



Montague Messenger

The semi-annual newsletter
of the
City of Montague

City Council

Mayor Kevin Erb

Jeff Auch

Calvin "Hap" Cederquist

Mark Freeland

Lisa Kiel

Tom Lohman

Dennis "Randy" Lydens

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 AM

City Hall will be closed on the following Holidays:

Good Friday, April 6

Memorial Day, May 28

Independence Day, July 4

Labor Day, September 3

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, Administrative Assistant

John French, City Manager

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Enforcing New Lawn Sprinkling "Cross Connection" Regulation

Of the City of Montague's 1,240 water customer accounts, about 167 have irrigation systems in order to sprinkle their yards. Because these irrigation systems pose a potential cross connection to the City's potable water supply, the Department of Public Works is required by the State of Michigan to routinely inspect the backflow prevention plumbing of every water customer where a cross connection can occur, which also includes large water users such as Diversified Machine, Inc. and Tower Laboratories.

In the past, the State MDEQ rules and regulations have been that "high hazard" water customers (such as MasterTag, DMI, Tower Labs, the City's Campground, and 15 others) be visually inspected by the City's DPW *every year*. The DPW has routinely inspected every homeowner's irrigation system *every two years*, and submitted the required Cross Connection report to the State.

Now however, MDEQ District Engineer Steve Bush has notified the City that effective January 1, 2011, backflow preventers (actually the PVB – pressure vacuum breaker) must be tested by a Master Plumber by January 1, 2014 and a copy of that test report must be filed with the City at the DPW Garage. This regulation requires that after January 1, 2014 the City will not be able to allow water customers to activate their sprinkling systems unless they have had their PVB tested and the Master Plumber's report is on file.

We are sorry for this inconvenience, but this is a State MDEQ rule that the City has been told it *must* enforce. You will need to hire a Master Plumber to perform this inspection and test on your irrigation system's backflow preventer.

Your cooperation will be appreciated.

New Dog License Renewal Deadlines

Muskegon County has gone to year round dog licensing based on the month in which your dog's rabies shot is due. The County Health Department will be sending out your dog's license renewal form the month before their license expires. City residents can now purchase their dog licenses year round at City Hall. Licenses must be purchased before the end of the month in which your dog received its rabies vaccination to avoid a late fee. If your dog has just received its three-year rabies shot, you can purchase a three-year license at a discounted price. *For more information call or stop in at City Hall.*

This, that and the other thing...

Hydrant Flushing

The Department of Public Works will be flushing fire hydrants between 9 AM and 3 PM, tentatively scheduled for the week of April 16 to 20. Weather conditions could cause these dates to change; watch the Montague Downtown Development Authority sign board at Water Street and Dowling Street for the confirmed dates.

Water customers are advised not to do laundry during the hours that hydrants are being flushed. If a temporary discoloration of the water is noticed, you should run your cold water for about five minutes until it clears.

If you have any questions or concerns about the flushing program or the City's water, contact the DPW Maintenance Garage at 231-893-2235 weekdays between 7 AM and 3:30 PM.

Why Are My City Taxes So High?

With last November's City Election, three newcomers were elected to the Montague City Council; one of the first things they noticed is how often they are asked by residents, "Why are my City taxes so high?"

Nobody likes property taxes, but sometimes we need to look past the "bottom line" and analyze where our tax dollars go. The City of Montague is simply the collection authority for many other entities in our community which we as voters approved to support through a collected millage. Overall, less than 25% of the taxes we collect and you pay actually go directly to the City Operating millage. During the summer the City not only collects the City Operating Millage, but also those taxes for Montague Area Public Schools Operating millage, Montague School Debt, Muskegon Intermediate School District, State Education Tax, County Operating, and Montague Fire District. These other taxes account for nearly 70% of all taxes we collect during the year and is the larger of the two tax bills we collect. And, if your property has a 100% Homestead designation you don't pay the Montague Area Public Schools Operating millage. The other taxes we collect in the winter, the smaller of your tax bills, goes to Muskegon Community College, County Museum (Lakeshore Museum Center), Veterans (County), Quality of Life millage (Muskegon Art Museum, Frauenthal Theatre, and L.C. Walker Arena), Central Dispatch, White Lake Ambulance Authority, and the Muskegon Area District Library.

