

## 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:**

Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day  
Monday, September 2nd for Labor Day  
Thursday and Friday, November 28th and 29th 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 [www.cityofboynecity.com](http://www.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 Michele Hewitt at (231) 582-0335 or [shelly@boynecity.com](mailto:shelly@boynecity.com).

## FREE Updated Water Meter

The Boyne City Water Department is installing new water meters at no cost to the customer. Contact information is needed to make appointments to do the installation. Approximate installation time needed is 15-30 minutes.



SUMMER 2019

## Back to the Future



Over one hundred and sixty two years ago on November 14, 1856, John and Harriet Miller landed their boat on what would become the eastern shores of Lake

Charlevoix. They found an abandoned home, decided to stay and became our community's first permanent settlers. John Miller was born in Ireland as were Harriet's parents. There is an interesting write up of this part of our history, including pictures, in Robert Morgridge's book *Settlers to Sidewalks*. Copies are available for reading or purchase at the Boyne City Hall or at the Boyne District Library.

While exploring the area around their new home, John came across a river that reminded him of one back in his Irish homeland and he named this river after it; the Boyne. The rest, as they say, is history. Because of the Miller's Irish heritage and their choosing to make this their homeland, Boyne City and the areas around us ended up with many of the names that we all know and use today. We have the Boyne Valley which includes the City of Boyne City, the Village of Boyne Falls, Boyne Valley Township and Boyne Mountain.

For several years there have been efforts to see if Boyne City could establish a Sister City relationship with communities in the Boyne Valley of Ireland. Those efforts took a huge step forward in the last couple of years when Mayor Neidhamer was contacted in 2017 by a representative from the Boyne Valley in Ireland expressing interest in establishing relationships between the Boynes. Shortly thereafter, the City learned that the local non-profit group Voices without Borders, Inc. (VWB) was planning a 2018 trip to Scotland and Ireland to continue their efforts of 'celebrating the bridge-building joy of music and dance!' VWB reached out and made arrangements to work a visit and performances in the Boyne Valley while they were in Ireland.

Before leaving on their trip, Boyne City provided VWB a certificate of greeting and items from our community to share while in Ireland's Boyne Valley. VWB had a successful trip, including serving as our goodwill ambassadors. Upon their return they brought back greetings and items from their hosts in the original Boyne Valley along with Boyne Valley's desire to come to Michigan in 2019 and formally establish a Sister City (or twinning, as they call it in Ireland) relationship.

That desire is set to become a reality this year! VWB is in the final stages of setting up their 2019 Children of

the World in Harmony Festival. The festival will bring choirs and dance groups from across the world and the United States, including the Boyne Valley of Ireland, to Northern Michigan the week of July 15th.

On July 18th at 6:45 pm at the Boyne City High School representatives of the Boyne Valleys in Ireland and Michigan are scheduled to meet and formalize our Sister City/twinning relationship. The ceremony will be followed at 7:15 pm by a concert of all the participants in the Festival. More details regarding events involving the dignitaries from Ireland will be on the City's website and in the media as the event draws closer.

Surely little could the Millers have imagined that from what began as the search for their new forever home, a boat trip across Pine Lake (now Lake Charlevoix), would be the seeds for the establishment of a continuing relationship between Boyne Valleys an ocean apart.



On June 15, 2018, the Little Traverse Youth Choir received a special tour of Trim Castle along the River Boyne as part of their visit to Trim, County Meath, Ireland. Later that day, they delivered a proclamation for twinning on behalf of Boyne City, Michigan, U.S.A. at a public ceremony which also included a performance by the group.

## More Pavilion Improvements Planned

Additional improvements to complete the Veterans Park Pavilion project are expected to start late this summer and likely continue into the spring of 2020 that will further expand and make the Pavilion available for use year round. In May, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) announced that it would be providing Boyne City with a grant of up to \$408,415 to help complete the project. The MEDC grant will be used to help pay for the installation of the remaining exterior doors, add a heating system, install a commercial grade kitchen and add two additional covered picnic areas on the east (Lake Street side) of the building, among other things. These funds, combined with other public and private funding, will bring the total investment in the Pavilion to some \$816,830 over the past few years. It is anticipated that most of the work would take place after this Labor Day and be completed prior to the next year's Mushroom Festival to avoid conflicts with its most used times. Special thanks go to Becky Harris, Michelle Cortright and other volunteers for their tireless efforts to help transform this community vision for an improved and expanded Veterans Park Pavilion into a reality. A reality we expect the entire community will be able to use and fully enjoy before the summer of 2020 begins.



