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Notice of Early Deadline

For the 12/26/19 and 1/2/20 issues of the Charlevoix County News and Weekly Choice, the deadlines will be Saturday of the week prior for Classified Ads, Display Ads and news submissions.

Charlevoix County News **Weekly Choice**



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BOYNE CITY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 10, 2019

Boyne City approves new snow removal plan

BY KAREN WALKER

Boyne City Commissioners presented a certificate of appreciation to retiring City Planning Commission member George Ellwanger at their regular meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 10th. City Planning Director Scott McPherson thanked Mr. Ellwanger for his 16 years of service on the Planning Commission, noting that Mr. Ellwanger has been a great asset to the City and community. Scott quipped, "If there's a more positive person around, I

haven't met him."

As part of their regular business, Commissioners approved a contract with MDC Contracting of Petoskey at a rate of \$85 per hour to perform additional work associated with the City's new snow removal plan. With next spring's anticipated construction at the Open Space, a City owned vacant area along the waterfront, City DPW crews will no longer use that area for snow storage. Instead, snow will be hauled to the City's snow disposal site at the airport. Di-

rector of Public Works, Tim Faas estimates a total cost of the contract at \$9,000 to \$14,000 for the winter season.

Also part of the new snow removal plan approved by Commissioners, they addressed concerns voiced by a resident along E. Main Street of the noise produced by private contractors hauling snow to the airport between midnight and 5:00 a.m. The new snow removal plan will restrict use of the airport snow disposal site to the



City Planning Director Scott McPherson and Mayor Tom Neidhamer present a certificate to retiring planning commission member George Ellwanger. (l-r) — McPherson, Ellwanger, Neidhamer

See **Snow Removal**—Page 5A

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ABOVE: Charlevoix senior guard, Addie Nagel takes a jumper against a tough St. Ignace defense. (Photo by Scott Richards)

Check out the latest scores and photos in this week's Sports!

<p>Save a lot food stores SAVE BIG!</p> <p>AD PRICES GOOD DEC. 8-14, 2019</p>	<p>COBURN FARMS SWEET CREAM BUTTER 16 OZ. SALTED OR UNSALTED. QUARTERS</p> <p>\$1.99/ea</p>	<p>FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE OF ROUND ROAST</p> <p>\$3.99/lb</p>
	<p>SMITHFIELD SHANK PORTION HAM</p> <p>\$1.19/lb</p>	<p>SMITHFIELD BUTT PORTION HAM</p> <p>\$1.39/lb</p>

Public Open House to unveil the draft East Jordan Master Plan

Residents and community members are invited to attend a public open house on Thursday, December 12 from 5:30 – 7pm at the East Jordan Community Center (116 Main Street). The purpose of this open house is to unveil the draft master plan and seek input on the action plan, future land use map, and priority publicly owned redevelopment sites.

Participants will have the opportunity to provide guidance on the City's 5-year action plan and review planned changes to the future land use map and zoning plan. There will be maps set up around the room for attendees to review as well. Finally, the preferred conceptual design plans for the city-owned Community Center and former Boat Launch site will be unveiled at this meeting. The format for the evening will be informal and attendees are welcome to come and go as they please.

This open house represents the culmination of a 12-month intensive city-wide planning process focused on the future growth and prosperity of East Jordan. The process is being led by the East Jordan Planning Commission in partnership with the consulting firm Beckett & Raeder, Inc. Substantial public input has occurred to date, including a community survey, a high school visioning session, an elementary student input session, a business after-hours event, and a two-day community design charrette focused on three priority redevelopment sites. There has also been an input chalkboard traveling around to community places of interest.

The planning commission will be reviewing the draft master plan at their January meeting and will ultimately recommend the plan to the City Commission for public distribution. At that time, residents will have 63 days to provide additional input and public comment on the draft plan.

For more information on the master planning process, please visit the City's website at eastjordancity.org.



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They're big, orange, and have flashing lights – yet drivers still hit them

Road agency plow trucks are large vehicles, usually painted orange, and festooned with flashing amber and green lights, yet each winter they are hit by other vehicles. Tim Johnson, state highway foreman for the Otsego County Road Commission, said that, while it's thankfully not a daily occurrence, it's still surprising how often other drivers run into road commission, city or Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) plow trucks.

