

The CITY REVIEW



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.*



Message from the Mayor

City Council & I hope your Christmas Holidays were special. We wish you success in 2012.

Many exciting things happened in the City in 2011. A \$3 million plus water improvement project was begun and is approximately 80% finished. The balance of the project will be completed in the Spring.

The former Woolworth building was razed and plans are underway to create a dynamic new public venue in its place. We hope to begin construction in the Spring.

The City has several committees & commissions such as the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Recreation Commission that excel because of the commitment of volunteers. If you would like to serve on a City committee/commission, please contact me or Dale Stuart our City Manager.

If you have a suggestion as to how the City can better serve your needs, please contact us.

Sincerely,
Richard B. Sangster, Mayor

ORV/ATV ORDINANCE

The City's ORV/ATV Ordinance allows people to operate an ORV/ATV on certain designated streets. The streets are published in the Ordinance, which is available online at www.cheboygan.org, at the City Hall or the Department of Public Safety. Most of the City streets coming into the City are permitted on the east and west sides with the exception that at no time are ORVs/ATVs allowed on Mackinaw Avenue and State Street (U.S. 23) or Main Street (M-27). Residents who wish to ride an ORV/ATV but who 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 MDNRE 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.



PAYMENT OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Your tax bill that was issued July 1, 2011 is due and payable at the City Hall on or before February 28, 2012 with a 3% penalty. An additional 7% penalty & a 4% property tax administration fee will be added on March 1, 2012 by the County of Cheboygan.

Your tax bill that was issued December 1, 2011 is due and payable without penalty at the City Hall on or before February 14, 2012. If payment is made February 15th through February 28, 2012, it is made at the City Hall with a 3 % penalty assessed.

***Any payments after
March 1, 2012 must 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



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 as needed the first Wednesday of the 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 Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

[Board & Commission meetings are subject to change depending on activity & business.]



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 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, Historic Resources 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 the community, as well as an excellent way to learn about local government.

Please contact the 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 the 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 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 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 (7:00 am to 3:30 pm Monday-Friday).



For a calendar of upcoming local events, go to the Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce website:

www.cheboygan.com

The City of Cheboygan wishes everyone a safe and healthy 2012.

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.

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.

WATER/SEWER INFORMATION



WATER/SEWER BILLINGS

Since meters cannot be read in the winter months, your next two bills will be estimated based on the previous 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.

Winter

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.

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 not pleasant, 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 them. 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 steel. Steel in water heaters will not corrode as long as the magnesium rod remains in place; however, if corrosion does occur, it will free electrons that provide a protective film over cracks in the water heater. Magnesium often is used for water heaters to reduce manufacturing costs. You can contact a water-heater dealer about 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. Considering contacting a plumber to assist you and to answer any questions that you might have.



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 Turn-On Charge



Any customer who has water shut off and requires the City's Water Department to 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.

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 the 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 the 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.



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 MDNRE Trail to Huron St.; Huron St. from W. First St. to Court St.; Division St. from MDNRE Trail to Water St., Pine St. from Huron St. to Boathouse lot; Taylor St. from MDNRE 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 MDNRE 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 may be obtained 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).

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 assure 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 regard to property that 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 duties oversees the designation of a historical resource within 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 the City Manager at 231-627-9931 or via e-mail at cityhall@cheboygan.org for an application form and guidelines. The application requests background information about the property and the property's history, including prior owners. Property owners can obtain assistance in completing the application form with Historic Resources Commission members and other resources that the Commission has. Commission members include: Matthew Friday; Ellis Olson; Phil Porter; Ron Crandell; Steve Brisson; and Jeanette Bronson. 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's Historic Resources Commission would encourage anyone with interest to consider requesting a formal historical designation.

