Vol. 07 No. 1 Winter 2007

The CITY REVIEW FREE

WATCH OUT FOR SNOWPLOW TRUCKS

While driving along City streets this winter, please be extra cautious when encountered by snowplow trucks during the course of their snow clearing activities. Be sure not to follow or park too close behind a plow truck in operation, as they often are required to back up. Operators have difficulty seeing what may be directly behind the vehicle. Parents should be aware that during winter storm events, which cause school closings, snowplows are busy clearing streets and opening them to traffic as quickly as possible after the storm. Due to school closings, many children are out & about entertaining themselves and enjoying a day off from school.

Parents should be aware of the snow plowing activities and be sure children are kept away from streets and roadsides. Also, please do not allow your children to build snow forts near the streets.

City Receives Grant for Water Main Replacement

The City of Cheboygan has been notified that it will receive grant funds up to $750,000 for replacement of water main within the City.

As a result of the City of Cheboygan's Strategic Plan Objective relative to water quality and the solicitation and receipt of water quality complaints, water mains along Duncan Avenue, South B Street, South C Street, and South D Street, which was the subject area of most complaints, will be receiving new water mains funded in part by the grant funds.

A section of water main along Main Street from Lake Street south to Nelson Street is also planned for water main replacement in anticipation of a reconstruction of this portion of Main Street by the Michigan Department of Transportation scheduled for 2009.

The water main replacement is planned to begin in the spring of 2007 and take place through the fall. The downtown portion is planned for spring and fall construction. The City of Cheboygan is providing additional funding for the project which is currently estimated at $1.2 million by issuing water system revenue bonds.

Please contact Scott McNeil, City Manager, with any questions regarding the proposed 2007 water main replacement project.

Downtown Development Authority Reviews Priorities

The Downtown Development Authority has been working toward many of the recommendations that were set forth in the 2004 Downtown Blueprint Study. The Study was conducted by the consulting firm of HyettPalma and was partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

The DDA has implemented many of the recommendations and continues to work toward others. The DDA Board completed a priority survey in February 2005 in order to identify the projects and programs which would receive priority.

These projects and programs along with a status report will be reviewed by the DDA Board at their February 6, 2007 meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Please contact Scott McNeil, City Manager/DDA Director with any questions.

PAYMENT OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Your tax bill that was levied July 1, 2006 is due and payable at the City Hall on or before February 28, 2007 with a 3% penalty. An additional 7% penalty, totaling 10% is added on March 1, 2007.

Your tax bill that was levied December 1, 2006 is due and payable without penalty at the City Hall on or before February 14, 2007. If payment is made after February 14th through the 28th, it is made at the City Hall with a 3 % penalty assessed.

Any payments after March 1, 2007 shall be made at the County Treasurer's Office in the County Building.

Personal property taxes are payable only at the City Hall.

If you have any questions, please call Kenneth Kwiatkowski, Clerk/Treas. at 627-9931.

Telephone Numbers for City Offices

City Hall 627-9931
403 N. Huron St.
Assessor 627-9931
Clerk/Treasurer 627-9931
Police and Fire 627-4321
Non-Emergency
403 N. Huron St.
Dept. of Pub. Works 627-2493
(Street Department)
1003 N. Huron St.
Hearing Impaired Only TDD 597-0315
Ice Rink/Pavilion 627-3255
480 Cleveland Avenue
Manager 627-9931
Marina 627-4944
Mayor 627-9931
Parks & Rec. Dept. 627-2151
(Recreation Center)
400 Cleveland Ave.
Utility Billing 627-3592
Water & Sewer 627-2582
(inc. Wastewater Treatment Plant)
975 N. Huron St.

NOTE: City Offices are open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday - Friday
Department of Public Safety office is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday
Department of Public Works & Water & Wastewater Depts. are open from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Monday-Friday

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Meetings are held in the City Council Chambers, located in the City Hall, 403 N. Huron Street.

- The Cheboygan **City Council** meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- The City **Planning Commission** meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- The **Zoning Board of Appeals** meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- The **Recreation Commission** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- The **Downtown Development Authority** meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- The **Historic Resources Commission** meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- The **Human Relations Board** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.
- The **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

INTERESTED IN SERVING THE CITY?

Are you interested in serving the City of Cheboygan on a board or commission? The City is continually seeking persons with interest in serving their local government. Opportunities to become involved evolve as current members of respective boards & commissions resign, serve out their terms, have commitments that may limit their ability to serve, or leave the area. These boards & commissions include the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Recreation Commission and other committees, which the Mayor & City Council may appoint for special purposes. Serving on a board, commission or special committee is an excellent way to bring your unique expertise in service to your community, as well as an excellent way to learn about local government.

Please contact Scott McNeil, City Manager for additional information and an application at 627-9931.

