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# Charlevoix County News


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## County Road Commission propose changes in fee schedule

BY KAREN WALKER

The Charlevoix County Road Commission is considering changes to their permit fee schedule. At their last meeting, held Dec. 31, 2019, Commissioners set a public hearing date of Feb. 10, 2020, 9:30 a.m. at the Road Commission Boyne City office to present and receive input regarding proposed changes. Permit fees cover costs the Road Commission incurs to oversee the workmanship and safety aspects of any work done by contractors or property owners within the road right-of-way for activities such as utility work, moving an oversize load, or building a driveway, among others.

While current law requires that all road agencies are lim-



ited to using true administrative costs when setting fees, this creates differing fees in neighboring counties. The Michigan Legislature is concerned about the inconsistency in fees that different county road agencies charge for various permits. Rather than have the Michigan Legislature arbitrarily change permit fees to create forced

uniformity, the County Road Association of Michigan obtained current permit fees from more than 70 county road agencies and identified the most common fee for each type of permit. The Charlevoix County Road Commission is using the County Road Association of Michigan's list of fees as a general guideline to adjust



their fee schedule.

However, the fees will still vary somewhat by county, due to differences in terrain, the type of road to be affected, distance travelled to inspect a permit application, or to inspect completed work to insure that permit requirements are complied with. The intent is to establish fees that are similar in adjacent counties.

Many of Charlevoix County's permit fees will see a slight increase, while some fees will stay the same. Road Commission Manager Pat Harmon said many of the fees have not been increased in roughly 20 years, and do not reflect normal cost increases. The proposed fee schedule will also contain new categories for activities such as broadband and wireless communication projects that many rural counties have not previously experienced. New technology is introducing projects that more significantly affect the right of way, such as cell towers with concrete foundations that may compromise safety if not regulated.

## Charlevoix "Bridge Drop" rings in the New Year



During the afternoon and evening on December 31 there were lots of activities for attendees at the Bridge Drop event to help ring in the excitement as midnight approached. Photo by Scott Richards

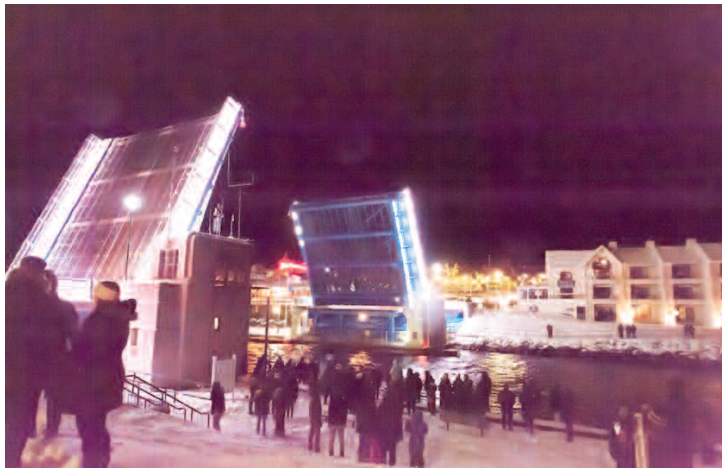
The 8th annual Bridge Drop rang in the New Year in downtown Charlevoix. The midnight event capped off a day of activities for the entire family, including horse drawn wagon rides, s'mores, hot cocoa, and a snow sculpture contest in East Park. Charlevoix Cinema III joined in the fun with a free showing of "Lego Movie 2" in the late afternoon.

The countdown to the New Year began as mid-

night approached. At the tick of midnight the arrival of 2020 was hailed with dropping of the bridge and a grand fireworks display.

Check out [www.bridge-drop.com](http://www.bridge-drop.com) for more information about this annual event.

Ready for 2020! The bridge downtown is poised to drop at the stroke of midnight. Photo by Scott Richards



### New laws taking effect in 2020

Some of the biggest changes to Michigan law will kick off in 2020.

