

Montague Farmers Market:
Market season is coming! Church Street will continue to be closed to traffic on Saturday market mornings, a new tradition that is appreciated by vendors and customers alike. The farmers market features locally made or grown goods—the best of Michigan summer! Check out the Montague Farmers Market Facebook page for weekly updates.
2025 Farmers Market Hours: Saturdays, May 10th—October 25th, 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (open a half hour longer!)

Senior Vouchers for the Montague Farmers Market will be available again for the 2025 season! The vouchers will be available for City of Montague senior residents, ages 62 and up, to pick up beginning **Saturday, July 5th at the farmers market cottage between the two market pavilions.** The vouchers will continue to be released on the **first Saturday of the month at the farmers market** until the funds run out. Remember to bring your ID when stopping by to pick up these vouchers! This healthy initiative senior program is made possible through the Muskegon County Senior Millage, which was renewed by county-wide vote on the August 2024 ballot.

Artisan Village:

The City is excited for the sixth season of the Artisan Market Village this summer! Cottages open May 10th, just in time for Mother’s Day. The artisans at the Village are area residents using the space for their small businesses. Come down and check out some of our new vendors this summer and support your neighbors!

2025 Artisan Village Hours:

Saturdays, May 10th — October 25th, 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.

The 4th annual **Walk the Beat White Lake Music Festival** will be held Saturday, July 19th, from 1 to 5 p.m., and will be hosted at the Village and many other venues throughout downtown Montague and Whitehall.

Cruz’In 2025:

There is a new organizing committee for this beloved Montague/Whitehall event. Local resident Doug Boardwell of Boardwell Mechanical is chairing the committee that will revitalize the event. Thank you to the City of Montague and City of Whitehall Police Departments for facilitating this local tradition since 1995!

Special Election, May 6th, 2025:

There will be a county-wide election May 6th, 2025 for the Muskegon Museum of History & Science, which is part of the Lakeshore Museum Center. If you are a registered voter in the City and would like to vote by mail, stop by City Hall for an Absentee Voter (AV) Application **or** submit one online at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/>. In-person voting will proceed as usual in the council room the day of the election from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



- IMPORTANT DATES -

- Pride/Dump Day: April 12th
- Hydrant Flushing: week of April 14th
- Town Hall: May 5th at 5:30 p.m.
- Special May Election: May 6th
- Spring Brush Pickup: week of May 12th
- Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade: May 26th
- Independence Day Parade: July 4th at 10 a.m.
- Fireworks: July 4th at Dusk
- Cruz’In: July 25th
- August Election: August 5th
- Pumpkinfest: October 11th

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

April 2025
Volume 2025, Issue 1

Montague Messenger

May 5th Town Hall:

Calling all City residents! Join your City Council and voice your opinion on potential development projects for the Ferry Street parcels, the greenspace located on the southeast corner of the Dowling / Ferry Street intersection. Also up for discussion is the change to one-way traffic on the south end of Ferry Street and possible reconfiguring of the Farmers Market area. Town Halls are a more informal way to make your voice heard in the community—come down and check it out!

Monday, May 5th, at 5:30 p.m. in the council room at Montague City Hall.

City Subcommittees:

City Council has many subcommittees that allow for City endeavors to move along more quickly. Each subcommittee consists of three Council members, the City Manager, and sometimes a resident or business owner. The subcommittees meet on an as-needed basis and make recommendations to the full City Council before any actions take place. The meetings are always publicly noticed and the minutes are recorded. Recent subcommittee activity contributed to the City’s updated vegetation ordinance, park projects, and sidewalk improvements. Please contact City Hall if you’d like more information or are interested in participating on a subcommittee!

Brush Pick Up Schedule:

The City of Montague will offer brush pick up the **week of May 12th.** Materials must be placed roadside before Sunday, May 11th, as only one trip will be made through the City. All materials must be placed near the edge of the street and **should not be more than four feet (4’) long and four inches (4”) in diameter.** No stumps, branches, or logs created by property owners removing mature trees will be collected. In addition, **no** materials created by commercial trimming, building / construction materials, or other debris will be collected. Brush can also be brought to the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority, 2100 Holton-Whitehall Rd, and disposed of according to their fee schedule.

