



# Ishpeming City Newsletter

April 2011

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## A Message from the City Manager

Governor Snyder is definitely earning his self-imposed \$1 salary this year. Although the media and public at large seem to view his proposed budget as reality, the fact of the matter is that it still requires the legislature to make it law. That said, I believe it is imperative that our City Council and their constituents begin planning for reductions in revenue sharing from the State in the near term. The current economic pressures facing the City of Ishpeming also make this an ideal time to consider long term issues – this is an opportunity to address challenges and ensure that the City's operations and infrastructure are sustainable.

Gov. Snyder proposes replacing the current statutory revenue sharing model with something dubbed the Economic Vitality Incentive Program. Currently, statutory revenue sharing distributes about \$300 million annually to local units of government and Gov. Snyder proposes reducing that to \$200 million. At best, local units can expect about a 33% reduction in revenue sharing, based on his proposal. For the City of Ishpeming, FY11 statutory revenue sharing is around \$387,000. A 33% reduction is equivalent to about \$128,000.

In order to receive their full portion of statutory revenue sharing, municipalities must implement three distinct initiatives:

1. **accountability and transparency** – *“By October 1, 2011 local governments must produce a citizens guide to their finances and a performance ‘dashboard’ that is readily available to the public. Municipalities should [...] make their local finances, including a recognition of their unfunded liabilities, available to the public.”*
2. **consolidation of services** – *“By January 1, 2012, municipalities must develop plans to consolidate services that will result in taxpayer savings. The plans should make a good-faith effort to estimate potential savings and costs associated with sharing critical services at the local level.”*
3. **employee compensation** – *“For any new, modified or extended contract, all public employee compensation should be subject to the following criteria:*
  - a. *Placing all new hires on a defined contribution plan or a hybrid retirement plan that caps annual employer contributions at 10 percent of base salary*
  - b. *Where applicable, a 1.5 percent multiplier should be used to determine employee pensions. A 2 percent multiplier should be used for employees who are not eligible for social security benefits.*
  - c. *Implementing controls to avoid pension spiking such as using a three-year salary average that does not include more than a total of 240 hours of paid leave and overtime to determine benefit levels.*
  - d. *If health care is offered, all new hires must be on an 80/20 employer to employee health care premium split. Alternatively, a dollar amount could be assigned to local health care plans and compared to the state healthcare plan if it is an HMO or includes other cost saving measures such as co-pays or deductibles.”*

Considered in conjunction with Emergency Financial Managers legislation that recently became law, which expands the authority of an EFM to terminate collective bargaining agreements and even dissolve local units of government, the Snyder administration appears intent to fundamentally change local government operations.

What does all this mean for the average resident and taxpayer in Ishpeming?

The answer is service. Local government is a service industry. As such, the largest portion of costs is personnel, which provide the City's services. Severe reductions in revenue combined with increasing costs puts pressure on the City's ability to maintain staff levels and provide services.

The changes state and local governments are experiencing right now are truly momentous. As our City Council begins a dialogue to understand and address these changes, I encourage you to stay informed, participate, and help make a difference.

**City Council to Hold Budget Work Sessions—see page 4 for information.**

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## Residents and Visitors to see Changes at the Cemetery

The FY11 Budget requires that the City reduce the level of staffing at the cemetery. As a result, the City Council recently reduced office hours from Monday through Friday 7am to 3pm to Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7am to 3pm. The office will now be open only three days per week. Management also anticipates that Department of Public Works staff will provide fewer services at the cemetery. Summer part-time labor will also be reduced. In addition, the Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC) recently decided to eliminate their trustee program whereby the DOC provided inmates on work crews to assist local governments – a mutually beneficial arrangement that was partially funded by the City of Ishpeming.

