

Mitten Tree

The city hall Christmas tree will once again be decorated with hats and mittens. Please bring mittens, gloves and hats for children of all ages to city hall. We will also have a TOYS FOR TOTS collection box. All donations will be taken to the Boyne Area Community Christmas to be added to the Christmas baskets.

Regular City Hall Hours

Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:30 pm

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th and 25th for Christmas

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 31st and January 1st for New Years

Friday April 10th (1/2 day) for Good Friday

Monday May 25th for Memorial Day

Property Tax Due

Winter property taxes are due without penalty on Friday, February 14, 2020.

To avoid a last minute mistake or extra costs, pay early. All payments left in the drop box after 4:30 pm on the 14th or with a Post Office postmark after that date, will be considered late. The last day for tax collection will be Friday, February 28, 2020; all unpaid taxes will be turned over to the county treasurer on Monday, March 2, 2020.

Payments

You may make payments after hours in the drop box located in the boulevard on the south side of city hall. Please be sure that your payment is in an envelope.

Payment Options

Available to all customers

Checks/Cash No fee.

Debit & Credit Card 3% fee with a \$2 minimum.

E-Checks \$3 fee up to \$10,000; \$10 fee over \$10,000.

Direct Debit No charge – only from checking/savings accounts. This is available for water/sewer billing only.

Night Drop Box Located across from city hall entrance.

Online services Available for water/sewer and tax payments. Visit www.cityofboynecity.com.



Happy Trails to You!

Boyne City Mayor Tom Neidhamer quoted that phrase and lyrics made famous by Roy Rogers during the October 9th ground breaking of the new Boyne Valley Trail (BVT) now under construction, and how right he was. When completed in June of 2020 this new 6.2 mile non-motorized trail will provide a new, fun and safe link between Boyne City and Boyne Falls, running through Boyne Valley Township and Boyne Mountain as well. The project will cost about \$1.77 million dollars, much of it provided through grants secured thru the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources plus area governments, foundations, businesses and outdoor enthusiasts.

The BVT will join other recent trail additions like the additional mountain bike trails that were added to Avalanche Park through the efforts of the Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association in 2019.

Additional mountain bike trails are expected to be built on City, Conservancy and State properties a few miles north of Boyne City in Evangeline Township off Old Horton Bay Road in 2020 by them as well. These Mountain Bike trails have been designed and built to meet the needs of riders of all skill levels.

Design work is also underway for an extension of the Boyne City/Charlevoix non-motorized trail from where it currently ends as a separate trail into the heart of the City. It is anticipated that the City Commission and Park and Recreation Board will begin reviewing that design before the end of 2019, prior to seeking public input.

Both Roy and Tom were right when it comes to us having many happy trail options available in and around Boyne City now, with even more being planned for development in the near future.

Public Park Planning Progresses

Earlier this fall the City hired the planning and design firm Beckett & Raeder to gather public input and develop more concrete designs, cost estimates and schedules for two of Boyne City's recreational treasures, Avalanche Park and the Open Space on Lake Charlevoix. While previous master plans and preliminary concepts involving the public have been developed in the past, the City is seeking to build upon and update these and create plans that can be used to help secure funding

and take us to the next steps. As part of this effort, the City's Recreation Master Plan will also be updated. Not only does the Recreation Master Plan provide a roadmap regarding the use, maintenance and improvements for all the City's parks, it also opens the door to recreational grant funding from the State. Copies of the City's existing Recreation Master Plan and plans regarding Avalanche and the Open Space are available on its website at cityofboynecity.com.

Please stay on the alert for public input opportunities or call City Hall at (231) 582-6597 to learn more. Help Boyne City chart the future for our recreational resources and participate in these planning opportunities.



Winter Activities at Avalanche Park

Get out and enjoy:

Ice skating, sledding, snow shoeing and disc golf

On designated trails only, we offer:

Cross country skiing, snowmobiling and mountain biking

Winter activities are allowed, weather permitting, during regular park hours (note, the park closes at 10:30 pm); however, there is no supervision for sledding and ice skating outside of the regular hours of the warming house on Monday through Friday 4-9 pm and on Saturday and Sunday 11 am-9 pm. Weekend hours observed during holidays when local schools are not in session.

Generally weather conditions allow us to be open by winter break. For information or to hear an updated weather report, call City Hall at 582-6597. Our outdoor skating rink is completely weather dependent and availability may vary.

Loaner ice skates and sleds are available free of charge. New or used skate and sled donations are always appreciated, and can be dropped off at the warming house during hours of operation or at City Hall.

Trail maps are available at the warming house, City Hall, and the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce or online at www.cityofboynecity.com (look under Community info/city parks).

Let the snow begin!

