

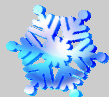


Ishpeming Newsletter

C I T Y O F I S H P E M I N G

DATES OF INTEREST

- Wed. January 5th—City Council Meeting at 7pm at Ishpeming Senior Center
- January 7th—9th The 124th Annual Ski Tournament. Suicide Hill and the Al Quaal Recreation Area.
- Thurs. January 27th—Torch Trek Cross Country Ski Event for kids of all ages! Downtown Ishpeming. Event starts at 6pm Free Cross Country Ski Rentals at Wilderness Sports. Free hot chocolate and free hot dogs.
- Wed. February 9th—City Council Meeting at 7pm at Ishpeming Senior Center
- Mon. February 14th—Winter Tax Bills are due. Penalties apply starting February 15th
- Wed. March 9th—City Council Meeting at 7pm at Ishpeming Senior Center



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

The City Council recently approved changes to the City's utility rates and billing, which include increases for water and sewer service. As a utility customer who averages around 6,000 gallons of usage per month, I expect to pay about \$20 more per month next year for water and sewer. I certainly don't want to spend more for utilities, but I have a different perspective serving as the City Manager. The fact is that the City of Ishpeming, like most communities in the Midwest, has aging, deteriorating infrastructure. Approximately 40% of the water that the City purchases from the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority is unmetered or lost. In addition, water main breaks have increased in

frequency and severity in the past decade or so. The City faces a crisis to repair and replace its water and sewer systems, and of course that comes at a cost.

The increased rates for 2011 will help proactively address repair and maintenance. The rates will pay for the City DPW staff to maintain valves, inspect aging water and sewer lines, maintain sanitary sewer lift stations and manholes, and other repair and maintenance work that recently has not been adequately addressed. As a customer, that gives me some confidence that the additional money that I will pay for my service is being spent in a reasonable and responsible manner. As the City Manager, I know there is still

a lot of work to be done. For example, the new rates do not include a capital investment fee to invest in a sinking fund to pay for large-scale replacement projects; projects that must be addressed at some point, sooner or later.

In 2011, the City will begin work on a capital improvement plan. This plan will help identify specific steps to begin rebuilding the City's water and sewer systems, and most importantly, how to pay for them. Inevitably, if this is going to be accomplished, it will cost more money. I encourage you to consider what kind of utility services you value and how much they cost. Ultimately, I believe maintaining the status quo will cost more in the long run.

W I N T E R A C T I V I T I E S

Al Quaal Tube Slide

Hours of Operation:
Saturdays and Sundays
Noon to 5:00 p.m.
(weather permitting)
\$7.00 per person



Al Quaal Cross Country Ski Trails and Snowshoe Trail

- ◆ Baby Lake Trail: Snowshoe Trail
- ◆ Teal Lake Trail: Intermediate Level Cross Country Trail
- ◆ Olympic Trail: Advanced Level Cross Country Trail
- ◆ Deer Lake Trail: Advanced Level Cross Country Trail

Trail passes available at City Hall, Park/Cemetery Office, and the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

D D A B O N D I S S U E

The City of Ishpeming Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recently passed a resolution requesting that the City Council issue a bond on its behalf for \$2.475 million. The City Council will address the matter at their January 5, 2011 regular meeting. A bond is like a loan, it is a formal contract to repay borrowed money with interest at fixed intervals. The DDA generates revenue from increases in taxable value within a defined area and it intends to use this revenue to pay for the bond. The DDA plans to borrow against its revenue stream in order to complete larger scale projects than it would otherwise; operating on a year-to-year basis.

For illustration purposes, when a property is improved, its taxable value increases. For example, a vacant property may have a taxable value of \$10,000. If you build a Taco Bell on the property, its taxable value may increase to \$100,000. The property taxes generated by that increase in value are siphoned, so to speak, by the DDA, so that taxes generated on the \$90,000 in increased taxable

value go to the DDA. Therefore, a DDA bond issue does NOT increase property taxes. It uses an existing source of revenue to pay debt. This type of financing is called Tax Increment Financing, or TIF.

Part of the bond issue is project planning. In fact, the DDA's intent to complete certain projects is the primary motivating force behind the bond issue. The DDA has defined three distinct areas for improvements:

US 41—Construct water and sewer infrastructure to support commercial expansion.

Downtown—Improve entry features along US 41, redevelop the former JCPenney building property and replace sidewalks.

Hematite Heights—This City-owned property, formerly owned by Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, is planned for recreational improvements that include an improved gravel road with parking access and multi-use trails.

R E C Y C L I N G S E R V I C E S

The Ishpeming Recycling Center is permanently closed as of January 1, 2011. Residents will no longer be permitted to drop-off recyclable materials at the center.

Curbside collection of recyclables will continue and residents are encouraged to participate in the curbside recycling program. Recyclables will be collected by North Country Disposal. A complete list of items that are permitted, including the proper method to prepare the materials, is located on the next page.

The compost site will remain open to allow residents to dispose of their yard waste including grass clippings, compost, tree branches, leaves and Christmas trees. Containers for scrap metal will also be available at this site.

The compost site will be open Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (excluding holidays).

FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK

With 2011 upon us, the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library is excited about the future of services in our community. We have many great programs planned in the Children's Room, including a Valentine Bear's Picnic and a Wild Rumpus Pajama Party.

We continue to offer our Tuesday afternoon Pre-school Story Hour and Saturday Family Story Hour / Puppet Show.



The library will be offering computer courses throughout the winter months and in March we have activities planned for Teen Tech Week. The library staff is continuously looking at ways to provide better services to our community. Through our website we can answer reference questions via Meebo Reference Chat and we recently created a calendar of events that is accessible online. The library continues to provide a great selection of new fiction and non-fiction titles and we have an ever-growing collection of DVD's and downloadable audio and eBooks.

Please note that our Saturday hours have changed. The hours at the main library are now 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the children's library will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We encourage your suggestions and feedback and we hope you will stop by and enjoy our beautiful public library this winter.

www.uproc.lib.mi.us/ish



Neighborhood Watch Program

This month's topic: *Operation ID*

Wednesday, January 26, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ishpeming Senior Center

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

REMINDER!!

Residents MUST have their trash and recyclables at the curb no later than **7:00 a.m.** on their regularly scheduled trash day.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency: 911
 Non-Emergency Police: 486-4416
 Non-Emergency Fire: 486-4426

Ishpeming City Hall
 Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

City Manager: 485-1091 x203
 Manager's Secretary: 485-1091 x203
 City Clerk: 485-1091 x201
 City Assessor: 485-1091 x206
 Utility Billing: 485-1091 x207
 Rental Inspector: 485-1091 x208
 City Treasurer: 485-1091 x211
 Cemetery: 486-6181
 Park Reservations: 486-6181
 Public Works: 486-9371
 After Hours Water & Sewer Emergencies: 1-877-656-1406

Web-site: www.ishpemingcity.org

City Announcements can also be found at Channel 19 on the Charter Cable Network

Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library
 486-4381

	Adult Library	Children's Library
Monday:	9am –5pm	1pm–5pm
Tuesday:	9am–5pm	1pm–5pm
Wednesday:	9am–7pm	1pm–7pm
Thursday:	9am–7pm	1pm–5pm
Friday:	9am–5pm	1pm–5pm
Saturday:	10am–3pm	11am–3pm