

# 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 Considers Additional Water System Improvements

Under the Water Quality Objective of the Strategic Plan, the City continues to look at additional water system improvements. The City has completed a 1.1 million dollar water system improvement in 2007 with assistance of a \$750,000 grant. The City also completed replacement of 500 feet of water main on Cleveland Avenue between South B & South C Streets in 2008. The City is also considering a 2010 water system improvement project. A water system upgrade, with approximately 90% of the water main replacement coming from State funds, was completed in 2009 in the downtown area in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation's planned rebuild of Main Street.

Under consideration is replacement of additional water mains based on engineers, staff and customer input. The scope of the project under consideration for 2010 is estimated at 2.8 million dollars. Financing under consideration includes a 40 year federal loan. Also an increase in water rates would be required in order to service the loan debt. Evaluation

of the proposed 2010 project will continue. It is important that water system customers continue to provide City staff with information relative to water quality. Complaints and comments relative to water quality can be directed to the City Hall staff at 627-9931 who will record relative information. Water system staff will then conduct follow-up.

## PAYMENT OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Your tax bill that was levied July 1, 2009 is due and payable at the City Hall on or before February 28, 2010 with a 3% penalty. An additional 7% penalty, totaling 10% is added on March 1, 2010 by the County of Cheboygan.

Your tax bill that was levied December 1, 2009 is due and payable without penalty at the City Hall on or before February 16, 2010. If payment is made February 17<sup>h</sup> through March 1, 2010, it is made at the City Hall with a 3 % penalty assessed.

**Any payments after March 1, 2010 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/Treasurer at 627-9931.

## ORV/ATV ORDINANCE

Effective November 29, 2009 the City's new ORV/ATV Ordinance went into effect. The Ordinance allows people to operate on certain designated streets with an ORV/ATV. The streets are published in the Ordinance, which is available online at [www.cheboygan.org](http://www.cheboygan.org), at the City Hall or the Department of Public Safety. Most of the City streets coming into City are permitted on the east and west sides with the exception that at no time can you ride on Mackinaw Avenue and State Street (U.S. 23) or Main Street (M-27). Residents wishing to ride an ORV/ATV and are not located on a designated street must get a free permit from the Department of Public Safety, which will state the most direct route from the operator's residence to a designated street. At no time are you allowed to operate an ORV/ATV on the DNR Snowmobile Trail. If you have any questions, please stop in or contact the Department of Public Safety at 627-4321 between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m., 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.
- The **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Human Relations Board 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.*



**INSPECT YOUR MAILBOX**

Winter is here. 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.



**ICE RINK/PAVILION**

**Open/Public Skating:** Sunday 4:00 to 5:20 pm; Monday through Thursday 5:00 pm to 6:20 pm (Adults \$3; Students \$2)

**Drop-In Hockey:** Monday & Wednesday 12:00 noon to 1:20 pm (\$5)

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

*These types of mailboxes do not tolerate impact from snow and will not be replaced in kind.*

If a City of Cheboygan 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 Steven F. Gall, Sr., Director of the Dept. of Public Works at 627-2582 (7am to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday).*



**Telephone Numbers for City Departments**

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

**NOTE:**  
**City Offices & the Dept. of Public Safety office** are open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday  
**Department of Public Works Departments** are open from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Monday-Friday

**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.*

# WATER/SEWER INFORMATION

SAVE

## 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.*



## Do's & Don'ts

### EXPERIENCING A WATER/SEWER PROBLEM???

*Call the City at 627-2582 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.*

Thank you.



## Water/Sewer Billings

Since meters cannot be read in the winter months, your next two bills will be estimated based on the previous actual usage bill, which had actual meter reads.

If you are leaving for the winter and do not want estimated bills, please notify the Utility Billing Department at 627-3592.

## RENTAL

## PROPERTIES

All owners of rental properties are reminded to notify the Utility Billing Dept. at 627-3592 of any tenant changes so that final bills can be calculated. **ALSO**, in order for the billing to be in the tenant's name, a \$100 deposit is required from the tenant, pursuant to policy set by the City Council. This deposit is kept in a separate account until the tenant moves. It can then be used on the final bill or returned to the tenant if there is nothing owing on the final bill.



