



Boyer City

SUMMER 2011

City Tax Rate Down... Again

Remember seeing this article last year? Well it's true again and it has been for the last seven fiscal years, since 2006! The tax bill included in this mailing shows the total City millage rate has decreased to 15.51 mills. That's down 0.25 mills from last year's 15.76, the lowest it's been in over 35 years!

With careful spending and aggressive use of grants to help make improvements, the City remains in sound financial shape. What this means to our taxpayers is that while other communities are looking for additional revenues, we have been able to tighten our belts and in these difficult economic times make due with less. In addition to a lower millage rate, the City has also been able to hold the line again on almost all rates and fees. So whether you are paying your water bill or getting a zoning permit, your rates did not increase again this year. Compare that to most other places. Generally, you pay more and get less. In Boyer City you are charged less and get more!

Complete copies of the City's Budget and Audit are available at City Hall, on our website or at the Boyer District Library.



Holiday Office Hours

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, July 4th Independence Day
Monday, September 5th Labor Day
Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th Thanksgiving

City Hall regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am- 5 pm.

Payments can be made after hours and on weekends in the drop box located in front of City Hall. Please be sure that your payment is an envelope.

Preserving Our Past, Preparing for Our Future

This summer, after several months of hard work, Boyer City will have completed its most recent improvements to our water system. One of these projects was very visible and one nearly invisible. Both of them are very important whenever we turn on a faucet, water a lawn, call for the Fire Department, or take a drink, using City water.



Restoration of the 1910 Building

The more visible of these two projects was the restoration of the Waterworks Building at the intersection of Division and Park Streets. Also known as the "1910 Building" for the date of its construction engraved in a block on the front of the building, this is, by far, Boyer City's oldest municipal building. After the early 1980s, the building fell out of use other than cold storage, mainly for unwanted items. With no real purpose for the building, maintenance stopped and it slipped quietly into severe disrepair. Although several local groups explored fixing up and using the building, none of those efforts panned out.

Most people seem to like the improvements and how the building looks, but frequently we are also asked "What's it going to be used for?" The beauty of this portion of the water system improvements and the reason this work became something the City could afford was that the Water Works building is being mainly returned to its roots as an active part of our public water system. The back two thirds of the building is full of pipes, pumps, valve and controllers that help our water system operate more reliably and efficiently. The front third of the building will have new public purposes with handicap accessible restrooms and a historical interpretive area. It is anticipated that the front portion of the building will be open to the public daily. While the building maintains its historic character and charm, it is full of modern features that should help it serve the Boyer City community well for another hundred years.

New Water Production Well

Almost invisible because of its remote location in the woods at the north end of town and its small exterior

footprint is the newest of the City's water production wells. This well, capable of producing some 550 gallons of fresh water *per minute*, joins the City's four other active wells. Drawing from a high quality water aquifer, the well builds upon the City's already strong water production capabilities. Whether the water is needed for home consumption, business use or fire protection, Boyer City can be confident that its needs are well met for years to come.



These two projects to improve our water system did not come cheap. The low bid on the projects was just under \$545,000. Fortunately we were able to secure slightly over \$340,250 in state grants. The local "1910 Committee" has and is continuing to raise additional money. Like all our recent projects, and the ones still on the drawing boards, we hope you will enjoy and be well-served by these new improvements. Be sure to watch our local press for the date and time of the formal ribbon cuttings for these important public improvements.

Construction Projects

This year the city plans to reconstruct Charlevoix Street from Court Street north to the City Limits. This project will entail removing the existing road surface, correcting drainage and grading, installation of storm sewer and a new asphalt road surface with asphalt rolled curb. We are hoping to begin this project in mid to late July. Also this year the City of Boyne City, in conjunction with Eveline and Wilson Townships, will reconstruct Marshall Road beginning at the Intersection of Anderson Road and going west to end 350 feet past Orchard Drive. Within the city limits this project will entail removing the existing road bed, installation of storm drainage and installation of a new asphalt road surface with asphalt rolled curb.

Sidewalk Construction

This summer the city will complete construction of the sidewalk on East Main that was started last fall. This will finish the connection of last summer's sidewalk project on Boice, Harris, Roosevelt and East Main Street to Boyne Avenue. Also being planned for this year is construction of a new sidewalk from the High School to Air Industrial Park Drive along Boyne Avenue.

