

# WHAT KNOTS OF WHITEHALL

## CITY FINANCES

### Whitehall City

#### Council Members

Mayor Emery "Mac" Hatch  
 Mayor Pro Tem Edward Whalen  
 James Bartholomew  
 Tanya Cabala  
 Jeff Holmstrom  
 Steve Sikkenga  
 Orville Smith

#### Administrative Officers

Brian Armstrong,  
 Public Works Director/  
 Zoning Administrator  
 Laurie Audo,  
 Finance Officer/Treasurer  
 Karen Helmlinger,  
 City Clerk/Editor  
 Scott Huebler, City Manager  
 Roger Squiers, Chief of Police  
 Katie Trzaska, Playhouse Manager

#### Office Hours

City Hall  
 405 E. Colby Street  
 894-4048  
 Monday - Friday  
 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### DPW

2055 Warner Street  
 894-4157  
 Monday - Friday  
 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### INSPECTIONS

Building - Chris Hall  
 Electrical - Tim Chorney  
 Plumbing/Mechanical -  
 - Jim Shereda  
 894-4157  
 2055 Warner Street

#### Visit us at

[www.cityofwhitehall.org](http://www.cityofwhitehall.org)

The City Council adopts an annual "fiscal year" budget that begins July 1 and ends the following June 30. The current budget was one of the most difficult to assemble as revenues remain flat while expenses and needs continue to rise along with two new department heads, constant callings to consolidate and cooperate, and a great deal of uncertainty from Lansing as the State looks to re-invent itself.

The General Fund covers general city services such as police, public works, and elections. This fund maintains a healthy fund balance despite drawing down on the reserves by \$230,000 over the last three years.

The major and local street funds, responsible for maintaining 26 miles, has drawn down on cash reserves by \$240,000 over the last five years. A recently completed Transportation Asset Management Plan shows the need for as much as \$375,000 more per year to maintain the city streets.

Additional debt and low flows in the county-wide sewer collection and treatment system necessitated a 5% rate increase beginning January 1. Despite drawing down an average of \$110,000 per year in the water fund reserves, the City Council held the line on no increases for water consumption.

City employees have been fantastic to work with over the years to maintain wage and benefit costs including higher prescription medicine co-pays, higher medical insurance deductibles, paying a larger portion of the annual medical premiums, implementing a health reimbursement account, and instituting a flex medical reimbursement plan. The Public Works Department volunteered to adjust their shifts during the winter to reduce overtime incurred with snowplowing, a savings in excess of \$25,000 per winter.

We continue to discuss cooperative cost savings and service enhancement activities to build on our long and historic list of existing cooperative ventures with various other public and private entities, including but not limited to the White Lake Senior Center, the County Wastewater Treatment Plant, Central Dispatch, the White Lake Ambulance Authority, the White Lake Fire Authority, the White Lake Community Library Authority, the Solid Waste Authority, White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development agencies, and Muskegon County Equalization and Assessing ser-

## 2012 "PRIDE WEEK" DATES TO BE DETERMINED

The City will be participating in "**Pride Week**" at the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority's transfer station this year although a date has not yet been scheduled. An announcement will be published in the White Lake Beacon once Pride Week is scheduled. Residents will be able to take unwanted clutter to the Transfer Station at 2100 W. Holton-Whitehall Road free of charge. The Transfer Station is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9a.m. to 4 p.m. during the winter and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer.

Vouchers are required and will be available at City Hall one month prior to the day of the event. The loads are limited to one full size pick up truck per household. Appliances with Freon such as refrigerators and freezers will be charged additional fees. Items that will not be accepted at the transfer station include tree stumps, cement blocks, and hazardous waste materials.

## WHITE LAKE MUNICIPAL MARINA

**New Rates! New Incentives! Seasonal Slips available!**

Call City Hall at 894-4048 or check out the website at [www.cityofwhitehall.org](http://www.cityofwhitehall.org)

## Happy New Year!

Please visit our website, [www.howmetplayhouse.org](http://www.howmetplayhouse.org), for a detailed schedule of upcoming events in the 2012. This winter we will be busy with a variety of performances, including theater for young audiences, a winter performance for White Lake Youth Theater, and a great variety of Michigan musicians for our *First Fridays Michigan Music Concert Series*. You won't want to miss out!

