

Date: October 19, 2011

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky, Manager

RE: Monthly Activity Report

The warm weather we experienced during the first two weeks of October were not only quite pleasant but also provided our contractors with the opportunity to move the City's projects forward quickly. We have received many questions and also mostly positive feedback regarding the streetscape currently underway on Washington/Lay Ave. A complete reconstruction project such as this one seems to always come with a certain amount of unanticipated issues. It has been somewhat challenging to meet the American's with Disability Act (ADA) requirements when working next to buildings which have a wide variety of street entrance levels. As the sidewalks are being totally reconstructed, the project has incorporated ramped access to some of the business. The intersections have been narrowed to make crossings safer for pedestrians. The new sidewalks are somewhat wider and the road surfaces a bit narrower which has also been designed to accommodate safer passage for pedestrian traffic.

Recently, we have been assembling a newsletter which should be completed and mailed soon. It will also be available on the City's webpage (www.IronRiver.org). The purpose of the newsletter is to advise our residents and taxpayers of what they can expect during next summer's construction season. With no less than four major projects underway in various locations in the City, it will make traveling around town a bit more complicated. We can anticipate several detour routes and changes in normal traffic patterns through the summer. Hopefully the newsletter will explain why these construction projects are necessary.

As part of the one of the current water projects, the City's residents and visitors will soon be seeing the disappearance of an old landmark. The Strawberry Hill water tank will soon be removed as it is no longer necessary, and has been out of service for quite some time. The need for this water storage facility has been eliminated as a result of upgrades that have been made to the water system over the past three years. We have combined two of three original separate water systems which reduced maintenance costs and provide for a safer and more efficient distribution system.

Recently the City received some good news from the USDA Rural Development office in Escanaba. As a result of some unavoidable delays during the design phase of our next sewer project, the closing date for this project will occur later this month instead of earlier this summer as originally planned. Because the Feds recently dropped interest rates, the City will be able to close the loan portion of this project at a much lower rate. This will result in considerable savings over the life of the loan.

A reminder to all, there will be a City election on Tuesday November 8, 2011. As usual, polls open at 7 a.m. Be sure to vote.