

(For October 2019)

Around the City with City Manager David Thayer

As I enter my 5th year as City Manager, we also enter the 5th year of our aggressive streets' rehabilitation program. Initially, I stated it would take 10 years to rebuild all our streets within the City and that prediction is continuing to be true. I anticipate that we will have roughly \$550,000 to spend in CY 2020. The Planning Commission is putting the final touches on the streets to include in next year's program. Once they finalized the plan in December, we will cost out the package, prepare engineering plans, and hopefully bid the package in February. You can follow the progress by reading the Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) posted on our web site. Once Council approves the CIP – CY 2020, the Planning Commission will immediately continue their work with CIP - CY 2021 and CIP – CY 2022.

The 30-day public review period for our new Community Recreation Plan continues until November 6, 2019. Copies of the draft are available for review on the City's web page, at the City Clerk's Office, and at the West Iron County District Library. Comments can be sent to City Clerk's Office, 106 W. Genesee St, Iron River, Michigan, 49935 or by E-mail to clerk@ironriver.org.

Halloween is fast approaching and I want to share some thoughts on the topic. We feel parents are best prepared to determine when their children should participate in the festivities. We recommend they do so between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. There are several reasons for that recommendation. In past years, students dressed into their costumes during school and came home ready to go. That is not the case anymore. Parents need time to get home and prepare their ghosts and goblins for trick or treating. Participating neighbors also need time to get home and prepare to receive their scary guests. Some people put a lot of effort into decorating their homes and appreciate the darkness so their efforts can be fully displayed and appreciated. We asked those that are "treaters" to turn on their porch light when they are ready to begin and to turn off their light when they are done for the night. Most importantly, we ask all drivers to do so with extreme care, so no mishaps occur. Once again, our police department will have a visual presence to help ensure safety for all.

The City has announced the Winter Parking Ban is starting November 1st, the same starting date as in past years. From that date until April 30th, it shall be unlawful to park or leave unattended a motor vehicle on any city street, public thoroughfare, or city parking lot between the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. Citizens want their streets free and clear of ice and snow and we need access to them to do so. For people who wish to park overnight in city parking lots, they need to obtain a Winter Parking Permit from the City's Clerk's Office.

The Christmas in Lights celebration will take place on Saturday, December 7th. The parade will start at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the tree and additional events commencing thereafter at the RV Park. My first parade was quite memorable. As I stood on the intersection of 1st and Genesee, 10 minutes before the parade was to begin, there was hardly a soul stirring, not even a mouse. Then to my surprise hundreds suddenly appeared with glee and joy in their voices. A big parade and crowd were on hand that night, even though it was 10 below zero with 30 mile an hour howling winds. Start now to make plans with family and friends for the holiday season.

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