

Which color ambulance arrives to help?

Does it matter? City of Boyne City ambulances are red and white and the Boyne Valley Township ambulance is green and white, together through cooperation, we are providing a critical service to the residents and guests of the City, and the townships of Evangeline, Eveline, Wilson, Bay, Hudson and Boyne Valley.

The City of Boyne City provides Advance Life Support and by working together we are able to extend that coverage to the Boyne Valley Ambulance, so when an ambulance arrives on a call whether red and white or green and white, there is a paramedic on board provided by the City of Boyne City to deliver Advance Life Support care.

This is critical because many times there are back to back requests for service, and through this cooperation we are able to deliver two ALS vehicles immediately without delay. An example of this was during a recent high school home football game where there were five requests for ambulance service. Initially the Boyne City ambulance was doing community service standing by at the football game, there was a need for a response to

a traumatic injury so the Boyne Valley ambulance came over as a community service and stood by at the game. Then there was a request for an ambulance downtown for someone choking, the Boyne City back up ambulance crew responded, leaving the Boyne Valley ambulance to cover the game, the next call was a patient complaining of chest pain which Boyne Valley responded from the game. Then a call for a patient with a head injury, and as the first ambulance from Boyne City was back, they responded to this last call. All of our communities received optimum coverage with excellent service. This is something, as a standalone, we would not be able to do. Someone would have had to wait for an ambulance responding from either East Jordan or Petoskey delaying critical care intervention.

So if you see different color ambulances, realize that we are working together to make sure service is able to be delivered as effectively and rapidly as possible. *If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Ambulance Director John Lamont at 582-9535.*

Are you sick of excess drugs?

The Boyne City Police Department has recently added a Prescription and Over the counter Drug Drop-off Box (or POD for short) for disposal of expired or no longer needed medications. The POD was donated by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, in conjunction with the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

The POD has been placed in the vestibule of the front entrance of City Hall. It is available 24 hours a day for citizens to drop off their medications. The POD itself is securely bolted to the vestibule and is fashioned like a mailbox so items can not be removed from it.

Accepted items include:

- Any prescription drugs, controlled or non-controlled
- Over the counter medications
- Nutritional supplements and vitamins
- Pet medications
- Liquid medications and drops (in sealed containers or plastic bags)

- Medicated ointments and lotions

Prohibited items include:

- Any needles lancets (sharps)
- Aerosol cans
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Thermometers
- Bloody or infectious waste
- IV bags
- Trash
- Mail

We have received several calls asking if the labels need to be removed from the medications. There is no requirement to remove the labels, but if an individual feels more comfortable removing the labels, he or she certainly may.

If anyone has any other questions about the program, they may call the Police Department at 582-6611.

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Since June the City has had three employees retire who between them provided over 92 years of public service to our community.

In June Jack Bush retired from the Department of Public Works with over 31 years of service where he served as Street Department Foreman for many years. Jack is also very active in our Fire Department where he serves as Assistant Chief.

At the end of August Don Maat retired from the City, for a 2nd time. Don retired originally from our Water/Wastewater Department in 2005 but came back in 2007

to help out. After a combined total of some 35 years Don hopes this will be his final retirement from the City.

And finally, Assistant Chief of Police Jeff Gettel retired from the Police Department in November, where he served for over 26 years. Prior to coming to the City, Jeff was a deputy for the Charlevoix County Sheriff Department.

We thank each one of them for their many years of service to our community and the public and extend our best wishes to them and their families for many happy years ahead!

Winter and Sidewalk Reminders

Snowplowing season is now here!

We would like to give a few winter reminders and tips to help keep plow drivers and the public safe and keep our streets and sidewalks as clean as possible:

- Don't park your vehicle on the streets overnight. It's illegal and unsafe. If it snows your vehicle could get plowed in, ticketed or towed.
- Shovel your sidewalks. It's the safe and neighborly thing to do.
- Don't follow too close behind the plow truck. They do stop and back up while clearing intersections.
- Don't allow children to play on or in snow piles by the road edge. The trucks can't stop fast if they should slip out into the road in front of them.
- To stop snow from the plow piling up in your driveway entrance; remove some snow from the street in the direction the plow truck comes from. Just remember, the snow has to go somewhere!
- Please do not plow snow into or across the road. It creates hazards for all involved.

Have a great winter and if you have any questions or comments, please call us at 582-6597.

