

Boyne City EMS *(continued from front page)*

Shut the news off. Over-exposure to the ongoing bad news, over-exposure to chaos, creates anxiety. Balance quiet time with social interaction. Loneliness can compound mental and physical health issues. If possible, use video chats to stay in touch with friends and family. Have a story time with grandchildren, a “five o'clock” with friends, and maybe a cooking challenge. Make a plan before you venture out to the store. Evaluate your needs, this way you will have the right things, *(remember: it's good to have a fully-stocked pantry, but stores are still open)*. Create meals consisting of a starch, a protein and produce.

Don't be afraid if you have a pressing medical need to seek care. Call your doctor's office. Many are providing

service through telemedicine. If it is immediate care, dial 911. The staff there will ask questions as to whether or not you or your family member is a possible coronavirus patient. The call center will pass that information onto the responding crew. The EMS staff will arrive with a mask on and will ask the patient to wear one also. The questions are straight forward: do you have a fever, sore throat, cough, or have you been in contact with anyone who has tested positive to the virus. Our area hospitals are asking that family does not come to the hospital. Their staff will screen the crew and patient at the facility to determine which area of the facility they will enter.

As always your EMS crew are here to help!



Fire Department

The fire department would like to thank all of the individuals who have donated or took part in our fundraising efforts over the past year. Our major fundraisers include the August Auto Rally/Flea Market, the September country music concert, and BBQ chicken dinners for hire. To alleviate the taxpayer burden, firefighters engage in these fundraising activities to acquire equipment to support firefighting and rescue efforts. This winter, with 100% fundraiser and donated capital, the fire department added a UTV, two snowmobiles and two trailers to enhance rescue capabilities.

An anonymous community member made a significant donation that allowed for the purchase of a new Polaris Ranger 1000, 4x4 side-by-side utility task vehicle. With other fundraiser monies, the UTV was outfitted with a slide-in rescue unit that has a seat for a medic and room for a patient in a stokes basket. This unit has already been used in a rescue capacity at the Avalanche Preserve Recreation Area. The UTV will be used during major community events, at wildfire and other emergency scenes, and is available for mutual aid situations for neighboring communities. With the ever-increasing trail system and popularity in mountain biking, hiking and other northern Michigan outside recreational activities, this unit will be a great asset to the fire department.

Funds were also used to purchase from Otsego County EMS at a very reasonable price, two 2000 Ski-Doo snowmobiles. The units were thoroughly

maintained during their time with OCEMS and have much more life to them. The snowmobiles will allow for quick access to areas where firefighters and EMTs would otherwise have to hike into during the winter. Additionally, two used trailers were purchased to transport the UTV and snowmobiles.

Stigg's Brewery approached the fire department and sponsored a fundraiser on October 12th during their “Stigtoberfest.” Proceeds from a 50/50, silent auction *(thanks to many generous businesses and individuals)*, and more were presented to the fire department. Thanks to all that attended and thanks to Stigg's for thinking of the fire department.

Chief Amesbury and the firefighters would again like to thank the community for their past and continued support. We feel truly blessed to live in such a supportive and generous community and that generosity is truly appreciated. Support from many Boyne City businesses has been outstanding. A special thanks go out to those that have gone above and beyond this year: BC Pizza, Classic Instruments, Stiggs Brewery, Family Fare, and Foggy Mountain Spirits *(hand sanitizer, not whiskey — we knew what you were thinking)*.

The Boyne City Firefighters Association is structured as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Individuals are eligible to make tax-deductible contributions in accordance with IRS Code, section 170.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the fire department, please contact Chief Dennis Amesbury at (231) 675-7643.



Michele Hewitt Retires

On March 12, 2020, Michele Hewitt retired after 33 years of service with the City of Boyne City. Michele started in 1987 as a receptionist and in 1995 was appointed Deputy Treasurer. While those duties were many, she provided support to all City Departments. Michele was also instrumental in the Boyne City Historical Museum, along with the dedicated involvement of the Historical Commission and Historical District. We wish Michele safe travels, fun times and adventures with her family and friends, and all the best in her retirement!

Police Department

The end of 2019 saw the police department with a flurry of retirements and promotions as Chief Jeff Gaither and Officer Craig Remsberg retired, and Assistant Chief Kevin Spate was promoted to Chief. Congratulations!

We are happy and proud to announce the promotion of Officer Dan Mercer to Assistant Chief. Dan has been with the Boyne City Police Department since 2006, and has served in a number of capacities within the department including DARE Officer, evidence technician, school threat assessment team, marijuana task force, bike safety instructor and bike to school program coordinator. Dan is a member of the Honor Guard, and in the past couple of years, he has completed several first line supervision classes.