LANSING, Mich. 6 From cheaper auto insurance to placing the first legal sports gambling bets — there are a number of policies that passed in 2019 that will truly kick off 2020.

#### Medicaid work requirements

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, most able-bodied adults between the ages of 19-61 in the Healthy Michigan program will have to prove an average of 20 hours of workforce engagement like working or job training per week, or 80 hours per month.

Exemptions include pregnant mothers, people with disabilities, caretakers of disabled dependents, caretakers of children under age 6 and individuals who have a medical condition that results in a work limitation.

The bones of the legislation passed in 2018, but in 2019 lawmakers went back for a few tweaks designed to make it easier for recipients to comply with the new reporting requirements.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer lost a last-minute bid to push pause on Michigan's new Medicaid work requirements, and the Department of Health and Human Services began sending out letters to beneficiaries explaining how to comply with the new program in December.

#### Minimum wage will increase

In 2018 lawmakers adopted and amended a citizen-led minimum wage proposal, putting in place smaller-than-proposed increases to the minimum wage that will boost it to \$12.05 by 2030.

Starting Jan. 1, Michigan's minimum wage goes up to \$9.65, and the tipped wage goes up to \$3.67.

State websites show plans to increase the minimum wage again in 2021 to \$9.87 for hourly employees and \$3.75 for tipped, hourly workers.

See New Laws—Page 3A

**Save a lot food stores**  
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 FRESH BONELESS PORK LOIN SOLD WHOLE IN BAG  
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 PORK RIBLETS  
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For GM employees with current lease loyalty. Must qualify through GM Financial. Based on stock #12608 with MSRP \$26,185. Tax, title and plate not included. Must take delivery by 1-31-2020. See dealer for complete details.



**2008 TOYOTA RAV4 4WD**  
**\$6,950**

CARFAX one owner, Descent control, Alloy wheels, Traction control, Reclining rear seats, Remote entry.



**2011 JEEP COMPASS 4X4**  
**\$7,450**

2.4L 4 cyl., Tire Pressure warning, Stability control, 5-speed manual, Touring suspension, Remote keyless entry.



**2014 CHEVY IMPALA LS**  
**\$7,950**

CARFAX one owner, 3.6L V6, Bluetooth, OnStar, Tire pressure monitor, Traction control, Remote keyless entry.



**2010 CHEVY TAHOE LT 4X4**  
**\$9,950**

5.3L V8, Leather heated seats, Luxury Pkg., Power-operated liftgate, Bose Premium Sound System, Trailer hitch.



**2014 FORD ESCAPE 4X4**  
**\$13,950**

CARFAX one owner, Heated leather seats, Reclining rear seats, Remote keyless entry, Rear Collision Warning.



**2015 FORD F-150 XL 4X4**  
**\$22,950**

Split-bench rear seats, Transmission hill holder, Electronic Stability Control, ABS And Driveline Traction Control.



**2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4X4**  
**\$23,950**

CARFAX one owner, Parkview Rear View Camera, USB port, Bluetooth, 3.6L V6, 2 LCD Monitors In The Front.



**2016 SILVERADO 1500 4X4**  
**\$28,950**

CARFAX one owner, Midnight Edition, Bed liner, Rear view camera, Park assist, Hitch, OnStar, Remote keyless entry.



**2017 CADILLAC XT5 LUXURY AWD**  
**\$33,950**

CARFAX one owner, Heated leather seats, Side blind zone alert, Bluetooth, Rear vision camera, Rear spoiler.



**2018 SILVERADO 2500HD 4X4**  
**\$38,950**

CARFAX one owner, 6.0L Vortec V8, 110V outlet, Provision for cab roof mounted beacon/lamp, Snow plow prep pkg.



**2018 SUBURBAN LT 4X4**  
**\$42,950**

CHEVROLET CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED, CARFAX one owner, 5.3L V8, Heated leather seats, Remote start, Power outlets, Rear camera, Lane keep assist.