"One of our left-lane plow trucks was hit twice on I-75 last winter, Jan. 28 and 30 of this year," Johnson recalled. "The first hit destroyed the rear sander and sheared the bolts that hold the wing mount to the truck. The second also sheared the wing mount bolts, as well as destroying the suspension air bags."

Fortunately, in the two Otsego County crashes, neither the plow driver nor the occupants of either private vehicle were hurt. In both cases, however, the plow truck was disabled for five to six hours while they were being repaired, leaving them out of commission when they were needed to help clear roads, and the private vehicles were

totaled.

"Thankfully there have not been any secondary crashes due to the vehicles being disabled on the road," Johnson said. "My worst fear is losing one of my drivers while they are outside checking on the other people and being hit by another motorist."

For the past five winters, an average of 17 MDOT plow trucks have been struck by other drivers. Aaron Begley, MDOT's Atlanta Operations Facility manager, said his plow operators see all kinds of unsafe driver behavior from their vantage point, such as driving too fast for conditions and passing vehicles on the right.

"It's frustrating, because our operators are doing the best they can to make the roads as safe as possible for the given weather, and some drivers don't give us the space to do that," Begley said. "Drivers should remember that the roads are usually worse ahead of our plows and the best decision is to slow down and make it to your destination safely."

Modern plow trucks may not just have a front-mounted or underbody plow but also a wing plow that can be retracted or extended on either side of the truck to clear the



This pickup truck struck and damaged an Otsego County Road Commission plow in a crash on Jan. 28, 2019. Fortunately, despite the extensive damage to both vehicles, neither driver was injured. Photo courtesy of MDOT

road shoulder and travel lane in one pass. While these

wings are usually painted bright orange and are

equipped with flashing lights as well, they can be obscured

by blowing snow.



Crossroads Resale Shop receives \$1,000 donation

Crossroads Ecumenical Resale Shop received its second \$1,000 check since the Direct Your Dollars program started. Thank you to all who donate their Family Fare receipts to us for this program. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thanks to Family Fare for supporting local charities this way. Courtesy photo

Walloon Writers Review Fifth Edition hits the shelves

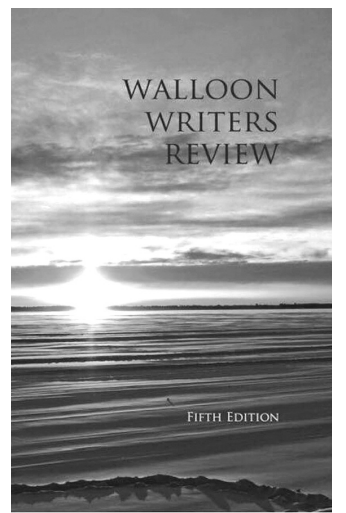
Petoskey based Walloon Writers Review, an independent collection of poetry, short stories and creative writing, as well as nature photography has released its Fifth Edition, which this year includes local Grayling writer Tim Chilcotes' poem, "The Smell of Hex".

The literary magazine places a call for submissions each August in search of interesting, original materials inspired by the natural beauty and unique experiences of Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Suitable for General Audiences, the magazine, now 103 pages with four color nature photography includes well known writers and photographers and talented amateurs.

We also include a special section of the First Place winning poetry and prose of the Crooked Tree Arts Center Young Writers Exposition to encourage young writers to share and develop their talents.

This edition was edited by Jennifer Huder, founder and editor of Walloon Writers Review, as well as Petoskey's Glen Young.

Walloon Writers Review



Walloon Writers Review, an independent collection of poetry, short stories and creative writing, as well as nature photography. Shown here is a photograph by Melissa Seitz of Higgins Lake, titled "Sunrise Higgins Lake". Courtesy photo

Fifth Edition is sold at Saturn Booksellers in Gaylord, as well as Horizon Books in Traverse City, McLean & Eakin in Petoskey, Between the Covers in Harbor Springs and a number of independent bookstores. The website has links to bookstores who will ship the journal.

