



# Montague Messenger

The semi-annual newsletter  
of the  
City of Montague

## City Council

Mayor Henry Roesler  
Calvin "Hap" Cederquist  
Leslie Chase  
Mark Freeland  
Tom Lohman  
Dennis "Randy" Lydens  
June Schmelzer

## Meeting Dates

### City Council

First and Third Monday of  
each month at 5:30 PM

### Planning Commission

Second Monday of each month  
at 7:30 PM

### Downtown Development

### Authority

Third Thursday of each month  
at 7:00 AM

## City Hall will be closed on the following Holidays:

November 24 & 25

December 23, 26 & 30

January 2

## City Staff

Laurie Robillard, City Clerk  
Susanne McGee, Treasurer  
Steve Hammond, DPW Director  
Scott Beishuizen, DPW Foreman  
Robert Rought, Police Chief  
Cherie Anderson, Police Secretary  
Tina Ramthun, Utilities Clerk  
Dennis Burns, Assessor  
Troy DeBrot, Building Official  
Matt Miller, Zoning Administrator  
John French, City Manager



## City Election on November 8, 2011

The polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM. All City Council/ Mayoral seats are contested on the ballot with four newcomers running for office, along with the four incumbents.

Henry E. Roesler, Jr., the City's Mayor since 1991, is being opposed by Kevin Erb. Mr. Erb also ran against Mr. Roesler in 2009. The three incumbent City Council members include Leslie Chase, Tom Lohman, and June Schmelzer, all first elected to the City Council in 2007. Previous to that election, June Schmelzer was appointed to the City Council in December 2006 to fill a vacancy. There are three newcomers also running for these three City Council seats: Cheryl Lohman, Jeff Auch and Lisa Kiel.

The term of office for Mayor is two years, while the City Council term of office is four years. The last day a resident can register to vote in this Election is October 11, 2011. Contact City Clerk, Laurie Robillard, at 893-1155 weekdays from 8 AM to 5 PM, with any questions or to obtain an application to vote by absentee ballot on November 8.

## Did You Know?

The Reverend William Montague Ferry platted the then Village of Montague in 1867, and named the streets after the generals and heroes of the Civil War, in recognition of one of his sons, Colonel Noel Ferry who died on the battlefield at Gettysburg. Our town was dubbed with his middle name, but William Ferry also founded and named the Village of Ferrysburg and the City of Grand Haven.



Another of Rev. Ferry's sons, Thomas White Ferry, served as a U.S. senator from Michigan and the president pro-tem of the Senate. When President Ulysses S. Grant's Vice President, Henry Wilson, died in 1875, Thomas Ferry became the acting vice president. But it gets even better... when President Grant's term ended on Sunday, March 4, 1877 and President-Elect Rutherford B. Hayes was not inaugurated until noon on Monday, March 5 – technically Thomas W. Ferry was the President for one day.

Historians will forever debate whether Thomas W. Ferry was actually the President for 24 hours, but there is no question that he served his country as a high-ranking government official as a Senator from 1871-1883. In 1873 he introduced a bill to make Mackinac Island a National Park, which was passed by Congress in 1875 and then signed into law by President Grant. After all, he had a special fondness for the island since it was his birthplace and his childhood home. His father was the superintendent of Mackinac Island's Protestant Mission from 1823-1834.



## Pumpkinfest

Saturday, October 8 is time again for the World's Famous Pumpkin Roll down the town hill, also known as Pumpkin-Fest. Registration for one dollar begins downtown at 9:30 AM and the Pumpkin Roll begins at 11 AM: first with the toddlers, then kids followed by teenagers and then adults. Last year's youngest contestant was six weeks old and the oldest pumpkin roller was 90. This year, once the oldest age group has finished rolling, there will be a challenge roll between the Whitehall and Montague school superintendents and the police chiefs. The last time there was pumpkin roll challenges between the two White Lake cities, Montague beat Whitehall 6 to 1.

