



ROOSEVELT PARK

REVIEW

November 2011

Did You Know...

You now have the option to dispose of unwanted medications right here at the Roosevelt Park Police Department? We offer safe, convenient collection and environmentally friendly disposal. Muskegon County residents may bring in their unwanted or expired *controlled* medications to place in the secure drop-box during our normal business hours. Please consider using this disposal option instead of flushing or placing medications in the trash, as this can lead to groundwater contamination.



City Hall Closings:

December **23 & 26**, 2011
In observance of Christmas.



December **30**, 2011 and
January **2**, 2012
In observance of the New Year.



Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Sewer Commodity Rate Increase

The City's sanitary sewer system is connected to the Muskegon County Wastewater Facility that treats all the sewer water for the City. In September the County increased the rate they charge their customers for treatment by 21.5%. As a result the City approved a 20% increase to the sewer commodity charge to compensate for the County increase and to ensure that the Sewer Fund is operating with adequate revenue. The 20% increase will raise the sewer commodity rate from \$3.88 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.66 per 1,000 gallons. On average the 20% increase will add about 12 dollars to your quarterly bill.

In addition to the County rate increase, another unfortunate situation the City faces with respects to sewer costs is the groundwater infiltrating the sanitary system. This groundwater is then being treated at the County Wastewater Facility at the same rate as actual sewerage. In 2010 the City metered 125 million gallons of actual sewer but the County metered and billed the City for a total of 223 million gallons. The difference of 98 million gallons is the result of the groundwater infiltration that the City paid to have treated at the same rate as actual sewerage.

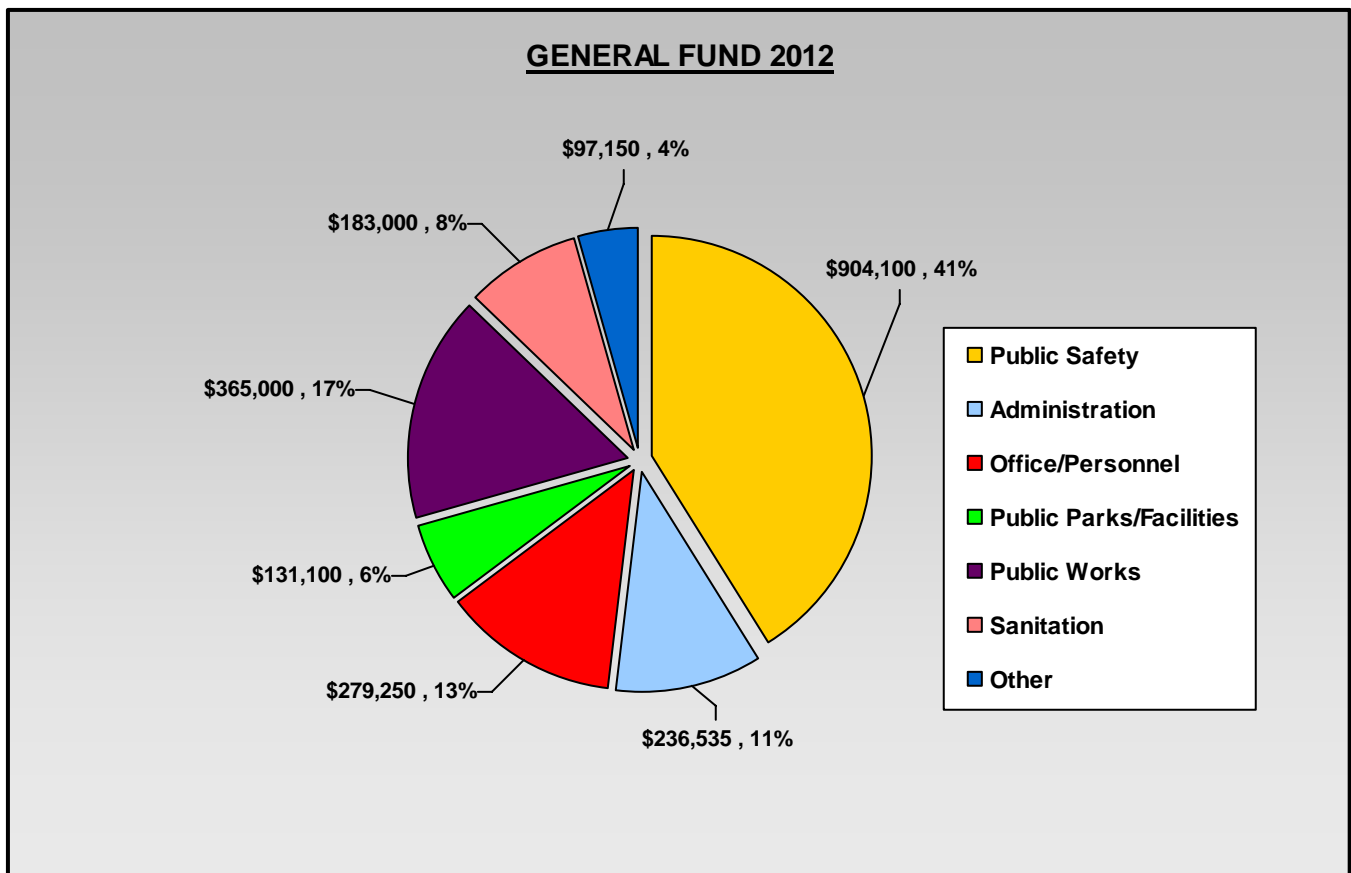
So why is all this groundwater infiltrating the sanitary sewer system? The high water table does not help and the lack of a comprehensive storm sewer system along with the age and condition of the older clay sewer lines are factors that contribute to the infiltration. This problem has existed in the City for quite some time but now the actual costs to treat sewer has increased considerably. A potential long-term solution would require the City to install a complete storm sewer system and replace the aged clay sewer lines with PVC pipe. As you can imagine this type of improvement would have a significant cost far greater than what the current Sewer Fund could sustain.