### 2012 Winter/Spring Events

January 13 7:30pm	The Oat Bran Boys in Concert <i>A Fundraiser for the White Lake Junior Strings Program</i>
January 18/19 5:30-7:30 pm	Auditions for <i>The Yellow Boat</i> , White Lake Youth Theatre Visit the WLYT page on our website for more information
February 2 6:45 pm	<i>My Big Fat Greek Wedding</i> , HarborLight Movie Night Charity of the Month: Lebanon Lutheran Church Food Bank
February 4 7:30 pm	The Bluegrass Echoes in Concert <i>Traditional bluegrass from West Michigan</i>
February 10 7:30 pm	2nd Annual Acoustic Café Night at the Howmet Playhouse <i>A fundraiser for WLYT featuring young musicians</i>
February 18 2:00 pm/7:30 pm	<i>Theater for Young Audiences</i> , presented by Calvin College <i>Theater for middle and high school audiences</i>
March 1 6:45 pm	<i>Jesus Christ Super Star</i> , HarborLight Movie Night Charity of the Month: Habitat for Humanity
March 2 7:30 pm	First Fridayszz' The Dave Zagar Trio <i>Indie melodic pop-rock from Muskegon</i>
March 9 & 10 7:30 pm	<i>The Yellow Boat</i> , present by White Lake Youth Theatre <i>A dramatic and imaginative story about life, family, and art</i>
April 2-5	Spring Break Performing Arts Workshop 3rd-12th grades welcome



HOWMET PLAYHOUSE

April 5 6:45 pm	<i>Back to the Future</i> , HarborLight Movie Night Charity of the Month: Love, Inc.
April 13 7:30 pm	First Fridays: Jamie-Sue Seal & John Latini <i>American roots, folk, country, blues, and standards</i>
May 3 6:45 pm	<i>The Odd Couple</i> , HarborLight Movie Night Charity of the Month: White Lake Community Library
May 4 7:30 pm	First Fridays: The Crane Wives w/ Katie Beaman <i>Indie-folk with addictive three-part harmonies from GR</i>
May 5 7:00 pm	5th Annual White Lake Blues Fest <i>Fundraiser for the Killer Blues Headstone Project</i>

## Notes from the DPW

**Brush pick up:** The next brush pick up will be May 7, 2012. There will NOT be a brush pick up in the fall so be sure to remove all piles of brush left at the curb after May 7 otherwise fines may be assessed. All brush should be disposed of properly and can be taken to the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority's Transfer Station at 2100 W. Holton Whitehall Road on Wednesdays and Saturdays year round..

**REMEMBER!** Water and Sewer bills are mailed quarterly. They are generally mailed by January 10<sup>th</sup> /due by February 10<sup>th</sup>; mailed by April 10<sup>th</sup>/due by May 10<sup>th</sup>; mailed by July 10<sup>th</sup>/due by August 10<sup>th</sup>; and mailed by October 10<sup>th</sup>/due by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Water and Sewer Emergencies:** If you have a water or sewer emergency please call the Department of Public Works office at 894-4157 Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For after hours and weekend emergencies call 911 and dispatch will contact the individual on call to assist you..

**Building & Zoning Permits:** Remember to obtain the necessary permits **BEFORE** you begin any project. Call Brian Armstrong, Zoning Administrator for Zoning Permits and Pam Atchison, DPW Office Coordinator for your Building, Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical Permits. Both can be reached at 894-4157 and are located at 2055 Warner Street.

**Sidewalk Snow Removal:** In the past, city crews have been able to remove snow from the sidewalks, especially the school routes, as a courtesy to the residents of the City. Budget cuts have eliminated funds for this courtesy, therefore we ask that property owners to clear the snow from their sidewalks to enable pedestrians to continue walking.

**Please Help!** Report any vandalism to the Whitehall Police Department as soon as possible so that an accurate report can be filed and the vandalism can be cleaned up in a timely manner.

# Colby Street Lane Conversion Survey

The Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Whitehall implemented a lane conversion on US BR31 (Colby Street) on a trial basis changing from four travel lanes and north side parking to two travel lanes, one left turn lane, and parking on both sides. This same survey was conducted prior to the conversion to gauge what the public thought of the concept. We are now asking what your thoughts are regarding the implementation of the trial conversion. Surveys must be returned to City Hall, 405 E. Colby Street, Whitehall MI 49461 by January 27, 2012. Thank you for your participation.

1. How is additional on street parking affecting the downtown?

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Very                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Very  
Beneficial                  Beneficial                                   Unfavorable                  Unfavorable

2. What type of impact is the conversion having on adjacent businesses?

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Very                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Very  
Positive                  Positive                                   Negative                  Negative

3. What type of impact is the conversion having on motorists?

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Very                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Very  
Positive                  Positive                                   Negative                  Negative

4. What type of impact is the conversion having on vehicle speeds?

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Greatly                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Greatly  
Reduced                  Reduced                                   Increased                  Increased

5. What type of impact is the conversion having on travel time?

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Greatly                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Greatly  
Reduced                  Reduced                                   Increased                  Increased

6. What type of impact is the conversion having on traffic congestion?

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Greatly                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Greatly  
Reduced                  Reduced                                   Increased                  Increased

7. What type of impact is the conversion having on vehicles crossing Colby?

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Very                  Somewhat                  No Effect                  Somewhat                  Very  
Positive                  Positive                                   Negative                  Negative