Montague Pride Day/Dump Coupon:

Pride Day is back! Pride Day for City of Montague residents will be held on Saturday, April 12th, at the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority, 2100 W. Holton-Whitehall Road. **One \$25 coupon** per household address. No recycling, commercial trash, brush or trees, appliances, or tires may be disposed of using the coupon. **You must stop by City Hall to obtain your coupon,** Monday—Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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 **April 14th.** Water customers are advised to not do laundry during the hours hydrants are being flushed. If a temporary discoloration of the water is noticed, run your cold water for about five minutes until it clears.



Frequently Requested Info

City Hall Staff: 893-1155
City Manager: Jeff Auch
City Clerk: Kelly Markley
Utility Billing: Hannah Cross
Treasurer: Melissa Beegle
Zoning: Steve Coverly

Police Department: 893-0810
Chief: Rick Johnson
Secretary: Rebekah Pawlowski

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

Assessor:
Shirley Wyatt 724-6153

Building Inspections:
Permit Coordinator:
Hannah Cross

Building Official:
Val Jensen 638-0529
Electrical Inspector:
Jeff Johnson 329-4465
Mechanical & Plumbing
Inspector: Jim Callender
206-6563

Montague Fire Dist.: 893-3311
Fire Chief: Ron Anderson

Montague Branch Library:
893-2675 - Librarian:
Christina Le Vey-Rowland

City Council Meetings:

Council Room: 8778 Ferry St.
3rd Mondays - 5:30 p.m.