We also welcome two new faces to the department. January saw the hiring of Officer Mike Frazee and Officer Logan Brewer. Frazee is a native of Gaylord, but had been working as an officer out of state. He is happy to be back in the area, and we are happy to have his experience and knowledge as part of the Boyne City team. Brewer also grew up in Gaylord. This is his first law enforcement position, and we are excited to have the opportunity to teach him about his chosen career and enjoy his enthusiasm. As you see these officers around town, please welcome them. Have a safe and happy summer!

Regular City Hall Hours

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.
Payments can be made after hours and on weekends in the drop box located on the south side of the parking lot at our City Hall; 319 N Lake St. Please be sure that your payment is an envelope.

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed on the following dates:
*Friday, July 3rd for Independence Day
Monday, September 7th for Labor Day
Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th for Thanksgiving*

Hassle-Free City Payments

The City of Boyne City would like to remind everyone that credit card payments are being accepted. Pay your property taxes and water/sewer bills via credit card; either online, in person or by calling; transaction fees will apply.

You also have online access to your utility bills, taxes and property assessments along with checking payment status and balances. Just log on to our website at cityofboynecity.com, click on Treasurer/Billing Department Online Access, then click on the online services picture. You will be redirected to Accessmygov. Once there, you can set up your own account that will allow you to view and pay your own Water/Sewer Utility or Tax account via credit or debit card. There is no fee to view your own accounts, only a fee if you use a credit or debit card to make a payment. For a nominal fee, anyone will have the ability to look up all public information on any property within the City of Boyne City. It's easy to set up your online account but if you have questions about the process call City Hall (231) 582-6597.

If you have any questions regarding this information please contact James Manko at (231) 582-0335 or jmanko@boynecity.com.



Boyne City Addresses COVID-19

Across our world, nation, state and community, people have been sick and died from COVID-19. People have lost their jobs and are concerned about finances and losing their businesses and homes.

This came upon us very quickly and has transformed our lives. Boyne City is no exception. As this is written in the middle of May, who knows what the situation will be by the time you are reading this. Many of us are dealing with levels of uncertainty that we have never before experienced in our lives. But for one thing I think we can be fairly certain, not only will Boyne survive, but ultimately Boyne will thrive.

While this may be new to most of us, Boyne has seen it all before. Boyne made it through the 1918 Spanish Flu, the collapse of our early lumber-based economy, and the Great Depression. Boyne has made it through wars — just look at all of the names on the memorials in Veterans Park of those who were lost. It doesn't make any of the losses or struggles then or now easier, but it does give one hope knowing that we, as a community, have been through tough times before.

2020 is destined to be a year unlike any we have seen in Boyne City's recent history. The Mushroom Festival was the first of our major annual events to cancel, for the first time in its 60-year history. Others, like Boyne Thunder, have already made that same gut-wrenching decision. Others are trying to figure out if there is a safe way to proceed. These decisions will have major health, social and economic impacts on our community.

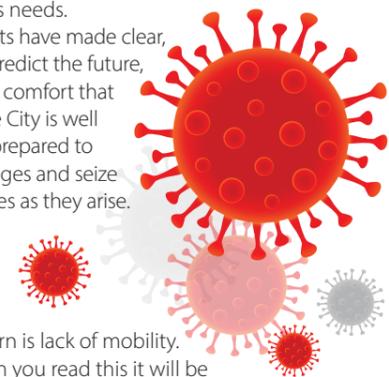
But all is not doom and gloom. It has been impressive to see the positive spirit that most in the Boyne community have brought to bear on the challenges that we have been facing. How people and businesses

have adjusted and innovated. How people have come together, sometimes just by being apart. That has played no small part in helping keep the COVID-19 cases in our community and area as low as they have been. But that doesn't mean that we are not close.

Boyne City, by its very nature, has a well-earned reputation as a very tight-knit and welcoming community. That won't change. When the time is right, we will be ready to welcome others again.

Throughout this crisis and its aftermath, rest assured that you will be able to count on the City of Boyne City. Not only to take care of our needs today, but to help prepare our community for whatever tomorrow brings. Although many of our services may be delivered a bit differently since this crisis began, they have continued to be delivered without missing a beat. All of our employees, the people who serve you — Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, Water/Wastewater, Planning, Financial, and Administrative — have been there throughout and will continue to meet the needs of the citizens and businesses of our community. They have been there when you had an emergency, they have been there when you cast your ballot, they have been there to fix the problem or answer your question, and they will continue to be there to meet our community's needs.

As recent events have made clear, none of us can predict the future, but you can take comfort that the City of Boyne City is well positioned and prepared to meet the challenges and seize new opportunities as they arise.