Main Street

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

The Hoppy Hound Coffee & Dog Bakery will soon be opening at 118 Water Street, with support from Boyne City Main Street and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Michigan Main Street Match on Main grant. Ivette Lopez, owner of Outdoor Beerdsman, will be expanding her store footprint in downtown Boyne City to open The Hoppy Hound, which will feature an array of coffee and espresso beverages, as well as gourmet dog bakery items.

Match on Main is a reimbursement grant program 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.

Downtown recycling pilot launched

Boyne City Main Street is pleased to announce the launch of a downtown recycling pilot. With support from the City of Boyne City Department of Public Works, recycling bins were placed throughout downtown for color season. Data will be collected during the pilot on the percentage of recyclable material collected. If successful, a full roll out could take place for Summer of 2020. Thank you to Charlevoix County for the use of the blue recycle bins.

Car tour coming back to downtown Boyne City

Boyne City has been selected as a host city for the 2020 Back to the Bricks Promo Tour. The tour, which features up to 350 cars, will be in Boyne City on June 7, 2020. The tour is in its 11th year, and will make stops in five host cities. The Back to the Bricks Promotional Tour stopped in Boyne City in 2015 as well. More information on the time of the event and event details will be released soon.

Boyne Heritage Center: History in the Making

The Boyne Heritage Center is a new nonprofit organization formed to rejuvenate the old Boyne City Historical Museum with new leadership and new programming. It has set its goal to become a world-class historical hub for the area, preserving the stories of Boyne City, Boyne Falls, Walloon Lake, Advance, Ironton, Horton Bay and neighboring areas. Its home will be in the Boyne City Hall, but governance and management will be assumed by the new nonprofit.

A professional museum designer was hired and the first two of four design phases have been completed. The main exhibit, titled "Boyne Before Us," features seven sections that tell the story of how the extraordinary gifts of land and water have attracted people to the Boyne region for centuries. Formed by grinding glaciers and maturing forests, revered by native peoples, consumed by industry and fading fortunes, these natural gifts are once again nurtured and preserved for today and tomorrow.

Building a regional heritage center to this level of quality and service is an extensive project and requires a tremendous amount of planning and work – long before opening its doors to the public. The board of directors meet weekly to work on strategic planning categories, including a complete inventory and cataloging of artifacts, communications, marketing, business planning, exhibit content and fundraising.

If you have experience in nonprofits, finance or fundraising, this amazing project needs you!

If your organization would like a full presentation, contact Kecia Freed at 231-622-2492 or info@boyneheritage.org. www.boyneheritage.org.

"Boyne Before Us" exhibit

1. Geological history and first peoples
2. Early settlement
3. Industrial boom
4. 1917 LaFrance and 1905 clock
5. Lifestyles and culture
6. Revival and rejuvenation
7. Present day and multi-purpose



BOYNE
HERITAGE
CENTER

Planning Department

The 24th decennial national census will be conducted in April 2020. To help insure the constitutionally mandated population count is as accurate possible, the City again participated in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. This entailed the City Planning Department cross checking the Census Bureau's master address file with our local data bases to identify errors or missing addresses. However, as important as it is to have complete and correct addresses for everyone, it is even more important for people to complete and return the census forms. In spring of 2020 census questionnaires will be mailed out to all residential addresses in the City. Be sure to promptly complete and return the questionnaire as the data provides valuable information that has important local implications. All information that you provide in a Census Bureau survey is used exclusively to create accurate, relevant statistics about our nation's people, places, and economy. These statistics help inform elected officials about communities and businesses across the United States. Individual businesses or persons cannot be identified in statistics or reports published by the Census Bureau.

If you have general questions regarding a survey or the Census Bureau, call the Census Bureau Customer Service Center at 1-800-923-8282. If you need assistance in verifying a Census Bureau survey mailing, call, or in-person interview, contact the Chicago Census Bureau Regional Office at:



Chicago Regional Office

1111 West 22nd Street, Suite 400, Oak Brook, IL 60523-1918
(630) 288-9200 or 1-800-865-6384
FAX: (630) 288-9288, TDD: (708) 562-1791
E-mail: Chicago.Regional.Office@census.gov

