

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

WATER BILLING FORMAT

Over time it becomes necessary to make changes to the utility billing process to better serve the residents and increase overall efficiency. You may notice that the City has changed the format of your current water bill and below are some common answers to assist you with some questions you may have about the new format.

Question: Why are there new charges on my bill called “Water Ready” and “Sewer Ready”?

A: These are not new charges. Residents have always been assessed a “Ready to Serve” fee for both domestic water and sewer accounts. In the previous billings, the ready to serve charges were combined with the charge for the amount of water and sewer used in one line item. We have now separated these charges into their own line items on the new bill.

Question: Have my rates or “Ready to Serve” charges gone up?

A: No, all fee and commodity rates have been approved by City Council and no adjustments have been made to these approved rates.

Question: What is a “Ready to Serve” charge?

A: The “Ready to Serve” charge is a fee assessed to every property that is connected to the City’s water and sewer system. As a provider the City has certain costs that it incurs that must be recovered, regardless of the quantity of water used. Some examples of the incurred costs include maintenance of the water/sewer infrastructure, meter reading and billing costs and retaining qualified Public Works staff to deal with water and sewer issues.

Question: I did not have any water usage so why am I still being assessed the “Ready to Serve” charge?

A: The City is still incurring the costs that the charge covers even when there is no water being used. The City must assess the fee, regardless of usage because we must be ready to provide water and sewer service to your property.

Question: I still have questions. Who can I talk to?

A: Please call City Hall during our regular business hours (8:30 am – 5:00 pm, Mon. – Fri.) and our staff will be happy to assist you.

SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE:

The City's snow removal ordinance that prohibits parking on any street or bike path from 2 a.m. until 6 a.m. is in full effect until April 1. 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." The Police Department will be out enforcing the ordinance so please be advised.

HEAVY ITEMS REQUIRE A GREEN TAG:

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 (tires, propane tanks, and all appliances will not be accepted and must 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.

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**. Contacting the City will not fix the problem and the time spent calling City Hall will only delay you further. Please contact **Consumers Energy** direct for any assistance regarding streetlights or power outages.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

There are vacancies on the many boards and commissions that conduct business on behalf of the residents and business community of Roosevelt Park. These boards and commissions are authorized or empowered by State Statute or City Charter and include the Downtown Development Authority, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Construction Board of Appeals and Board of Review. If you are interested in serving your community on anyone of these bodies then please call or visit us at City Hall and request an application.

RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Article IV - Sec. 8-93 of the City Ordinance requires that all rental dwellings be registered each year with the City. There is a fee involved and each rental unit requires an inspection by the Building Official before a Certificate of Compliance is issued.

ROOSEVELT PARK YOUTH ATHLETICS (RPYA)

Register online for the 2011 little league baseball season
Go to www.rpya.com for registration information.
RPYA is looking for volunteers to assist with the upcoming
Season! If you are interested e-mail rpya@rpya.com to sign up.

Important 2011 Dates:

- Player Evaluations @ Extra Innings, March 23-25
- Last day to register Saturday, March 19
- Opening Day – Monday, April 25

GRASS/LEAVES/YARD WASTE:

Curbside yard waste pickup will begin on **Tuesday, April 5, 2011**. RMS will pick-up yard waste ON THE SAME DAY as the regular garbage collection. All yard waste must be in recyclable paper bags or special waste containers. Bags will continue to be available at City Hall for a small fee. Yard waste containers can be rented directly from RMS (call 788-5096). Your cooperation in maintaining your grass and yard is of great importance in keeping Roosevelt Park an attractive place to live.

CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE:

August 13, 2011 (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

BOARD OF REVIEW

Monday, March 14, 2011 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, March 15, 2011 (2:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

LOCATION: City Hall, 900 Oak Ridge Rd.

ROOSEVELT PARK DAY – Saturday, August 27, 2011

ATTENTION ARTS AND CRAFTS VENDORS: Spaces are available for Roosevelt Park Day. \$50 for a 10' x 10' space. Applications are also available for the 2011 Roosevelt Park Day Parade. Call City Hall for details, or stop by for a 2011 application.

NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK WEEK

The League of American Bicyclists and Ride On! Muskegon is promoting Bike-To-Work-Week 2011 from **May 16-20** and Bike-To-Work-Day on **Friday, May 20**. Not only is this a great opportunity to get out and exercise but also to reduce emissions from vehicle use. Always remember to be safe while riding your bike! For additional information go to www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov for tips on pedestrian and bike safety.

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK is May 15-21

National Public Works Week is a celebration of the tens of thousands of men and women in North America who provide and maintain the public infrastructure and provide public services collectively known as “public works”. The theme for 2011 is “serving you and the community” so if you see a public works employee tell them thanks for all their hard work and dedication.

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED:

Friday, April 22, 2011 - Good Friday
Monday, May 30, 2011 - Memorial Day
Monday, July 4, 2011 - Independence Day

NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

- Business hours for the Police Department are Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- If you plan on being away for vacation, please call the Police Department and get your house put on the Property Check List. An officer will check your home and keep an eye on it while you are away.
- Please refrain from keeping anything of value inside your parked vehicle within plain sight. Most personal property thefts occur because they are easy to pull off so keep all items locked up and out of sight.
- If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood call 911 and report it.