Pride Days

The City of Montague has designated **Wednesday, April 18** and **Saturday, April 21** as free dump days at the White Lake Transfer Station on Holton-Whitehall Road. The Transfer Station is open from 10 AM to 5 PM on Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

You **must** stop by City Hall weekdays between 8 AM and 5 PM to obtain your free dump coupon. The limit is one load per City Resident. This pass is **NOT** to be used for the following items; yard waste, tires, batteries and hazardous materials.

Master Plan and Recreational Revision

Every five years, the Planning Commission is required to review both the City's Master Plan and its Recreation Plan to determine if either (or both) need to be revised or modified. As part of this process, the Planning Commission designed the public opinion survey that is enclosed within this newsletter. Residents are encouraged to fill it out and can drop it off at City Hall weekdays between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, or; include it with their water bill if they pay by mail, or; put it in the City Hall drop slot to the right of the entrance to the Library on Ferry Street.

The PC plans to compile the results of this survey in early May, so please take a few minutes to fill it out, and return it to the City by May 9, 2012. Thank you!

Farmers Market

As always, the Montague Farmers Market will be open every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:00 AM to noon, between mid June and the end of October. The Spring Plant Sale will begin on Saturdays only, beginning May 5.

Fire Siren

The fire siren is set off each day (excluding Sundays) at 12 PM as a "noon whistle." When this occurs, the siren only cycles once. In the event of a fire, vehicular accident, medical call or any other emergency, Muskegon County Central Dispatch will activate the siren and it will cycle three times. To minimize the disturbance for folks trying to sleep, the fire siren is set up to operate between 7 AM and 10 PM only.

In the event of a *tornado warning*, Central Dispatch will set off the siren and it will run as a steady wail for a continuous three minutes. From April through October, the tornado siren is tested every third Friday at 10 AM in both Montague and Whitehall.

Pay Your Property Taxes with ACH (Automated Clearing House)

Don't ever be late paying your property taxes again. City of Montague taxes can now be paid by preauthorized debit from your banking account. Authorization forms can be picked up at City Hall.

Upcoming 2012 Primary and General Elections

If you are not registered and would like to vote in the August 7 Primary, you must do so by Monday July 9, 2012. Likewise, the deadline to register for the November 7 General Election is Tuesday October 9, 2012.

If you have any questions, contact City Clerk Laurie Robillard at 893-1155 or email at clerk@cityofmontague.org.

Montague Museum

2012 looks to be an exciting season for the Museum, with major changes planned for the displays and exhibits – both inside and outside. By mid-summer, Montague Observer newspapers from the late 1800s and early 1980s will become available on CD. Besides at the Museum, folks will be able to access this CD at local libraries and the County Museum (now known as the Lakeshore Museum Center). The days of having to research by going from page to page will be over, as one will be able to type in a subject name and initiate a search.

The Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 PM to 5 PM, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. During the week, the Museum can be opened by appointment by contacting Sally McLouth at 894-9267 or Jim Haley at 894-8249. Located at 8717 Meade Street, admission to the Montague Museum is free and donations are accepted.

White Lake Little League

The White Lake area has been nominated to host the Junior Baseball (ages 13-14) State Finals at the end of July this summer. A committee is actively working to organize and plan this major event, which if it comes to fruition will take place during the weekend of Cruz'in on July 27. Watch the papers for more details if Montague and Whitehall are selected to host this popular event.

White Lake Senior Center

A financial report to the Montague City Council indicated 2011 was a good year for the Senior Center, as its income exceeded its expenses costs by about \$4,000. That doesn't happen very often. The Senior Center and all of its programs are funded locally by the generous contributions of area municipalities including the City of Whitehall and the townships of Montague, White River, Blue Lake, Fruitland, Claybanks and Grant. Private donations, fundraisers and membership dues make up the majority of the income balance to the Senior Center. The Senior Center serves the greater White Lake area in many, many ways that go beyond just a focus on senior citizens. Anyone can become a member; *please* consider joining for only \$25 per year – and help keep the Senior Center "in the black."