There will be all sorts of activities going on: a pumpkin pie contest; face painting; a carved pumpkin contest; seed spitting; pumpkin bowling; biggest pumpkin weigh-in; pumpkin shot-put; pumpkin painting and hay rides. The Farmers Market will be open from 8 AM until noon and the Senior Center will have a Bake Sale from 9 AM to 1 PM. Twist-ers, Paisley Place and other area businesses will have pumpkin specialty items on hand. The Book Nook & Java Shop provides a free hot chocolate to all blue ribbon winners, and folks enjoy the Apple Cider Mill demonstration up the street. Check out the Youth Art Fair near the Nuveen Center and parents can have their kids fingerprinted as part of the Michigan ID Program sponsored by the Masonic Lodge.

Watch the White Lake Beacon for the specific details of the schedule of various events, which will also be displayed on posters distributed throughout the downtown by the Chamber of Commerce. If you don't bring your own pumpkin, you can buy one downtown that morning for \$1. Last year, 967 pumpkins were rolled; special thanks to the Montague High School DECA volunteers that registered every one of them.



## Brush Pick-Up and Yard Waste

Curbside pick-up of limbs and brush takes place on the **first Thursday of each month** from May through October. The Department of Public Works will be chipping **normal** yard waste and limbs. Brush must be placed close to the street and should not be more than four inches in diameter. No stumps, building materials, leaves, or other debris will be collected.

The DPW cannot collect brush deposited in alleys, nor trees or brush that were generated by a commercial trimming service. Residents that are clearing mature trees must also have their brush removed by a private company, as this City service is not for tree removal.

Limbs and brush must be placed out by the street no later than 7 AM on the first Thursday of each month, as the DPW collection crew will make **only one trip** through town. Please do not put brush out by the road more than one week prior to pick-up.

City residents may deposit grass clippings and leaves at the DPW yard located at the corner of Cook and Bowen Streets. Unless they are biodegradable, the bags must be removed.

**The burning of leaves or brush is prohibited at any time.**

## Sign Rules

Political signs, or signs for garage sales and yard sales, should not be placed in the City right-of-way (approximately 33' from the center of the road including utility poles and street trees). Political signs *must* be removed within 10 days after an election.

## Halloween

October 31 falls on Monday this year; the Montague Police Department recommends that trick-or-treating take place between 6 PM and 8 PM. Parents are advised to make sure their kids' costumes allow them to see and hear properly. Extra police and fire personnel will be on hand to assist with safe crossing at busy intersections. Carrying a flashlight is a good idea for kids to increase visibility. Drive safely!

## Hydrant Flushing

The Department of Public Works will be flushing fire hydrants during the week that begins on Monday, October 17, between 9 AM and 3 PM. Usually this takes the better part of three days and is finished by Wednesday, but since the DPW's schedule can change at a moment's notice due to storms, water main breaks, etc., it could take longer. You can always call City Hall at 893-1155 to check if hydrant flushing has been completed.

Montague water customers are recommended not to do laundry during these hours, as flushing the water mains and hydrants dislodges rust that's accumulated and can end up in your washing machine. If a temporary discoloration of the water is noticed, customers are advised to run their water for about five minutes until it clears up.





By most accounts, the first year of the Montague Artisan Market Place (MAMP) was very successful. Every Saturday between June and October, from 8 AM to 4 PM, the MAMP had up to 20-some artist vendors, along with food booths, live music and even a juggler.

Thanks to the hard-working MAMP Committee that created this Saturday destination, and frets all of the details. The Artisan Market plans to be back in 2012.

### Cruz'in by the Numbers

This past Cruz'in on July 29, was the 16<sup>th</sup> family-friendly classic car show/parade, featuring vehicles no newer than 1975. Cars line up in Whitehall, parade to Montague – and then park so that thousands of enthusiasts can check 'em out. "How many cars were there?" everyone wants to know. Here are the stats from the last four Cruz'ins – always on the last Friday in July:

2008 – **543** cars & trucks  
 2009 – **543** cars & trucks (*again*)  
 2010 – **500** cars & trucks  
 2011 – **428** cars & trucks

### Snowmobiles

The Montague Police Department will be enforcing State laws concerning the operation of snowmobiles. The City of Montague does permit the operation of snowmobiles on the shoulder of City streets, solely for the purpose of taking the most direct route to and from designated snowmobile trails. Operators must obey all traffic laws of the roadway with the biggest area of concerns being speed, noise and respect for personal property. Snowmobiles can use the bike trails in Montague, as long as there is at least 4" of snow.