## Sidewalk Safety

With the return of warm weather more people than ever are out and about walking on sidewalks all across Boyne City. Please help them do that safely by not blocking sidewalks with vehicles parked on or across them. It's the neighborly thing to do. Parking on sidewalks is also against the law.

**Quick Tip: If you're short on space try parking your car parallel to the street on your driveway apron, not on the sidewalk.**

## Main Street

### Boyne City Farmers Market receives accolades

Main Street National has named the Boyne City Farmers Market the "Must-visit farmers market in Michigan," and we completely agree! If you haven't paid a visit to the farmers market yet this summer, be sure to check it out. The market takes place every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 am - Noon in Veteran's Park through mid-October.

### 2019 Walkabout Sculpture Show piece unveiled.

Boyne City Main Street was pleased to unveil the newest piece of artwork. The new piece, created by Indian River artist Pamela Dueweke is titled "Puddle Jumper" and is located in Sunset Park. The Walkabout Sculpture Show provides an opportunity for community members and visitors to interact with art on a 24/7, 365 basis. Take a stroll through downtown to see all sorts of sculptures, all of which are for sale. The Draco Viewer and The Last River Draw, and the mosaic at Peninsula Beach Park are all permanent installations.



### Downtown recycling test taking place this Summer

Boyne City Main Street and the Department of Public Works have teamed up to run a test of a recycling program in the downtown area this summer. Keep an eye out for the recycle bins located near trash cans throughout downtown. The bins are single stream, but be sure to keep trash separate.

## Police Department

Boyne City is a **bicycle friendly town**, hosting many bike related events as well as developing bike trails. With this comes the necessity to share the road as many of the bikes use the roadways in town. A law passed last year directs the driver of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction shall pass at a safe distance of at least 3 feet to the left of that bicycle. It also allows the driver of a vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction to overtake and pass the bicycle in a no-passing zone if it is safe to do so. Please help us maintain a safe bike community and give the bikes some room when sharing the road.

Look for **new fireworks regulations** to be coming soon. The State Legislature has enacted a new fireworks law that allows different regulation by local governments than we are currently using. We are drafting a new city ordinance to reflect these changes and this will not be finalized before this newsletter is sent out. Watch the city's Facebook posts or local media for updates.

**Crosswalk safety** is always a concern. It's a topic that has been covered before but here is a reminder. There are designated crosswalks at several downtown intersections and we also have designated crosswalks at several non-intersection areas. Pedestrians are encouraged to use these areas to cross the streets.

**The Uniform Traffic Code** allows municipalities to adopt a uniform set of traffic regulations. It carries the weight of law spells it out quite clearly: "R 28.1702 Rule 702. When traffic control signals are not in place or are not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall yield the right of way, slowing down or stopping if need be to so yield, to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk when the pedestrian is on the half of the roadway on which the vehicle is traveling or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger, but a pedestrian shall not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into a path of a vehicle that is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield."

Please use caution at the crosswalks when pedestrians are present. And pedestrians, please don't walk out in front of cars and expect them to stop. The crosswalk has no magical powers to protect you.

We are also working on **an ordinance that would prohibit jumping or diving in the river from certain platforms**. This is to address the dangerous practice that many kids find themselves doing during the summer months. We are not trying to outlaw childhood fun. We are addressing a legitimate concern for safety, as well as managing the city's liability risk. We don't want to take the river experience away from the kids. They would still be allowed to swim in the river. We do however, see a potential for danger if we continue to allow kids to jump into the rock lined river from a structure that wasn't meant for that. I have heard comments from adults that grew up in Boyne City saying they jumped in the river when they were young. However, many kids wear bike helmets, ski helmets, seat belts, life jackets and other safety related items. These are things many adults didn't do as kids but are accepted practices now. We care about our community's kids and want them to be safe. We also have a responsibility to the citizens of Boyne City to protect them from liability.

Speaking of keeping kids safe, the Boyne City Police Department conducts a **bike safety program** for all of the 4th graders during school. Each student receives a new bicycle helmet and instruction on how to use it.

**The annual bike to school day with the Police** was June 6th. This annual fun event is for the officers as well as the students. We even have some parents and school staff riding along each year.

As a reminder, **dogs must be on a leash in all of the city parks**, including Avalanche. Dogs are not allowed in the parks during special events such as festivals, farmers market, craft shows and 4th of July.