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

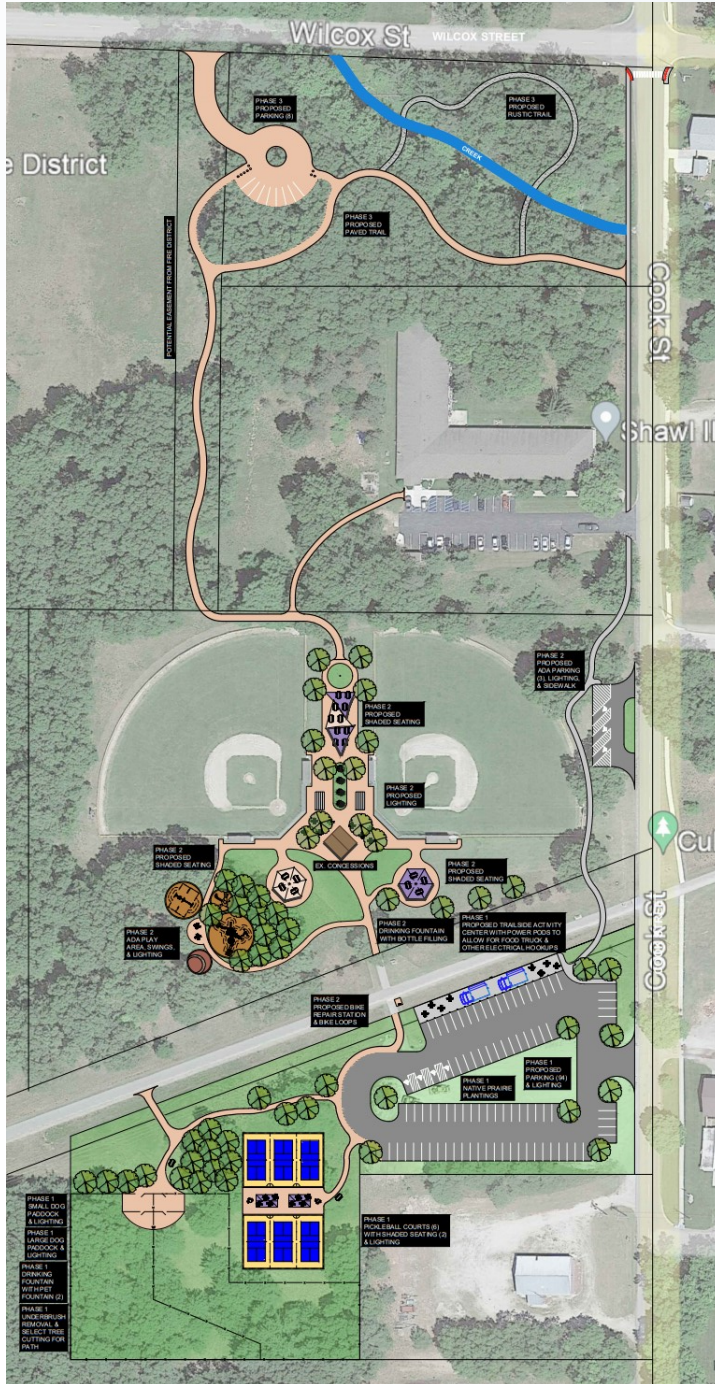
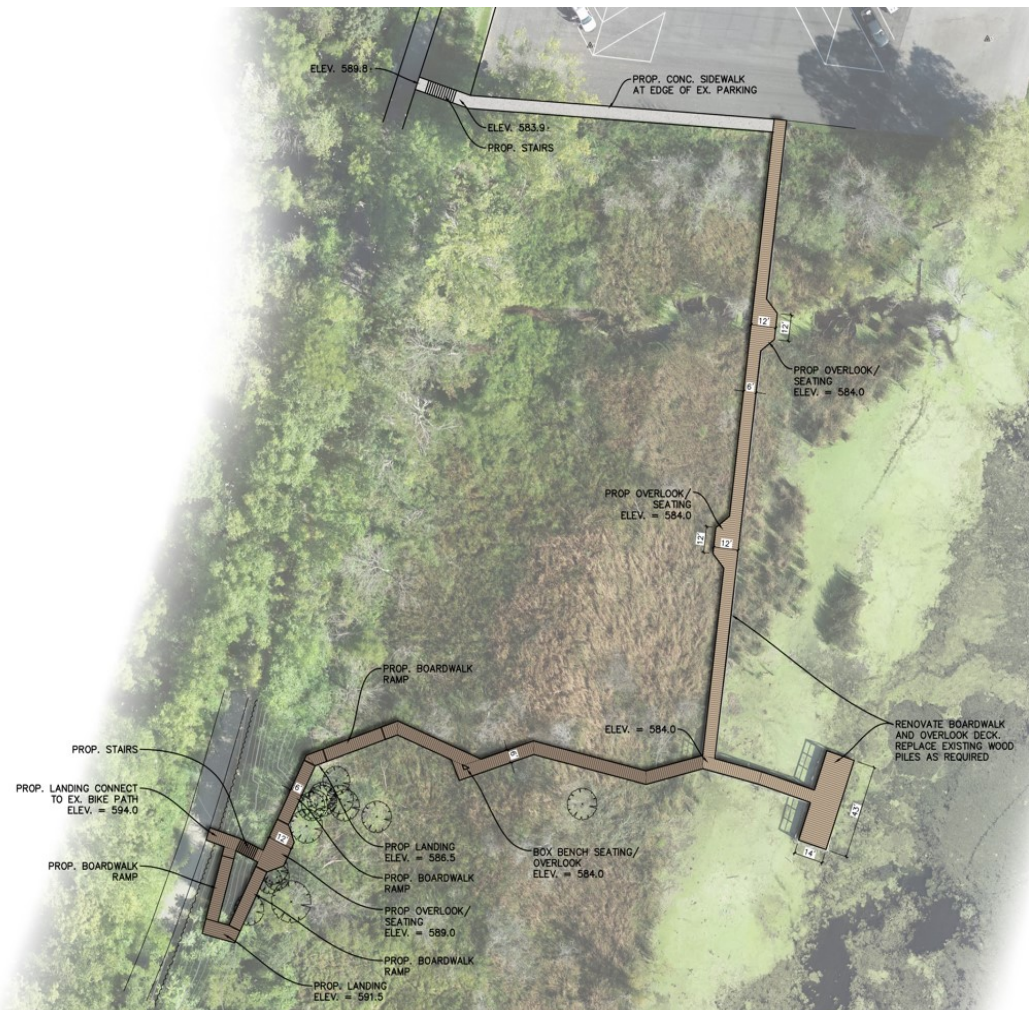
City Councilmembers:
Lisa Kiel Susan Newhof
Ken Mahoney Robert Hires
Laura LaGuire Paul Schultz