Boyne Valley Township considers alternatives to ambulance service

BY KAREN WALKER

A recent audit of Boyne Valley Township's ambulance service contract with the City of Boyne City was presented to the Township Board at a special public hearing held at the Boyne Valley Township Hall Tuesday evening. The meeting was attended by township residents, ambulance service staff, as well as several members of City of Boyne City staff and Commissioners. Those present were encouraged to ask questions, voice concerns and share information with the Township Board.

The audit, presented by Jim Cusenza of accounting firm Dennis, Gartland & Niergarth, showed a history of increasing costs to operate the ambulance service which will exceed future anticipated revenues. Mr. Cusenza said he expects the Township's ambulance fund to be at a deficit when the next audit is completed in March 2020.

Boyne Valley Township currently levies just under .5 mill to pay for ambulance service. The millage will come before voters again at the 2020 election and residents may be asked for an increased millage to help pay the expected increase in operational costs.

Concerns about finances along with ambulance operations and billing issues with the City of Boyne City have prompted Boyne Valley Township officials to look at other sources for ambulance service. The Township Board of Trustees has been considering alternatives to their contract with the City of Boyne City including joining or contracting with Jordan Valley EMS Service or joining with neighboring townships to form their own ambulance authority. Boyne City Manager Mike Cain stated he hopes to continue working with Boyne Valley Township to provide quality service into the future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by e-mail to office@CharlevoixCountyNews.com.

BOYNE AREA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

To Our Community and Friends,

In 1954 Thelma Behling and Rev. Buzz Walls started Boyne Area Community Christmas when Thelma, the school nurse recognized a need to help those less fortunate. Along with several volunteers Thelma and Buzz passed out turkey dinners, some hand-knit mittens and toys to a few families in need. 65 years later it's now dozens of Boyne Area Com-

munity Christmas volunteers that pack boxes of food and bags of toys, helping around 300 families every year.

As we start gearing up for the 2019 holiday season, we ask that you remember those less fortunate by donating to Boyne Area Community Christmas. Together we will make sure "that no child in the Boyne area be without a Christmas".

Every donation is greatly appreciated and can be in the form of non-perishable food items, new unwrapped

toys, games or books. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to Boyne Area Community Christmas and send to c/o Eleanor West, Treasurer at 915 Robinson Street #15, Boyne City, MI 49712. Donations can also be dropped off at the Boyne City Education Center by using the Pine Street entrance. We are accepting drop-off donations beginning December 2 thru December 16, Monday thru Thursday, 10am-2pm.

If you need any additional

information or you would like to submit the name of a child in need, please contact Heather Ross at (231) 459-5588.

From all the volunteers at Boyne Area Community Christmas and the many grateful families of our community, thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Warmest Holiday Regards,

Heather Ross, Secretary
Boyne Area Community Christmas

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Boyne Falls Public Schools STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Thomas Sobleski

Grade: 1
Parent's Name(s): James and Liz Sobleski
What do you want to be when you grow up?: Thomas wants to be a policeman.
Favorite Book: Thomas likes Spiderman books
Hobbies and Interests: Thomas likes to build things
School Activities: Thomas likes Gym time and likes to sing in the Christmas Program. He likes to do art that has his face on it too.
Staff Comments: Thomas is a good listener and he is happy most of the time. He likes to sing and do group activities in class. He is excited to be a big brother to his new baby brother. Thomas is good at following the schedule and we love his big smile in our classroom.
Submitted By: Mrs. Cosier

HONOR ROLL First Trimester (2019-2020)

3rd Grade	
All As	Ivan Baker Braylan Blackwell Dominik Byard Greyson Byrd John Haug Alexis Loudner Maddison McVannel
All As and Bs	Elijah Barnes Amaya Becker Liam Ervin Chloe Richards

4th Grade	
All As	Katelyn Ealy Lucas Greenier Peyton Greenier Jaylynn Juntunen Kentin LaCombe Rylee Smith
All As and Bs	Brennan Gould Kaylana Yarbrough

5th Grade	
All As	Shainna Grams Olivia Pineda-Andersen
All As and Bs	Weston James Madison Pickering