NOTICE:

The City of Cheboygan does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals desiring to attend City hearings or meetings. Three weeks advance notice is requested. Please call the City Clerk at 627-9931 for more information.

EXPERIENCING A WATER/SEWER PROBLEM???

Call the City first before calling your plumber to find out whether or not your problem is the responsibility of the City. If you call your plumber first, the City will not be responsible for any costs.

Call 627-2582 with any questions.

RENTAL PROPERTY

Owners of rental properties are reminded to notify the Utility Billing Dept. at 627-3592 whenever there is a change in tenants. If the tenant is responsible for paying the water/sewer bill, a meter read needs to be done in order to calculate a "final bill". Also, in order for the water/sewer bill to be in the tenant's name, a $100 deposit is required by the tenant pursuant to policy set by the City Council. Otherwise, the billing stays in the owner's name. Deposit money is kept in a separate account to be used on the final bill or returned if nothing is owed.

WATER/SEWER EMERGENCIES

If you experience a water or sewer emergency during normal business hours, please call 627-2582.

Should you experience a water or sewer emergency **after normal business hours, or on a weekend or holiday,** the City wants you to know we are committed to providing you with emergency response. To provide that response, you may dial **290-2900** to reach an employee of the Water and Wastewater Department.

Please remember that this system is for emergency situations, not for general information that can be obtained during normal working hours**.** *Please help us keep this system up and operating for the benefit of the entire City of Cheboygan.*

CHECK VALVE SYSTEM PROGRAM

The City of Cheboygan maintains an ongoing program that provides a check valve to homeowners who experience basement flooding from the public sewer system. This established program provides for the purchase of the check valve by the City, with installation costs belonging to the homeowner.

Please contact the Water and Wastewater Department at 627-2582 for add'l information.

ICE RINK/ PAVILION

Open Skating: Sunday through Thursday 5:00 pm to 6:20 pm; Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 noon to 1:20 pm (Adults $3; Students $2)

Drop-In Hockey: Monday & Wednesday 12:00 noon to 1:20 pm ($8)

Call Charley Watson, Manager at 627-3255 for more information.

WATER/SEWER BILLING INFORMATION

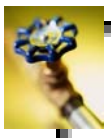
Winter bills are estimated since meters cannot be read during the winter months. Bills are estimated on the last bill with actual reads and use. Cycle A (001 Accounts) - Sept. bill used; Cycle B (002 Accounts) – Oct. bill used; and Cycle C (003) Accounts – Nov. bill used.

VACANCIES ON RECREATION & PLANNING COMMISSIONS

If you are interested in serving as a member of the City's Recreation Commission or Planning Commission, please contact Scott E. McNeil, City Manager at 627-9931 for information and an Application.

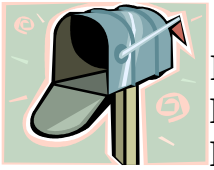
PUBLIC NOTICE

Any citizen having experienced an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, must file a written claim with the City of Cheboygan within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have been discovered. Notice should be mailed to Scott E. McNeil, City Manager at the City of Cheboygan, PO Box 39, 403 N. Huron Street, Cheboygan, Michigan 49721. Telephone: 231-627-9931. **Failure to provide the required notice will prevent recovery of damages.** Contact Scott E. McNeil, City Manager at PO Box 39, 403 N. Huron Street, Cheboygan, Michigan 49721 or telephone 231-627-9931 immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.



WATER SHUT-OFF INFORMATION

Any customer who has their water service shut off and has to have the City Water Department restore service, will be charged a $40.00 **Turn On Fee**. This will include seasonal customers, non-payment customers and anyone discontinuing service for a period of 30 days or more.



INSPECT YOUR MAILBOX BEFORE WINTER

Winter is fast approaching. Have you inspected the condition of your mailbox and post it is mounted on? Boxes eventually become loose and/or rusted and are easily displaced from snow being thrown. Even wolmanized posts can become soft and rot.

Check your post for knots. Impact near a knot will split a post easily. Keep the area around your mailbox clear of snow. Remove decorative, oversized and plastic mailboxes during the snow removal season. These types of mailboxes do not tolerate impact from snow and will not be replaced in kind.

If a City of Cheboygan DPW snow plow truck hits and destroys a mailbox, the City will provide a new standard mailbox. However, if a mailbox is damaged by snow being pushed or thrown, and not by the truck itself, the City of Cheboygan will not replace the mailbox.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David LaCross, DPW Superintendent at 627-2493 (7am to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday).

"Let Water Run and Water Service Freezing Policy"

The City of Cheboygan shall allow a "Let Water Run Credit" for those water/sewer customers who properly notify the City that they will be running their water over the winter months to avoid freeze-ups of their water service. ***Proper notification shall be in writing to the water/sewer billing department.*** The City shall keep a record of the yearly lists subject to the City's "Records Retention Policy."

