



Ishpeming City Newsletter

July 2011

A Message from the City Manager

Summer is here! Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the (mostly) beautiful weather. If you pay attention to what's happening in politics at the state level, there is no shortage of negativity. Although the unprecedented legislation passed during the current legislative session in Lansing has a tremendous impact on local governments, I'd rather use this space to discuss positive changes in the City of Ishpeming.

City of Ishpeming management - Council and Manager - has focused on the former Wawonowin golf course and so-called caving grounds property as the future location for residential and commercial expansion. Part of that effort has included naming the area Hematite Heights. In recent years, the area has been used as public land, where snowmobilers travel down Trail 8; residents drive ATV's and dirt bikes, walk and hike; and mountain bikers and horseback riders have access to countless trails. The City's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) plans to spend around \$800,000 improving and extending Malton Road (off US 41 by the Teal Lake Medical Center), creating access points to the property, and improving recreational areas including trails.

I think one of things that makes Hematite Heights special is that it remains relatively secluded and rustic. Exciting improvements are com-

ing. My goal is to make those improvements while maintaining the natural feel and condition of the area, preserving the features that make it special for everyone.

Despite severe financial constraints across all levels of government, the City is trying to leverage funding to continue needed improvements. The City of Ishpeming is completing planned improvements this summer to South Pine Street using a \$375,000 Small Urban Grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation. We're also building new sidewalks along North 2nd Street to Birchview Elementary School as part of MDOT's "Safe Routes 2 School" grant program.

City staff is in the process of completing a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan for streets, which identifies and recommends funding sources to maintain and preserve our roadways. We're also going to begin a water system analysis that will digitally map the system and identify leakage and cost effective replacement options. While this comes at a cost, it is the first step toward making the system more efficient and less costly long term. We're also preparing a water and sewer rate study to create a fair cost structure that incorporates the need for long range capital replacement.

The engineering and architecture firm, OHM, recently presented their structural evaluation study on the Fire Hall to the City Council. The Fire Hall is a historic asset that is deteriorating. Renovating the structure may cost nearly \$1 million. Building a new facility may cost more than \$1.75 million. The City Council plans to form a committee to recommend the best course of action for the future of the building. Community input is essential to making the right decision because ultimately, the costs for a new or renovated structure will fall to the taxpayer.

Change comes slowly in local government. Often times there are initiatives underway that go unnoticed. I can assure you that the City of Ishpeming organization is looking forward and trying to maximize the resources that we have and leverage resources that are available from abroad.

Summer Tax statements
were mailed to Ishpeming
property owners and are
payable without penalty
by Wednesday,
September 14, 2011

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION UPDATES



Partridge Creek

GEI Consultants and Tunnel Vision performed their preliminary inspection of the City's storm sewer along the Partridge Creek route in June. This sewer televising provided the consultant with high quality televised records of the sewer conditions which will be used to better evaluate the repair or replacement alternatives for Phase I of the project. Preliminary results indicate that some localized repairs will be necessary, regardless of whether a trenchless technology or open-cut method is used to repair/replace the aging storm

sewer. We expect to hear GEI's analysis of the storm sewer conditions in the coming weeks. During the planning phases of this project, the City has decided that a total reconstruct of the aging sewer system was the only acceptable solution to the current creek routing issue. As the project progresses, we hope to propose any new cost saving measures that may be appropriate for this project.

Phase I is budgeted at \$2.7 million and is anticipated to be the first of several phases. The City feels it is

prudent to stretch all resources to the maximum extent possible in an effort to minimize overall project costs and maximize length of project completed with each phase. \$2 million of Phase I will be funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the remaining \$700,000 will be a local match funded by Capital Improvement Bonds sold by the City.

Phase I construction is scheduled to begin the spring of 2012 and be completed by fall 2012.

Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School project is a collaboration of the City of Ishpeming, Ishpeming School District and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). The Birchview Elementary School Safe Routes to School project is a sidewalk project which includes replacement of deteriorating sidewalks and the addition of new sidewalks along Poplar Street and Second Street. The project starts at the Second Street entrance to the Playgrounds and covers Second Street to US 41 with miscellaneous

repairs; Second Street from US 41 to Prairie Ave. with new sidewalk on the west side of Second Street; Prairie Ave. from Jopling Avenue to Poplar Street with miscellaneous repairs; and Poplar Street with new sidewalk and miscellaneous repairs from Prairie Avenue to Birchview School. The project



is currently being bid under the normal MDOT bidding schedule and is anticipated to be awarded near the end of July.

This project uses approximately \$170,000 of Safe Routes to School funding with a local match of \$20,000 for engineering services which is covered by a Blue Cross Blue Shield Grant.

The project is scheduled to begin in August 2011 and be completed within 60 days.

South Pine Street Phase II

This project was bid and awarded this past winter through the MDOT bidding process. Payne and Dolan is the General Contractor and they will begin work in July or August of this summer. We expect a relatively short construction schedule based on the Contractor's proposed schedule, but

exact dates are pending.

The project will complete the paving and reconstruction of Pine Street south of Division Street and includes the replacement of sidewalk and curbing between Division Streets and Johnson Street.

The construction costs for this project are approximately \$500,000 which includes \$375,000 of State dollars available through Small Urban Grants and a City match of approximately \$125,000, or 25% of construction costs.