6th Grade	
All As	Rylan McVannel

7th Grade	
All As	Lilliann Fenske Mackenzie Smith Breanaka Spang
All As and Bs	Hannah Haug

8th Grade	
All As and Bs	JT Greenier Porter James Maddison Loper Abigail Serino Bryce Tonsor Kaylie Young

9th Grade	
High Honors	Yannis Burnell Jordan Devers Scott Matelski Ashton Spang Zofia Wasylewski
Honor Roll	Kaliah Lightfoot Colton O'Neil Abigail Smith Riley Zbacnik

10th Grade	
High Honors	Kaitlyn Hammerle Nayeon Kim Daniel Powers CJ Cousineau Logan Crocker Walter Tieber
Honor Roll	

11th Grade	
High Honors	Aubrie Sparks
Honor Roll	Emma Akin Blake Brunmeier Allison Juntunen Kayden O'Neil Keegan Whisker

12th Grade	
High Honors	Erienne Goodrich
Honor Roll	Jordin Gellis Ryleigh Richardson Nicoma Sayles Alicia Whennen

BOYNE CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 9, 2019

School Board approves 26 Million Dollar bond Proposal

BY KAREN WALKER

A proposal to spend \$29.7 million on improvements for Boyne City schools was the main topic of discussion at last Monday's Boyne City School Board meeting. With a 5-1 vote, School Board members approved a resolution to conduct an election on May 5, 2020, putting a bond proposal before voters that will raise \$26 million dollars to fund the majority of the project with the remainder paid with a portion of the district's enhancement millage money. The lone dissenting voter was board member

Ross McLane.

Mr. McLane voiced his concerns, stating "It's been an impaired process." Mr. McLane said he felt work on the proposal has been well intended and professional, but he said he missed the "sense of collaborative effort" because the board was given a final product, as opposed to exploring options.

If the millage is approved by voters, taxpayers in the district will not see the expected decrease in taxes when current debt is paid off. Instead, the current 3.14 mills will continue for another 20 years. Taxpayers

would not see an increase in their current property tax.

The largest portion of the proposed project will fund construction of a field house, a multiuse space for sports practice and training as well as for use by other programs such as performing arts and robotics. The building would also include a passageway between middle and high school buildings.

Several members of the public spoke at the meeting, voicing concerns for the overall cost, as well as the amount of money going toward a new field house. Others spoke of their desire for

more space for sports teams to practice indoors as well as an enlarged Middle School cafeteria and the proposed indoor walking track for public use.

Other work included in the proposed project includes renovations and repairs to classrooms, restrooms, library, and parking lot as well as updating technology devices. If approved by voters next May, work on the first phase of the two phase project could begin as early as the spring of 2021.

Children's Advocacy Center receives local artist donation



Northern Michigan artist Susan Glass (left) pictured with Kristian Coronado, Forensic Coordinator at the Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan's Child Advocacy Center, donated an original, framed watercolor to provide a sense of tranquility to children and families utilizing services. Courtesy photo

Northern Michigan artist Susan Glass donated a framed, original watercolor painting to the Children's Advocacy Center, a program of Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan re-

cently established in response to community need.

Glass was inspired to donate the painting after learning about the Children's Advocacy Center's safe and supportive services for chil-

dren who may have been physically or sexually abused or have witnessed a violent act. Glass said that she hoped the painting would provide a sense of tranquility to children and

families who reach out the Children's Advocacy Center for support.

Glass teaches others to develop as artists as an adjunct professor at North Central Michigan College.

SNOW REMOVAL

FROM PG. 1A

hours of 5:00 a.m. through 10:00 p.m. except in the event of an extreme emergency. Private haulers will be charged a \$250 fee to use the disposal site to cover the cost of debris cleanup in the spring.

A contract with Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors of East Lansing to provide a rate study for the City water system was approved in the amount of \$10,500. The study will be similar to a recent wastewater rate study Baker Tilly completed for the City. The study will include a review of operating expenses, customer base, forecasting, and operating and capital

funding. Commissioner Dean Solomon commented that performing the study is consistent with the Commission's goal of fiscal responsibility.

