



# Montague Messenger

The semi-annual newsletter  
of the  
City of Montague

## City Council

Mayor Kevin Erb  
Jeff Auch  
Calvin "Hap" Cederquist  
Lisa Kiel  
Tom Lohman  
Dennis "Randy" Lydens  
Steven Mayberry

## 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:**

*November 28 & 29*

*December 24, 25 and 31*

*January 1*

## 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

## PumpkinFest on October 12

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> will be the World's Famous Pumpkin Roll down the town hill. Watch the local newspapers and posters in store windows for the exact schedule of activities. Registration generally starts around 9:30 (or earlier) and the actual Pumpkin Roll always begins at 11:00 AM and ends when the last pumpkin has been rolled. Other activities downtown may include:

- Pumpkin pie baking contest at the Senior Center
- Biggest pumpkin weigh-in at Lipka's
- Pumpkin painting contest
- Carved pumpkin contest
- Hay rides
- Seed spitting contest
- Pumpkin throwing
- Youth Art Fair and Face Painting at the Nuveen Center from 10 AM to 1 PM

The Farmers Market will be open at 8:00 AM and the Senior Center will have a Bake Sale. Downtown merchants will have other pumpkin-themed special items that day.

*Will 2013 be the year that more than 1,000 pumpkins are registered to roll?*

## City General Election



This November 5, 2013, the registered voters of the City of Montague will be electing a Mayor and three Council members. A strong interest in the Mayoral race will give voters a choice of four Candidates while the three open Council seat positions have only three Candidates on the ballot.

Running for the two-year position of Mayor are Kevin Erb (incumbent), Calvin "Hap" Cederquist, Kenneth Erdman and A. James Neubauer. Those seeking the three Council seats are Steven Mayberry (incumbent), Claude Babcock and Bruce Froelich. These four-year terms are currently held by Calvin "Hap" Cederquist, Dennis "Randy" Lydens and Steven Mayberry.

Also, up for approval will be a Muskegon Community College Bond Proposal.

The voter registration deadline for this election is Monday, October 7, 2013. You can register at City Hall, any Secretary of State office or go online and print an application at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

## Projects Re-Cap

The spring and summer of 2013 has seen the City 'under construction', with many infrastructure projects progressing in various locations:

**Cook Street** – Just over a mile was 'crushed and shaped', where the old asphalt was pulverized and mixed with gravel to build a new base, before two new courses of asphalt were applied. This project totaled about \$360,000, but roughly 80% of this (\$288,000) was paid for with a grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

**Replacement of Well #1** – The original Well #1, built back in 1961, was demolished and its successor was constructed. The production of old Well #1 had degraded to less than 400 gallons per minute; new Well #1 is capable of 800 gpm. This well cost approximately \$330,000 and the construction costs were funded by the Water Department.

**Maintenance dredging at the Boat Launch Ramp** – The City worked collaboratively with Ellenwood Landing to vacuum and remove some 700 cubic yards of silt.

**Extension of the cement launch ramps out into White Lake** – Extremely low water levels this spring left some boaters backing their trailers off the end of the underwater cement ramp, creating problems. The cement ramps were lengthened 16' further out into the lake. This project cost approximately \$72,000 financed by the Launch Ramp Fund.

**Construction of a gravel, overflow parking lot between the Band Shell and the Fish Cleaning Station** – This project cost approximately \$15,000 and was also paid for using Launch Ramp funds.

**Downtown alley/parking lot reconstruction** – This extensive project cost around \$400,000 and was funded by the Downtown Development Authority. Most of the underground infrastructure and buried utilities were replaced, improved, upsized and/or relocated. Parking areas were re-paved and striped, as was the entire alley. A handsome retaining wall and pedestrian steps were added on the Spring Street side.

**Hancock and Knudsen Streets** – Portions of these streets were rebuilt, again by pulverizing the old street to re-use as the base before paving. These combined cost approximately \$71,000 with the monies coming from the City's Street Funds, which are partially subsidized by property tax revenues combined with State MDOT Act 51 funding.

**Preventative Maintenance** – the City contracted with the Muskegon County Road Commission to chip seal several sections of streets throughout the City, including both the Stanton and Hunt hills; and portions of Dowling, Wilcox, Green, Ripley and Water Street(s). This project cost approximately \$49,000, using the same streets maintenance funding sources as Hancock and Knudsen, and the local share of the Cook Street grant.