In the event that a customer experiences a freeze-up of service that must be thawed by the City, the customer shall then notify the water/sewer billing department, in writing, that they will let their water run to avoid future freeze-ups. The City water/sewer department will then add the customer to the City "Let Water Run List".

If the water service freezes between the water main and the "curb stop" or outside the water meter pit, the City shall correct the situation at its sole expense. If the meter freezes, the City shall thaw the service one time, any subsequent thawing shall be at a rate of $40.00 per occasion and added to the customer's next water/sewer billing. If water service freezes on the building side of the "curb stop" or outside the meter pit, the City will have no responsibility in the matter. The City may assist on a labor, equipment, material and overhead basis if the customer agrees to pay the total expense.

The water/sewer billing clerk shall issue a "Let Water Run Credit" for all customers on the City "Let Water Run List" on the next billing that is based on an **actual reading** of the customer's water meter. The amount of the credit will be based on the **previous year actual meter read** billed amount.

The City of Cheboygan reserves the right at any time, to modify, revise, amend, terminate or otherwise change the City's Let Water Run and Water Service Freezing Policy.

Recreation Commission Completes Draft of New Recreation Plan

The City of Cheboygan Recreation Commission has been working toward development of a new Recreation Plan over the past year. A draft of the Plan has now been completed and is expected to be placed before the Mayor and City Council for consideration of approval in January 2007. The Plan includes goals and objectives toward creation of a more walkable community, continuation of recreation programming, seeking new partnerships with private recreation based entities and other local governments, retaining and enhancing parks and other publicly owned property as open spaces and others. The Recreation Plan draft is available at City Hall for review. You may contact Scott E. McNeil, City Manager at 627-9931 with any questions relative to the City's consideration of a new Recreation Plan.

* *

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALK REQUIRED

The owners of any property in certain areas are required by City Ordinance to keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice. The areas which are included in the snow & ice removal Ordinance are listed as follows:

Huron Street from Mackinaw Avenue to Locust Street
Main Street from First Street to the South City Limits
Water Street from State Street to Elm Street
Mackinaw Avenue from Clinton Street to Main Street
State Street from Huron Street to "F" Street
Backus Street from Huron Street to Main Street
Division Street from Dresser Street to Water Street
Elm Street from Huron Street to Water Street
Pine Street from Huron Street to Main Street
Locust Street from Huron Street to Main Street

These sidewalks have been identified as high foot traffic areas and, as such, removal of snow & ice is required by Ordinance in order to insure public safety and limit property owner and public liability. The City of Cheboygan does provide snow removal services within this area, but this does not dismiss the requirement of the property owner to be sure that the sidewalk is clear in the event that the City is unable to keep the sidewalks clear in a timely manner. The snow & ice removal Ordinance provides for fines in the event a property owner is in non-compliance and also provides for exceptions to these provisions with regards to property which is leased. **DO NOT PILE SNOW IN RIGHT-OF-WAY, ON SIDEWALKS OR IN BERM AREA (BETWEEN CURB & SIDEWALK).** For more information regarding the snow & ice removal Ordinance, you may call the Department of Public Safety at 627-4321, visit the City of Cheboygan's web site or stop at City Hall to obtain a copy of the Ordinance.

SEASONAL REMINDERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SNOWMOBILE PERMITS/ROUTES

Snowmobile permits may be obtained at the Dept. of Public Safety after November 1. There is no charge for a permit. Snowmobiles will be permitted only on designated streets, trails, and the most direct route from your residence to the nearest designated street or trail, **by permit**. Operation of snowmobiles is prohibited on City sidewalks except where designated (South Main Street, Taylor Street to City limits & from the Lincoln Avenue Bridge to Huron Street - both sides). The following streets are approved for snowmobiles without a permit: W. State St. from DNR Trail to Huron St.; Huron St. from W. First St. to Court St.; Division St. from DNR Trail to Water St., Pine St. from Huron St. to Boathouse lot; Taylor St. from DNR Trail to Main St.; Water St. from Elm St. to E. State St. (northbound only: one-way from Elm St. to Division St.; Court St. from DNR Trail to Huron St.; N. Huron St. from W. State St. to W. First St.; W. First St. from N. Huron St. to Dresser St.; & Dresser St. from intersection of W. First St. to W. State St. (Maps are available at Chamber Commerce, motels/hotels, City Hall & Department of Public Safety and on the trails.)

Persons plowing or blowing snow cannot plow snow in the roadway or right-of-way. Depositing of snow across roadways requires permission of neighboring or adjacent property owners.

