



# A Message from the City Manager

2012 Should be a very busy year in Ishpeming. At least four major projects are taking shape and seem to be on schedule for construction:

1. Partridge Creek Diversion Phase I
2. Malton Road Extension
3. US 41 Water/Sewer Extension
4. Negaunee Sewer Main Project



## PARTRIDGE CREEK DIVERSION: PHASE I

The City produced a brochure earlier this year that was funded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide information to the public about this project. The brochure can be accessed at our website - [www.ishpemingcity.org](http://www.ishpemingcity.org) - and there are hard copies available at City Hall and the Library.

The project will involve reconstructing several intersections between the vicinity of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street/Ridge Street and Main Street/Cleveland Street. Construction plans are on pace to be completed in November. The engineering firm working on the project - GEI Consultants - believes that a majority of the storm sewer reconstruction project can be completed using a technique known as cured-in-place pipe. This technique avoids digging by inserting a pipe or liner into the existing pipe. However, some areas will still require open digging and reconstruction. Actual construction is on schedule to begin in May 2012 and conclude by October 2012.

## MALTON ROAD EXTENSION

The City of Ishpeming has invested in the Hematite Heights property, looking forward as one of the few areas available for future development within city limits. Malton Road currently ends at the Malton Electric facility, but it is only paved up to the area around the Teal Lake Medical Center. The Downtown Development Authority is planning to spend around \$600,000 constructing an extension of the road into the Hematite Heights property. The road is currently being designed by UP Engineers and Architects with construction plans expected to be complete by the end of 2011, so that bid letting can take place during the winter months and construction can begin in May 2012.

The road is being designed to significantly improve access to the Hematite Heights property and lay the foundation for future improvements that will ultimately create a north-south road connection between US 41 and the M-28 Business Route. Depending on cost estimates, the road will likely be gravel.

A capital improvement bond issued through the DDA in May 2011 will fund the road construction.

## US 41 WATER / SEWER EXTENSION

In order for commercial development to expand westward along the north side of US 41, between the Jubilee IGA and the DOT park and ride lot, water and sewer services must be extended. The work will involve extending water and sewer lines through the railroad embankment adjacent to US 41 and underneath US 41. The DDA is funding this extension at a cost currently estimated at approximately \$850,000. UPEA is also doing the design work for this project, and all of the DDA bond projects, and they anticipate completing construction plans by the end of 2011 with a construction schedule similar to the Malton Road and Partridge Creek projects.

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## NEGAUNEE SEWER MAIN PROJECT

The City of Negaunee is currently on pace to construct a 30” sanitary sewer main that will carry 100% of the effluent produced by their system to the Ishpeming Area Joint Waste Water Treatment Facility in Ishpeming. The sewer main’s route will travel across the property formerly owned by Cliffs and into the City of Ishpeming along the Hematite Grade, travelling along Hematite Drive and through the intersection with Lakeshore Drive and Greenwood Street. Intensive construction activities will take place along Hematite Drive between North 7<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets, and Lakeshore Drive. Construction activities will not close any roadway completely during the normal business week, however, there may be some full road closure on the weekends. The Cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee have an easement agreement in place that requires a great deal of cooperation and planning. Our goal is to limit the impact on residents and businesses to the greatest extent possible, while keeping in mind that Negaunee’s connection to the Ishpeming Area Joint Waste Water Treatment Facility (IAJWWTF) benefits all of its customers and will help lower costs for everyone.

## Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

The City Council will receive my proposed FY12 Budget by October 17<sup>th</sup>. The City Charter requires that the Council adopts a final budget no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>. This timeframe was amended in the Charter last year and it allows Council and staff more time to review year-to-date revenues and expenditures, which should facilitate a more accurate budget. However, the final adoption timeframe also conflicts with the beginning of firearm deer hunting season and the Thanksgiving holiday. With that in mind, I expect a public hearing to typically take place at the regular November City Council meeting, which is Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> this year. If there are significant changes brought forth at that time, the budget can be amended and brought for final approval at the very end of the month of November, no later than

the 30<sup>th</sup>. If there are no significant changes, the budget will be approved as presented without any further action or public hearings by the City Council.

