



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
Sergeant: Tom Walicki
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
Plumbing Inspector:
Steve Smith 736-8179

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

Montague Branch Library:
893-2675

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 Commission Meetings:
2nd Mondays - 6 p.m.

Farmers Market and Artisan Village:

The Montague Farmers Market and Artisan Village had another excellent summer and are still open through the fall season! The farmers market is open Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through October 25. The Artisan Village also remains open Saturdays through October 25, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The **Senior Voucher program** had another popular year and there are still vouchers left! Stop by the market on October 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to get \$20 worth of vouchers to spend at the market. Remember your ID! Only City of Montague senior residents, age 60 and up, are issued the vouchers AT the farmers market in 2025. Residents of other municipalities that participate in the Senior Voucher program need to contact their City or Township Hall to receive the vouchers.

City Hall Renovations:

Interior renovations at Montague City Hall have been completed and staff is back upstairs. The renovations include a secure lobby space, walls and doors for all offices, and a slight reconfiguration of the space. Carpets, windows, furniture, and walls also received a much needed update. Thank you to our residents for your patience with this process over the summer! Exterior renovations are not yet complete. The City Hall front entrance has been reconfigured to be more accessible and ADA compliant. There is now a step up to the front entrance and an ADA accessible ramp next to the flagpole. Handrails will be added soon to complete the exterior renovations. As a temporary safety precaution, there is caution tape affixed to the step and construction cones for extra visibility.

City Hall Hours: City Hall operating hours have changed as of September 2024. City Hall hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 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 **September 22**. 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.



- IMPORTANT DATES -

- Hydrant Flushing: week of September 22
- Pumpkinfest: October 11
- Remove spring/summer gravesite decorations by October 15
- Fall Brush Pickup: week of October 20
- Halloween Trick-or-Treating: October 31, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Pre-election Weekend Hours: November 2, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- November Election: November 4, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Winter gravesite decorations may be placed on November 15
- Tree lighting/caroling at Artisan Village: November 21, 5 p.m.
- Holiday Walk: November 21, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. & November 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 72nd Annual Christmas Parade: December 6, 2 p.m.
- Santa House Hours: December 12, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. & December 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. & December 19, 4 to 6 p.m. & December 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



Montague Messenger

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety:

In an effort to promote a more walkable and cyclable City, yield-to-pedestrian signs and solar-powered pedestrian crossing signals 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. The bike trail crossing on BR 31, near Montague Foods, can be particularly challenging. That crosswalk is slated for a redesign in 2027 when MDOT repaves the Business Route.



General Election, November 4, 2025:

There will be a regional election on November 4, 2025 for the White Lake Ambulance Authority. 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.

Snowbirds and College Students! If you have signed up on the Permanent Ballot List, meaning you receive a ballot for every election, please let the clerk's office know if you would like your ballot mailed to your winter address to avoid any delays. Election mail, by law, can not be forwarded by the United States Postal Service. Here is the general timeline for Michigan elections:

- May election ballots are mailed at the end of March.
- August election ballots are mailed at the end of June.
- November election ballots are mailed at the end of September.

Brush Pick Up Schedule:

The City of Montague will offer brush pick up the **week of October 20**. Materials must be placed roadside by Sunday, October 19 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.

Are You Prepared For A Weather Emergency?

Looking back to the terrible storm in June 2024, it is prudent to be as prepared as possible for future extreme weather events. Here are some guidelines for resources that residents can prepare themselves and emergency services available in our area.

Does the City of Montague have a tornado siren? No, the siren at Scharmer Tower was decommissioned in 2019. Sirens are expensive to maintain, limited in range, and dependent on local infrastructure (communications systems, electrical power, and telephone service), which often become unavailable during a storm. There are many other local resources that residents can use to stay informed.

TextMyGov

The TextMyGov alerts feature was first used in June 2024 during the aftermath of the devastating storm that hit the White Lake area.

- To opt in to City of Montague alerts on your mobile phone, text MONTAGUEALERTS to the number 91896, then reply YES to the initial message to confirm opt-in. Opt-out at anytime by texting STOP to that same number.



Muskegon County Alert Systems

- Muskegon County is covered by National Weather Service alerts and IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert and Warning System). You do not need to signup for these alerts as they appear on cell phones automatically.
- Muskegon County also offers CodeRed, a free community notification system that will send you alerts concerning time-sensitive and/or emergency information via phone calls, texts, emails, and social media. Visit <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/A9A25FDEA4C0> and click on the CodeRED icon to enroll, or download the CodeRED Mobile Alert app available in the App Store or Google Play.

4 Steps to Preparedness: be informed, make a plan, build a kit, practice and maintain your plan and kit!

Shelter-In-Place

Shelter in Place can be done at home, school, and work.

Call 911 for emergencies ONLY. For non-emergency issues in Muskegon County, call [\(231\) 722-3524](tel:2317223524).

- Store water in closed containers for drinking and cooking.
- Close and lock all windows and doors, including fireplace dampers.
- Select an interior room for shelter.
- Limit outdoor time.
- Children in affected schools will be sheltered; parents should not pick them up unless instructed.
- Bring everyone, including pets, inside and stay sheltered until authorities declare it safe.
- Listen to radio or television for instructions.