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

**VITA** is a group of IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers that offer free assistance to low to moderate income workers and families eligible for significant state and federal tax credits. VITA has several locations providing services throughout West Michigan. For more information call 2-1-1 or 1-877-211-5253. You can also find out more by visiting [www.vitawestmichigan.org](http://www.vitawestmichigan.org)

## Irrigation System Reminder

Reminder: City water customers, specifically those with irrigation systems, must have their systems inspected and tested by a certified, Master Plumber, prior to January 1, 2014. This Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) regulation requires that customer's pressure vacuum breaker (known as the backflow preventer) be tested every three years, and a copy of that test report be filed with the City's Water Department. This test can only be performed when your irrigation system is activated; if you've already winterized your sprinklers for the season, then please schedule this inspection next spring after you've had your irrigation turned back on.

For more information, contact the Department of Public Works Garage at 893-2235.



October 31 falls on a Thursday 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!

## 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 yearly by the end of the same 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.



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 8 at 6:30 PM beginning in Montague and ending at the Whitehall Fire Station. Wednesday, October 9 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!

### March Board of Review

Assessment Change Notices will be mailed to property owners by the end of February 2014. The Assessment Change Notice will tell you the meeting dates and times of the 2014 March Board of Review. Tentative dates are March 10 and 12, 2014. 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.

### OAK GROVE CEMETERY

A reminder to have flowers or decorations removed from gravesites by October 27, 2013 or they will be disposed of by City personnel. Winter decorations and wreaths are not to be placed before November 2, 2013 and must be removed by April 1, 2014.

Sexton Brian Dawson would like to extend his appreciation to the Dirt Daubers Garden Club for their dedication and the countless hours they work to make the City look beautiful. He also thanks his DPW co-workers for the re-design and planting of new perennials downtown.

### 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.**

Coming Soon....

mi  
Spot

High-speed wireless Internet is coming soon to Montague. A division of Agri-Valley Broadband, Inc, **miSpot** continues to expand its high-speed wireless Internet (4G LTE) for the home and small business and will soon offer Internet service in Montague. 4G LTE is the latest Internet technology and is extremely fast. It is 10 times faster than 3G and over 200 times faster than dial-up.

**miSpot** was created to provide residents in select areas of Michigan with wireless Internet capabilities that have never been available to them before, or where only a few choices have been offered.

**miSpot** is new, but they have a lot of experience behind them. Their parent company, Agri-Valley Communications, Inc. (AVCI), a multi-faceted communications company, has been providing telecommunications services to rural Michigan for over 100 years. **miSpot** is a family owned, Michigan-based company with a mission to serve central and northern Michigan

More information is available on their website at [www.mispot.net](http://www.mispot.net) or by calling their office toll free at 877-453-1776.

### Electronic Billings and Payments

⇒**Water Bills** – Many City of Montague water/sewer customers have signed up to receive their monthly bill by email. Some chose to also continue receiving postcard utility bill in the mail as well. If you're interested, stop by City Hall to fill out an authorization form.

⇒**Water/Sewer Payments** – Customers can also have their monthly utility payments deducted automatically from a checking or savings account. The authorization form is available at City Hall.

⇒**Property Tax Payment** – Taxpayers can authorize the City to deduct their property tax payments from a checking or savings account, on August 31 for Summer Taxes; or either December 31 or February 14 for Winter Taxes. City Hall has the necessary authorization paperwork.

⇒**Paying the City with a Credit Card** – While the City of Montague cannot directly accept payment by credit card for property taxes, persons wishing to do so may use the Official Payments Corp service. Using this service involves an additional fee (approximately 3%) which does not go to the City, but instead goes to Official Payments. If you're still interested, go online to [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) or call 888-722-9829.





PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

8778 Ferry Street  
Montague, MI 49437

**City Hall**

Phone: 231-893-1155  
Fax: 231-894-9955  
E-mail: [cityofmontague@aol.com](mailto:cityofmontague@aol.com)

**Police Department**

Phone: 231-893-0810  
Fax: 231-893-3903  
E-mail: [rrought900@gmail.com](mailto:rrought900@gmail.com)

**Public Works Department**

Phone: 231-893-2235  
Fax: 231-893-0815  
E-mail: [dpw@cityofmontague.org](mailto:dpw@cityofmontague.org)

Postal Customer

Montague, MI 49437

Home of the World's Largest Weathervane

Muskegon Area District

Library Hours

(231) 893-2675

Monday - Wednesday 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Friday 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

CLOSED Thursday and Sunday



PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME

Wednesdays @ 1:00 PM

With Miss Allison

White Lake  
Solid Waste Authority

2100 West Holton-Whitehall Rd  
231-893-2405

Wednesdays and Saturdays  
October through May  
10 AM to 5 PM



[www.artscouncilofwhitelake.org](http://www.artscouncilofwhitelake.org)

White River Gallery

and the Nuveen Community  
Center for the Arts

(231)893-2524

Christmas Parade  
and Santa's House

The Annual Christmas Parade will take place  
on Saturday, December 7, 2013  
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 13 & 20 from 4 - 6 PM

Saturdays:

December 14 & 21 from 1 - 3 PM

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.