

# MONTAGUE MESSENGER

SPRING 2014

## Did You Run Your Water in February and March?

This unusually frigid winter drove the frost further down in the ground than would normally occur during more typical winters. This resulted in dozens of frozen water services and even a frozen City water main. The Department of Public Works has worked at over 40 locations throughout the City where homeowners' water services froze or where it was necessary to open a 'bleeder' in a meter pit, in order to let water run so the resident's service did not freeze. The City encouraged residents to continuously run a small stream of water to help lessen the chance of more water line freezes.

With the City's radio-read technology for recording water usage each month, we are able to reasonably determine which of our customer accounts continuously ran water during the critical weeks in February and March. To establish a baseline of how many gallons were typically used *prior* to the 'Run Water' notice, we've used our billing software to establish an average of the two *previous* month's usage. Water use during the "Run Water" period will be compared to the average of the previous two months, and adjustments will be made as warranted.

We have determined this method of adjusting customer's accounts for water they ran down the drain – to be the most fair and equitable. Towns all over west Michigan are dealing with how to minimize the effect of frozen pipes and wasted water.

The meter readings for water usage during March (that will be read in April and then billed for in May) will also indicate that some of our water customers continued running their water, as the City asked. Once again, to determine if extra usage can be attributed to the 'Run Water' initiative, we will compare the account's actual usage to the baseline monthly average and be willing to adjust the difference.

This difficult winter has caused much research about how deep frost travels, and when it will finally thaw out so that water services will no longer freeze. Reportedly the outdoor temperature needs to be 40 degrees or higher – day and night – for two weeks for the frost to go away.

And pretty much everybody wants it to go away.

### City Council

Mayor James Neubauer  
Jeff Auch  
Claude Babcock  
Bruce Froelich  
Lisa Kiel  
Tom Lohman  
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:

Good Friday, April 18  
Memorial Day, May 26  
Independence Day, July 4  
Labor Day, September 1

### City Staff

John French, City Manager  
Tim Paul, Finance Director/Treasurer  
Robert Rought, Police Chief  
Steve Hammond, DPW Director  
Matt Miller, Zoning Administrator  
Laurie Robillard, City Clerk  
Brian Dawson, Cemetery Sexton  
Scott Beishuizen, DPW Foreman  
Tina Ramthun, Utilities Clerk  
Dennis Burns, Assessor  
Troy DeBrot, Building Official  
Cherie Anderson, Police Secretary

## Help Us Keep Your Water Bills Under Control

Did you know the City of Montague offers two programs that will help you streamline your record-keeping and help the City keep water and sewer rates down?



**Paperless Billing** – More and more people are realizing the benefits of receiving bills through email. There's less chance of an important bill getting misplaced or forgotten, less waste going to the landfill, and it's much easier to save and find a copy of an old bill when you need to. If you have mobile access to email, you'll receive notice of your bill no matter where you are.

Paperless billing saves the City too. Between postage, paper, printing and handling it costs nearly \$1.00 to send out each paper bill. Sending an ebill, on the other hand, costs next to nothing. Consider that we bill hundreds of customers 12 times per year and you can see that the savings potential is significant.



**EPayment** – Sign up for Epayment and the City will automatically deduct the amount of your water bill from a bank account that you specify, on the last business day of each month. No need to spend money on checks, postage, or trips to City Hall to pay your water bill. Even better - there's no need to worry about late penalties or service shutoffs when you're on vacation or out of town.

Contact Tina ([watersewer@cityofmontague.org](mailto:watersewer@cityofmontague.org) or call (231) 893-1155) if you're interested in signing up for these programs. Sign-up forms can also be found on the City's website:

[http://www.cityofmontague.org/links\\_maps\\_forms.html](http://www.cityofmontague.org/links_maps_forms.html)

## State Law Requires

City water customers, specifically those with irrigation systems, should have had 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; please schedule this inspection this spring after you've had your irrigation turned back on.

