

The Paper City Newsletter

March 2017

City of Parchment

www.parchment.org

Paper Mill Redevelopment Takes Another Step Forward

The City of Parchment and Frontier Renewal, the City's development partner, recently announced the sale of property to L.C. Howard Company as part of the River Reach Redevelopment Project. Nearly 20 acres of the former Crown Vantage Paper Company site will be used for new manufacturing and warehousing.

"It has been a long and difficult challenge to redevelop the former mill site," said Parchment City Manager Dennis Durham. "We've

invested a lot of time and resources into demolition work, soil remediation and infrastructure construction, and we are now seeing the return on that investment.

This past summer, L.C. Howard Company purchased the recently closed Georgia Pacific Dixie Plant in Parchment. This project is intended to redevelop portions of the former paper mill site with new manufacturing and warehousing facilities.

"As a result of working with a very enthusiastic and helpful City Hall, we are encouraged and look forward to growing our business in Parchment,"

said Michael Howard. "We're excited to begin the cleanup and repurposing process on the portions of the Mill we purchased. We're beginning a great partnership with the City of Parchment and are thankful for their input and support."

Redevelopment of prime retail space along S. Riverview Drive occurred in 2013-2015, but this is the first major announcement of significant manufacturing investment. The City has been working with Frontier Renewal, based in Denver, since 2008 to redevelop the 85-acre former paper mill site.



Parchment Fire Department Recruiting

Are you interested in serving your community as a paid on call firefighter? The Parchment Fire Department is always looking for new firefighter recruits. Check out page 3 for details in regards to the recruitment open house.

Parchment City Commission Votes to Join KABA

The Parchment City Commission voted at its regular meeting of February 6 to approve an agreement to join the Kalamazoo Area Building Authority (KABA) for the provision of building inspection, zoning and ordinance enforcement services. The cooperative agreement between the townships of Kalamazoo and Comstock, and now the City of Parchment, offers a less expensive service option to Parchment taxpayers and an improved level of service to building permit seekers.

"The City's decision to join KABA is an important intergovernmental effort that will eliminate costs and improve customer service," said Dennis Durham, City Manager. "This is good for Parchment taxpayers and good for the organization as a whole."

Kindleberger Arts Commission Selects Summer Musical and Youth Play Titles

Parchment City Commission

Mayor

Robert B. Heasley

Vice Mayor

Robert D. Britigan III

Commissioner

Terry Hageman

Commissioner

Jon R. Heasley

Commissioner

Doug Fooy

Commissioner

Holly Evans

Commissioner

Eric Cronin

The Kindleberger Arts Commission has begun work planning for the 2017 Kindleberger Festival and the Summer Concert Series. The Festival will be held July 12-16 and will offer up all of the great events enjoyed each summer including the Classic Car Show, 5K Family Fun Run, Arts Show, Pancake Breakfast, Library Book Sale, Festival Parade, Family Musical and Youth Play. This year's youth play will be *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*. Two narrators attempt to recreate all 209 of the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm in a wild, fast-paced extravaganza. To make it more difficult, they attempt to combine them into one gigantic fable using Rapunzel, Rumpelstiltskin, Hansel and Gretel, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella and other more obscure stories like Lean Lisa and The Devil's Grandmother.

The Family Musical for 2017 will be *Once Upon a Mattress*. If you thought you knew the story of 'The Princess and The Pea,' you may be in for a walloping surprise! Did you know, for instance, that Princess Winnifred actually swam the moat to reach Prince Dauntless the Drab? Or that Lady Larken's love for Sir Harry provided a rather compelling reason that she reach the bridal altar post haste? Or that, in fact, it wasn't the pea at all that caused the princess a sleepless night? Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans. Chances are you'll never look at fairy tales quite the same way again.

Stay tuned to the Festival website www.kindleberger.org for audition dates and times.

City Hall will be closed:

-Good Friday

(April 14, 2017)

-Memorial Day

(May 29, 2017)

Monthly Brush Pickup Starts in April

Monthly citywide brush pickup will start the first Monday of April—April 3. Brush must be placed at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on pickup day.