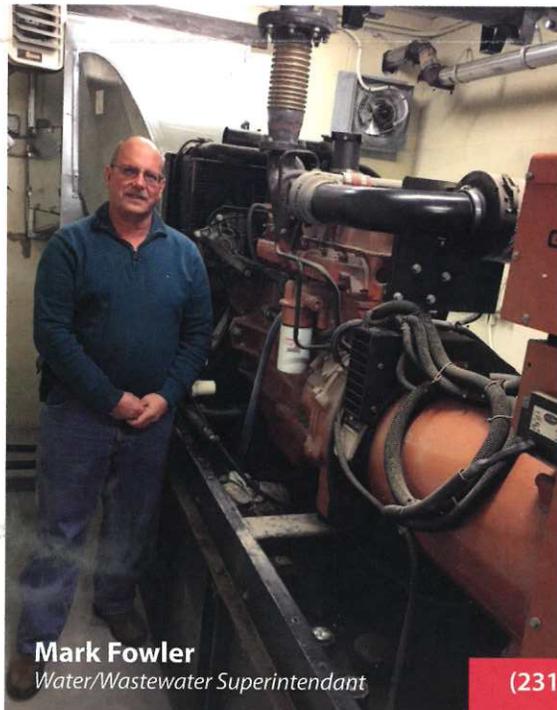
There has been significant turnover on the Planning Commission over the past year and the City would like to thank past members Ken Allen, 4 years; Jason Biskner, 5 ½ years; Jim Koslowski, 7 ½ years; George Ellwanger, 16 years; and Joe St. Dennis, 29 years, for their time on the Planning Commission. We would also like to welcome new members Skylar MacNaughton, Larry Chute, Rose Newton and Monica Kroondyk to the Planning Commission.

If you are interested in serving on the Planning Commission or any other city board or commission, application forms and additional information is available on the City webpage at: cityofboynecity.com/boards--commissions-23/ or feel free to inquire at the front desk of City Hall.

Powerful Recycling

Boyne City doesn't always go with the flow but in recycling a piece of equipment the City is working to insure its water system keeps flowing no matter what. When the old City Hall/Fire and DPW complex was being prepared for demolition, the question came up about what to do with the backup power generator that was there. Purchased in the late 1990s to make sure the City was prepared for the possible Y2K crisis, the generator was in good condition and had served the community well during many power failures. It was however, not properly sized or configured to meet the needs of our new City facility. Rather than disposing of the generator and getting just a portion of its value back, opportunities to repurpose it at another City facility were explored. After considering various needs and options, it was determined the generator could serve our water system and therefore our community. While the City has portable generators that can be used to run the water system if needed during a power outage, reusing the generator has its advantages. As a built-in automatic unit, it could stand guard and be ready to use 24/7 and 365 days a year from the moment the power went out without the need for human intervention. If the power went out it would start itself up and keep our wells pumping as needed until staff could arrive or the power was restored. Final work on

getting the generator installed in its new setting and properly set up was being completed as this newsletter went to press. By the time you read this, Boyne City's already robust and reliable water system will be even better prepared to serve you.



Mark Fowler
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

Snowplowing

A few reminders and tips to help keep the public and our plow drivers safe:

- Don't follow too closely behind the plow trucks. They do stop and back up while clearing hills and intersections
- Don't allow pets or children to play on or in snow piles by the road edge. Our big trucks can't stop fast if they should slip out into the road in front of them.
- To reduce the amount of snow thrown up onto your driveway from the plow trucks, please remove some of the accumulated snow along the boulevard edge from the direction the plow truck comes from.
- Please do not plow or blow snow into or across the road

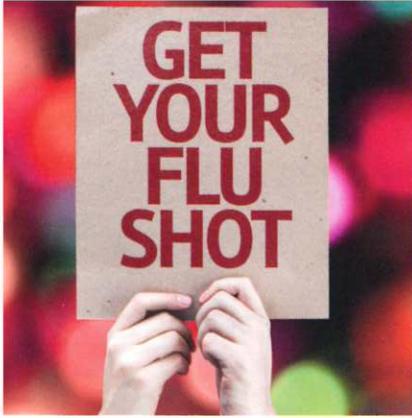
Sidewalk Snowplowing

The City does plow certain sidewalks each winter in order to provide for safe routes to our schools and public facilities. Check out the sidewalk plowing route map on the city website. But whether the City plows your sidewalk or not, it's ultimately the responsibility of all property owners to clear the ice and snow from sidewalks.



Reminder: Winterize Your Pipes

The Boyne City Water Department would like to remind all home owners that now is a good time to prepare your home for the upcoming cold weather. We have seen an increase in frozen pipes and water damage in the past couple of years so we hope this reminder will keep you prepared for the winter months ahead. Also if you are leaving for the winter or have a vacation home it is always a good idea to have someone checking in on your home to be sure all is well.



**GET
YOUR
FLU
SHOT**



Ambulance Dept: Prepare for the season!

Season change brings changes in our lives and activities. Be prepared, look for trip hazards, think of rugs. Weather is going to get nasty. Think of how to keep the walk ways clear of snow and pick a non-toxic ice melt. Look at your shoes, their condition, are you still getting enough traction? Depending where you walk you may want to consider grippers for your shoes or boots. Don't forget your health; get a flu shot and improve your odds. Make sure your chimneys are clean and free of obstruction. Get your steps in, enjoy the change!