Property Tax Due Date

Property taxes are due without penalty by February 14, 2012. To avoid a last minute mistake, or extra costs, pay early. All payments left in the drop box located outside in front of City Hall after 5:00 pm on the 14th or with a post mark after that date, will be considered late.



Scan me!

Holiday Hours

City offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday, December 23rd
- Monday, December 26th
- Friday, December 30th
- Monday, January 1st
- Friday, April 6th (1/2 day)
- Monday, May 28th

City Hall regular office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 am to 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 in an envelope.

Community Goal Session Set

One of the first actions of the new Boyne City City Commission was to set a date for a Community Goal Setting Session. The goal setting session will be held on Thursday, January 12th beginning at 6 pm at the St Matthews Parish Hall 1303 Boyne City Rd (M-75). Be sure to attend this interesting and important event which will help chart the City's course for the next couple of years. The last community goal setting session was held right after the last City election in 2010. A brief report and discussion on those goals will begin the meeting which will then begin to determine any ongoing or new priorities. You can review a list of the 2010 goals by visiting the City's website www.gov.boynecity.com and scroll down the page to City News & Information. As an added incentive to attend, light refreshments will be provided. While we hope you can be part of this important evening, if you can't attend in person, you can still participate by providing input and ideas after the meeting, over the internet via survey or with materials that will be available at different locations around town. More details on this way to participate will be made public at and after the January 12th public meeting. However you choose to be involved, we hope you do and let your voice be heard.



Boyne City

WINTER 2011-2012

2011 – Expanding possibilities

Whether you see it in the local media, hear it on the streets or see it for yourself as you are traveling around the City, the results are in and all in all 2011 has been a pretty good year for Boyne City. While we have our fair share of challenges and concerns to deal with, our community has fared pretty well. In addition to the many public improvements which are noted in this newsletter, we have been blessed with a large amount of new private investments as well. Projects like the new Bay Winds Federal Credit Union going up on North Lake Street across from City Hall and the Brook, a 42 unit senior development community being constructed towards the east end of Vogel Street, shows that others see Boyne City is a community they want be a part of.

In addition to those two great developments, there has been major private investment going on in our Business/Industrial Park. After many years of hard work, Kirtland Products LLC has recently begun the startup process for their new wood pellet production facility. Classic Instruments, which has been experiencing solid growth over the last few years, recently acquired an existing building in the park to accommodate their future needs. They had very attractive facility options

elsewhere but decided to put down their roots even deeper into the Boyne community. Most recently, Precision Edge began construction of their new 35,000 square foot facility at the intersection of Moll Street and Lexamar Drive. This new facility, which looks to open in early 2012, brings not only a new plant to the community and the good jobs that come with it, but a new industry, the medical tool industry which helps diversify Boyne's economy.

These results and many more like them throughout our community don't happen just by accident or good luck. If it wasn't for the quality of our community, the good roads, strong utilities, positive attitudes and the unceasing efforts of many people (often way behind the scenes), projects such as these could just as easily end up elsewhere. These examples show us once again that working together we really can continue to Build a Better Boyne!

We welcome all the new businesses to our community and pledge to provide them, and all our existing businesses, residents and visitors alike as well as future newcomers the best possible support and the most efficient provision of services that we can provide.

City Commission Election Results

On November 8th Boyne City voters elected Gene Towne, Tom Neidhamer and Derek Gaylord to terms on the Boyne City City Commission. Towne is filling the remainder of Dan Adkison's term which ends in November of 2013. Neidhamer and Gaylord were elected to full four year terms ending in November 2015. 341 voters either came to the polls or voted by absentee ballot to have their voices heard. That is 12.07% of the City's 2,823 registered voters.

The new City Commission was sworn in on November 15th. At that time they elected Ron Grunch as Mayor and Gene Towne as Mayor Pro-tem. They also voted to maintain the Commission's current schedule with regular meetings generally held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm and 4th Tuesday of the month at noon.

Congratulations to the newly elected Commissioners and all those who participated in democracy's most important process, the election process.

Congratulations and thanks to former Mayor Chuck

Vondra and Commissioner Mike Cummings on their years of active service to the Boyne community.

The next anticipated City election will be the Presidential Primary expected to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. The last date to register to vote in that election is January 30, 2012.



