



Quick Links

- > [View the City Calendar](#)
- > [Links & Documents](#)
- > [Ordinances](#)
- > [Online Bill Pay & E-Billing](#)

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.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org



“Planes, Trains & Automobiles”

Playhouse Events

Stage and Savor: A Community Event Series

Stage and Savor Onstage is a uniquely themed event each month in the winter (Jan/Feb/March) to showcase our local artisan food and drinks, arts and music. All proceeds benefit The Playhouse at White Lake!



January Sips & Soups Onstage

Saturday, January 25, 4:00—7:00PM (\$30)

Offerings of our favorite soups paired with a complementing beverage.

February Sips & Sweets Onstage

Saturday, February 22, 4:00—7:00PM (\$30)

Offerings of signature desserts with a drink pairing designed to showcase them.



March Brews & Bowls Onstage

Saturday, March 22, 4:00—7:00PM (\$30)

Offerings of fresh and raw salads, grain bowls, pasta salads and more. Enjoy your food with a delectable drink.



White Lake Youth Theatre presents . . .



Musical Theatre Dance Workshop & Mini Show

Saturday, January 18, 10AM—12PM

January 18 Performance 11:45AM (Cost: Free)

Start your children’s new year with movement and friends! Choreographer Samantha Farrar returns for another one-day immersive to teach a fun and fabulous dance.

Workshop Cost \$20 (or pay what you can)



Hercules-Musical Play Camp

April 7-12 10:00AM—2:15PM

April 12 Performance 2:00PM (pay what you can)

The White Lake Youth Theatre (WLYT) welcomes Missoula Children’s Theatre back to The Playhouse for a one-week Spring Musical Play Camp featuring the beloved story of Hercules. This program is open to actors 5-18 and partial scholarships are available. WLACE homeschool eligible.

Workshop Cost \$150