

# CITY OF WHITEHALL

## *Our City, Our News*

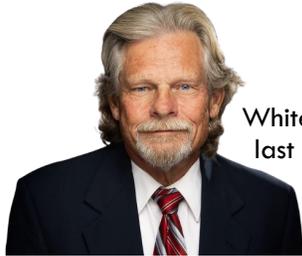
### City Council Members

- Mayor Tom Ziemer
- Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Holmstrom
- Scott Brown
- Tanya Cabala
- Debi Hillebrand
- Bryan Mahan
- Roger Squiers

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- For daytime sewer or water emergencies call 894-4048. After hours call 911.
- Utility bills are mailed quarterly.
- Building and Zoning permits are available on our website at [www.cityofwhitehall.org](http://www.cityofwhitehall.org)
- Winter Tax Bills - Bills were mailed Dec 1st. [Payments are due February 17, 2026.](#) Please call City Hall if you have not yet received your tax bill. 231-894-4048

Visit us at:  
[www.cityofwhitehall.org](http://www.cityofwhitehall.org)



## “Captain Ron” Message from the Mayor

Whitehall city government underwent many changes in 2025. Over the last seven months of 2025, new people took over the positions of police chief, city manager, treasurer, mayor and director of public works. We are all anxious to do our jobs well, try out some new ideas, and move our great city forward.

For example, in the last couple months of 2025, we acquired a new leaf truck. Unfortunately, it arrived the day before our earlier-than-normal heavy snows, but next year leaf removal should go smoothly. In addition, we purchased a great new sidewalk snow blower to help with all the snow we have been getting.

In 2026, for the first time in years, we are planning reconstruction on a number of local streets! Road work should also help increase the rate of replacing lead water pipes. Our police department will be handling traffic citations differently too. In most cases tickets will be processed here in Whitehall rather than at the county. Drivers will pay smaller fines and usually will not receive “points” that would increase insurance rates. The city will retain the entire fine rather than getting a small percentage back from the county, so everyone wins. Good things are happening in Whitehall. I hope everyone enjoys a prosperous 2026!

## “Three Amigos!” 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 16th. The event brought together area students and public safety personnel. A total of 12 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, Montague Fire Department, DNR, and White Lake Fire Department.

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!

# “The Big Picture”

## ALL THE THINGS - PROPERTY TAX

### 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.



### POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

For property owners wishing to file or renew a Poverty Exemption for the 2026 tax year, please check the City website under “Links & Documents” for the 2026 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 2026 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 April 30th, although exemptions may be granted through December 30th. For more info visit <https://www.michigan.gov/taxes/property/exemptions/veterans/disabled-veterans-exemption>

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



The Whitehall Police Department announces the retirement of Officer **Derek Sova** after three decades of dedicated service to our community. Please join us in honoring his career and wishing him well in the next chapter.



- When:** February 27th
- Time:** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- Where:** Whitehall City Hall Garden Room
- Details:** Light refreshments will be provided.

**Thank you, Officer Sova, for 30 years of commitment and protection!**

# “Jungle 2 Jungle”

**Please Do Not Park  
on Sidewalks.**

**Blocked sidewalks delay snow removal.**



**THANK YOU.**

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and clear!

# “Father of the Bride”

## Senior Corner



AgeWell Services of West Michigan helps you redefine age through connections that support health and wellness!

Meals on Wheels helps homebound seniors age 60 and over stay healthy so they can live independently in their homes as long as possible. Delicious and nutritious meals are delivered with a warm smile and a friendly word. AgeWell drivers also check on the health and safety of each senior and forward any concerns to our professional assessors.

For those not eligible for meals funded in part by grants, there is an option for full-pay meals with a monthly billing. For more information, please visit [agewellservices.org](http://agewellservices.org) or call (231)755-0434 (tollfree 1-800-442-6769)

AgeWell’s Senior Medical Transportation program provides safe, no-cost, door-to-door, non-emergency medical transportation for low-income Muskegon County residents 60 and older. The service operates Monday—Friday from 8AM-3:45PM. For more information about the Senior Medical Transportation program, please visit [agewellservices.org](http://agewellservices.org) or call (231) 726-7090 (toll free 1-800-6769).

### The VAC

If you’re a city resident aged 60 or older, you can enjoy free access to the Viking Athletic Center (VAC)— thanks to City senior millage funding!

That’s right! Through support from the City of Whitehall’s senior millage and Whitehall District Schools, eligible senior from participating municipalities (including City of Whitehall, White River, Blue Lake, and Fruitland) are able to use the VAC facilities at no cost—whether you’re walking the track, working out, or joining in activities!

This benefit is part of the City’s commitment to enhancing health, wellness, and community connection for our seniors by making the VAC a welcoming place for fitness and socialization.



### 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...



### Judy Garland

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!



### 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 - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Friday  
8 a.m. to 12 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](http://www.theplayhouseatwhitelake.org)

# "A Simple Wish"

## Playhouse Events



**Beauty and the Beast BE OUR GUEST Musical Theatre Dance Workshop & Mini Show**  
**Saturday, January 24, 10AM—12PM**  
**January 24 Performance 11:50AM (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)**



### The Langford Lads

**Saturday, March 7 at 7:30PM**

**Tickets \$20-Advance, \$25-Day of Show, \$10-Students**

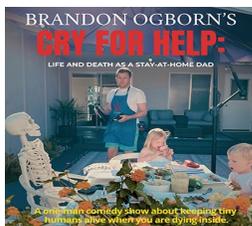
A sonically stunning trio where the intersection of Irish and American Folk music meets in a tapestry of tone that blends instrumentals, heartfelt vocals, and engaging storytelling that captivate audiences of all ages.



### Timeless: White Lake Wedding & Special Event Showcase

**Saturday, March 28, 11:00AM to 1:00PM**  
**FREE!**

If you ever wondered about renting the Playhouse for a wedding, graduation, reunion, bridal or baby shower, retirement, birthday party, or other special event? Join us for the first annual TIMELESS: White Lake Wedding and Special Event Showcase! The Playhouse will be featuring vendors that have partnered beautifully with us in the past. The vendors will also be opening their calendars and giving those in attendance first priority to special discounts when booking event parties for 2026.



### Brandon Ogborn's Cry for Help

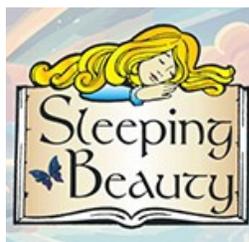
**Life and Death as a Stay-At-Home Dad**

**April 17-18 at 7:30PM**

**Tickets \$20-Advance, \$25-Day of Show**

Wrestling with the loss of his father, uncovering family secrets, and navigating the surprises of middle-aged medical care, Ogborn discovers that parenting and grief are basically the same thing — exhausting, disorienting, and everyone has an opinion about how you're doing it wrong.

## White Lake Youth Theatre presents . . .



### Spring Break-Musical Play Camp

**April 6-10 10:00AM—2:15PM**

**April 10 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 with an original adaptation of Sleeping Beauty. Sleeping Beauty gets placed under a sleeping spell by the evil Scarella. Five hundred years pass and Sleeping Beauty wakes to find herself in a Rock 'n Roll dream!

**Workshop Cost \$160**