**Downtown Development
Authority Meetings:**
3rd Thursdays - 8 a.m.

Planning Comm. Meetings:
2nd Mondays - 6 p.m.

Lakefront Park Boardwalk:

For the last several years the City has been working on a plan to re-open the boardwalk. The boardwalk was closed due to ice-heaving of the boardwalk posts when the water was higher and caused many of the wood stringers to become detached. The boardwalk was closed as it was no longer safe to use. Once the water went back down, the City engineer evaluated the structural integrity of the boardwalk and it was discovered that the boardwalk was never built according to code, and had several posts that were either salvaged or had deteriorated. It was determined that the boardwalk could not simply be repaired and would need to be rebuilt. Looking at the project in this new light has allowed the City to not only plan on rebuilding the existing boardwalk but to make additional improvements based on the comments and recommendations provided by City residents. These recommendations included adding seating to the area, extending the boardwalk to create a loop to the bike trail, adding a dedicated access route from the trail to the boardwalk (instead of just abruptly starting at the edge of the parking lot), and ensuring ADA accessibility. The proposed design integrates these elements and is currently being finalized to submit to the State for a permit. Depending on permits and available City funds the hope is begin building the new boardwalk in 2026.



Cullen Fields:

This past year the City initiated a plan to make improvements around Cullen Fields, with the intent to not only enhance current use of the area, but to expand into the City's other properties to make a larger multi-use complex. The City is currently working on the dog park and has recently submitted a grant for the parking lot improvements, food truck area, and construction of the first two pickleball courts. In coming years, the City also plans to augment amenities immediately surrounding the fields, add a playground, and create a walking trail to Koon Creek wildlife preserve. The site located immediately adjacent to the bike trail seeks to enhance activities for all ages.

Maple Grove Park:

One of the other sites that was damaged by highwater a few year ago was Maple Grove Park. With the highwater and increased shoreline erosion the City discovered a small household waste site along the beach, and the debris (broken glass and metal) once exposed was spread throughout the swim area. The high lake levels and wave action also damaged the walking loop along the shoreline. The City also recognized that the playground structure at the park was in disrepair and old enough that replacement parts could not be ordered. With a vision for the future the City is planning to upgrade and improve the amenities at the park; including dedicated swim area, benches / seating, updated playground structures, increased parking, permanent games around the pavilion, and new landscaping. Approved permits for the shoreline work are expected this year with construction to occur shortly thereafter. Upland improvements are currently in the planning stages with some amenities being added this fall and remainder of enhancements in 2026.