Boyne City EMS

We are all experiencing a new lifestyle impacted by the coronavirus. The good news is the contact numbers in our area have not changed. We need to stay vigilant and also take active steps to stay healthy. Our experience in EMS (Emergency Medical Service) is that no matter what, life continues.

We are seeing falls, stress-induced body reactions, chest pain, strokes, and respiratory concerns. Fortunately the ice is gone, but loose rugs abound, clutter occurs, and bad habits exist. Take a moment and evaluate your surroundings. See that stairs are clear, rugs have a gripper underneath, and the bathroom has nonskid mats.

Another concern is lack of mobility. Hopefully when you read this it will be warm outside, but this May has been anything but warm. Walk in the house, plan steps, fifteen minutes two or three times a day. It is easy to say “I'll do it later or maybe tomorrow”, but if you create a goal and establish a plan, you can overcome the pitfalls. Stress and boredom can lead to overeating, to excessive use of alcohol. These are common reactions right now. Your best defense is to recognize it, make a plan, call a friend or family, start a journal, and create a new activity.

(continued on back page)

City Completes Major Projects

Be sure to check out these new and improved assets that will benefit the community for years to come.

Boyer City to Boyne Valley Trail

Another long-envisioned project is becoming a reality. The new 6.5-mile trail starts by the City's Wastewater Treatment facility, goes cross country through Boyne Valley Township, past the Boyne Falls Schools, through Boyne Mountain and into Boyne Falls.

Pavilion in Veterans Park

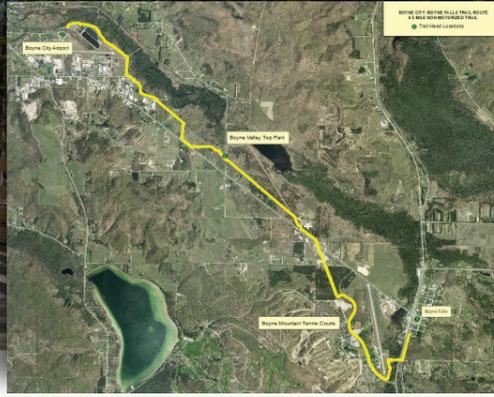
The multi-year and multi-phased series of improvements will be completed in time for summer enjoyment. This will complete the long-standing community vision to transform the Pavilion into an expanded facility with a commercial kitchen that can be used year-round.

Street Projects The reconstruction of Terrace Street was completed this spring with the installation of the final layer of pavement. The majority of the project included new water mains, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, curbs and replacement of bad portions of sidewalk.

Three other projects are scheduled to be completed this June. North Lake Street from the City's Main boat launch and West Michigan Avenue north to the Boyne City Road are having the old pavement removed, subsurface patched where necessary, paved shoulders widened where possible, new pavement installed and sidewalks improved. This will smooth out what has been one of the roughest and most heavily traveled roads in Boyne City.

Sidewalk Repairs and Replacements

The City covers 35% of the cost of repairs and replacements of residential sidewalks. Please contact City Hall to have our Public Works staff assess the repairs and provide you with a written commitment on reimbursement of our share of the improvements to your sidewalk before you proceed. We prioritize reimbursements on a first-come basis within the available budget, so call soon if you're interested.



Boyer City to Boyne Valley Trail

After more than two decades of planning, fundraising, tenacity and hard work, the Boyne City to Boyne Valley Trail has become a reality.

While the project was slow to move forward at times, committed volunteers never gave up on the vision of the trail. Led by Michael Sheean, the Boyne City to Boyne Valley trail committee continued to work tirelessly on the project. The committee, partnering with engineers from OHM and officials from Boyne City, Boyne Valley Township and the Village of Boyne Falls, worked through numerous engineering revisions and acquired the needed property and easements for the trail route.

Spanning between trailheads at Boyne City Airport and the Village of Boyne Falls, the trail is mostly secluded from civilization. Meandering along the ridge of the Boyne River Valley, following the old railroad grade through mature forest, and circling through the beautifully manicured landscape of the Boyne Mountain Resort, the trail offers interesting and changing views along the way. With little elevation change and trailheads conveniently located along the route at Boyne Valley Township Park at Dam Road and at the Boyne Mountain tennis courts, the trail can be easily accessed and used by walkers and bikers of all ages and abilities.

To cover the cost of the 6.5 miles of paved non-motorized trail required assembling a complex funding package that included numerous grant applications, generous donations and extensive fund raising. Funding sources included grants from MDNR Trust Fund, MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program,

Frey Foundation, Charlevoix County Community Foundation, and the Charlevoix County Parks Millage. Matching funds or cash donations were provided by Boyne Falls Township, the City of Boyne City, Village of Boyne Falls, Boyne Mountain Resort and the North Country Bike Club. The necessary property or easements for the trail were provided by City of Boyne City, Boyne Valley Township, The Village of Boyne Falls, Boyne Falls Schools, Boyne Mountain, Lexamar, Northern Logistics and Dogs World North.