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

## 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.***

## Upcoming 2014 Primary and General Elections

If you are not registered and want to vote in the August 5 Primary Election, you must do so by Monday July 7, 2014. Likewise, the deadline to register for the November 4 General Election is Monday, October 6, 2014.

If you have any questions, contact Laurie at 893-1155 or email [clerk@cityofmontague.org](mailto:clerk@cityofmontague.org)



## Trailway Campground

Open May 1 though  
October 15  
Contact Managers at 894-4903  
or Email:  
[trailwaycampgr@aol.com](mailto:trailwaycampgr@aol.com)



## Pride Days - Free Dump Pass

It's that time of year again to take advantage of a free dump pass to rid our homes, yards and garages of unwanted junk. The City of Montague has designated **Wednesday, April 16** and **Saturday, April 19** 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 two loads per City Resident. This pass is NOT to be used for the following items; yard waste, tires, batteries and hazardous materials.

The White Lake Solid Waste Authority has partnered with Goodwill Industries of West Michigan to collect discarded electronic devices City residents may wish to donate in lieu of disposal to the landfill. On both Wednesday, April 16 and Saturday, April 19 you can drop off e-waste such as old televisions, computers, fax machines, laptops, printers, cell phones and other outdated electronics. For more information on the types of electronics that will be accepted, go to:


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



**Arbor Day  
is Friday,  
April 25**

## Cruzin

Friday, July 25, 2014



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.



All on  
Mondays  
at 3:00 PM

## Muskegon Area District Library Summer Programs

- June 16** Joel's ScienceRiffic Comedy Show
- June 23** Audacious Hoops - Audria, professional Hoola Hooper
- June 30** Stop in and make a FIZZ, BOOM, FAN!
- July 7** ???
- July 14** Baffling Bill the Magician
- July 21** ???
- July 28** Outdoor Discovery Center of Holland

## Montague Museum

8717 Meade St  
Open 1-5 PM  
Saturdays/Sundays  
Memorial Day through September  
Contact Jim 231-894-8249

## White Lake Senior Center

OPEN - Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday, and Thursday  
**8 AM to 2 PM**  
Friday Coffee 8 AM - 10 PM  
231-894-9493  
[www.whitelakeseniors.org](http://www.whitelakeseniors.org)

## Montague Farmers Market



The regular Farmers Market will begin Wednesday, June 18th and will run every Wednesday and Saturday through October 25th. The Market opens at 8 AM and ends at 12 PM (noon). The Spring Plant Sale will be starting on Saturdays only in May and will continue through Saturday, June 7th.

Hydrant Flushing will take place during the week of April 21-25

## 15th Annual Bike Safety Rodeo

Hosted by Montague and Whitehall Police Departments

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 from 5:30-7:30 PM  
at the Montague Fire Station, 5085 Wilcox Street

Wear your own helmet and receive a free T-Shirt!! Lots of door prizes to be given away, including new Bikes! Free pop, popcorn and hot dogs. Fun for the whole family!





Home of the World's  
Largest Weathervane

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)

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

Postal Customer  
Montague, MI 49437



**FREE CONCERT SERIES**

All concerts are on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM  
at the Montague Band Shell.

Rain location is the Montague High  
School Auditorium - 4900 Stanton Blvd.

For more information call 231-893-2524  
or visit [www.artswhitelake.org](http://www.artswhitelake.org)



**Parades and Fireworks**

Memorial Day Parade - May 26, 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 2** - Susan Newhof: *Take an Armchair Tour of Michigan's Town & Country Inns*
- July 9** - John Mullally: *It's Never Too Late to Start Writing*
- July 16** - Patricia Clark: *Sunday Rising, A Poet's Spiritual Journey*
- July 23** - Doug Paprocki: *Beside the Inland Sea, An Offering of Two Love Stories*
- July 30** - Ron Robotham: *The making of One-Eyed Jack*

**Regular Library Hours**

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 - 7:00  
Friday 9:30 - 5:00  
Saturday 9:00 - 1:00

**893-2675**