### Property Checks/Vacation Watch

City residents that are planning on being out of town on vacation or "wintering" in warmer climates – can stop by the Montague Police Department and complete a form in order to have the Police Department keep an eye on their house. Call 893-0810...

### March Board of Review

Property Owners should receive Assessment Change Notices by the end of February 2012. The Assessment Change Notice will tell you the meeting dates and times of the 2012 March Board of Review. Tentative dates for the March 2012 Board of Review are March 12 through 14, 2012. Watch for an ad in the White Lake Beacon with actual dates and times of the Board of Review. If you do not receive a Change Notice and would like to know what your assessment is for the new year, please contact City Hall.

### Sculptures 'Round the City

Thanks to the Arts Council of White Lake, the 2010 Rural Arts Grant Program, the Muskegon Community Foundation and Ferris State University Art Professor, Robert Barnum – Montague is now the home of several of Barnum's metal sculptures. The first, from 2006, is located along the Bike Trail crossing on Dowling Street, near Comerica Bank. This year, four bike rack sculptures by Barnum were placed at various locations: "Fisherman" near the bike trail head building at the east end of Spring Street; "Dancers" near the Band Shell; "A Good Book" outside the front door of the Library; and the "Jazzman" (more sculpture than bike rack) that's playing his saxophone 24/7 at the southeast corner of Dowling and Ferry Street.

The grand Robert Barnum sculpture, over 40' long and made of aluminum, is mounted on the north brick, exterior wall of the White River Gallery – at the bottom of the "town hill." The Arts Council held a contest to name this sprawling sculpture, and Clare Schaff submitted the winning entry – "Flow."

### Watch for Changes in Dog Licensing Policies

### Fire Prevention Week

**October 9 - 15, 2011**

The Montague Fire Department will be visiting the local schools throughout the week conducting educational activities including fire drills. The Parade will be Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 PM beginning in Montague and ending at the Whitehall Fire Station. Wednesday, October 12 there will be an Open House from 6 to 8 PM at the Montague Fire Station located at 5085 Wilcox. Come visit the station; enjoy cider and donuts while checking out all the equipment and take a ride on a fire engine!

**Did You Know?** Out of 1,907 Fire Departments in the State of Michigan, *only 86* are rated higher than the Montague Fire Department.



### OAK GROVE CEMETERY



A reminder to have any flowers or decorations removed from gravesites by October 24, 2011 or they will be disposed of by City personnel. Winter decorations and wreaths are not to be placed before November 1, 2011 and must be removed by April 1, 2012.



**City of Montague**  
8778 Ferry Street  
Montague, MI 49437

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT # 21  
MONTAGUE, MI

**City Hall**  
Phone: 231-893-1155  
Fax: 231-894-9955  
E-mail: cityofmontague@aol.com

**Police Dept.**  
Phone: 231-893-0810  
Fax: 231-893-3903

**Public Works Dept.**  
Phone: 231-893-2235  
Fax: 231-893-0815

Postal Customer

Montague, MI 49437



Home of the World's Largest Weathervane

## Library Hours

Monday - Wednesday 10 AM - 7 PM  
Friday 10 AM - 5 PM  
Saturday 9 AM - Noon

CLOSED Thursday and Sunday



**PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME**

Wednesdays @ 1:00 PM

With Miss Allison

### Christmas Tree Disposal

After the holidays have concluded, residents can drop off their Christmas trees across Cook Street from the DPW Garage at 4976 Bowen Street.



## White River Gallery

and the Nuveen Community  
Center for the Arts

(231)893-2524

www.artscouncilofwhitelake.org

## White Lake Solid Waste Authority

2100 West Holton-Whitehall Rd  
231-893-2405

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
October through May  
10 AM to 5 PM



## Christmas Parade and Santa's House

The Annual Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 3, beginning at 2 PM in Whitehall.

Santa will be available for visits at his house in front of Montague City Hall right after the Parade and the following dates and times:

**Fridays:**

December 9 & 16 from 4 - 6 p.m.

**Saturdays:**

December 10 & 17 from 1 - 3 p.m.

