

MACKINAW CITY

FALL NEWSLETTER 2015

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Village President's Update

By Robert Heilman

Oh well, I suppose it had to happen sooner or later. Fall is officially here. However, there are still plenty of things to do during the autumn season with lots of great weather. By the way, if you are looking for something to do there are many opportunities to volunteer to assist our local organizations. Your help is always needed in order for our local organizations to be successful.

There are three celebrations of longevity this year. The Mackinaw Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating 60 years of service to the citizens and businesses of the Village. A big thank you to director Dawn Edwards, the Chamber Board members and their predecessors for your dedicated service to our community. As you may know, Dawn is leaving to return to her home state of California where her family resides. Many thanks to Dawn for her dedication to Mackinaw City and best wishes on all of your future endeavors.

Another celebration, and one to be proud of is the remarkable 70 years existence of Shepler's, and their service to the Straits Area. Congratulations and best wishes for many more years of success.

In addition to the above, our library is celebrating 100 years of service to Mackinaw City and the surrounding area. From its humble beginnings as a local library to its present designation as a district library the institution has been providing programs and reading opportunities for young and old.

West Central Avenue's reconstruction is slated to begin next spring. The engineering phase is nearing its

end. As you know, road projects can cause their own issues. We will have to be patient and careful when driving there next year. When that road project is finally finished driving west will be a lot more pleasant. In addition, the North Huron rebuild is tentatively planned for fall of 2017. The Village is making an application to MDOT to change the designation from Local Street to Major Street. This July a traffic study was conducted and with the fact that North Huron connects three business districts and I-75, MDOT thought a change would be warranted. That change in designation will allow access to state road grants which will help in covering the costs of what will be another expensive road project.

* HYDRANT FLUSHING *

October 19TH to October 30TH

During Daylight Hours

EAST of I 75 from October 19th – 23rd

WEST of I 75 from October 26th – October 30th

This can lead to water discoloration so be careful when doing laundry

We apologize for the inconvenience, but hydrant flushing is a necessary maintenance task to ensure the safety and functionality of the water distribution system. More information available on the Village website www.mackinawcity.org

Thank you for your patience.

Mackinaw City Police Department

The following are important updates that the Mackinaw City Police department would like to share with you this fall.

1. **Heavy Truck and Special Mobile Equipment Ordinance**

This was adopted by the Village Council on March 19, 2015 to help in controlling the traffic in the downtown area involving large equipment, trucks, and tractor type vehicles. If these types of vehicles are being used during the summer months on the Cheboygan County side of the Village, they must first obtain a permit to do so. All of this type of traffic is not allowed after 10:00 AM each day all year unless permission is granted in the event of extenuating circumstances. There are several exemptions to this ordinance. The entire ordinance can be located on the Village's website for further explanation.

2. **Internet Website Trading Safety Zone**

New this year, the police department will be designating a lighted parking space in the Village Hall parking lot that will allow anyone to use for internet trading safety. This is becoming popular throughout the state due to incidents where a person is victimized through trading websites. This parking spot will have a sign indicating that the police officer can be there while the trade takes place if so desired or the spot can be used as a meeting point to make the sale or trade.

3. **Receiving Important Information**

The police department has subscribed to the Nixle.com website for several years. It is a free site that allows for the immediate release of information to the public whether for an emergency or a community event note. So far there are approximately 50 residents signed up for this service. We highly encourage you to do the same. Please go to nixle.com and sign up.

4. **Michigan Child Protection Registry**

The Mackinaw City Police endorses and encourages you to sign up for the Michigan Child Protection Registry by going to the website www.protectmichild.com and clicking on "Protect Your Household Addresses." This program is a way for you to protect your household from inappropriate email messages. If you have questions please go to that website or feel free to contact the police department.

Finally, as a reminder, the police department is here for you. If you need any type of service, or have questions about anything, please give us a call. We may not know the answers but we will help you find them. We are available 24/7 just by calling 911.

Mackinaw City Sewer Televising Program

As a part of a MDEQ grant funded program for creating Asset Management Plans for the Village's sanitary sewer and storm sewer collection systems, the Village will be contracting out the cleaning and televising of a large portion of both sanitary and storm sewer systems. This work is anticipated to be performed from October through December of 2015. An informational flyer will be sent to all sewer customers being served by the Village's system in the near future. The flyer will also be posted on the Village's website. The flyer will contain important information about the potential impacts of the sewer cleaning and televising work. Please look for this information in the near future.

Village Manager's Update

By Dave White

The summer season has gone by much too fast. I hope it has been a great summer for you. In July, I was given the great honor of becoming the fulltime Village Manager for Mackinaw City. I am very excited to be involved with the many issues and construction projects that will be undertaken in the near future.

Upon DDA recommendation the Village Council approved the repair of the long dormant downtown street clock at the intersection of Central and Huron. I have heard from many citizens their desire to have the clock working again. The repair work will be done by the Verdin Company, the same company who constructed the clock. Work is slated to be done yet this fall and will be paid for with DDA funds.

The engineering and design work continues on West Central for complete road reconstruction, with the work to start in Spring/Summer 2016. After the Village receives preliminary plans, a Public open house will be held so that affected property owners and others will be able to look at the plans and ask

questions or relay any concerns to the Engineer and Village staff. The Village is working with Emmet County regarding future utility needs at the Headlands/ Dark Sky Park, so that any water and sewer needs they have can be addressed during the road construction. The placing of fiber optics for high speed communication as well as the replacement of overhead lines with buried lines is also being reviewed for cost effectiveness.