Have a Construction Project of Your Own Planned for Home?

Adding on? Just a reminder that all accessory structures larger than 100 square feet, including fabric-sided and open-sided sheds or car ports must obtain a zoning permit before construction. These structures must meet the size and setback provisions for accessory structures.

For details about obtaining a zoning permit for accessory structures or any other zoning issue please contact Scott or Shannon at 582-0343 or 582-0337.

Main Street

Volunteers are always welcome

The key to success for the Boyne City Main Street program is its volunteers. Without them, the program would accomplish little. With volunteers, Main Street has a long list of accomplishments since it became part of the state program in 2003 including being named the Michigan Main Street Community of the Year for 2010 and one of 10 semifinalists from throughout the country for the Great American Main Street Award. Whether you can share an hour a month or would like to help organize a festival, Main Street has a place for you!

Buffing Up Boyne

A great example of volunteers at work is Buff Up Boyne, held this year on May 7. More than 80 volunteers, ranging in age from elementary school to senior citizens, spent the morning giving Boyne City a shine. All areas of Boyne City – from downtown streets and alleys to the city's parks and waterfront – benefited from their efforts. The Boyne Valley Garden Club was also out in full force in early June planting flowers throughout town, including the downtown tree planters. Our thanks to all those who work so hard for the community.

Farmers Market

The Boyne City Farmers Market, which has earned a reputation as one of the finest in northern Michigan, is open every Wednesday and Saturday at Veteran's Park from 8 am to noon. The market this season will feature nearly 60 seasonal vendors offering a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, plants, and crafts. The market is managed by a Main Street subcommittee consisting of vendors and interested community members. The market operates on fees paid by the vendors. Serving as market master this season is Mark Contrucci.

Stroll the Streets

Returning for its eighth summer, this popular event, organized by the Main Street Program, opens Friday,



June 24, and continues through Labor Day weekend. Stroll the Streets is organized by Main Street's promotion committee and is made possible by the generous contributions of many area businesses and individuals.

Boyne Thunder

Boyne City hosts the eighth annual Boyne Thunder July 8-9. The highlight of the weekend is the poker run, featuring magnificent high-performance boats. The poker run begins Saturday, July 9, at 9:30 am from the Boyne City Marina. Other events include an expanded Stroll the Streets on Friday, July 8, featuring music, boat and car displays; a benefit auction at Sunset Park behind the Boyne Area Chamber office; a barbecue dinner; along with many other activities.

Boyne Thunder Schedule

All events open to the public

Friday, July 8th

4:30 - 6:30 pm Boaters Reception at Veteran's Park
Tickets \$15.

6 - 8 pm Camp Quality Benefit Auction.
View items in tent at Sunset Park behind the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce.
Auction begins at 8 p.m.

6-9 pm Stroll the Streets Downtown.
Boyne City comes alive with a boat/car show and music on every block.

Saturday, July 9th

8 am Farmers Market Opens.
9:30 am Poker Run begins. Best viewing is from Veteran's Park.
11:30 am Charlevoix Champagne Cruise on Lake Charlevoix. Tickets \$75. Call 582-9009 or email mainstreet@boynecity.com.
2 - 4:30 pm Meet the boaters reception at Sommerset Pointe. Tickets \$10.
7 pm Outdoor barbecue. Great food, great entertainment, at Veterans Park. Tickets \$35. Available at Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about Main Street Programs, to make contributions or to volunteer for any of the events, contact the Main Street office at (231) 582-9009 or email mainstreet@boynecity.com.



Boyne Population Growth Bucks Local Trends

This spring the Census Bureau released population counts for Michigan cities from the 2010 census. While the overall population in Charlevoix County decreased from 26,090 to 25,949, Boyne City grew by 6.6% from 3,503 to 3,735. Boyne City was the only city in the County that increased in population and population growth for most cities in northern Michigan was the exception to

the rule. Truly an amazing accomplishment and a testament to the high quality of life Boyne City offers. *Anyone interested in learning more about the census or in seeing how Boyne City compares to other areas of the country can see all the data at the Census Bureau website at 2010.census.gov.*



Life Jacket Loaner Program for Kids!

Boyne City F. Grant Moore Municipal Marina is partnering with BoatUS Foundation to participate in this program as an access site.