A draft financial forecast update was presented to Commissioners by Michael Weisner. This overview of the City's General Fund explores anticipated income and expense trends to help

with the City's financial planning and to make better budgetary decisions going forward in the years ahead.

Boyne City offices will be closed Dec. 24, 25, and 31, and Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays. The next regular City Commission meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

BOYNE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT INCIDENT REPORT

Monday, November 25, 2019

0345 Assist EMS in the 800 block of Boyne Ave.
 1437 Report of subject standing in road trying to wave down cars on Michigan Av near Charlevoix St.
 1518 Juvenile complaint in the 1000 block of Boyne Av
 1657 PR at Middle school basketball game.
 1817 Assist Sheriff Dept. on M 75.
 1858 Assist EJPD with complaint in East Jordan.
 2043 Retail fraud reported in the 400 block of N Lake St.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

0851 Report that vehicles have been doing donuts in the grass near the skating rink at Av-alanche.
 0923 Fire alarm at Precision Edge
 1304 Vehicle unlock in the 400 block of N Lake St.
 1730 Juvenile complaint from the 1000 block of Boyne

Av

1937 Report of missing dog from the 400 block of Boyne Ave. Was located and returned home.
 2116 Report of lost wallet downtown.
 2234 Report of vehicle being tomato'ed on Division near cemetery.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

0830 Report of vehicle being egged as it drove down the Boyne Av hill last night
 1244 Lost set of keys
 1400 Suspicious situation in the 100 block of S Lake St
 1716 Assist EMS in the 500 block of E Lincoln St.
 2134 Citation issued for expired registration on W. Lincoln St. near Douglas St.

Thursday, November 28, 2019

0013 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Addis Rd. N.
 0100 Assist Sheriff Dept. on

Pleasant Valley Rd.

0858 Special Detail - Traffic control for the Turkey Trot
 0925 Disturbance reported in the 800 block of Brockway St. Arrested subject on a Felony Probation Violation warrant.
 1236 Alarm on N. East St.
 1447 Found keys at N. Lake St. and Lower Lake St
 2002 Vehicle unlock on Haven Ct.
 2159 Assist Sheriff Dept. at Boyne Mountain.

Friday, November 29, 2019

1039 Arrested subject for Probation Violation and PPO Violation on North St.
 1448 Report of possible suicidal subject from W. Cedar St.
 1654 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Mountain Pass Rd.
 1738 Special Detail - Santa Parade then Foot Patrol downtown.
 1842 Assist juvenile separated from parent near S. Park St. and Water St.

2343 Assist Sheriff Dept. on Peck Rd.

Saturday, November 30, 2019

0021 Assist Sheriff Dept. at Deer Lake and Crozier Rd.
 1528 Assist MSP with traffic stop at Water and Park St
 1954 Possible suicidal subject reported in the 500 block of N Lake St.
 2153 Assist Sheriff Dept. at 131 and Skop.

Sunday, December 1, 2019

0045 Suspicious situation in the 700 block of West St.
 0413 Assist to the Sheriff Dept. on M-75 S.
 0348 Assist to Benzie county Sheriff Dept.
 0559 Assist EMS in the 500 block of N Lake St.
 1105 Lodge stray dog at the shelter.
 1712 Vehicle unlock in the 400 block of Lewis Ave.
 2018 Alarm on Lakeshore Dr.

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Santa Makes his Arrival to East Jordan Community Night

PHOTOS BY KAREN WALKER



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CARFAX one owner, All-Star Edition, Remote start, Rear vision camera, 5.3L V8, Trailer hitch, Tonneau cover.	CARFAX one owner, All-Star Edition, Rear vision camera, remote start, Heated front seats, Bluetooth.	GMC CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, 3.6L v6, 7-way seating, Sunroof, Rear view camera, Remote start, Tow pkg., USB.	4WD, Bluetooth, Rear view camera, Trailer hitch, Low tire pressure warning, Class III Hitch, Stainless steel exhaust.	CARFAX one owner, 4WD, 6.0L V8, OnStar, Rear vision camera, Recovery hooks, External engine oil cooler.	CARFAX one owner, Luxury Pkg., Front & rear parking assist, Heated leather seats, Blind zone alert, 5.3L V8, Rear camera.

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