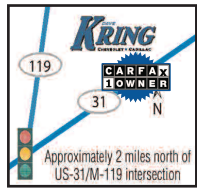


**2019 JEEP WRANGLER 4WD**  
**\$36,950**

CARFAX one owner, Rear view camera, AC power outlet, Tow hooks, Bluetooth, Stainless exhaust, Engine hour meter.

Sales tax, title, and doc fees additional. See Dave Kring Chevrolet-Cadillac for details.

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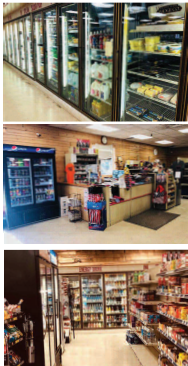
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### PRICE REDUCED!!!! 6508 CENTER STREET • ELLSWORTH

Investors, entrepreneurs, don't pass this large commercial building up. Located in the heart of Ellsworth. So many possibilities split the building up and rent it out for multiple businesses... Would be a great space for an indoor daycare or a yoga studio... what about a boatrental, room for kayaks. Or the handyman could turn this into apartments. For the investor shine it up and rent all the spaces and watch your investment grow. MLS #459037. **\$60,000**



### PRICE REDUCED! 05541 MILES ROAD • EAST JORDAN

100 foot of waterfront with an approximate 2000 sq foot home on 6 mile lake. New well, septic and drain-field. This home needs your finishing touches start today and be ready for all the summer fun on the lake! Home is a remodel with a mother in-law suite above the garage would make a great family home, vacation home. MLS #460949. **\$149,900**



### 8869 W M-32 HIGHWAY • ELMIRA

Convenience/Party Store, Deli, Pizza, Groceries, Residential Rental. This is a 4 bedroom, 1 bath home that can be lived in while you run the store or could be rented as another source of income. Rent one run the other or rent both so many possibilities!! MLS #460589. **\$179,900**



### NEW LISTING! 6075 LITTLE STUMP TRAIL • GAYLORD

Privacy and Paradise!! Great location close to downtown Gaylord yet outside of town nestled on 10 acres with berries galore and room to run or hunt!! Conveniently located close to the new EJ plant and not far from Boyne Mountain or I75. This home boast 2 bedrooms 2baths with a full basement and open floor plan. Great patio for entertaining and a fire pit set up for those fall nights. Call today don't let this one get away! MLS #460856. **\$89,900**



### 01161 NORWOOD ROAD • CHARLEVOIX

Very Private Gentlemen's Farm abuts thousands of acres of State Land which goes all the way to Lake Michigan! Tons of trails... An opportunity of a life time!! Property is currently fenced for horses the 64x32 barn has stalls and a lean-to 64x12 plus storage and parking.. The home is a 4 bedroom with 2 of the bedrooms in the basement without egress windows...Don't miss this opportunity to own this upnorth gem! MLS #459591. **\$235,000**

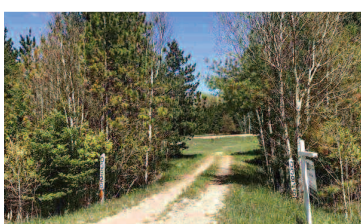


### 01002 M-75 S • BOYNE CITY

Have you always dreamed of that time you wouldn't have to go home? This is the perfect place to call home so many updates yet it doesn't feel new... this home is warm and welcoming and close to all that Boyne has to offer. Boyne City is just a zip up the road and Boyne Mountain and Boyne River is just a Potosky Stone's throw away... what are you waiting for, you're here let's make this home! MLS #459956. **\$179,900**



## VACANT LAND PARCELS LOCATED ON US131



Location, Location, Location!! This lot is located right across from Boyne Mountain... Great location to build your dream home! This location is close to all that Boyne Mountain has to offer, skiing, golfing, waterpark and great proximity to Lake Charlevoix too!

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### Contact Holly Stark for details.



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