Every parent wants to make sure his or her child is as safe as possible, and that goes double for parents who take their kids on the water. The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety & Clean Water makes it easier for boating families to stay safe with its national life jacket loaner program.

How the Program Works Have you ever found yourself with extra guests on your boat and not enough life vests to go around? Stop by the City's marina office

(the lighthouse) and check out one of our loaner vests. A boating family can then check out the life jacket for a day, free of charge. At the end of the boating trip, just return it to the same location. As an extension of this program, the marina is also looking to have a couple of adult size vests for loan as well. It is not required to be a guest at the marina to borrow the vests. These vests are available to the general boating public.

For information on the nation-wide program or other Boat U.S. programs, visit their website www.boatus.com/foundation/LJLP or to inquire about life vests and availability at the marina, call (231) 582-7361.

Boat Boyne City!

Boyne City will once again partner with Catt Development and operate and manage the One Water Marina for the 2011 boating season. This provides additional seasonal, transient and broadside shoppers' dockage available for public use.

For dockage at either the City's municipal marina or the One Water slips you must contact and make arrangements through the City marina by calling or

hailing the city marina for advance approval. Broadside shoppers' dockage is first come first serve. Vacant slips may be available for short term, but only if prior authorization is obtained from marina staff. Boat to Boyne City and stay for an hour, a day, or all summer! *To make reservations or check availability, contact Boyne City F. Grant Moore Municipal Marina (231) 582-7361 marina@boynecity.com vhf channel 16*

Annual Boat Launch Permit

Can't make it to City Hall before 5 pm on weekdays? No need to worry or be stuck having to pay any fees. Annual launch permits are now available evenings and weekends. City residents/property owners (must live in the City limits) may pick up your free resident trailer sticker or non-residents may purchase an annual sticker from the launch attendant on duty or go to the marina office (lighthouse in Veteran's Park) for assistance. The hours of the marina are 8 am to 8 pm Sunday-Thursday and 8 am to 10 pm Friday and Saturday.

Launch permits allow you to use the city launch ramps on Lake Charlevoix just north of Glens and in Veteran's Park. One free permit is provided per taxpayer and additional permits are \$10 each. If you are not a city resident or property owner, the cost for launching

is \$7 per day or a seasonal permit may be purchased for \$30. Your current registration of each watercraft and your driver's license must be shown in order to obtain your resident permit.

Reminder It is a violation to park single cars at the boat launch without an attached trailer and to park trailers with no vehicle attached. Because of limited parking spaces, the spaces are reserved for vehicles launching boats only. Boaters expecting additional guests in need of parking should have them park near City Hall or Veteran's Park and pick them up at the shoppers dock near the mouth of the river or at the City's marina.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact the marina by calling (231) 582-7361 or radio vhf channel 16.

Police Department

New Addition to Bike Patrol

Since 2005, Officers Kevin Spate and Todd McGuire have become a regular sight patrolling Boyne City on bicycles. This year, Officer Dan Mercer will also be seen patrolling through town on two wheels. He completed bike training in April, and will be joining Officers Spate and McGuire on bike patrol this summer. Bike patrol is used throughout the summer, and is especially helpful during events such as Stroll the Streets and the July 4th celebrations.

Downtown Riding Restrictions

As a reminder, no bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or roller blades are allowed on the sidewalks in the downtown Central Business District. This includes Water Street between East Street and Lake Street, and also Lake Street between Main Street and Water Street. Maps are available at the Police Department. This is for both rider and pedestrian safety. Riding in the Central Business District is a violation of city ordinance and can result in substantial fines and confiscation of equipment.

New D.A.R.E. Officer

This past winter, Officer Mercer also became the new D.A.R.E. Officer in the Middle School. Officer Mercer, who has been with the department since 2006, completed his first year of teaching D.A.R.E. with graduation on May 5, 2011. Proceeds from the annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament helped Officer Mercer pay for the instructional equipment and materials to teach this class.

D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament and Drag Races

The Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the supporters of the D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament and the Drag Races held on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. The next drag race will be Sunday, September 4th on the Labor Day weekend. The races are held at the Boyne City Airport and begin at noon. Bring your family, bring your ride (most any ride will do), and have some summer fun!

For more information call the Boyne City Police Department 582-6611.

