

# The CITY REVIEW

FREE



## 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.**



## City Considers Additional Water System Improvements

Under the Water Quality Objective of the Strategic Plan, the City continues to look at additional water system improvements. The City has completed a 1.1 million dollar water system improvement in 2007. The water system upgrade in the downtown area is planned for 2009 in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Transportation's planned rebuild of Main Street. The City is also considering a 2010 water system improvement project. Under consideration is replacement of additional water mains based on staff and customer input. The scope of the project under consideration for 2010 is estimated at a total of 3.7 million dollars which includes water main replacement and a new 3000 gallon elevated water storage tank to be located on the southeast side of town. Financing under consideration includes a 40 year federal loan. Also an increase in water rates would be required in order to service the loan debt. Evaluation of the proposed 2010 project will continue. It is important that water system

customers continue to provide City staff with information relative to water quality. Complaints and comments relative to water quality can be directed to the City Hall staff at 627-9931 who will record relative information. Water system staff will then conduct follow-up.

## PAYMENT OF YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILLS

Your tax bill that was levied July 1, 2007 is due and payable at the City Hall on or before February 28, 2008 with a 3% penalty. An additional 7% penalty, totaling 10% is added on March 1, 2008 by the County of Cheboygan.

Your tax bill that was levied December 1, 2007 is due and payable without penalty at the City Hall on or before February 14, 2008. If payment is made February 15<sup>h</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>, it is made at the City Hall with a 3 % penalty assessed.

*Any payments after March 1, 2008 shall 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.

## Telephone Numbers for City Offices



**City Hall** 627-9931  
403 N. Huron St.  
**Assessor** 627-9931  
**Clerk/Treasurer** 627-9931  
**Police and Fire** 627-4321

**Non-Emergency**  
403 N. Huron St.  
**Dept. of Pub. Works** 627-2493  
(Street Department)  
1003 N. Huron St.

**Hearing Impaired Only TDD 597-0315**

**Ice Rink/Pavilion** 627-3255  
480 Cleveland Avenue

**Manager** 627-9931  
**Marina** 627-4944  
**Mayor** 627-9931  
**Parks & Rec. Dept.** 627-2151

(Recreation Center)  
400 Cleveland Ave.

**Utility Billing** 627-3592  
**Water & Sewer** 627-2582  
(inc. Wastewater Treatment Plant)  
975 N. Huron St.

### NOTE:

**City Offices** are open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday – Friday

**Department of Public Safety** office is open from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday

**Department of Public Works & Water & Wastewater Depts.** are open from 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Monday-Friday



**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 the first Wednesday of each 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 **Historic Resources Commission** meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- The **Human Relations Board** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.
- The **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority** meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.



**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 their 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 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 your community, as well as an excellent way to learn about local government.

*Please contact Scott McNeil, City Manager for additional information and an application at 627-9931.*

**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.*

**EXPERIENCING A WATER/SEWER PROBLEM???**



*Call the City 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.*

***Call 627-2582 with any questions.***

**RENTAL PROPERTY**

Owners of rental properties are reminded to notify the Utility Billing Dept. at 627-3592 whenever there is a change in tenants. A meter read needs to be done in order to calculate a "final bill". Also, in order for the water/sewer bill to be in the tenant's name, a \$100 deposit is required by the tenant pursuant to policy set by the City Council. Otherwise, the billing stays in

the owner's name. Deposit money is kept in a separate account to be used on the final bill or returned if nothing is owed.

**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.***

**CHECK VALVE SYSTEM PROGRAM**

The City of Cheboygan maintains an ongoing program that provides a check valve to homeowners who experience basement flooding from the public sewer system. This established program provides for the purchase of the check valve by the City, with installation costs belonging to the homeowner.

**Please contact the Water and Wastewater Department at 627-2582 for add'l information.**



## ICE RINK/ PAVILION

**Open/Public Skating:**  
Sunday 4:00 to 5:20 pm;  
Tuesday & Thursday  
12:00 noon to 1:20 pm;  
Monday through Thurs-  
day 5:00 pm to 6:20 pm  
(Adults \$3; Students \$2)



**Drop-In Hockey:** Mon-  
day & Wednesday 12:00  
noon to 1:20 pm (\$5)



Call Charles Watson,  
Manager at 627-3255 for  
more information.