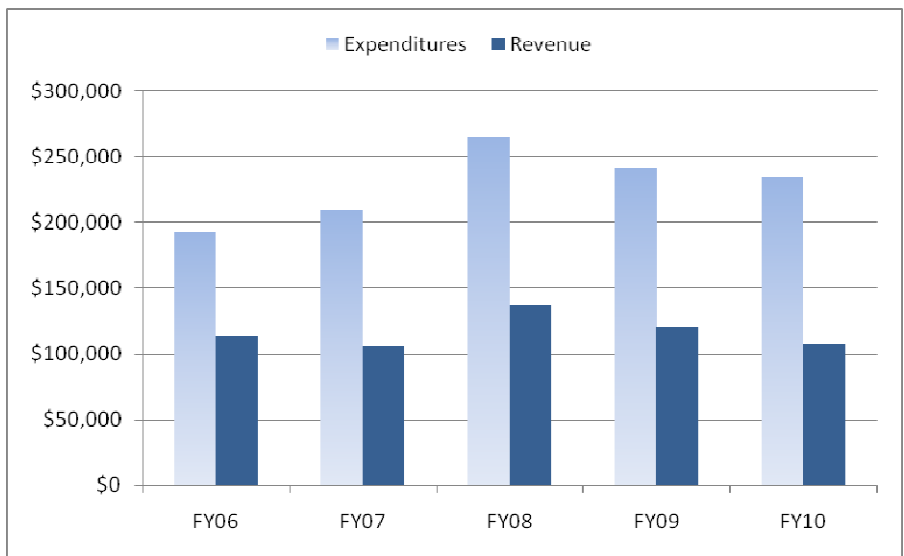
The net result of these changes is reduced service. Visitors to the cemetery may find it more difficult to conduct business, including genealogical research. Landscaping and grounds maintenance may suffer – less cutting, leaf pickup, etc. Unfortunately, this may disappoint those who have come to expect a very high level of service at the cemetery.

To further understand the financial circumstances, consider the budget projections in the following table and chart:

	<u>FY10</u>	<u>FY11</u>
<b>Revenue*</b>	\$107,400	\$121,500
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$234,300	\$174,700
<b>Difference (+/-)</b>	\$(126,900)	\$(53,200)

\*Revenue is cemetery-specific and includes interest from perpetual and cemetery care funds.

Revenue from the perpetual and cemetery care funds and burial fees is not sufficient to cover costs associated with cemetery operations. The result is a “subsidy” from General Fund revenues to cover the difference. Notice that even with a decrease in expenditures of approximately \$60,000 between FY10 and FY11, there remains a \$53,200 shortage in revenue.



## News from the Ishpeming Public Library

The 2010 Library Annual Report was submitted to the Library Advisory Board in February and statistically it was another record breaking year. Attendance at the library was at its highest in the last 12 years and circulation and computer usage also continued to rise. Our largest increases were our children’s programming attendance which increased by 31% and teen circulation which increased by 35%. The annual report is available to review at the library or on our website.

The library will continue to offer basic computer skills courses this Spring and the Children’s Room will be hosting their

weekly preschool story hours and Saturday programming. Please note that the library will not be offering programming in May to prepare for our Children’s & Teen Summer Reading Program “One World, Many Stories” which begins in June. This spring the library will also be introducing a new library web-site, which will be more up-to-date and user friendly.

The library has a great selection of gardening and do-it-yourself resources, so as you begin your spring projects, please feel free to stop by or visit the library’s website for resources and helpful tips.



Ishpeming Carnegie Library

## Special Saturday Refuse Collection Days

Ishpeming RESIDENTS have the opportunity to dispose of large, non-hazardous garbage items at the City's compost and metal collection site. Roll off containers will be available along with personnel to help unload larger items

The drop off site is located on Carson Road off of Lakeshore Drive (south of US Hwy 41)

This service will be available on the last Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. RESIDENTS are REQUIRED to present identification AND their City utility bill.