8. What type of impact is the conversion having on bicycle use?  
O-----O-----O-----O-----O  
Very Positive      Somewhat Positive      No Effect      Somewhat Negative      Very Negative

9. What type of impact is the conversion having on pedestrian street crossings?  
O-----O-----O-----O-----O  
Very Positive      Somewhat Positive      No Effect      Somewhat Negative      Very Negative

10. What type of impact is the conversion having on adjacent residential streets?  
O-----O-----O-----O-----O  
Very Positive      Somewhat Positive      No Effect      Somewhat Negative      Very Negative

11. What type of impact is the conversion having on economic growth in the downtown?  
O-----O-----O-----O-----O  
Very Positive      Somewhat Positive      No Effect      Somewhat Negative      Very Negative

12. What type of impact is the conversion having on sidewalk business activity?  
O-----O-----O-----O-----O  
Very Positive      Somewhat Positive      No Effect      Somewhat Negative      Very Negative

13. Do you support the conversion?  
O-----O  
Yes                  No

Any Additional Comments? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LEAF REMOVAL PROGRAM

The Spring Leaf Removal Program will begin April 15 and will end April 30. Some guidelines to follow are:

- ◆ Leaves cannot be bagged. Please rake them to the edge of the pavement where they will be collected.
- ◆ If you have a curb and gutter, leaves must be raked over the curb into the street.
- ◆ Make sure sticks are not mixed in with the leaves because they clog the vacuum machine and will be left behind.



Every effort will be made to pick up leaves once per week depending on the weather, amount of leaves, and holidays. The pickup will begin at the north end of the City and then work south.



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB AT  
[www.cityofwhitehall.org](http://www.cityofwhitehall.org)



## REMINDER – NO PARKING

JUST A REMINDER SINCE WE ARE IN THE SNOW REMOVAL SEASON. THERE IS NO PARKING ON ANY CITY STREET FROM 2:00 A.M. TO 6:00 A.M. FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO APRIL 30 REGARDLESS OF SNOW FALL. THIS IS FOR SNOWPLOWING CITY STREETS AND PARKING LOTS.

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS MAY PARK OVERNIGHT ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT #5 WHICH IS LOCATED BEHIND HUNT'S DO IT CENTER.

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ACROSS SIDEWALKS TO ALLOW PEDESTRIANS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN ACCESS TO UTILIZE THE SIDEWALKS. YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

CITY OF WHITEHALL  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## SPEAKING OF SNOW REMOVAL....



Please make sure that your mailbox and post are in sound order. **IF** the City's plow truck physically hits the box or the post the City will make repairs or replace it. However, **IF** the snow load damages the box or post it will be the responsibility of the property owner to replace or repair the box and/or post.

# DOG LICENSING



City residents can now purchase dog licenses year round at city hall. They **MUST** be purchased by the last day of the month in which your dog's rabies vaccine expires. Due to the changes, dog owners have until March 31 to purchase licenses that replace ones that expire this January or February. Licenses may be purchased for one or three years according to the following fee schedule:

<u>License Type</u>	<u>One Year</u>	<u>Three Year</u>
Male/Female Dogs	\$50	\$145
Spayed/Neutered Dogs	\$10	\$25
Senior Citizen Owners		
Male/Female Dogs	\$25	\$70
Spayed/Neutered Dogs	\$10	\$25
All Puppies (4 to 7 months)	\$10	

There will be a \$5 late fee for licenses one month past due, \$15 for two months past due, and increasing each month thereafter. The County Health Department will send out reminder notices that your license is due for renewal.

### SNOW REMOVAL

It is once again approaching the snow season. The Police Department would like to remind residents when removing snow from private property that the Traffic Codes prohibit any person from depositing, or causing to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush on any roadway or highway. The Traffic Codes may be viewed in their entirety at City Hall.

The Fire Authority asks that asks that property owners keep fire hydrants clear of snow to assist them in accessing the hydrants during an emergency.

**CITY OF WHITEHALL  
405 E. COLBY ST  
WHITEHALL, MI 49461**

**PRE SORT  
STANDARD  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WHITEHALL, MI  
PERMIT NO. 1**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Karen Helmlinger and Patricia Wildfong have completed 10 years; Michael Hain has been with the Department of Public Works for 20 years; and Sandra Sandel has worked for the City for 30 years.

**Thank you** for your years of service!

***THINGS TO REMEMBER***

- ⇒ The next Brush pick up will be May 7, 2012. There will not be a Fall brush pickup therefore all brush must be removed from curbside after that and may be taken to the Transfer Station or disposed of otherwise.
- ⇒ Spring Leaf Pick up is April 15 through April 30. The contractor will only make one round through the City per week.
- ⇒ Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- ⇒ Planning Commission meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ BRA/LDFA/TIFA regular meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of January, April, July, and October at noon.
- ⇒ If any regularly scheduled meeting time is changed, notification will be posted at City Hall.