NO ALL NIGHT PARKING ON CITY STREETS AND IN RIGHTS-OF-WAYS

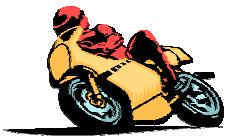
To allow for efficient snow removal, no overnight parking is allowed on City streets or alleys from November 1 until April 1 during the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. This applies regardless of snowfall and violators will be ticketed. Also, parking is no longer allowed overnight in the City street rights-of-way, which is the area between the sidewalk and the curb. This applies even if there is no curbing and/or sidewalk. Tickets will also be issued for this violation. Particular problem areas are "C", "D" and "E" Streets, as well as others on the east and west sides. If you have questions concerning this, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 627-4321.

PARKING IN CITY LOTS OVERNIGHT

Persons parking in City lots overnight must have an overnight parking permit, which is obtainable at City Hall for the following fees:

	Resident	Non-Res.
Day	$ 3.00	$ 4.00
Week	$ 10.00	$ 14.00
Month	$ 25.00	$ 45.00
Seasonal	$250.00	$250.00 (5/1 - 11/30)

For add'l information, please call 627-9931.



CAUTION TO 4-WHEELERS & DIRT BIKE OPERATORS

Michigan Law does not permit operation of these vehicles on designated snowmobile trails.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Chapter 90, Sections 90.08 and 90.22 of the City Ordinance require that all persons **walk their dogs on leashes** and have them under control and that they clean up all manure deposited or accumulated upon any street, sidewalk, gutter, alley or private property.

BURNING PERMITS

All property owners, whether business or residential, are **required to obtain** a burning permit from the City of Cheboygan before open burning of any type is permitted. This includes small piles of brush, grass or leaves. Burning in burning barrels is also restricted and persons wishing to do so must obtain permission through the Cheboygan Department of Public Safety/Police or Fire Division (627-4321). Fines for violation of this Ordinance can amount to $500.00 or more.

RECREATION CENTER

400 Cleveland Avenue – 627-2151

WINTER SCHEDULE – through April 30, 2007

If you have any questions concerning the activities at the Recreation Center, please contact Scott Hancock, Recreation Director at 627-2151.

Scott Hancock, Recreation Director, has announced the following schedule for the Recreation Center open for 2nd grade and up:

5:30 PM to 8:00 PM - Elementary and Junior High School Students
8:00 PM to 10:30 PM - High School Students and Adults

Monday & Wednesday for boys and men. Tuesday & Thursday for girls and women.

The Center offers basketball, foosball, ping-pong, bumper pool, pool, table air hockey, mini-basketball with scoreboard, football toss w/scoreboard and 2 weight rooms. ***(weight rooms for high school students & adults only).***

*If you can't make our night hours and would like to lift weights during the day, call Scott at 627-2151 to set up a time.

Sign up for Spike League & Church League volleyball by calling 627-2151.

Special Olympics Basketball on Saturday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. – If you would like to help, call Scott Hancock at 627-2151.

Soccer players – work on your game with one of the best coaches around – Tom Brcic (Mr. B) on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at the Recreation Center from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call the Recreation Center at 627-2151 for more information.

Men's' league basketball now playing at the Cheboygan Middle School on Sundays at 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00 p.m. Still looking for teams in our women's league to be played on Sundays. Sign up by calling 627-2151.

INFORMATION ON WHY YOUR WATER MAY SMELL LIKE ROTTEN EGGS

Hot water problems usually bring complaints of smelling like rotten eggs. The rotten egg odor is caused by hydrogen sulfide (H2S) gas. Although the odor caused by the gas is disgusting it is not usually harmful at the low concentrations that are common in a household water system. Although modern steel water heaters are glass-lined to prevent corrosion. the creation of hydrogen sulfide gas can occur in water heaters. A long rod, or anode, is used to prevent such corrosion in water heaters and protects the steel, but it is usually made of magnesium* and corrodes more easily than the steel. The steel in the water heater will not corrode as long as the magnesium rod remains in place; however, if corrosion occurs it will free electrons that provide a protective film over cracks in the water heater. Magnesium is used often for water heaters because of the cost. You can contact a water heater dealer regarding a replacement rod that would provide protection without resulting in the sulfate-reduction reaction that causes the H2S gas. *Your water heater may have an aluminum alloy rod. Your best bet is to contact a plumber to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

Mayor: James E. Muschell, 627-9024
Mayor Pro Tem: Scott McCauslin, 627-2960
Council:
Gerald Boardman, 627-1757
Charles Charboneau, 627-2159
Winifred L. Riddle, 627-6604
Leslie A. Tebo, 627-5947
Theo Lepp, 627-5830

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City Assessor: Thomas Eustice
Fire Chief: Thomas Bancroft
DPW Supt.: David LaCross
Recreation Director: Scott Hancock
Water & Wastewater Supt: Gary G. Good

Cheboygan Youth Center is now open (old Junior High on Division Street) after school until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Check it out!