The following items are prohibited:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Beverage containers         | 10. Liquid Waste                            |
| 2. Cardboard                   | 11. Sewage                                  |
| 3. Tires                       | 12. PCBs                                    |
| 4. Shingles                    | 13. Asbestos Waste                          |
| 5. Scrap Metal                 | 14. Medical Waste                           |
| 6. Used oil                    | 15. Construction materials                  |
| 7. Lead acid batteries         | 16. Yard Clippings                          |
| 8. Low-level radioactive waste | 17. Brush/small diameter trees/<br>branches |
| 9. Hazardous Waste             |   |

## Spring Clean-up Days are Here



In addition to the last Saturday of the month Refuse Collection Days, the City of Ishpeming has designated the following days for a special Household Spring Clean-Up. Residents may dispose of their unwanted, non-hazardous household rubbish at the compost/metal collection site (off of Lakeshore Drive) .

**Friday, May 6th; 7am to 7pm**

**Saturday, May 7th; 7am to 3pm**

**Friday, May 13th; 7am to 7pm**

**Saturday, May 14th; 7am to 3pm**

**Prohibited** items are listed in the article above. **Permitted** items include:

- Toys
- Tools
- Furniture & Small Appliances
- Old Clothing & Shoes
- Books
- Draperies
- Carpets
- Decorations
- Other Household Items

## Compost and Metal Collection

City Residents may bring their compostable materials, such as leaves, branches, and yard clippings, and their recyclable metal to the Compost / Metal Collection site located on Carson Road off of Lakeshore Drive (south of US Hwy 41). This site will be open Monday—Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Residents are reminded that this site is ONLY for compost and metal. No recyclable items permitted.

## Shingles Disposal

Shingles disposal is available at the Marquette County Landfill. Residents must complete a Shingle Permit Application at Ishpeming City Hall; identification is required. Please call City Hall at 485-1091 for more information.

### City Council to hold Budget Work Sessions

Governor Snyder has announced a proposed State Budget that significantly reduces the amount of State Revenue Sharing to local communities. Details of the Governor’s message can be found on the State of Michigan website at:

[www.michigan.gov/snyder](http://www.michigan.gov/snyder)

Local governments will face challenges as they try to maintain services with fewer dollars. The Ishpeming City Council will conduct a series of work sessions over the next several weeks to address budget issues concerning the current FY2011 budget and the FY2012 budget.

City Council work sessions are public meetings and members of the community are encouraged to attend. Please watch for meeting announcements. The meetings will be posted at the following locations:

- City Hall
- Ishpeming Public Library
- Ishpeming Senior Center
- Charter Cable Channel 19
- City website: [www.ishpemingcity.org](http://www.ishpemingcity.org)

### Dates of Interest . . . . .

- Wednesday, April 6th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ishpeming Senior Center
- Thursday—Saturday, April 28th-30th, Skerbeck Bros. Carnival in Downtown Ishpeming.
- April 1st through April 29th—Walking Art Tour
- Saturday, April 30th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 4th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ishpeming Senior Center
- Friday, May 6th and Saturday, May 7th—Rubbish Collection Site open for Spring Clean-up
- Friday, May 13th and Saturday, May 14th—Rubbish Collection Site open for Spring Clean-up
- Saturday, May 28th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 8th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ishpeming Senior Center
- Saturday, June 25th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 26th—Historic Homes Tour



## Skerbeck Carnival

The Skerbeck Bros. Carnival will be in downtown Ishpeming from Thursday, April 28th thru Saturday, April 30th.

Proceeds from this event will support the Bay Cliff Health Camp and the Ishpeming Volunteer Fire Department.

## Art on Ice

The Art on Ice Walking Art Tour event continues through Friday, April 29th.

“Showcasing local artists with businesses opening their doors to donate wall space.”

All artwork displayed is for sale by the artist with their contact information displayed with the artwork.

Watch for the Big Gold Snowflake at exhibiting businesses.

## Historic Homes Tour

The annual Historic Homes Tour and Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, June 26th. The event is sponsored by the Ishpeming Area Historical Society.

For more information, please call 486-8680 or visit their web-site at:

[www.ishhistsoc.com](http://www.ishhistsoc.com)