Open: Mondays through Thursdays - 8 AM to 2 PM

8741 Ferry St.
Montague, MI 49437
Tel: 231-894-9493

Website: www.whitelakeseniors.org
Email: director@whitelakeseniors.org

Trailway Campground

Trailway Campground, the City's RV Park adjacent to the Hart-Montague Bicycle State Park, opens for the season on Friday, May 1 and closes on October 15. RV sites at the campground cost: \$30 - \$32 per day; \$180 - \$192 per week; \$570 - \$618 per month; or \$1,525 for the entire season. The sites are each served by water, sewer, cable television, electricity and Wi-Fi. There are over 50 RV sites, as well as six sites for tent campers (three with water and electricity).

To reserve a site, call 231-894-4903 (after Saturday, April 28) or e-mail the park managers at:

trailwaycampgr@aol.com. Or on the web at www.trailwaycampground.com

Brush Pick-Up and Yard Waste

Curbside pick-up of limbs and brush takes place on the **first Thursday of each month** from April 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 over four feet in length or four inches in diameter. No stumps, building materials, leaves, or other debris will be collected.

Sorry... 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

Cruz'in

Friday, July 27, 2012

Many food vendors are open as early as Noon, located beside the Post Office and next to the Farmers' Market.

7 PM Parade - Cruise!!

Disc Jockeys at both ends of downtown until 10 PM

*Come see over 400 classic cars
that are from 1975 or older.*



Artisan Market

The MAMP (Montague Artisan Market Place) will return for its second summer, beginning on June 2 and running every Saturday through September 22. The hours this summer will be from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information, contact Montague City Hall at 893-1155 and City staff can provide you with contact information for the MAMP Committee members.

.....Just around the corner from
the Farmers Market....

City of Montague
8778 Ferry Street
Montague, MI 49437

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

City Hall

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

Police Department

Phone: 231-893-0810
Fax: 231-893-3903
E-mail: rrought900@gmail.com

Public Works Department

Phone: 231-893-2235
Fax: 231-893-0815
E-mail: montaguedpw@chartermi.net

Postal Customer

Montague, MI 49437



Home of the World's Largest Weathervane

Muskegon Area District Library
Summer Programs

Mondays at 3:00 PM with Miss Allison

- June 11 Ventriloquist Villi Gasko-Green
- June 18 A Juggler's Dream
- June 25 Zipper Pulls
- July 9 Bats Around the World
- July 16 T-Shirt Painting
- July 23 Michigan Owls

~Parades and Fireworks~

- Memorial Day Parade - May 28, 9:30 AM
- 4th of July Parade - July 4, 10 AM
- 4th of July Fireworks - July 4 at Dusk

Library Summer Book Talks

Wednesdays at 10 AM
in City Hall Council Chambers

July 11

Thomas Jankowski, Ph.D

Nobody's Burden: Lessons from the Great Depression on the Struggle for Old-Age Security

July 18

Dan Yakes, Ph.D

Land Between the Lakes: Sylvan Beach

July 25

Susan Newhof

Spirits & Wine

August 1

David Walks-as-Bear

Witiku, The Shape Shifter

Library Hours

Monday - Wednesday	10 AM-7 PM
Thursdays	Closed
Friday	10 AM-5 PM
Saturday	9 AM-12 PM

Arts Council of White Lake
Summer Concert Series

at the Montague Band Shell

The Arts Council of White Lake sponsors free concerts throughout the summer. All concerts are on Tuesdays and begin at 7 PM.

- June 26 Ben Bedford (Folk)
- July 3 Big Tobacco (Blue Grass/Rock)
- July 10 Scottville Clown Band (Dixieland)
- July 17 Steppin' In It (Swing)
- July 24 Community Concert Band (Classical)
- July 31 West Side Soul Surfers (Soul)
- August 7 Nichols Quintet (Jazz)
- August 14 Conklin Ceili Band (Celtic)