# Flood Insurance Rate Map Update

In the early 1980s the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed the first Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Charlevoix County. At that time each municipality in the County could choose to adopt the maps and participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. A municipality's participation in the program makes property owners located in the designated flood areas eligible to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. If a municipality chooses not to participate in the Program, property owners would not be eligible for insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program and they would only be eligible for flood insurance through private insurers at significantly higher rates. The City of Boyne City has been a participant in the program since the original maps were developed in 1982. To participate in the program the City was required to adopt the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and applicable ordinances to regulate development in the designated flood areas. Construction regulations for buildings located in the designated flood areas are subject to the applicable requirements of the International Building Code which is administered and enforced by the Charlevoix County Department of Building Safety.

Beginning approximately 10 years ago, FEMA began the process of updating the Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Charlevoix County. This process entailed the development of a Flood Insurance Study that revised and updated information on the existence and severity of flood hazards in Charlevoix County. The final study and updated maps for Charlevoix County were completed in

2018 and distributed to the City on November 29, 2018, with an effective date of May 16, 2019. Communities that were already enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program needed to take specific steps prior to the effective date remain in program. Failure to take these steps would have resulted in the City being suspended from the program and any property owner with insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program would be in jeopardy of losing their flood insurance coverage. This required the City to pass an ordinance adopting the new maps and approve an updated intergovernmental agreement with Charlevoix County to act as the enforcing agent. The adoption of the ordinance and updated agreement did not change any existing policy, procedure or responsibility. These actions just reaffirmed the City's commitment to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and the agreement with Charlevoix County to continue to be the enforcing agency using existing provisions in the state construction codes. The City Commission approved the intergovernmental resolution on January 22, 2019 and adopted by ordinance the updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps on February 26, 2019. While the City adopts the maps it does not have any ability to change or revise the maps. Requests to amend the adopted maps must be made through FEMA.

*For Boyne City the Planning Department is the repository for the Flood Insurance Rate maps, which are available to anyone interested in viewing a hard copy or digital versions of the maps. The updated maps are also available online at the FEMA Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov>.*

# Marijuana

Last November voters across the state, and in the City of Boyne City, legalized the use of recreational marijuana in Michigan. This added to the State's earlier legalization and regulation of medical marijuana. These are landmark changes of state law. The City of Boyne City did not opt in for medical marijuana and chose to opt out for recreational marijuana, at least for now. While the State sets up the rules and legal framework for marijuana businesses, the City is seeking to learn about the upcoming State regulations on the matter and the topic in general. Under the law the State is required to have its regulations in place by December of this year. While this doesn't mean people can't use medical or recreational marijuana legally as allowed by current State law, it does mean that in Boyne City no businesses can currently be set up for either medical or recreational sale of marijuana. Under the law the City has great flexibility on how, or if, it allows such businesses in the community. The City is looking to have a community discussion on these topics in the months ahead.

At this time the City has signed up for a series of educational webinars about the new marijuana landscape put on by the Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. These webinars began in May and will be held monthly thru October from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month, except September when

it will be held on the third Thursday (19th). The City is making these webinars open at no charge to community members who would like to learn about this topic as well in the 2nd floor Commission Chambers of the Boyne City Facilities building at 319 North Lake Street on the days of the program. The next webinar will be held on Thursday, May 25th and will be on the topic: 'To Ban or Not to Ban: Example Michigan Marijuana Local Government Regulations. A copy of MSU Extension's flyer regarding their webinar series including descriptions of the topics for each meeting is available for review on the City's website.

*Please join and share with us as we learn about this evolving frontier and what is the right fit for our community.*



## Orange Cone Season Arrives Early in Boyne City



*While it has taken a while for the weather to warm up this year, spring in Boyne City brought out a number of road improvement projects, and we're not done yet!*

*First, the Michigan Department of Transportation kicked off the season with curb and sidewalk repairs followed by milling and resurfacing M-75 as it works its way through the City; in town also known as portions of Boyne Avenue and East and State Streets.*

*Then the contractor for last fall's water main extension special assessment project on West Michigan and Woodland Streets finished up their cleanup work.*

*Next, the City rehabilitated portions of Front, Trent, Ann, Wilson and First Streets with new surfaces that should last 10-15 years.*

*From there the City moved on to North Lake Street from State Street north to Lakeview Estates Drive. That grant funded project also included some sidewalk and curb repairs. All of the above projects were scheduled to be completed earlier this year.*

*Two more streets, Cedar between South Lake and Douglas and Terrace, are scheduled to be completely rebuilt, including the City's underground water, sanitary and storm sewer mains. This work is set to begin right after the 4th of July.*

*On track for next year the resurfacing of North Lake Street is scheduled to continue north from where it leaves off this year and continue to the intersection of West Michigan and Boyne City Charlevoix road.*

**We and the construction workers appreciate your patience and safety during these projects. We know they can be a bother, but hopefully many years of smoother driving on them will be ample reward.**

## Log Cabin

No, we aren't talking maple syrup. We're talking about the former Chamber of Commerce office in Sunset Park. The Chamber had leased that location from the City since March of 1940, although there are hand written notes on the lease noting it may have been leased to a restaurant called "Eat & go" in 1947.