FY12 is a critical year for the City of Ishpeming. Like nearly all Michigan municipalities, the City of Ishpeming faces decreasing revenue and increasing expenditures that create an unsustainable organizational structure. The City cannot continue to provide the same levels of service, let alone invest in critical infrastructure replacement projects. More details will come forward as the budget adoption schedule proceeds. I encourage all interested residents and property and business owners to be involved.

The consequences of budget decisions made right now will be felt for many

years to come. There is a tremendous opportunity to restructure City services and plan for capital investment. The Michigan Rural Water Association is scheduled to present the results of a water and sewer rate study that they recently conducted on our behalf at the November regular meeting. Rates are critical to establishing priorities and the ability to replace aging infrastructure. In addition, there will be a presentation of a five-year road capital improvement plan to begin repairing and replacing failing roadways. If investment is not made now, many of the City’s roadways could begin to fail over the coming five years, however, that, of course, comes with a cost.

Jered Ottenwess  
City Manager

## DPW Report

### Demolitions

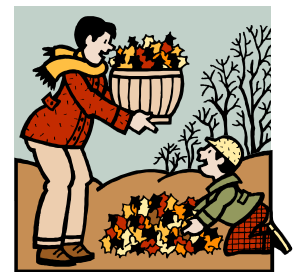
In October 2011, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will be demolishing the house at 310 S. Second Street. This will be the third (and final) demolition for the year. Previously DPW crews demolished 212 E. Superior and 610 N. Second Street. These projects are funded through the Community Development budget and often later reimbursed through property liens. Unfortunately, performing these jobs with City staff is a burden on other services that DPW must perform. It takes approximately three days per demolition with skilled staff that could otherwise be performing critical repairs to the City’s sewer and water systems.

### Autumn Leaf Collection

North Country Disposal will collect bagged leaves from all residential locations in the City of Ishpeming on **Monday, October 17th** and **Monday, October 31st**.

Bagged leaves must be at the curb no later than **6:00 a.m.**  
Trucks will not re-run the route.

- Bagged leaves only.
- No trees
- No tree limbs
- No animal waste. Any bags with animal waste will be left at the curb.



Questions? Please contact North Country Disposal at 249-4500.

# Fire Department Report

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## Fire Hall

There is never a good time to make expensive repairs or construct new public infrastructure. There will never be a “good time” to get’ er done. No one wants to raise taxes unnecessarily. However now it’s time to make a commitment to our future.

The Fire Hall was originally built in 1912 for steam engines and hose carts pulled by the department’s horses which were kept there. Most, if not all, of today’s firefighting equipment wasn’t even thought of in 1912. The building simply does not meet today’s requirements.

### Deficiencies Found:

- Apparatus room floor was never constructed to support the weight of our current fire trucks. The floor the fire trucks are parked on is above a basement.
- Terrazzo tile the fire trucks are parked on is in need of replacement. The metal strips between the terrazzo tile are failing and sticking up, terrazzo tile is also cracking and breaking up in places, it’s causing a trip hazard to your Volunteer Firefighters.
- Metal strips sticking up in the terrazzo tile create a tripping hazard, which has been getting progressively worse in recent years. It’s not safe for Firefighters rushing to respond to emergencies.
- Contractors familiar with terrazzo tile repair have looked at our floor and they believe repairs which are necessary would not last and be cost prohibitive. Terrazzo tile was never meant to withstand the massive weight of fire trucks. Engineers and contractors alike have recommended a high strength concrete product for the floor.
- Electrical system is not in compliance with the national electrical code.
- Steam heating system is not efficient and the City has no personnel qualified to conduct regular inspections of the steam boiler.
- Windows need to be replaced.
- Overhead door hardware needs to be replaced.
- Power generator should be installed to automatically provide power during electrical outages.
- Water flowing in the basement is causing mold and high humidity in the building.
- No shower facilities for Firefighters
- Lack of adequate facilities for Firefighters to clean up after an emergency call



Ask yourself, is this condition that you thought your Fire Hall was in? The cost to repair or replace the Fire Hall is significant. The City Council has assigned a committee to work on planning for a new facility and they will actively involve the public because ultimately it is the public that has to pay for a new facility.

Please take time to read OHM Engineers & Architects report on the Fire/Police Station condition at the City’s website under the “Forms and Documents” tab at [www.ishpemingcity.org](http://www.ishpemingcity.org).

