

City of Montague
City Hall
8778 Ferry Street
Montague, MI 49437
www.cityofmontague.org

September 2022
Volume 2022, Issue 2



Frequently Requested Info

Montague Messenger

Police Department Staff Changes: Police Chief Robert Rought and his longtime department secretary, Cheri Anderson, both retired this past July after decades of dedicated service to our community. City staff gave them a fun send-off and many well wishes for happy retirements. Stepping up to fill those roles are Rick Johnson and Jennifer Wildfong. Rick has been an officer with the Montague Police Department for 17 years and worked closely with the former Chief. Rick's appointment to Chief of Police was affirmed by Councilmembers at the July 18th City Council meeting. Jennifer was hired as new department secretary in August.

Hydrant Flushing: The City Department of Public Works will be flushing fire hydrants from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the week of **September 19th**. Water customers are advised to not do laundry during the hours 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.

Brush Pick Up: The City of Montague will offer brush pick up the week of **October 10th**. Materials must be placed roadside by **Sunday, October 9th** as only one trip will be made through town. Residents may place their brush near the edge of the street the week prior to being picked up. Brush should not be more than four (4) inches in diameter — NO STUMPS, BRANCHES, or LOGS. No materials generated by, construction activities, commercial trimming, or tree removal will be collected. After this date, residents can dispose of brush at the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority, 2100 Holton-Whitehall Road.

Cemetery Decorations: All spring and summer flower decorations are to be removed from gravesites by October 15th or they will be disposed of by City personnel. Winter decorations and wreaths may be placed on gravesites after November 15th.



Pumpkinfest: Pumpkinfest will be held Saturday, October 8th, downtown Montague.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating: Trick-or-treating will be held Monday, October 31st from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Master Plan Update: The City of Montague will be updating the Master and Recreation Plan for 2023. A Master Plan is a document and policy guide designed to help communities create a vision of what they want to look like in the future. There will be opportunities for public input coming soon!

November General Election: The General Election will be held on November 8th. Voters can register to vote or sign up for an Absentee Ballot at Montague City Hall during regular business hours or online with the Secretary of State at: Michigan.gov/VOTE. In-person voting takes place November 8th, in the lower-level of City Hall in the Council Chambers, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Pre-election weekend hours will be held Sunday, November 6th from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.

City Hall Staff: 893-1155

Manager: Jeff Auch
Clerk: Kelly Markley
Utility Billing: Tina Ramthun
Treasurer: Melissa Beegle
Zoning Administrator: Steve Coverly

Police Department: 893-0810
Chief: Rick Johnson
Secretary: Jennifer Wildfong

DPW Maintenance: 893-2235
Superintendent: Scott Beishuizen
Foreman: Alan Weesies
Cemetery Sexton: Steve Lohman
855-1617

Assessors:
Dennis Burns 329-5165
Cory Burns 329-3841

Building Inspections:
Permit Coordinator:
Tina Ramthun
Building Inspector:
Val Jensen II 638-0529
Electrical Inspector:
Jeff Johnson 329-4465
Mechanical & Plumbing Inspector:
Jim Callender 206-6563

Montague Fire District 893-3311
Fire Chief: Ron Anderson

Montague Branch Library
893-2675

Montague Museum 894-6204
8717 Meade Street, Montague
Saturdays & Sundays 1p.m. - 5 p.m.
Memorial Day to Labor Day

City Council Meetings:
City Hall Council Chambers
First and third Monday of each
month, at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor:
Tom Lohman 893-5545
tomlohman@yahoo.com

City Councilmembers:
Paul Schultz Bob Hires
Laura LaGuire Lisa Kiel
Susan Newhof Jeri Wonders

City Sign: Coming soon: a new, digitized City sign! It will be in the same location, at the stoplight on the corner of Dowling and Water Streets. The City sign is used for important information updates and events in our community.

Boat Launch Sticker Kiosk: A new kiosk will be installed at the City Municipal Boat Launch, located at 8460 Ramp Road, for the 2023 season. The envelope system used previously at the boat launch will be discontinued. The kiosk will accept credit and debit cards only and will issue a sticker in a convenient one-stop transaction. Boat launch stickers can still be purchased at www.cityofmontague.org or in-person at City Hall. The resident discount will ONLY be available at City Hall and online, not at the kiosk. City of Montague residents are those that live within the bounds of Whitbeck Road, Eilers Road, and White Lake and does not apply to all that have a Montague address. Daily passes have been discontinued since 2018 and the pricing remains as follows: Annual Pass—\$40
Resident Annual Pass—\$30
Senior Resident Annual Pass—\$25



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: In an effort to promote a more walkable and cyclable City, yield-to-pedestrian signs have become a frequent sight around town. Yielding to pedestrians in a designated crosswalk, on foot or bicycle, is state law and is enforced within the City. Pedestrians also have a responsibility at these crossings. Individuals should not automatically enter the crosswalk, but also yield to cars and only proceed if a vehicle has sufficient time to brake and yield. A helpful safety tip: always make eye contact with an individual driver to be sure they intend to stop before proceeding. At the City Council meeting on July 18th, Councilmembers voted to further improve bicycle safety on our streets by adopting Ordinance 301. The new ordinance states that drivers must give bicyclists 5 feet of clearance instead of the usual 3 feet required by state law. Exact language of Ordinance 301 can be found at www.cityofmontague.org or at City Hall.

Montague Farmers Market & Artisan Village: The Farmers Market and Artisan Village remain open on Saturdays throughout September and October, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Both will be open for Pumpkinfest on Saturday, October 8th. The City of Montague is continuing to facilitate food assistance programs (Bridge / P-EBT Cards and Double UP Food Bucks) in exchange for tokens at the market. We are pleased that the program has helped local patrons double their purchasing power for produce from local farmers and vendors who are participating through the Montague Farmers Market. A big thank you to all the local vendors and patrons for making our market and village the place to be all season long!

Additional Information—Watch the City Sign & Facebook: Still looking for more information? Follow us on Facebook to view additional information and upcoming events. The City has four Facebook pages! Including: City of Montague, Montague Farmers Market, The Artisan Market Village, and Cruz'in. Follow them all and watch the City sign for announcements and reminders.

Stay safe, Save Gas, Save a Trip, Pay Online: It's safe and simple to take care of your payments due to the City of Montague at: www.cityofmontague.org. Building and trade permit applications, as well as reservations for City facilities can also be submitted and paid for on the website.