Now that the Chamber has moved into their new location at 115 South Lake Street, next to the new Main Street office, people are wondering what will happen to the log cabin. The Chamber moved out for two main reasons: 1) It was too small for their needs; and 2) it needs a lot of work.

A quick look at the building reveals that several of the logs, particularly at the ends, are rotting and either need to be repaired or replaced. The building is not accessible, most of the windows are shot or missing, the electrical system is undersized, there is no hot water and much of the interior has lost the log charm of the outside in efforts to make it comfortable and more energy efficient. In fact, the Chamber was advised by a local builder some 20 years ago that the building should be torn down. On the plus side, it has a fairly new steel roof, does not appear to be in any danger of falling down and is a cute local landmark. It certainly seems to be in better shape than the 1910 waterworks building on Division Street was when the City decided to save and repurpose it. At that time the City was able to get some large grants to help restore the 1910 building as a working part of our water system, something that might not be repeatable here.

At this point the City has made no decisions on the future of the building and it won't be doing so without the opportunity for public input. For this summer the building will probably remain pretty much as it is.



The Garden Club will do their usual wonderful work with the plantings around it and both the drinking fountain and the water pond will continue to flow. There is also talk about possibly forming a volunteer group to open the building up during the summer as a Visitors Center.

The City is in the early stages of seeing what it would take to restore or improve the building. We have been reaching out to people and firms with experience in log cabins or related construction to get their insights.

We would like your insights, history (*old pictures of it are greatly appreciated*) and suggestions on the log cabin and its future. Should it stay and if so, what should it be used for, should it be moved and preserved somewhere else to open up more views of the water, or should it be demolished?

*Please share your thoughts on these or other ideas with City Manager Michael Cain at [mcain@boynecity.com](mailto:mcain@boynecity.com).*

## Boyne City EMS

For the Fiscal year May 1st 2018 to April 30th 2019, EMS (Emergency Medical Services) responded to 1,041 requests for emergency assistance. Boyne City EMS provides coverage for the City, the townships of Bay, Evangeline, Eveline, Hudson, Melrose, and Wilson. Cooperatively we provide coverage with Boyne Valley Township. There are 4 transport vehicles and 1 non transporting emergency vehicle licensed to provide coverage. Two vehicles are staffed 24/7 with a paramedic and an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Staffing for our service has 12 EMTs and 13 Paramedics. The staff are provided a honorarium to provide coverage for duty time as well as a stipend per hour for response time. Each staff member commits to 10 to 12, 12 hour shifts per month to ensure adequate coverage. All of them work full-time "day" jobs and volunteer a commitment to cover our community. These essential individuals are licensed by the State of Michigan. An EMT completes 165 hours of training. A Paramedic completes an additional 1,120 hours of training. In order to maintain their license each person completes ongoing continuing education (CEU) of 35-45 credits for their 3 year license.

EMS is a health care career, it is not just a simple program. Its training intensifies as new research is adopted. Staff are given significant responsibility, but are marginally compensated. Training cost has escalated, an EMT course cost has risen to over \$1,000 at the college, with the paramedic program going over \$10,000.

Needless to say, staffing in a rural community becomes harder as time and cost commitments increase. These men and women are dedicated to our community, their training is cutting edge and with longer than average transport times to the closest facility our staff are actively involved in ensuring the positive outcome of the patients we take care of. *New staff are hard to find, if interested in finding out how you could help please call the EMS Department.*

### 2018 / 2019 Responses

Bay Township	33	Hudson	17
Boyne Valley	378	Melrose	24
Evangeline	22	Wilson	50
Eveline	21	Boyne City	496

## Annual Street Tree Planting Program

The City covers the cost of tree planting in the public right-of-way. Each year funds are allocated in the streets budget for planting trees between the property line and the edge of pavement. If you are interested in having a tree planted this fall by our contractor, please contact City Hall to be added on the list. Several tree species are available. We prioritize locations on a first-come basis within the available budget, so call soon if you're interested.

## 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 [Tipp of the Mitt Watershed Council website for more info on stormwater tips: \[watershedcouncil.org/stormwater\]\(http://www.mittwatershedcouncil.org/stormwater\).](http://www.mittwatershedcouncil.org/stormwater)**

## 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.