### WATER/SEWER BILL- ING INFORMATION

Since meters cannot be read  
in the winter months due to  
the possibility of freezing,  
estimated bills are done  
based on average yearly use.

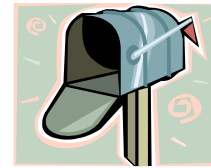
### VACANCIES ON PLANNING COMMISSION & BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

If you are interested in  
serving as a member of the  
City of Cheboygan  
Planning Commission or  
Brownfield Redevelopment  
Authority please contact  
Scott E. McNeil, City  
Manager at 627-9931 for  
information and an  
Application.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Any citizen having experi-  
enced an overflow or  
backup of a sewage disposal  
system or storm water sys-  
tem, must file a written  
claim with the City of Che-  
boygan within 45 days after  
the overflow or backup was  
discovered or in the exercise  
of reasonable diligence  
should have been discover-  
ed. Notice should be  
mailed to Scott E. McNeil,  
City Manager at the City of  
Cheboygan, PO Box 39, 403  
N. Huron Street, Cheboy-  
gan, Michigan 49721.  
Telephone: 231-627-9931.  
**Failure to provide the re-  
quired notice will prevent  
recovery of damages.**

Contact Scott E. McNeil,  
City Manager at PO Box 39,  
403 N. Huron Street, Che-  
boygan, Michigan 49721 or  
telephone 231-627-9931  
immediately upon discovery  
of an overflow or backup.



## INSPECT YOUR MAILBOX

Winter is here. Have  
you inspected the condi-  
tion of your mailbox and  
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  
DPW snow plow truck  
hits and destroys a mail-  
box, 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 of Cheboygan will  
not replace the mailbox.

If you have any  
questions or concerns,  
please contact David  
LaCross, DPW  
Superintendent at 627-  
2493 (7am to 3:30 pm  
Monday-Friday).

### WATER SHUT-OFF INFORMATION



Any customer who has  
their water service shut  
off and has to have the  
City Water Department  
restore service, will be  
charged a \$40.00 Turn  
On Fee. This will  
include seasonal  
customers, non-  
payment customers  
and anyone  
disc continuing service  
for a period of 30 days  
or more.

**“Let Water Run and Water Service Freezing Policy”**

The City of Cheboygan shall allow a “Let Water Run Credit” for those water/sewer customers who properly notify the City that they will be running their water over the winter months to avoid freeze-ups of their water service. *Proper notification shall be in writing to the water/sewer billing department.* The City shall keep a record of the yearly lists subject to the City’s “Records Retention Policy.”

In the event that a customer experiences a freeze-up of service that must be thawed by the City, the customer shall then notify the water/sewer billing department, in writing, that they will let their water run to avoid future freeze-ups. The City water/sewer department will then add the customer to the City “Let Water Run List”.

If the water service freezes between the water main and the “curb stop” or outside the water meter pit, the City shall correct the situation at its sole expense. If the meter freezes, the City shall thaw the service one time, any subsequent thawing shall be at a rate of \$40.00 per occasion and added to the customer’s next water/sewer billing. If water service freezes on the building side of the “curb stop” or outside the meter pit, the City will have no responsibility in the matter. The City may assist on a labor, equipment, material and overhead basis if the customer agrees to pay the total expense.

The water/sewer billing clerk shall issue a “Let Water Run Credit” for all customers on the City “Let Water Run List” on the next billing that is based on an **actual reading** of the customer’s water meter. The amount of the credit will be based on the **previous year actual meter read** billed amount.

**The City of Cheboygan reserves the right at any time, to modify, revise, amend, terminate or otherwise change the City’s Let Water Run and Water Service Freezing Policy.**

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**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 insure 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 regards to property which 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.