In the spring of 2019, the consulting engineering firm of OHM completed the bid package and the project was advertised for bids in July. The project received six bidders with a low bid of \$1,775,720.09 from J&N Construction of Gaylord. Together with the engineering costs, the final project cost was \$2,022,158. The Boyne City City Commission approved the resolution awarding the contract on August 13, 2019 and work on the trail began in late September.

Prior to shutting down operations for the winter in November, most of the trail had been cleared and graded, the boardwalk through the wetlands at Boyne Mountain was constructed and the concrete sidewalk in the Village of Boyne Falls was completed. In early April 2020, construction on the project resumed. The final grade was ready for paving in early May and in a little over a week, over 4,000 tons of asphalt was put down. The project was completed on schedule and opens to the public in June.

Lake Charlevoix Sets High Water Records

As you are probably well aware, especially if you own waterfront property, Lake Charlevoix has experienced record high water levels this spring. The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reports that lake levels are several inches higher than their all-time records for this time of year. They expect this trend to continue at least until August. These higher lake levels are taking a toll on shoreline properties, both public and private. High water is also affecting some properties along the Boyne River as well. The City is working with its engineers and the proper permitting agencies on plans to repair and protect its properties. Private property owners are

reminded that they, too, may need to secure permits from the USACE and/or the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

More information on this topic is available on EGLE's website, michigan.gov/egle/.

Due to the damage along the City's shorelines, you may find some areas closed at times to protect public safety. Please respect those closures. In addition, boaters should watch their speeds and wakes — especially close to the shores — to prevent further damage to shoreline properties.

Main Street

BC Main Street & Match on Main grant assists another new business in opening downtown

Boyne City Main Street is pleased to give a warm welcome to Spuds Boyne, located at 114 S Lake Street! Spuds Boyne, a sister store to The Old Spud Warehouse in downtown Gaylord, received grant funding to assist with opening the Boyne City store, supported by Boyne City Main Street. The store will feature unique home décor items, as well as clothing, shoes, and custom pieces. Owner Adam Graef is already involved in the community, including chairing Main Street's Design Committee.

Match on Main is a reimbursement grant program provided by Michigan Main Street and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) that provides a unique opportunity for new and expanding businesses located in Main Street districts. The grant provides funding to Select or Master level Michigan Main Street programs to support small business owners as they explore ways to improve the interior space.

City's Finances Wins — Again!

This spring, Government Finance Officers Association awarded the City of Boyne City its fourth consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Boyne City is among a very small percentage of communities across the country to earn this award. The award recognizes the high quality of Boyne City's annual financial audit, including its usefulness to the

public. This is an extra level of assurance to the community that the City's financial records are in order. This most recent award is for the City's fiscal year which ended April 30, 2018. The audit for the City's most recent fiscal year is scheduled to begin in July and be completed in the fall. *Both the City's audit and budget are available for public review at cityofboynecity.com.*

Help us protect Lake Charlevoix and the Boyne River

Below are a few tips that will help ensure the water we all love remains free of pollutants:

- Regularly check the storm sewer grate near your home or business. If leaves or debris are on, or near, the grate please remove that debris (mulch the leaves & pitch the other debris in the garbage)
- Never rake or blow leaves and/or grass into the street
- Don't dump any paints, oils, or other chemicals into a catch basin as these structures drain directly to the lake and river (note, these structures do not drain to our wastewater treatment plant)
- Scoop up your pet poop so that the rainwater doesn't wash any harmful bacteria into our lake and river
- If you choose to fertilize your grass, please limit the use near stormwater catch basins and along the edge of any swale, ditch, creek, stream, river or lake (also, we recommend you use a low or no phosphorus product).

Check out the *Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council* website for more info on stormwater tips: watershedcouncil.org/stormwater-matters-campaign.

Waste/Wastewater Department

The water department will be asking residents to fill out a questionnaire to help us to determine the service line materials in our water system, to eliminate the possibility of any lead service lines. We are required by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to determine the material of all water service lines in the City by 2025. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

We are requesting any homeowners who are receiving estimated bills or have the old badger type meters to contact City Hall at (231) 582-6597 to schedule an appointment to have a new radio read meter installed for free.

The Wastewater Department thanks the community for being diligent in not flushing a lot of disposable wipes into the sewer. We have not had the issues with plugging that many other communities have had.