Community Garden

With the help of the Street and Water departments, the area was cleared, tilled, composted, staked, water run and made ready for the 14 plots to be planted, and residents took advantage of the warm weather to lay in their seeds and plants. With the anticipation of home grown vegetables and herbs to eat along with flowers to admire, the gardeners are anxiously waiting and watching for growth.

If you missed this year's opportunity to be involved in the garden and are interested in maintaining your own plot next year, contact Pat Haver at City Hall, 582-0338.



City Elections

Coming new deadlines

This year the City Commission terms for Chuck Vondra and Mike Cummings expire and will be placed on the November 8, 2011 General Election ballot. Additionally, Commissioner Dan Adkison resigned in April, and his term was temporarily filled by Gene Towne until November. Therefore, there will be three City Commissioner seats up for election, two for four year terms expiring in 2015 and one expiring in 2013.

To help create a more standardized process across the State, last year Public Act 44 of 2010 was adopted which supersedes section 4.6 of our City Charter, changing the timeline for submitting nominating petitions for regular City elections. The new deadline for submitting petitions is now by 4 pm on the twelfth Tuesday before our regular election. In short, to be on the ballot for this year's City election, a proper petition must be filed with the City Clerk by 4 pm on Tuesday, August 16th. This is some nine weeks earlier than the old deadline under our Charter. For more information or petition forms, please contact the City Clerk's office at 231-582-6597 or email cgrice@boynecity.com.

Are you interested in serving on a City Advisory Board or Commission?

Contact us at City Hall or visit our website for an application and to check available boards!

City Commission Meeting Minutes and Agenda packets are available online

on the City's website on the Friday afternoon before the regularly scheduled Tuesday meetings. Audio recordings of the meetings are also generally available on the website within 24 hours after a meeting. Please visit our website often!

City Website Enhancements and Improvements

A new "Forms /Applications" section has been added to the city's website with printable forms, permits and applications. You'll find everything from absentee voter applications to county dog licenses & building permits to local planning & zoning permits.

Don't forget to use our website for information such as city meeting times and dates, community events, city news, construction project updates, meeting

minutes and agendas, and much more.

The City's website will also be undergoing a face lift over the summer. It will provide for a fresh, more current look, easy to use navigation and added features and information for both visitors and area residents. *If there is something you would like to see on the city's website, please contact our "webmaster" Barb Brooks at 582-6597 or email bbrooks@boynecity.com*

NEW! Direct Debit Payments

The City of Boyne City is pleased to announce free direct debit payment for water/sewer customers! In order to enroll in this program you will need to fill out the enrollment form which is available at City Hall or visit us online at www.boynecity.com (government)

and look for the application. Once your application is completed you will need to drop it off to City Hall or mail it to 319 North Lake Street, Boyne City, MI 49712. *If you have any questions please call Michele Hewitt at 582-0335 or shelly@boynecity.com.*

Rubbish Collection and Recycling

This is the fourth year of the City's popular rubbish collection program. This year we have made some changes to the schedule. We have split the collection into two 3-week time frames; the first between June 1 and June 16 which is now complete, with a second beginning on September 7 and ending September 22nd. As in the past, collection days will be Wednesday for areas on Main Street and South of Main Street and Thursdays for areas North of Main Street.

New for Charlevoix County Recycling Program — Plastic, Glass & Tin Mixed Containers

These items can all be placed in the same bin, less sorting! Beverage containers, juice boxes, juice cartons, milk-type cartons; soup & broth boxes, paper cups, ice

cream cartons, plastic cups, soup cups, plastic bottles, jugs & jars, plastic clamshells, trays, plastic tubs; yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine; peanut butter jars, detergent jugs, milk jugs, food storage containers (Tupperware); clear & colored glass bottles & jars; tin & aluminum cans, aluminum foil & trays, metal can lids, steel cans. Please rinse and flatten.

For more information visit our website www.charlevoixcounty.org/recycling.asp

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

If you missed the collection we had in June, another will be offered on September 10, 2011 from 9 am - 2 pm. *For more details or to schedule a time slot, call Kelly at 582-6193.*

Spend a day at the Historical Museum!

The Boyne City Historical Museum is a must see for anyone interested in Boyne City's history. It is located at the south end of city hall. Museum hours are 8 am to 5 pm on weekdays, entrance is through City Hall, 12 noon to 4 pm on Saturday from Memorial Day to the 1st week in October. Admission is free.

To set up a tour for your family or high school reunion, call 582-0335.