**City Conducts Planning with Local Government Neighbors**

The City of Cheboygan continues to participate in intergovernmental discussions and meetings. The Northern Cheboygan County Intermunicipality Planning Committee (NDDIPC) was formed approximately 1 ½ years ago. Currently officials from the City along with officials from Beaugrand, Benton and Inverness Townships, and Cheboygan County are completing land use studies and study different methods of intergovernmental cooperation. Members of the City’s Planning Commission are involved with the NCCIPC. There is currently a vacancy on the Planning Commission. If you are interested in serving on the City of Cheboygan Planning Commission or would like more information about the Commission, please contact Scott E. McNeil, City Manager at 627-9931 or via e-mail at [cityhall@nmo.net](mailto:cityhall@nmo.net).



**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 DNR Trail to Huron St.; Huron St. from W. First St. to Court St.; Division St. from DNR Trail to Water St., Pine St. from Huron St. to Boathouse lot; Taylor St. from DNR 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 DNR 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.)



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.

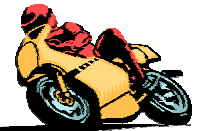
**PARKING IN CITY LOTS OVERNIGHT**

Persons parking in City lots overnight must have an overnight parking permit, which is obtainable 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	\$250.00	\$250.00 (5/1 - 11/30)

*For add'l information, please call 627-9931.*



**CAUTION TO 4-WHEELERS & DIRT BIKE OPERATORS**

Michigan Law does not permit operation of these vehicles on designated snowmobile trails.

**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.

## RECREATION CENTER

400 Cleveland Avenue – 627-2151

**WINTER SCHEDULE – through April 30, 2008**

If you have any questions concerning the activities at the Recreation Center, please contact




Scott Hancock, Recreation Director at 627-2151.

Scott Hancock, Recreation Director, has announced the following schedule for the Recreation Center open for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

The Center offers basketball, foosball, ping-pong,  bumper pool, pool,  table air hockey, mini-basketball with scoreboard, football toss w/scoreboard 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 during the day, call Scott at 627-2151 to set up a time.



**Sign up for Spike League & Church League volleyball by calling 627-2151.**



Special Olympics Basketball on Saturday from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.

If you would like to help, call Scott Hancock at 627-2151.



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. Call the Recreation Center at 627-2151 for more information.



Men's' league basketball now playing at the Cheboygan Middle School on Sundays at 5:00, 6:00 & 7:00 p.m.



*The Recreation Department will attempt an outdoor ice rink during the month of January 2008 in front of the grandstands under the roof at the Cheboygan County Fairground on E. Lincoln Avenue. The rink will be open from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm Monday through Friday & noon to 9:00 pm on weekends. The City would like to thank the County for the use of their facility. A notice when the rink is open will be placed in the Cheboygan Daily Tribune.*

## 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 (H<sub>2</sub>S) gas. Although the odor caused by the gas is disgusting 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 water heaters. 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 the steel. The steel in the water heater will not corrode as long as the magnesium rod remains in place; however, if corrosion occurs it will free electrons that provide a protective film over cracks in the water heater. Magnesium is used often for water heaters because of the cost. You can contact a water heater dealer regarding a replacement rod that would provide protection without resulting in the sulfate-reduction reaction that causes the H<sub>2</sub>S gas. \*Your water heater may have an aluminum alloy rod. Your best bet is to contact a plumber to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

**Mayor:** James E. Muschell, 627-9024  
**Mayor Pro Tem:** Leslie A. Tebo, 627-5947  
**Council:**  
 Gerald Boardman, 627-1757  
 Charles Charboneau, 627-2159  
 Winifred L. Riddle, 627-6604  
 Richard B. Sangster, 627-5807  
 Theo Lepp, 627-5830

The City Review is a publication of  
**THE CITY OF CHEBOYGAN**  
 403 N. Huron Street, PO Box 39  
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 Telephone: 231-627-9931; Fax No: 231-627-6351  
**Editor: Janet M. Gahn**  
 jgahn@cheboygan.org  
 TTD No: 597-0315 (*Hearing Impaired*)  
 www.cheboygan.org

**Management:**  
 City Manager: Scott E. McNeil  
 Director of Public Safety: Kurt R. Jones  
 City Clerk/Treas.: Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski  
 City Assessor: Thomas Eustice  
 Fire Chief: Thomas Bancroft  
 DPW Supt.: David LaCross  
 Recreation Director: Scott Hancock  
 Water & Wastewater Crewleader: Steven Gall

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