Branches, limbs and other tree trimmings cannot be longer than eight feet or thicker than six inches in diameter. Unacceptable items include plastic bags, rocks, concrete, bricks, asphalt or any other item than cannot be composted. Check the City's website for more information.

Citywide Trash Pickup Scheduled for April

The City of Parchment provides a citywide trash pickup annually for residents. This year on April 26 and 27, Republic Waste Services will be picking up old items left at the curb. This is your one time of year to clean out the basement, garage and closets. Get rid of broken furniture, old mattresses, useless household items. Items left at the curb at 8am.

Neighborhood Watch Group On The Job

A group of citizens led by Deb Lawson have been meeting and organizing a new Neighborhood Watch for Parchment. With assistance from the City of Parchment, neighborhood watch signs were placed throughout the City with information for residents. Anyone interested in serving can contact City Hall (269) 492-3260.

Zoning Board of Appeals Looking to Fill Vacancies

The Parchment Zoning Board of Appeals is a five-member board charged with hearing requests from property owners for correcting errors in enforcing the City's zoning ordinance, as well as granting property variances, when appropriate.

Planning Commission Members Sought

The Parchment Planning Commission is a seven-member board appointed by the City Commission to review site plans and enforce building and property rules and regulations.

RENTAL HOUSING REGISTRATIONS HAVE BEGUN

With adoption of the new rental housing ordinance by the Parchment City Commission in late 2016, new regulations have been enacted requiring rental property owners to register their property with the City. The registrations are necessary to ensure landlords are living up to safety and health codes, as well as livability standards.

Renters living in the City of Parchment can inquire at City Hall about the new regulations.

Fire Department Open House

Saturday May 13th, 2017 8 am to 10 am

As you may or may not know, our City's Fire Department is staffed entirely by paid on call firefighters. That means that there are no full or part time firefighters waiting at the station to answer calls. Instead, each firefighter carries a pager and responds when they can to fire and medical emergencies in the community. This system represents a great saving to you as a tax payer. Firefighters respond only when needed and leave when the emergency is over. In fact, the entire payroll for the department for the year is about \$39,000, less than the cost of 1 full time employee with benefits.

However, to maintain this valuable and efficient system we must have men and women who are willing to serve their fellow citizens. Since the City took over responsibility for the fire department in 1956, it has provided excellent service, with top-notch equipment and staff, following the tradition started by the KVP Fire Department. We need your help in maintaining that tradition and the level of service that makes being in Parchment special. We are especially looking for individuals available to respond during day time hours but are also looking for those available at other times as well.

The benefits in serving your community in this way are many. You will be trained to a Firefighter II level and as a Medical First Responder. You will receive additional training in hazardous materials, emergency driving and other related topics. You will work with outstanding people who bring much talent and experience to the task. And finally, you will have the satisfaction of helping your neighbors in their time of need.

Please seriously consider serving your community in this way. You may stop in for an application and any other information you might want.

City Hall
650 S. Riverview Drive
Parchment, MI 49004
(269) 492-3260

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OVERNIGHT PARKING

Parchment City Ordinance prohibits overnight parking on city streets (between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m.). Violators will be ticketed.

LAWN CARE

Property owners in Parchment are responsible for mowing lawns to prevent noxious weeds and creating blighted properties. City Ordinance prohibits grass or vegetation in excess of 12 inches high.

PARKING RV's, TRAILERS and BOATS

City Ordinance prohibits parking RV's, trailers and boats outside an enclosed garage in a front yard for more than 96 hours in a 30-day period. Such vehicles can be stored indefinitely in a rear or side yard provided they are parked on an improved surface and must be properly licensed.

To Apply to Serve on a City Board...

Are you interested in becoming active in the Parchment community?

Submit a volunteer application available at City Hall or at the City's website

www.parchment.org

The City is currently seeking volunteers for the Planning Commission, Kindleberger Arts Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.