Planting the seeds for the 2012 Community Garden

As the snow is falling outside the window, and you are in the middle of putting together chicken pot pie or beef vegetable stew; now would be a good time for browsing the seed catalogs for flower or vegetable seeds to plant in your plot at the community garden.

This past summer we had 12 families or residents participate in the community garden the city has offered, free of charge, with a lot of success. There were the usual tomatoes, beans, carrots, cucumbers, and squash plants with some herbs and onion sets thrown in. Pumpkins, corn and flowers grew, and as everything matured, the colors were gorgeous and one can only imagine the tastes were marvelous.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the community garden or are interested in filling one of the vacant plots, contact Pat Haver with City Hall, at 582-0338.

Ideas and Volunteers Sought for Avalanche Activities

The Parks and Recreation board is currently seeking individuals interested in the disc golf course and archery range at Avalanche to contribute ideas and volunteer time to enhance these activities. These workgroups would assist the board members in tracking the amount of use and condition of these areas and assist with recommendations, future enhancements and report general maintenance issues.

If you participate in either of these activities or just have a passion for Avalanche and would like to serve on a workgroup to enhance our 300+ acre park, please contact City Hall or any member of the Parks & Recreation board. Board member applications are also being accepted.



Main Street

City Ice Rink

As soon as the weather turns cold this winter, downtown Boyne City will have a new outdoor activity for families to enjoy – a recreational ice rink in Sunset Park.

For many years the idea of a rink in downtown Boyne City has been a topic of conversation. This winter the decision was made to make it a reality. The rink will be 40-feet by 60-feet and be located in Sunset Park behind the Boyne Area Chamber of Commerce office.

"It is one of those opportunities when you won't know if it can be successful until you give it a try," said Main Street manager Hugh Conklin.

There will be no attendant at the Sunset Park ice rink, no warming hut and no skate rentals. "It will just be a rink where skaters of all ages can come and enjoy a winter experience in our downtown," Conklin said. (The ice rink at Avalanche Park along with the famous sledding hill will remain in full operation this winter with an attendant, skate rentals and warming hut.)

The cost for the rink and maintenance is estimated at \$5,700. The rink is a kit purchased from Nice Rink, a Wisconsin company. Funds for the rink will be earned from fund raisers and sponsorships. The Main Street/DDA program has also budgeted \$1,000 for the rink if fund-raising falls short. Volunteers are also needed to help construct and maintain the rink.

If you are interested in contributing to the rink or helping, please contact the Main Street office at 582-9009 or email mainstreet@boynecity.com.

Winter Farmers Market

A winter farmers market in Boyne City is a reality this year. Thanks to the support of the Boyne District Library, the Boyne City Farmers "Winter" Market officially opened November 5th. Winter hours are Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. The market is held in the red pole barn next to the library.

The "outdoor" Farmers Market completed another successful season, its second full year at Veteran's Park. At its peak, the market attracted more than 65 vendors and shoppers from all over northwest Lower Michigan.

Two terms expiring on board

The Boyne City Main Street Program is accepting applications for its board of directors. The board has two four-year terms expiring. The Main Street approach is a volunteer and grassroots-driven effort dedicated to the health and vitality of Boyne City's downtown. It promotes building a vibrant Boyne City through historic preservation, community self-reliance and local ownership. Successes of the program include Stroll the Streets, Boyne Thunder, facade improvements, support of a bike patrol program, and management of the Farmers Market.

If you are interested in serving on the board, a board member application must be completed and returned to Boyne City's City Hall by 5 pm, Dec. 16, 2011. Applications are available at City Hall or the Main Street office, located on the upper level of the Railroad Building at 112 S Park St.

For more information, call the Main Street office at 582-9009 or email mainstreet@boynecity.com.

Volunteers are always welcome

The key to Main Street's success is due to the commitment and dedication of its board and volunteers. Because of them, Main Street has enjoyed significant accomplishments since its beginning in 2003. The program is always looking for volunteers. Whether you can share an hour, a month, or would like to chair a committee, Main Street welcomes you.

To volunteer or learn more about the program, call 582-9009 or email mainstreet@boynecity.com.

Improvements Aplenty

It was another banner year for maintaining and improving the roads you drive on and the sidewalks you walk on in Boyne City.