Your Emergency Medical Service (EMS) has been busy. We responded to 1,195 requests for service. Our service is fortunate to have 25 paid volunteers helping

to maintain two primary response vehicles 24/7 with the ability to respond immediately throughout our coverage area. There are four Advance Life Support (ALS) transporting vehicles, with the support of a non-transport ALS rapid response vehicle known as an ECHO vehicle. Our staff complement is made up of eight Paramedics, two EMT Specialist, 15 basic EMTs.

Besides providing emergency care transportation, our EMS Division provides critical life saving classes. CPR and Stop the Bleed are the most popular we have provided certification to more than 500 individuals to help them be ready for an emergency.

Police Dept: If you see something, say something

It's unfortunate that our students have to be worried about their safety in the schools. But today's students are very aware of current events and the tragic incidents that have happened in too many schools around the country. This awareness extends to school staff and parents as well. The positive side of being aware is that many threats are being reported and investigated. As we have seen in the media lately, several potential tragic incidents have been avoided or even stopped because someone reported suspicious activity.

This awareness shouldn't stop at school. Parents should be aware of what their students are doing by monitoring internet use, cell phone use and friendships. Talk or social media postings about doing harm to people by any means should be reported to the police. This should be done as soon as the information is discovered. In several recent incidents around the country, parents have made discoveries of threatening behavior and called the police about their own kids. As hard as this must have been for the parents, it most likely averted a tragedy.

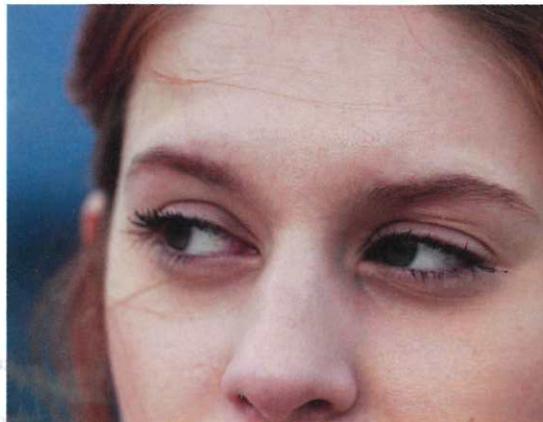
This doesn't mean all threats involve schools. Businesses, factories, and churches must also have an awareness for threats. Disgruntled workers or members, people dealing with substantial negative experiences in their life, or people supportive of extremist causes should be given extra scrutiny. Anyone making comments or social media postings that sound threatening should be reported to those in charge and ultimately to the police. Look for weapon or unusual ammunition purchases. If you hear about someone researching how to inflict casualties or being obsessed with previous mass

causality incidents, report it. In many cases, the name of the person reporting will not have to be used. Hopefully this will encourage more people to come forward with information about suspected threats.

We all have a responsibility to participate in the safety of our community. The police cannot do it alone. We have very well trained, experienced police officers that will investigate any threats. But we need help from the community. Citizens will most often see the signs of threats before the police.

You have heard it said many times but it has never been more important than now. If you see something, say something.

Please, if you become aware of any type of threat, report it immediately. Always call 911 to report a threat.



Faas Assumes DPW Leadership

On January 2, 2019 Tim Faas was sworn in as Boyne City's new Director of Public Works. As Boyne City's DPW Director, Tim oversees everything involving our street system (including sidewalks, trees, streetlights, storm sewers, etc.), our parks system, much of the maintenance of our City facilities, like City Hall. Prior to coming to Boyne City Tim was most recently the Municipal Services Director of Canton Township in southeastern Michigan for 15 years. Prior to that he served as the Operations Director of a three Township regional authority which oversaw their wastewater, yard waste composting and grounds and building facility maintenance. Tim also was the Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Windsor in Canada for 7 years. Since his arrival, Tim has been using his considerable experience to help Boyne City improve our systems and methods of operations. A good example of this is our creation and use of a new work order system to track issues that need to be addressed, made sure they are addressed and track trends or reoccurring items so that we can anticipate them better. Please be sure to welcome Tim to the Boyne City team.

Police Department Personnel Departing

Over the last few months two key employees have retired from the Boyne City Police Department. On August 9th 2019 Craig Remsberg retired as the longest known serving employee of both the Boyne City Police Department (BCPD) and the City of Boyne City. Craig was hired by Chief John Talboys and joined the BCPD on July 1, 1980 and serving it faithfully for over 39 years until his retirement. Craig served as the Acting Chief of Police in 2011 until July of 2012 when Jeff Gaither became Boyne City's Police Chief. Now it is Jeff's turn to retire, again. Jeff came to the BCPD after retiring with 27 years of law enforcement service with the State. In the nearly seven and a half years since he became Chief Jeff has built the BCPD into the quality and well respected department that it is now. We thank both Craig and Jeff for their integrity and years of quality service helping make Boyne City into the safe and quality community that it is today. Job well done gentlemen!