

As we head into Spring, this is an opportunity to review what has been going on with your Homer Village government, the first three months of 2017.

Community House. We are evaluating all aspects of the Community House, acknowledging its historical place in the Village, while trying to determine how we can make it more appealing for use. We are putting together a Committee and if there is any interest in participating, please contact the Village office.

Public Safety. (1) It is expected our new Deputy Sheriff, Stacy Ashley, will be starting sometime in May. (2) We are also filling out a grant request to the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development for a grant to help offset the costs of one or both of our older police vehicles.

DPW. (1) Our 2008 Ford F-250 Diesel is being sold. A diesel just isn't very practical for our purpose, so we are selling and will replace with a used gas truck equivalent. Our plan is to make this a net zero financial exchange. This is being sold nationwide via an online auction website. If interested, please go to www.GovDeals.com/homervillage and register to bid. (2) Management, DPW staff and committee members will be meeting this month to establish those sidewalks that will be replaced, repaired and/or eliminated. This will be based on the review of the entire Village system as outlined on GIS maps that were available for three days in late March for public input.

Water/Sewer. (1) The SAW Grant project is actively underway, as the engineering work to upgrade our 40 year old sewer system is in process. Once the evaluation is completed, we will determine the priority of what needs to be done, and what impact that will have on our sewer rates. (2) There are some water meters that are not sending signals of water usage. Thus, we are forced to estimate water usage. We run these lists weekly now and send letters to the owners requesting a call to set up an appointment to repair. Unfortunately, some have not responded after a considerable amount of time. We would appreciate everyone's cooperation to set up an appointment if your meter is one of those not operating properly. The most dramatic response (after a reasonable amount of time), if we are not contacted, is to shut off the water, per our Ordinance. (3) Effective with the June 1, 2017 Water/Sewer bills, there will be a roughly 5% increase as part of the 5 year rate review, initiated last year. (4) Additionally, we are striving to have available by this date, the opportunity to pay Water/Sewer bills and Taxes, via credit card on line. This should be a great convenience for our citizens, as many surrounding communities already have implemented. Information will be included in your next billing statement. (5) Finally, you may have noticed your last water bill had a two month window to pay the bill. This was a mistake on our part, and the next billing cycle will have the correct one month time period, that is, due July 1.

Other. (1) We continue to pull information together for our Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) project with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The end objective is to attract businesses to the area and improve our downtown. (2) Consumers Energy is reviewing our municipal light system to determine if there are options to reduce our electrical costs for street lighting. (3) The DPW is

evaluating our spraying needs for this year. These applications are only done by state certified Commercial Applicators in the DPW . Notice will be placed in the Homer Index, if and when, we decide to commence. (4) The Village is looking to hire a Crossing Guard, with an immediate opening. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community, interact with the kids and earn a little extra spending money. Contact our office, if interested. (5) A reminder that the Senior Millage Allocation Committee will be holding their annual Centenarian Luncheon at Schuler's in Marshall on Tuesday, May 16, recognizing our County citizens that are 100 years young or older. Actually, even if your "just" 99, you are welcome. Please contact the Village office for more details.

As always, we welcome input from our citizens. Please stop in, email me at manager@homeremichigan.org, or call us at 517-568-4321. Enjoy your Spring and will be back in July!