Governor & Representative Contact Information

Gov. Rick Snyder * P.O. Box 30013 * Lansing, MI 48909 * (517) 373-3400 * RickSnyder@michigan.gov

Rep. Greg MacMaster

S-1389 House Office Bldg., PO Box 30014
 PO Box 30014
 Lansing, MI 48909
 (517) 373-0829
GregMacmaster@house.mi.gov

Rep. Frank Foster

S-1486 House Office Bldg.
 PO Box 30014
 Lansing, MI 48909
 (517) 373-2629
FrankFoster@house.mi.gov

Sen. Howard Walker

S-1486 House Office Bldg.
 PO Box 30014
 Lansing, MI 48909
 (517-373-2413
SenHWalker@senate.michigan.gov

U.S. Rep. Dan Benishek

200 Division Street, Suite 178
 Petoskey, MI 49770
 (231) 348-0657
<http://benishek.house.gov>

U.S. Sen. Carl Levin

107 Cass Street, Suite E'
 Traverse City, MI 49684-2602
 (231) 947-9569
<http://levin.senate.gov>

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

3335 S. Airport Road West, Suite 6B
 Traverse City, MI 49684
 (231) 929-1031
<http://stabenow.senate.gov>

RECREATION CENTER

400 Cleveland Avenue - 627-2151

WINTER SCHEDULE - through April 30, 2012

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

Schedule 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.

Free-Throw Contest – Boys can shoot any Monday or Wednesday between 5:30 pm & 8:00 p.m. – Girls can shoot any Tuesday or Thursday between 5:30 pm & 8:00 pm.



Friday night youth co-ed volleyball - 6:00 p.m.

The Center offers basketball, foosball , ping-pong , bumper pool, pool , table air hockey, mini-basketball with scoreboard, football toss w/scoreboard, golf putting hole, 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 627-2151 to set up a time.

Friday Night Ping-Pong - Call 627-2151 for more information.

Sign up for Spike League & Church League volleyball by calling 627-2151. Leagues to start January



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.



Men's' league basketball now playing at the Cheboygan Middle School on Sundays from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Beginning February 7th there will be open recreation in the game room from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm for middle school and high school students.

Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm is Special Olympics training. Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call Scott Hancock at 627-2151.

Ping Pong Players & Pool Players: Tables are available from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm (call to book time)
Check out our new ping pong table & mini-hoops game!



ICE RINK/PAVILION

Open Skate: Sun. 3:00 pm-4:20pm; Tues./Thurs.-1:30pm-3:00pm; Mon./Tues./Wed./Thurs.-5:-- pm-5:50 pm
Call 627-3255 with questions or for additional information.



Telephone Numbers for City Offices

City Hall 627-9931 403 N. Huron Street	City Manager 627-9931	Mayor 627-9931	Assessor 627-9931	Clerk/Treasurer 627-9931
Parks & Rec. Dept. 627-2151 (Recreation Center) 400 Cleveland Avenue	Ice Rink/Pavilion 627-3255 408 Cleveland Avenue	Utility Billing 627-3592	Dept. of Public Works 627-2582 (Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water, Sewer, Streets) 975 N. Huron Street	
Police & Fire 627-4321 Non-Emergency 403 N. Huron Street	Hearing Impaired Only TDD 597-0315			

Mayor: Richard B. Sangster, 627-5807
Mayor Pro Tem: Theo Lepp, 597-9273
Council:
Mark Bronson, 597-8234
Nicholas C. Couture, 420-3644 (cell)
William K. Jewell, 597-8032
Winifred L. Riddle, 627-6604
Michael J. VanFleet, 627-3126

The City Review is a publication of
THE CITY OF CHEBOYGAN
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www.cheboygan.org
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Management:
City Manager: Dale A. Stuart
Director of Public Safety: Kurt R. Jones
City Clerk/Treas.: Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski
City Assessor: Thomas E. Eustice
Fire Chief: Thomas Bancroft
DPW Director, Steven F. Gall, Sr.
Parks & Recreation Director: Scott Hancock
Ice Rink/Pavilion Manager: Craig Coxe

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