Our total focus is not just on West Central; reconstruction is also high on the Village's to do list for North Huron. At this time we are working to have N. Huron's classification changed by the State to open up some additional funding options. Additional traffic counts and selecting an Engineering company for the project are ongoing. As N. Huron must be completely redone the Village will be pursuing various grant opportunities to fund some of the reconstruction.

I look forward to seeing you as I am out and about in town, as always should you have any questions please let me know either by email at dwhite@mackinawcity.org or by calling or stopping by Village Hall.

Residential Yard Waste Disposal

For years Village Residents have disposed of leaves, brush, and logs at the disposal site located south of Trails End Road. Unfortunately, more recently it has become a dumping area for non-yard waste items, non-resident dumping, and the use commercial companies to dispose of large volumes of debris. All of these lead to increased costs on the Village to clean up the waste left behind. As a result, beginning spring 2016, the site will only be open during designated hours, still to be determined. Watch for an update in the Spring Newsletter and on the Village's website.

REMINDER: Please only dispose of yard waste items (leaves, grass clippings, brush, sticks, logs, garden waste, etc.). If you bring leaves in plastic bags, please empty the bags and take them with you for disposal. This site **is not** intended for scrap lumber, metal, concrete, tires, mattresses, appliances, and other non-yard waste items. Help us to keep Mackinaw clean by disposing of things properly and responsibly.

Mackinaw Area Public Library

Upcoming events for kids

Minecraft Club – October 8, November 5, December 3 (3 - 4:30 pm)

Lego Build – October 13, November 10, December 8 (3 - 4 pm)

Read to a Chicken! – October 15 and 29 – Beaks 'n Books is back for these two dates only: Please call for an appointment.

Art After School - Nov 4, 11, and 18 (3 - 4 pm) with a fourth date to be determined by the group. For kids in grades 3 thru 8. Have fun playing games and making art.

Upcoming events for everyone

Ghosts of the Great Lakes – October 21 (7 pm) Tim Ellis and Brad Blair of the U.P. Paranormal Research Society will be visiting.

Christmas Open House – Dec 16 (12 - 8 pm) Santa!

Book Swap – January 15 (2 - 5 pm) Bring in the gently used books you've already read and swap them for new ones.

Community Supported Agriculture – January 27 (6 pm) Craig and Mary Rapin will be here from Bliss Gardens Farm to talk about community supported agriculture and their farm.

Other News:

The library has added Saturday hours through May 21, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The library now has a Friends Group to help with fundraising and special projects. Activities this year include distributing poems for "Poem in Your Pocket Day", sorting out and cleaning the kitchen in the community room and planning the recent 100 year Anniversary Celebration. Contact them at FriendsOfMackinawLibrary@gmail.com for membership details. Anyone is welcome to join and meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m.

We are in the middle of a project to digitize year books but are missing many years. If you are willing to lend us your old Mackinaw City Public School yearbooks for a while, we will get them back to you. Missing years are: any before 1953, 1961, 1963-1965, 1977, 1981-1982, 1984-1986, 1989-1994, 1999-present. We would like to have Pellston yearbooks digitized also but the library only has the year 1966 in its possession. If you are willing to help us with this project, please email the director at mackinw3@gmail.com or stop in during normal open hours.

ANNUAL FALL CLEAN-UP

Leaves and Brush **ONLY**

October 12th thru October 30th

See Village website for schedule details

****Weather Permitting****

Leaves must be in pile at curb

Sticks and brush must be piled neatly at curb

Piles of mixed leaves and sticks **WILL NOT** be picked up

RIGHT OF WAY

Recently, the Village of Mackinaw City adopted an ordinance to regulate the use and occupation of its public rights-of-way. Under this ordinance, occupation of the public rights-of-way, on either a permanent or temporary basis, with buildings, structures, landscaping, utilities, construction, development or maintenance **requires a permit** issued by the Village's Department of Public Works. Copies of the ordinance are available for inspection at the office of the Village Clerk during regular business hours. Permit applications are available at Village Hall

Community Volunteers Wanted!

The Village is looking for talented residents interested in assisting with maintaining some of the Village's flower beds and landscaping. This past summer, the Village was fortunate to have a local resident volunteer her time to help with some of our flower beds that needed a little TLC. She did a great job! There are many talented residents here in Mackinaw City. The Village would like anyone interested in sharing those talents with the community and its thousands of visitors to please contact the Mackinaw City DPW. You don't need to make any commitments at this time, but we would like some feedback to see the level of interest. Hope to hear from you!

Snow Removal

A reminder that property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property. The Village DPW has a set route that unfortunately does not cover all sidewalks in the Village. Also, if you have a fire hydrant near your property, please shovel an area around it. Village crews clear the snow around hydrants, but should an emergency requiring its use happen before crews can clear the snow your help could speed fire response if a hydrant is needed.

Recreation Center

The Village of Mackinaw City wants to hear from residents! Due to funding issues the Recreation Center is unable to put an ice surface down this winter. However, there are many other recreation activities that could happen in the building. What activities or events would you like to see made available at the Center? No promises can be made, but all suggestions and ideas are wanted. We can't work to provide community recreation options without hearing from you, the community!

Holiday Decorating Contest

Attention to all the aspiring "Clark Griswold's" in Mackinaw City! The Village would like to have a Holiday decorating contest. The details are still in the works, but watch the Village's website and posting boards in town for more details as they become available. The goal is to have a fun, family involved competition and to provide something for everyone to enjoy viewing over the long winter. While we would like to give first place the "Jelly of the Month Club", for now all we can guarantee is that the winner will get bragging rights until the following year. If interested please contact the Mackinaw City DPW.

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