Outdoor Fire Pits: Rules and Safety Tips from the Fire Chief

1. Small enclosed backyard fire pits, outdoor fireplaces, and outdoor barbecues where food preparation is the primary function are allowed without a permit. Clean dried hardwood, commercial fireplace logs, charcoal and propane gas are the preferred fuels for these types of appliances. The burning of construction materials is against the law.
2. Fire pits or outdoor fireplaces may be homemade; they both need mesh screens over the entire opening of the fire pit or fireplace. The mesh screen openings should be no larger than 1/2 inch in diameter.
3. The fire pits should be no larger than three feet in diameter. Any fire pit larger than that will be considered a bonfire, and such fires will need a permit. The fire department will only authorize bonfires that are ceremonial in nature for community organizations.
4. Remember, if your fire pit or outdoor fireplace produces smoke and causes a public nuisance, or if public safety is jeopardized, you are in violation of the City of Ishpeming's open burning ordinance.
5. Burn barrels, even with a mesh screen covers, are **NOT ALLOWED** in the City. The burning of construction materials is against the law. The City has a compost site for disposal of yard debris. The burning of yard debris is also against the law within City limits.
6. For more information about open burning, visit the State of Michigan's web-site at : www.michigan.gov/dnr

Crime Prevention Is Everyone's Business—by Police Chief Bjorne

People who live in small towns enjoy the benefits of knowing their neighbors and others in the neighborhood and the security that comes with it. Leaving homes unlocked and keys in the car was a common practice in the past and some people still do it to this day. But as times change, so do crime trends, and Ishpeming is not immune from these changes. The biggest problem law enforcement agencies face nationwide are the crimes revolving around the abuse of prescription pain relieving drugs. Addiction to pain relieving drugs has become a significant problem to the doctors who prescribe them and police who investigate their abuse. People addicted to pain killing drugs have been so bold as to knock on a homeowner's door, and if there is no answer, check to see if it is unlocked. If someone is home, they will say they are looking for "so and so" and will be told they are at the wrong house. If the door is unlocked and no one is home, they will enter the home in broad daylight, steal prescription drugs and disappear without leaving any indication that the house was entered.

Several weeks ago someone opened an unlocked car and stole the owner's wallet which contained credit cards. The suspects used these credit cards on a shopping spree from Ishpeming to DePere and Green Bay, WI, where they charged hundreds of dollars worth of expenses against the victim's cards. Officers were able to develop identification of the suspects through store videos and developed sufficient probable cause to obtain and execute a search warrant at the suspect's home, recovering merchandise purchased with the stolen cards, and sufficient evidence to prosecute the suspects for multiple felonies.

The crimes I have described could all have been prevented by being mindful of simple crime prevention practices of locking all doors to the home and garage, and removing valuables from vehicles and locking the doors. Locking/unlocking a car door is as simple as pressing a button so why wouldn't anyone do it as a regular habit? Installing motion lights around your home is an inexpensive deterrent to vandalism and theft. Every community seems to be dealing with budget deficits and layoffs. Police departments across the country are forced to reduce staff. Crime prevention and keeping neighborhoods safe is no longer the sole responsibility of your police department. Taking a proactive role in keeping your home and family safe is everyone's responsibility.

Ishpeming area residents are encouraged to attend Neighborhood Watch meetings to learn more about what they can do to keep their communities safe. Everyone is welcome, not just City residents. Neighborhood Watch meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Ishpeming Senior Center. The meetings are suspended in the summer months (June, July, and August) due to lack of attendance.

Dates of Interest

- * Wednesday, July 6th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ishpeming Senior Center
- * Saturday, July 30th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- * Saturday, July 30th—St. Rocco's Italian Fest at Al Quaal Recreation Area
- * Wednesday, August 3rd—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ishpeming Senior Center
- * Saturday, August 6th—Renaissance Festival and Art Faire at Lake Bancroft Park
- * Saturday, August 13th—Buzz the Gut, Downtown Ishpeming
- * Saturday, August 27th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- * Wednesday, September 7th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Ishpeming Senior Center
- * Wednesday, September 14th—SUMMER TAX BILLS DUE without penalty
- * Friday—Sunday, September 23rd—25th, Ski Hall of Fame, Annual Hall of Fame Weekend
- * Saturday, September 24th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Thursday Night Concert Series
Old Ish Park @ 7:00 p.m.
Bring a Chair and Enjoy the Entertainment!

July 7th:	Shotgun Kelli & State 51 Classic Rock & Country
July 14th:	Black Pearl Variety
July 21st:	Cheshire Dogs Blues
July 28th:	Terra Cotta Half Life Jazz Fusion
August 4th:	Jeff Krebs & John Beck Amazing Acoustic Duo
August 11th:	Dave & Julie Williams Music of the Greatest Generation
August 18th:	Bordertown Southern Rock & Outlaw Country
August 25th:	Wednesday Night Music Club Eclectic Display of Variety

A stylized illustration of a treble clef with several musical notes floating to the right, positioned to the right of the concert schedule.

From the Librarian's Desk

Summer is always a great time to visit the Ishpeming Carnegie Public Library. The Library has many great activities for teens and youth patrons with the *One World, Many Stories* and *Here You Are* summer reading programs. Information is available at the Library or on the Library's web-site at:

www.uproc.lib.mi.us/ish

The summer is a great time to check out our selection of best-selling titles and classics. Our downloadable audio and E-book collections continue to grow. We also have a great selection of travel guides to help plan your summer vacation and do-it-yourself books to help with those