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## Aerial Fire Truck

At this time the City of Ishpeming has two fire trucks and one brush truck and no aerial ladder truck. This City needs an aerial ladder truck. Please take stock of our community, look at what needs to be protected. Look at some of our large buildings like the high/middle school with 600 students, six-story senior high rise on Bluff Street, 144,000 square foot Bell Hospital, Marquette County Medical Care Facility, tall buildings in the downtown business district, lightweight construction of the Country Village, and do not forget all the residential homes that are built so very close together in the city. All of these buildings need an aerial ladder truck for the protection of property and to potentially rescue citizens from burning structures. If

you look at the high-hazard occupancies identified by a leading fire protection consultant, (view article at the City’s web-site under the “Departments > Fire Department” tab) Ishpeming has all the buildings noted by the author as criteria used to determine if an aerial ladder fire truck is needed.

Ed Anderson, Fire Chief  
Ishpeming Volunteer Fire Department

# Carnegie Library Announces Plans to Become Handicap Accessible

## Our Plan

The goal of our plan is to add an ADA-compliant entrance to the facility by installing a ramp near the northwest corner of the building to access a new entry door at the main level. This ramp location will provide needed access to the main level without interfering with the main building façade. The design will be carefully considered to provide a welcoming entrance to the facility. Conscientious design elements will be employed to ensure that the new entrance maintains the historic integrity of the building.

The existing lower level entrance will be reconfigured to allow access to this entry without requiring any steps. All entrances will be brought into compliance with accessibility standards.

## Floor to Floor Access

The library will provide floor to floor access to its patrons by installing a Limited Use/Limited Application elevator. This elevator is small in size, requires less modification to the

existing building and is less costly. The elevator will not diminish the historic integrity of the main reading rooms.

## Additional Patron Space

The library currently has unused space. The goal is to reconfigure the lower portion of our facility for more meeting space. The library currently holds a collection of historical documents and artifacts that have no permanent home location. The new space would be temperature controlled and secure and would allow the library to permanently maintain these priceless artifacts. The reconfiguration would also provide more space for library programming and meeting rooms for public access.

The entire project is expected to cost \$300,000.

Please visit our Handicap Accessibility blog for more information on the project, how to donate, and for updates:

<http://icplcampaign.blogspot.com>



## Library Announcements

Mrs. Cindy Mack, Library Director, has resigned. Mrs. Mack had been with us since 2007 and in that short period of time, we saw tremendous changes and improvements at the Library including technology upgrades, an updated reading room, carpeting, fresh paint and much more. We wish Cindy all the best and a heartfelt thank you for all she has done for our Library.

Children's Library programming began on October 1st. This year, both the Story-time/Craft Hour on Tuesdays and the Puppet Shows on Saturdays will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Also, please note that the Library has temporarily reduced its hours until a new Library Director is hired. Our current hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10am to 5pm; Wednesday: 10am to 7pm; and Saturday: 10am to 3pm.

## Cemetery Office Hours

The Cemetery Office will be closed for the winter beginning November 1, 2011. The office will remain closed until May 1, 2012, except by appointment. Appointments can be made by contacting Jess Ayotte at the Public Works Office at 906-486-9371.

## Dates of Interest....

- *Wednesday, October 5th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 pm, Ishpeming Senior Center*
- *Saturday, October 29th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site 9:00 am to 2:00 pm*
- *Tuesday, November 8th—School Board Election—Polls open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm*
- *Wednesday, November 9th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 pm, Ishpeming Senior Center*
- *Saturday, November 19th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site—9:00 am to 2:00 pm*
- *Thursday and Friday, November 24th & 25th—City Offices Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday*
- *Friday, November 25th—Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting in Downtown Ishpeming—6:00 pm*
- *Thursday, December 1st—Visit with Santa in Old Ish Park; 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm*
- *Wednesday, December 7th—City Council Meeting at 7:00 pm, Ishpeming Senior Center*
- *Thursday, December 8th—Visit with Santa in Old Ish Park; 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm*
- *Thursday, December 15th—Visit with Santa in Old Ish Park; 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm; Live Nativity at 7:00 pm*
- *Saturday, December 17th—Rubbish Collection at Compost Site 9:00 am to 2:00 pm*
- *Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th—City Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday*
- *Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd, City Offices Closed for the New Year's Holiday*