

The Village of Cass City's Fall 2020 Newsletter

October, 2020

Volume 3, Issue 2

Manager's Message

As the leaves begin to fall off of the trees and the kids are picking out their Halloween costumes we say goodbye to summer and look to the rest of the year with hope and anticipation of better things to come. Covid-19 has presented many challenges to all of us this year, and your Village also. This is a year of planning for the Village and your comments and feedback are important as we work on our 5 year Parks and Recreation Plan, update our Zoning Ordinance and add new ordinances too, as well as create plans for Transportation, Sidewalks, Marketing, Economic Development, and Public Participation. As we plan for the future, we make sure to monitor our successes and communicate them to the community regularly. This newsletter is just one method, more information can be found on our official Facebook page and both of our websites www.casscity.org and www.casscityfun.org. Please share your thoughts, opinions, concerns and questions with staff either in person at the Municipal Building or via phone at 989-872-2911 or e-mail at ccvillage@casscity.org.

VOTE

Primary Election Day is on November 3, 2020, don't forget to vote!

SCAMS, SCAMS, and MORE SCAMS



There has been a recent spike in the amount of scam phone call complains the department has taken. With the holidays approaching and the likelihood that they will continue to increase, we want to remind everyone that the IRS, Social Security Administration and Medicare will not contact you by telephone and ask for your personal information. These agencies and other legitimate organizations also will not demand payment in the form of gift cards like Google Play, eBay, or Amazon. If you are contacted by telephone and asked to supply the caller with this type of information and/or payment, hang up and if possible, block the number. You can report all scams to the Federal Trade Commission at (877) 382-4357.

Sidewalk Program

Your Village Council is committed to budgeting annually to repair and install sidewalk throughout the Village to create contiguous pathways through neighborhoods and safe routes to our schools. The M-81 project this year had a price tag of \$38,000 alone. Sidewalks are very expensive, but necessary. The Capital Improvement Plan will include sidewalks for all areas of the Village over the next 6 years.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA)

The DDA's goals for 2020 were: 1) place an informational Kiosk in the center of our downtown; 2) make streetscape improvements such as bench seating along Main Street; and 3) to create a Façade Improvement Program for downtown businesses. The cost for a kiosk was more than anticipated; therefore, the benches were not ordered. However, look for a beautiful new addition this fall with a black metal kiosk installed on M-81. It will have 3 sides and the ability to have lighted boards. The DDA Committee is making progress on a "grant" program for local businesses to improve the exterior of their buildings too, with hopes to implement in 2021.

Chamber Kudos!

Great Job Chamber on the new Gateway Signage to the Village at the east and west entrances on M-81! Creating an image of a welcoming community starts with a "Hello" as you enter it. The metal iron theme of the "Welcome to Cass City" signs are carried throughout the community. It was patterned after the Rotary Park entrance. It's why the Town Center Clock was painted black and why the DDA informational kiosk will be black. We are fortunate to have such a committed, passionate, and talented group of volunteers and businesses who make up the Cass City Chamber of Commerce. Kudos to You!

Fun in the Park

Cass City is AWESOME, a pandemic could not stop the plans for a new Splash Park and installation of free standing playground equipment this summer. The community came together and made the long-awaited and dreamed of Splash Park a reality. Other sources committed funds for playground equipment. How amazing that this was all accomplished in the course of a few months by many hands working together with Village staff. Gratitude and appreciation is theirs from a community that will enjoy the park for years and years to come.

Cass City Rotary Disc Golf Course

The Cass City Rotary Club did it again, they took their 9 hole disc golf course in the Municipal Park and made it even better. They worked with the Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy, Students, Village, volunteers, and grants to replace their 9 hole disc golf course with 18 holes. The woodland trails have been groomed and are a beautiful pathway through nature. During the pool operation hours, discs are available to borrow to try out the course. Thanks Cass City Rotary!

New Ordinances

The Village Council has been working on two new ordinances: 1) allowing operation of golf carts on Village streets; and 2) allowing operation of Off-Road Vehicles (ORVs) on Village streets. An ordinance is a law, and requires it go before the council at two meetings, that a public hearing is held before it is approved, and once approved that it goes into effect 30 days thereafter. The public is invited to all Village Council meetings, especially those where new ordinances are considered.

Utility Rate Study - Water & Sewer

The Village is a member of the Michigan Rural Water Association, and as a member we are entitled to a comprehensive utility rate study at no cost. We waited several months to get on their list, and now the study is complete. The information will be revealed to the public this Fall prior to the approval of our annual budget in December.

M-53 Sign

The Village has been working with the Chamber to make improvements to the Historic Cass City sign on the east side of the road near the intersection of M-81 and M-53. The sign and posts have deteriorated. The posts are rusty, and the sign looks shabby. A new sign will appear this Fall with the hopes of drawing more tourists and travelers into Cass City.

Trick-or-Treat

The Village does not regulate the Halloween Holiday. This would be the same for other national holidays. At best we can set hours, as has been past practice from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Participation in "Trick or Treating" in Cass City will be dependent upon the residents and their families.

History Repeats Itself

It was 40 years ago that the community stakeholders and the village leadership came together to discuss the need for a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant had an estimated 35 year life cycle, and now it's time again to consider how we will treat wastewater in the Village. A new plant would cost more than renovating our existing facilities, so a renovation it is. As more information becomes available it will be shared.

Dollar General

Dollar General is opening this fall. Sources tell the Village that they expect to open the week of October 11, 2020.

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BEWARE! Too often a water customer is shocked by a very large water bill due to a running toilet, outdoor hose left on, malfunction with a water softener or ice maker, etc. If the water goes through the meter, charges result. The state law and Village ordinance does not allow for water charges to be waived. Please, PLEASE be diligent about your plumbing and water consumption. It is a terrible situation when a customer has a water usage problem that leads to a bill for hundreds of dollars.

Leaf Collection

Fall is here and it's time for the leaves to "fall." Originally the Village planned on purchasing an additional leaf collection machine; however, with the pandemic and its budgetary impact to our state revenue sharing, we will not be doing so this year. Rest assured that we are doing the best we can with our staffing and equipment limitations. This year we will be collecting leaves in quadrants again, with more information to be provided on exact dates.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Yard Waste is grass, leaves, trimmings, and twigs placed in a container marked with an "X" or paper yard bags at the curb for collection on our normal trash day by Emterra until November 30.

Brush Collection on Mondays until December 1 - brush from storm damage or tree trimming placed at curb with cut ends to the curb. Brush DOES NOT include shrubbery, root balls, trees and yard waste for Emterra. Contractors must take their brush and debris from their work with them. The Village does have a landfill for residents to dispose of their own landscaping materials (shrubs, trees, and plantings, call the Municipal Building for instructions at 989-872-2911.

Website

Visit our websites at www.casscity.org and casscityfun.org and like our Facebook page to stay up to date!

Facebook- "Village of Cass City (Official)"

Email us at ccvillage@casscity.org

Village Services

Passports

Notary

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1st, 2020. Remember to set your clocks back an hour!

Days the Village Offices will be closed

Veteran's Day (11/11/20)

Thanksgiving (11/26/20)

Christmas (12/24/20-12/25/20)

New Year (12/31/20-01/01/21)

Village Council Meetings (7 p.m.)

10/26/20 *01/25/21

11/30/20 *02/22/21

12/21/20 *03/29/21

*Subject to Change

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CURRENT RESIDENT