## Water Turn-On Charge

Any customer who has their water shut-off and has to have the City Water Department restore service will be charged a \$40 Turn-On Fee. This will include seasonal customers, non-payment customers, and anyone discontinuing service for a period of 30 days or more.



## FREEZE-UPS

Customers who have a *history* of freeze-up problems in the winter are reminded to notify the City in writing if you will be running your water to avoid freeze-ups.





# 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.) **CAUTION TO 4-WHEELERS & DIRT BIKE OPERATORS: Michigan Law does not permit operation of these vehicles on designated snowmobile 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:



	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Res.</u>
Day	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00
Week	\$ 10.00	\$ 14.00
Month	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00
Seasonal	\$125.00	\$150.00 (5/1 - 11/30)

*For add'l information, please call 627-9931. [Fees subject to change.]*

### 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.



**FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:** Dry chemical fire extinguishers can be refilled at CarQuest, 122 S. Main St., Cheboygan (627-5691).

**SPEED LIMITS:** All City streets are **25 mph**, unless posted otherwise.

**RADAR LOCATIONS:** W. Lincoln & Loomis; W. Lincoln & Cleveland; Mackinaw & N. Ball; E. State & Eastern; Cleveland & E. Seymour; Lafayette & Abbott; N. Huron & Lake, **and other** locations throughout the City.

# 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.

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## **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.



### **Historic Resources Commission Encouraging Historic Resource Designation**

The City of Cheboygan Historic Resources Commission among other things oversees the designation of a historical resource within the City of Cheboygan. Enclosed in this edition of *The City Review* is a copy of a brochure which highlights some of the historic resources designated by the City.

The Historic Resources Plaque Program provides the ability to designate buildings and other sites as historical resources and provide a means of preserving important historical attributes of the City. The Program is clearly voluntary and owners of property designated as a historic resource may remove the property from designation at any time. Interested property owners may contact Scott E. McNeil, City Manager 231-627-9931 or via e-mail at [cityhall@nmo.net](mailto:cityhall@nmo.net) for an application form and guidelines. The application requests background information on the property and its history including prior owners. Property owners can obtain assistance in completing the application form with the Historic Resources Commission members and other resources which the Commission has. Commission members include: Jim Conboy, Chairperson; Ellis Olson; Phil Porter; Ron Crandell; Steve Brisson; Jeanette Bronson; and Steven Lindsay. A \$125 fee (subject to change) is required with the application process which covers partial cost of a bronze plaque which is affixed to the resource once the application is approved by the Commission. If an application is denied, the fee is refunded.

Preservation of our history is a vital important component of a well-rounded community and the City of Cheboygan and the City of Cheboygan Historic Resources Commission would encourage anyone with interest to consideration formal historical designation by the City.

## RECREATION CENTER

400 Cleveland Avenue – 627-2151

**WINTER SCHEDULE – through April 30, 2010**

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 or use game room during the day, call Scott at 627-2151 to set up a time.

**Friday Night Ping-Pong - Call Scott Hancock at 627-2151 for more information.**

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



Special Olympics Basketball on Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.

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 Bric (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.

*Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup> there will be open recreation in the game room from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm for middle school and high school students. Please contact Scott Hancock at 627-2151 for more information.*

**The City of Cheboygan has vacancies on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board of Dir., Downtown Development Authority Board of Dir. and Planning Commission. If you are interested in serving on this Board, please contact Scott E. McNeil, City Manager for an Application and for additional information.**

### 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 (H<sub>2</sub>S) 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 H<sub>2</sub>S 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:** Richard B. Sangster, 627-5807  
**Mayor Pro Tem:** Theo Lepp, 597-5830  
**Council:**  
Mark Bronson, 597-8234  
Nicholas C. Couture, 420-3644 (cell)  
William K. Jewell, 597-8032  
Roger Kopernik, 627-9546  
Michael J. VanFleet, 627-3126

The City Review is a publication of  
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**Management:**  
City Manager: Scott E. McNeil  
Director of Public Safety: Kurt R. Jones  
City Clerk/Treas.: Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski  
City Assessor: Thomas Eustice  
Fire Chief: Thomas Bancroft  
Dept. of Public Works Dir., Steven F. Gall, Sr.  
Recreation Director: Scott Hancock

**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!**