The biggest and most notable of all our projects this year was the complete reconstruction of Charlevoix Street from Silver Street north to the City limits. This road was in terrible shape and in need of a lot of work, which is what it received. The entire road was removed with city utilities upgraded where necessary and the storm water collection system extended to the north end of the project. The City Commission decided to add concrete curb and gutters the entire length of the project which provides one of the most visible differences of the completed project. The concrete curb and gutter should help extend the useful life of the project in this hilly area. If you haven't driven down this road lately, check it out.

Another really bad road in the City was Marshall Road, west of Anderson. Although that road is in the City it is maintained by the Charlevoix County Road Commission. Working together with them and our neighbors in Eveline and Wilson Townships the costs were divided and money was budgeted to rebuild this road in the City

and for a good stretch in the Townships as well.

Many other road sections were worked on and improved using techniques such as crack sealing, ultra thin overlays, and the more intensive crush and shape. All these efforts help protect and extend the life of our roads while providing better driving surfaces. These efforts are not cheap. This year we spent over \$250,000 on the road maintenance projects noted in this article. However these investments should save the City even bigger dollars in the long run by reducing the number of times a road fails (like Charlevoix Street or Marshall Road) and has to be completely replaced.

But wait, there's more. An improved storm drain system was installed on a portion of Bay Street this spring and the sidewalk was extended on Main Street to provide a complete link between Boyne Avenue and Harris Street and other sidewalks that were installed in that area recently.

Despite these challenging economic times, the City will continue to look into efficient ways to maintain and improve the public resources we all use and rely on. As always your feedback and suggestions are welcome!

Finding the Proper Balance

While Boyne City is a very walkable and bikeable community, cars are still the primary way to get around, and where there are cars, we need places to park them. But how many?

The number of parking spaces required varies with the type of use. For example, a professional office would require 1 parking space for every 350 square feet of floor area while a retail store would require 1 space for every 250 square feet. The parking requirements are primarily based on studies that estimate the peak parking demand for each type of land use. As the name implies, peak demand is the maximum number of parking spaces that would be needed for a business at their busiest time on their busiest day. While all the parking spaces may be needed a few times a year, for the majority of the time, the parking spaces are not needed.

The overdevelopment of parking has a variety of negative effects. It increases construction and maintenance costs, impedes future development, occupies land that could be better utilized. Probably the biggest negative effect that the overdevelopment of parking lots has is the increased storm water runoff and the pollutants that go into our lakes and rivers. Reducing parking requirements can help protect water quality as recommended by groups such as the Tipp of the Mitt Watershed Council.

Over the next few months the Planning Commission will further study this issue.

If you have input about parking or any questions about the parking requirements please feel free to contact our Planning Department Director Scott McPherson at 582-0343.

We appreciate your input on this important matter.

Boat Boyne City and stay an hour, a day or all summer!

It's never too early to line up your summer boat dockage. The City of Boyne City has plans to operate the One Water Marina again for the 3rd boating season in 2012, making these slips available for public use. Slips can be rented daily, monthly or seasonally. Broad-side shoppers' dockage is first come first serve at the end of the pier.

To make reservations, contact: Boyne City F. Grant Moore Municipal Marina at 582.7361 or marina@boynecity.com.



City Facility Planning

The City is continuing to take a serious look at future plans for City facilities to house functions like our City Hall, Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Public Works, and Maintenance departments. While almost all of these services are based out of the City Hall complex next to Veteran's Park, the existing buildings do not have room for them all. Even many of those currently housed there are working in inefficient or undersized quarters. To deal in part with this issue our EMS department has been housed in leased space since 2002 at the Korthase Flinn facility at the intersection of Boyne Avenue and Fall Park Road. While this space has served us well as this service developed and improved over the past few years, the City is interested in working towards a long term and cost effective means to house all its departments.

One approach getting serious consideration is consolidating and improving most City services on the site of the current City Hall complex. This would be an approach similar to what the Boyne City schools have done with their Elementary, Middle and High School campus which also includes their transportation facilities. While no final decisions have been made, the City Commission has authorized staff to have soil studies done to determine if the existing site could support modified, expanded or replacement facilities without undue extra costs or difficulties.

Any solution considered would have to be cost effective, functional and site sensitive. Once the soil investigations have been completed a public hearing on the matter will be scheduled and announced in the local media to review and discuss this matter further.

If you have any questions or comments in the meantime, please contact City Manger Michael Cain at 582-0377 or mcain@boynecity.com.