

Montague Messenger

Fall 2015

The 157-ton lumber schooner Ella Ellenwood was built in East Saginaw, Michigan in 1869. She was purchased by Captain Thomas Flagstad of Montague, a native of Norway, who operated the schooner out of White Lake.

On the night of October 1, 1901, while bound for Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a load of maple edgings and shingles, the Ellenwood ran aground off Fox Point about 8 miles north of the Milwaukee harbor. Within hours, strong northerly winds and waves began to break up the schooner causing the Captain and crew to abandon ship.

They made shore safely in the schooner's yawl with the aid of a compass and an anchor light. By the next day, the Ellenwood's stern and transom were broken away and the hull had so badly worked loose that the masts wobbled in opposite directions with each swell. Only the bark cargo was salvaged. The maple edgings in the hold and the schooner were left to the elements.

The following Spring, 1902, a portion of the wooden nameplate "ELLENWOOD" was found inside the White Lake Channel. Incredibly, the nameplate drifted around Lake Michigan and by mere chance, or fate, entered the narrow channel to White Lake and washed ashore. The Ella Ellenwood had found her way home!

This 115 year old nameplate and a scale model of the Ellenwood is exhibited in the lobby of the Montague City Hall. The nameplate is a gift from Mrs. Lee King, a relative of Captain Flagstad. Other descendants of Captain Flagstad, now spelled Flagstead, still live in the White Lake area.





Pumpkinfest Saturday, October 10th

Registration begins at 9:30 AM and costs \$1.00

If you don't bring your own pumpkin to the roll, you can purchase one for \$2.00 at the registration table.

The Pumpkin Roll begins at 11:00 AM with the youngest age group rolling first. The winner of each heat will receive a special blue ribbon Pumpkinfest button.

Activities throughout the day also include pumpkin seed-spitting, pumpkin carving and painting, hayrides, pumpkin pie baking contest, arts & crafts fair, face painting, and apple cider mill.

November General Election Tuesday, November 3rd

Polls will be open 7:00 AM to 8:00PM in the lower level of City Hall. City residents will decide a mayoral election between James Neubauer and Kevin Erb; and fill three City Council seats being sought by Tom Lohman, Lisa Kiel, and Tim Todd.

Ballots will also include a 1.249 millage (0.749 mill renewal and an additional new 0.5 mill) for 10 years to support the Muskegon Area District Library; and a new millage (0.45 mill for 1 year) for the White Lake Ambulance Authority added to the current operating millage of 0.55 mill.

If you are not **registered to vote** you can do so with at the City Clerk's office, any Secretary of State Office, or by obtaining an application online at www.michigan.gov/vote. Applications must be returned by mail or in person and received by Monday, October 5th.

If you wish to **vote by absentee ballot**, and you qualify to do so, you must complete an application. Applications can be picked up at City Hall during normal office hours. City Hall will also be open on the Saturday (October 31st) before the election from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Yard Clean-Up

The last brush pick-up for 2015 will be Thursday, October 1st. The City's Department of Public Works (DPW) 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.

City residents may dump leaves and fall grass clippings at the DPW site on the corner of Cook Street and Bowen Street. Dumped materials may not include woody debris or other non-compostable material. All plastic bags must be removed.

Trick-or-Treating Saturday, October 31st

Trick-or-treating within the City will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. The Police Department would like to remind parents to make sure kids' costumes allow them to see and hear properly.

Firemen will be assisting at busy intersections.

Frozen Water Service

Once winter arrives and snow begins to accumulate, the City is requesting that residents not clear snow from over top of their water meter pits. The snow accumulation on top of the meter acts as an insulating layer and clearing the snow from these areas can actually drive the frost farther into the ground and cause a frozen water line.

Prior to winter you should identify your meter pit location as it may be near your drive or near an area you normally shovel or plow. If you have had a frozen service during the last two years, you may notice that the DPW has identified and marked the location of your meter pit with a post. Please do not remove these posts and do not plow near these areas as you may be liable for repairs should a frozen service be caused by having exposed your meter pit.

Regular Library Hours

Monday - Wednesday 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM
Thursday - CLOSED
Friday 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pre-school Story Time: Wednesdays at 1:00 PM
September 2015 thru May 2016

Property Checks and Vacation Watch

Are you planning on leaving town this winter for vacation, or spend a few months away? If you would like the Montague Police Department to keep an eye on your house while you're out of town, stop by the Department weekdays and fill out a form; or call 893-0810.

Christmas Parade Saturday, December 5th

Parade begins in Whitehall at 2:00 PM and ends in downtown Montague. Santa will be available for visits at his house in front of Montague City Hall immediately after the parade; as well as on Fridays (Dec. 11th & 18th) from 4:00-6:00 PM, and Saturdays (Dec. 12th & 19th) from 1:00-3:00 PM.

Kids that want to send a letter to Santa can stick it in the mailbox slot in Santa's House, or mail it to:
Santa Claus, c/o Montague Police Department, 8778 Ferry St., Montague, MI 49437

Cemetery Decorations

Flowers and decorations should be removed from gravesites by October 11th, as afterwards they will be disposed of by City personnel. Winter decorations and wreaths can be placed after the 1st of November.

Wellhead Protection Program

The City of Montague continues work to ensure that your municipal water remains a clean, safe, and inexpensive water supply for City residents and local water consumers.

In 2006 the City began work on a Wellhead Protection Plan that has since been approved by the Michigan Dept. Environmental Quality. This plan outlines protection measures for the five municipal wells, as well as the adjacent land areas, to make sure proactive measures are in place to maintain current water quality and reduce potential risks.

Currently the City is working to update this plan and is reviewing additional activities that may be necessary to protect your water; including integrating an environmental checklist for any new commercial or industrial facilities and including groundwater protection in all zoning reviews.

As a resident you can help by making sure floor drains are appropriately connected to the sanitary sewer and all hazardous materials (fertilizers, fuels, household chemicals) on your property are contained and correctly used. The City is also asking residents to notify us if you have an abandoned or unused wells on your property as the City may be able to provide financial assistance to help close these wells.



8778 Ferry Street
Montague, MI 49437

P (231) 893-1155
www.cityofmontague.org

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MONTAGUE, MI 49437

City Council

Mayor James Neubauer
Claude Babcock
Bruce Froelich
Lisa Kiel
Tom Lohman
Steven Mayberry

Police Department

rrought900@gmail.com
893-0810

Robert Rought, *Chief of Police*
Cherie Anderson, *Police Secretary*

Department of Public Works

dpw@cityofmontague.org
893-2235

Steve Hammond, *DPW Director*
Scott Beishuizen, *DPW Foreman*
Steve Lohman, *Cemetery Sexton*

Meeting Dates

City Council

First & 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 7:30 AM

City Hall

info@cityofmontague.org
893-1155

Laurie Robillard, *City Clerk*
Tina Ramthun, *Utilities Clerk*
Tim Paul, *Finance Director / Treasurer*
Troy DeBrot, *Building Official*
Dennis Burns, *Assessor*
John French, *City Manager*

For additional information on meetings and cancelations, check the City's calendar at www.cityofmontague.org. You can also follow us on Facebook and view information on upcoming community events. 