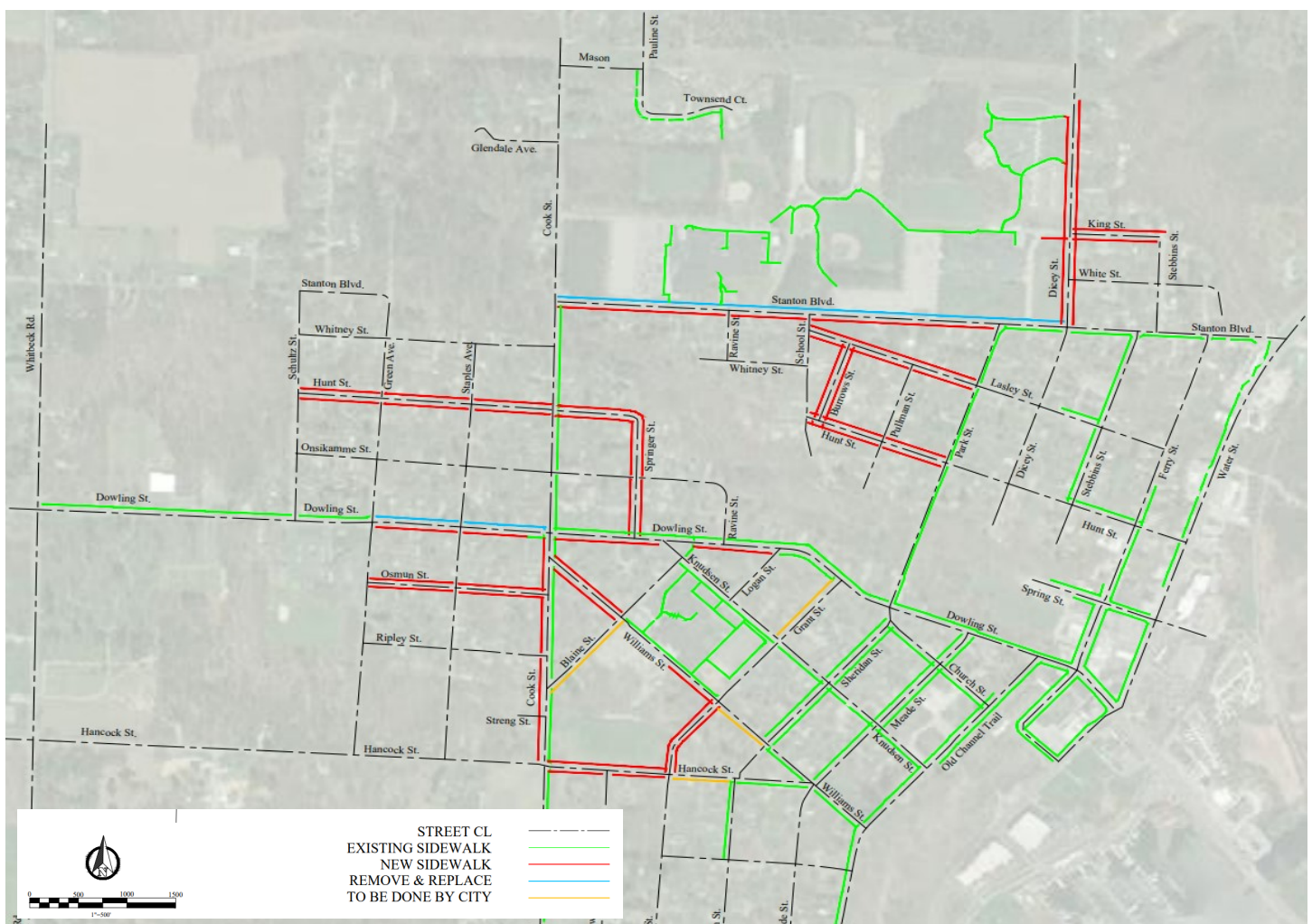


Sidewalks:

You may have noticed that there are a lot of sidewalk projects that have been happening in the City during the past several years. This is due to the City refocusing efforts on providing safe pedestrian corridors throughout the City. In some cases this is repairing old and degraded sections, but also adding new sections to connect to existing sidewalks. This work is occurring within the City owned Right of Way and builds upon the long range sidewalk plan developed in 2023 which is now integrated within the City's digital infrastructure program. In 2024, the City completed a condition assessment of all existing sidewalks and that data has now been incorporated into the long range planning process to help prioritize projects. All of this work is being completed at no additional costs to homeowners, does not require a property owner to share any portion of the expense, and is without any property assessments.

To further this effort, the City also began working with Montague Area Public Schools (MAPS) in 2023 to specifically focus on sidewalks surrounding each of the four school buildings. This effort seeks to provide safe walking / biking routes for students to get to and from school; and unlock possible funding through the Safe Routes to Schools program. After two years of assessments, planning, and public / parent input the City and MAPS are preparing to submit a \$1.2 million dollar grant application for the proposed work. If funded, the project would start in 2027 and include replacement of 3,400 lineal feet deteriorating sidewalk, add more than 22,400 lineal feet of new sidewalk, add traffic warning lights at 6 priority student crossing locations, and install 10 new bike racks.

