



PARCHMENT PROGRESS

April 30, 2008

City of Parchment

City Budget Focuses on Expanded Services and Facilities

The Parchment City Commission met early in the year to start the budget planning process by setting goals for the coming year—beginning July 1. The City Commission's **Goals & Objectives** (available on the City of Parchment website www.parchment.org) serve as the roadmap for allocating the City's resources for the coming year. The City Commission has communicated a desire to focus on economic development, increase code enforcement and police activities, and improve communication with the community on the activities of the municipality. (continued on page 2).

Letter from the Mayor

Our recent water problem gives us a chance to ponder our assumptions about some ordinary, every-day elements of life in Parchment. Utilities such as electricity, water, natural gas and sewer service have become essentials of life; things the average person just takes for granted. Just think about being without sewer service for even one day: the implications are pretty unpleasant.

The water system shutdown on March 19th severely tested our system and our employees. City staff were up to the challenges of the day; we went from complete water system shutdown to full pressure in just a few hours. Our entire staff, from City Hall, the Fire Department, Police Department and of course the Department of Public Works, all delivered their best efforts and brought us back to normal operations. ***My congratulations and sincere thanks to all of the Parchment employees and volunteers for your contributions, big or small.***

But this terrific service might be another thing we've begun to take for granted, and I'd like to encourage every Parchment resident to recall that our employees are the very essence of our City. Please don't take these services for granted; the folks who make our City work need our support, and our thanks.

Mayor Rob Heasley

MILL REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE



- The City has reached agreement with Norfolk Southern Railroad to acquire property in the area of the former Mill including the bridge over the Kalamazoo River.
- The City appeared before the Cooper Township Board of Trustees proposing a tax sharing annexation agreement for the landfill property.
- Officials from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality assisted the City with the grant application process for funding for mill demolition and environmental remediation.
- Developer Larry Lundine visited Parchment during the week of April 21 to introduce city officials to brown-field experts from the firm Frontier Renewal. The development group has begun setting timetables for re-zoning and final plan completions.

PARCHMENT PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES SERVE THE COMMUNITY

The Parchment community has a long reputation for clean streets, beautiful park land, responsive snow plowing and quality water services. Parchment is a clean and well-maintained city. The people behind the quality service to

Parchment citizens serve in the Department of Public Works (DPW). DPW consists of six employees responsible for maintenance associated with the City's streets, sidewalks, parks, building facilities such as City Hall and water & sewer

infrastructure. In the spring and summer months, park mowing and maintenance, road striping, pothole maintenance, brush and leaf pickup and storm drain cleaning are the top priorities.



Department of Public Works employee attends to Kindleberger Park.

In the fall and winter, snow plowing, facility maintenance and holiday decorating are done. It is an around-the-clock job being prepared for the next storm so that residents can get to and from work, the schools can safely transport kids to class and residents can attend to daily needs.

Special events such as the Kindleberger Festival, Holiday Wassailing and numerous stage series performances also require well-maintained park facilities and DPW crewmembers working to make Parchment beautiful at all times.

Parchment City Budget (continued)

With this in mind, the City Administration has developed a proposed spending plan for 2008-09 with the following highlights:

Code Enforcement—

An increase in police department resources have been planned to allow for an increase in code enforcement activities in 2008-09. Such activities include ensuring residential properties are in conformance with City ordinances relative to parked vehicles and trailers, storage buildings, and landscaping, as examples.

Economic Development—

The Crown Vantage Mill Redevelopment Project is the City's top economic development priority. Work

continues to move this project along and address other job creation opportunities as they arise.

Police Vehicle Replacement—

The proposed budget calls for the replacement of a 2003 Crown Victoria patrol vehicle with a new hybrid vehicle resulting in significant fuel savings and emissions reduction.

City Hall Facility Upgrades—

City Hall maintenance has been on hold in recent years due to uncertainty about the financial situation of the City. The building is in dire need of carpet replacement and upgrade of the existing phone system.

Street Resurfacing—

Five streets will be resurfaced and include Espanola, Hamilton, Houston, Parkdale and Thomas.

Water and Sewer Services—

Rates for both utility divisions are expected to increase according to the proposed budget. Charges received from the City of Kalamazoo for sewer treatment will increase by approximately 20 percent for Parchment residents. The City plans to raise water rates by only 10 percent to assist with water pump replacements and in preparation for repainting the City's water tower in 2009-10.

The Parchment City Commission will hold a public hearing on the budget on May 19, 2008 at City Hall during its regular meeting beginning at 7 p.m. Contact City Hall at 349-3785 for additional information.

Kindleberger Festival and Summer Performance Series Offer Great Family Entertainment this Summer

The Arts are alive and well in Parchment!

Family Musical Pirates of Penzance

July 9 @ 7:30 p.m.
July 10 @ 7:30 p.m.
July 11 @ 7:30 p.m.
July 12 @ 6:30 p.m.
July 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Youth Production Where the Wild Things Are

July 9 @ 5:30 p.m.
July 10 @ 5:30 p.m.
July 11 @ 5:30 p.m.
July 12 @ 4:30 p.m.
July 13 @ 4:30 p.m.

Festival Day July 12

5K Race/Walk
Pancake Breakfast
Book Sale
Arts & Crafts
Parade
Outdoor Theatre

2008 Summer Performance Series

All performances begin at 6:30 p.m.
except the Kalamazoo Symphony
which begins at 8 p.m.

June 8
Ray Kamalay Trio

June 15
Los Bandits

June 22
Kalamazoo Concert Band

June 29
Susan Harrison &
PALamazoo Puppets

July 14
Kalamazoo Symphony
Orchestra

July 27
"Shout!"

August 3
Whiskey Before Breakfast

August 10
The Wild Woodys

August 17
Sweet Adelines



WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



KINDLEBERGER SUMMER FESTIVAL

Parchment Fire Department Recruiting Firefighters

The City of Parchment is a unique community. The "hometown" atmosphere that affords residents a personal touch in the delivery of municipal services is attractive to all. Hometown Parchment, though, exists because residents take an active role in providing quality community services. Our local fire department, as an example, is a quality group of citizens who give their time to become trained in the proper methods and practices of fire suppression, medical response and fire prevention on a paid on call basis. Such efforts allow us the resources to provide other important municipal services such as law enforcement, parks and street maintenance, to name a few.

Support for the Parchment Fire Department is vital. If you have ever had an interest in becoming a paid on call firefighter, please contact City Hall at (269) 349-3785 for more information.

We look forward to meeting you.

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PARCHMENT CITY COMMISSION



Robert B. Heasley
Mayor



Robert D. Britigan III
Vice Mayor



Donald Banner
Commissioner



Wendy Fleckenstein
Commissioner



Terry L. Hageman
Commissioner



Brian Sell
Commissioner

PARCHMENT CITIZENS SPEAK UP

"I just wanted to send a little note of appreciation for the police records. It really helped with my case in aiding to keep myself and my daughter safe."

- Name withheld

If you have something to say about Parchment City services, please tell us. Call 349-3785 or write us at City Hall, 650 S. Riverview Dr., Parchment, MI 49004.

CITY CONTACT INFORMATION

City Hall
650 South Riverview Dr.
Parchment, MI 49004
(269) 349-3785

City Manager	Dennis G. Durham
City Clerk	Curtis Flowers
City Treasurer	John Frakes
Police Chief	Bill Bongers
Fire Chief	Timothy Bourgeois
Public Works	Thomas LeRoy



Ben Tanis
Commissioner

The Parchment City Commission meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at Parchment City Hall.