Curbside Waste Pick-up

Brush chipping and curbside yard waste pickup have ended for the year. These services will resume again in April of 2012.

City Budget 2012

December 1st will mark the beginning of the new fiscal year and the revenue outlook for 2012 looks to be more of the same with a slight decrease from 2011. Local governments have been under extreme pressure the last few years as revenues across the board decline and the costs to provide services continue to rise. This dilemma has put local officials in a difficult position as public budgeting is severely strained and every dollar is heavily scrutinized as we look to provide the most return with all expenditures. This reduction means that the City is doing more, or at least the same with less as no cuts in services are expected. The general fund is the largest fund within the city and accounts for most of the financial resources. The general fund includes the basic operating services such as police and public works in addition to general administration. For 2012, the total general fund revenue is expected to be \$2,289,330 and expenditures for 2012 are anticipated to be \$2,196,135. Below is a graph that depicts the 2012 general fund expenditure amounts per department.



Heavy Items Require a Green Tag

It is understood from time to time you may have a heavy/bulk item or two that you would like to dispose of and so you set it out to the curb and hope that it just disappears. RMS does not pickup any item that is not in the blue bin so if you need to dispose of a heavy item then you must acquire a green tag from City Hall. The City allows two green tags per single family household each year at no charge. The City provides this service so the residents have an option for removing unwanted bulky items that are too large for the blue 95 gallon RMS containers. Of course no hazardous materials are accepted and all appliances really should be recycled. Did you know that Goodwill now accepts old television and computer monitors for recycling and most major retailers will take your old appliance for a small fee? Anything we pick up simply goes to the landfill so please try and recycle if at all possible. The DPW will typically pick up heavy/bulk items on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning of each week. It is highly recommended that you place the tagged items out on the terrace the day before your scheduled garbage day (Tuesday).

Speed Limit/Snow Removal Information

The speed limit on all streets in the City is 25 m.p.h. and enforcement of the speed limit is in effect. The City's snow removal ordinance begins on December 1st every year that prohibits parking on any street or bike path from 2 a.m. until 6 a.m. through April 1 of each year. The snow removal ordinance states "No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle on any improved, defined and marked parking lane or bike path" and "nor shall any person stop, stand, or park a vehicle on the terrace within three feet of any street or one foot of any sidewalk." Once again the enforcement of the snow removal ordinance will begin on December 1 so please take this into account during the winter season.

The Michigan Vehicle Code, *Section 257.677a* prohibits the plowing or pushing of snow from private property into any public street or right-of-way. This ordinance will affect all homeowners and if you hire this service out then please inform your private snow plowing service of this ordinance. *Section 257.677a(4)* of the MI Vehicle Code states that "a person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway." Besides creating an immediate safety hazard, plowing or pushing snow into the public street will create problems with the city crews and their snowplowing duties. Most often the City can have all roads clear by the time our residents leave for work in the morning and we pride ourselves in having the ability to clear the sidewalks as well. Please be courteous to both the plow truck and sidewalk plow as they complete the routes and ensure safe travel for us all.

Local Streets Resurfacing

Road improvements are always a top concern and this year the City was able to resurface a portion of Woodside Road and Sherwood Road. Although funding for major road repair is scarce the City was able to utilize funds in the Local Streets Fund for the two resurfacing projects. City Council will ultimately decide on any future road resurfacing projects based on the results of a road survey conducted in 2010.

Election Inspectors Needed

We are in need of election inspectors for 2012. Workers would need to be available for elections in February, August, and/or November. Hours on election day are generally from 6:30 am until 8:30 or 9:00 pm. Dinner is provided for all workers. Those interested would have to attend a scheduled training class prior to serving. Interested individuals need to pick up a form at City Hall.

Tax Payment Deadline

Did you know you can pay your taxes by credit card? While credit card payments cannot be processed at City Hall, you can call Official Payments at 1-800-272-9829 or log on to www.officialpayments.com to use your credit card. You will need to provide a jurisdiction code, which is 7016. A convenience fee will be assessed by Official Payments. Please be aware that while tax payments can be made at City Hall through February 29, 2012, Official Payments will only accept payments through February 14, 2012. After February 29, 2012, payments must be made at the County building. The Official Payments system can also be used to make water bill payments.

Streetlights—Power Outages

The streetlights throughout the City's neighborhoods and along the major streets such as Henry and Norton are all owned and operated by **Consumers Energy**. The City has no control over the maintenance of these lights so if you see a light that is out or is not working properly then you need to contact **Consumers Energy**. The best way to reach them is by e-mail at customer@consumersenergy.com or you can call them at **1-800-477-5050**. Please contact **Consumers Energy** direct for any assistance regarding streetlights or power outages.

Christmas Tree Pick-up

The City will be picking up Christmas trees after the new year again this year. The pick-up dates will be January 9th and 16th of 2012. These are the only pick-up dates, so please have your trees on the terrace on one of these dates if you wish to have the City dispose of your tree.

Official City Website

The City does have an official website www.rooseveltpark.org that includes up to date information regarding the City. You can view information on the City council including the official minutes of every meeting and other important documents such as the city budget. The calendar is updated to inform you about upcoming meetings and events so check us out online. You can also keep in touch with what is happening in the City on our Facebook page.

City of Roosevelt Park Council Members and Staff



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Dave Geyer	DPW Supervisor	755-3721, ext 108

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS: 8:30 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.
POLICE DEPARTMENT HOURS: 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Phone 755-3721 or Fax 755-1442