Below is overview of the project plan for the Safe Routes to Schools program. To learn more about this program, review GIS sidewalk maps / long range plans, or to request a sidewalk in your neighborhood, please reach out to the City Manager.



City Sidewalks

Who can travel on a sidewalk? Did you know that bicycles, skateboards, scooters are allowed to use sidewalks throughout the City, but are not allowed to be ridden on the sidewalks in the two blocks downtown (Ferry Street). Look for the “Walk Your Wheels” signs downtown. All bicycles, skateboards, and scooters must yield to pedestrians on the sidewalk whether overtaking from behind or passing in the opposite direction. If an individual is using a motorized bicycle, skateboard, or scooter that means more than just slowing down or getting off the sidewalk - it also requires the passenger to dismount and pass the pedestrian on foot.

How do I report a damaged sidewalk or trip hazard? City sidewalks are in constant need of monitoring and assessment as they are near a lot of ongoing activity - driveway crossings, vehicles parking on top of panels, damage from tree roots, or construction nearby. Even with the City completing a recent condition assessment, taking care of our sidewalks requires your help. Reporting a problem is as easy as sending an email to info@cityofmontague.org or calling City Hall (893-1155). Issues will be added to the City’s infrastructure database and used for continued planning. The City could also use your help in the winter. Although the City snow blows several of the major routes, the City asks residents to make a good faith effort to remove snow and ice from sidewalks. The City will add routes as staffing allows.

City Right of Ways

What is a Right of Way? The Right of Way (ROW) is a defined area of land owned by the City giving the general public access for travel, space for utilities, and other public improvements. The standard road ROW in the City is 66 feet wide (33 feet on each side of the centerline of the road). So if a standard paved lane is 11 feet wide, then there is still 22 feet of City ROW that may appear to be your property / yard, but is actually City owned. It is within this 22 feet that City uses for sidewalks, water lines, sewer pipes, stormwater drainage, street trees, streetlights, and other City infrastructure. It is also in this area that the City allows other infrastructure like cable, phone, and fiber lines to be installed.

How do I know where the ROW line is and my property begins? In general, most of the streets in the City are centered within the road ROW, and if you measure 33 feet from the centerline you are likely pretty close. These ROW lines and property lines are established in an official plat for a section of the City. The plat lays out all the legal property corners, ROW lines, and essentially establishes an official map of your neighborhood. In some areas the City also has alley ROWs that go through the middle of a block and runs between the backyards of the homes that face two different streets. Most of the alley ROWs in the City are 16 feet wide. For an official determination of the line you will need to have a surveyor stake your property corners.

What if I have a fence, plantings, sprinklers, my lawn, or even a portion of my garage in the ROW? These all would be considered encroachments and the City could make you remove them. In general, the City allows for many of these private “improvements” to go to the edge of the road without much concern. More permanent items such as garages, a tree you plant, retaining wall, etc. would need to be approved by the City. In all cases, the City retains the right to remove any of these improvements to install public access for travel (such as a sidewalk or street) and for other public improvements (such as a water or sewer). Regardless of the project, the City tries to work and coordinate with the adjacent landowner to move any encroachments that will conflict with the City’s use of the ROW.

Why did the City remove or trim my tree in the front yard? What actions the City can take is dependent on where the tree is located. If it is within the ROW it is a City tree, and the City may be trimming to clean out dead limbs or to remove low hanging limbs over the roadway. General removal does not occur unless for a project or because it was identified by a certified arborist as diseased, dying, or unsafe. The City may also trim tree limbs overhanging the ROW from a private landowner’s tree for the same reasons noted above, but may only trim up to the property line and may not cause irreparable harm. Similar to other ROW work, the City will try to work in coordination with adjacent landowners for trimming and tree removals, but minor trimming of City trees does occur throughout the year on limbs that are hanging directly over the roadway. Approximately 100 street trees are planted each year to replace trees that have been removed and landowners may always request a street tree in front of their property at no cost.