Build a Kit

Assemble a "Shelter in Place" kit for local emergencies, including the following items:

- Battery-operated radio with extra batteries, tuned to the local Emergency Alert Station (EAS). In our area it is **106.9 WOOD FM**.
- Bottled water and snack food
- Duct tape and flashlight
- Visit www.ready.gov for more information.
- Check the kit every six months to ensure supplies are fresh and complete.

Prepare Your Car

- Build an auto emergency kit including: jumper cables, flares, flashlight and extra batteries, first aid kit, non-perishable food items, drinking water, basic toolkit, shovel, ice scraper, warm clothes and blanket in the winter months, and a charged cell phone.
- Keep your gas tank full, especially in the winter.
- Do not drive through flooded areas. A foot of water will float many cars.
- If poor weather is forecasted, only drive when absolutely necessary.

Residential Improvements:

What are the City requirements for a new electrical service? As a starting point and for the safety of everyone, all electrical work within the City must be completed under an electrical permit. Although some of this work may be completed by the homeowner themselves, the work still needs to be inspected. In general, any new electrical work on the exterior of the home must be underground. This includes new service lines, upgraded services, and all electrical lines installed from one building to another (e.g., from home to garage or other accessory structure). **What is considered as an electrical upgrade?** That depends. If it is simply an upgrade to a new interior electrical panel and does not require a new service line from the pole to the panel, then undergrounding the service line is not required. If Consumers Energy needs to be called for a new service line then the line MUST BE UNDERGROUND. If Consumers Energy needs to be called for a temporary disconnect and reconnect for a new meter or a new exterior electrical disconnect, then the line MUST BE UNDERGROUND. **What if my exterior electrical box, meter, service mast, or service wire was damaged in a storm?** If Consumers Energy will require any upgrades to the box, meter, or wire before they reconnect, then the line MUST BE UNDERGROUND. If the repair simply requires a new mast and same service line is being reconnected, then an overhead connection is allowed. Still not sure if the exterior line needs to be underground, just contact City Hall. In some cases, the City may be able to share in a portion of the costs to install underground lines.

What are the City requirements for a driveway? Whether replacing an existing drive, or making improvements to a gravel drive, the work will need a driveway permit. All driveway connections in the City occur within the City's Right of Way (ROW) and crossover areas that may have other infrastructure such as water lines, sewer pipes, utility lines, etc. A driveway permit allows the City to review the work and make sure that the location, material, and width of a driveway meet City ordinance requirements. The maximum width of a residential driveway is 20 feet within the ROW and may include minor turning flares at the roadway edge. The traditional design is a 16-foot wide drive with 2-foot turning flares on each side or 18-foot wide drive with 1-foot turning flares. On roads with curbs the opening is always 16-foot wide with 2-foot curb tapers. In many instances when the City is working on a street reconstruction project all driveways are brought into compliance with these ordinance requirements. In some special cases within the older sections of the City, an administrative variance of the requirements may be approved because of the distance between the road edge and the garage cannot meet the dimensional standard. **What if my driveway is currently wider than the maximum width (20 ft.) and I want to simply replace what is there?** Once an existing driveway is disturbed it requires a driveway permit and will need to meet the ordinance. This is the standard whether a homeowner disturbs the driveway or the City does with a road construction project. **What about parking locations roadside?** In general, all parking is required to be on the property in the driveway, garage, or carport. If adequate overnight parking is not feasible on the property, the City may approve designated parking locations roadside under certain conditions. In no case is simply parking on the grass or in the front yard allowed. Parking is also not allowed on or over a sidewalk.

Do I need a building permit for a new roof? If a homeowner is looking to simply replace the existing shingles a permit is not required for most cases; however, a "Repair & Replacement Expenditures" project sheet must be filed with the City. There is no cost for filing this sheet, but the sheet must be filed before beginning work. Sometimes during a reroofing project, and after shingles are removed, it is determined that a new roof deck is required due to rot, damage, or other issue. Once a project requires a change or replacement of structural components, such as the roof deck, then a permit is required. Filing a "Repair & Replacement Expenditures" project sheet is also used for other exterior home improvement projects like siding, windows, and exterior doors. If any of these projects require a change in the structural opening then a building permit will be needed. Still not sure if you need a permit, just contact City Hall or stop by the office for staff assistance.

What are the requirements to add a garden shed on my property? Adding extra outdoor storage is a common request within the City. All accessory buildings (including pool buildings, sheds, storage buildings, chicken coops, etc.) will at the very least need a zoning permit, and depending on size may also need a building permit. Once you have an idea of size, height, desired location, and other project details you can reach out to the zoning administrator to finalize the needed paperwork.



FRONT VIEW

Lakefront Bandshell:

For the last several years the City has been working on a concept for a new bandshell as the current structure and attached storage building are obsolete. Knowing that this project is on the horizon has allowed the City the time to plan for a redesign of the site that will not only showcase the current concerts and events, but can also be used as a shoreline venue for weddings, family reunions, and outdoor gatherings. The main stage area will become an elevated pavilion and boardwalk with views of White Lake, while the new concert seating area will become a gently sloped and tiered lawn to improve sightlines to the stage. The addition of sidewalks, walkways, vehicle parking, and new landscaping will help create an inviting venue for all users. The project will add more parking for the launch ramp with a paved parking lot, which will also serve as event parking for bandshell activities. The City will be finalizing the design details and submitting permits in the coming months. There is no timeline for construction, but the plans and vision are now in place!



OVERALL VIEW

