

Clementimes

A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mount Clemens

January/February/March 2009



**Have a question?
Give us a call.**

There's friendly staff available to assist you. The main phone number for the City of Mount Clemens is 586.469.6818. For specific departments, please see the options/phone numbers listed below.

Accounting	x 1
Animal Control	x 909
Assessing.	x 4
Cable Television	586.461.3751
City Clerk	x 3
City Manager	x 7
Mayor/City Commission	
Community Development	x 2
Building/Inspections	
Community Relations	586.469.HELP
Dial-A-Ride	586.469.RIDE
Downtown Dev. Authority	586.469.4168
Finance	x 301
Fire	586.469.6840
Human Resources	x 5
Parking Matters	x 909
Public Housing	586.468.1434
Department of Public Services	586.469.6847
Purchasing	x 6
Treasurer's Office	x 1
Tax/Water Bills	
Utilities	586.469.6847
Water & Sewer/Water Filtration	

Macomb County	
Sheriff's Office	586.469.5151
www.macombsheriff.com	
41B District Court	586.469.9300

Mount Clemens City Hall
One Crocker Boulevard
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

You may also visit our Web site at
www.cityofmountclemens.com

You Need a Full Stomach to Start a Parade!

At 6:30 AM, the Bath City Bistro is generally as quiet as a cemetery. Yet on this morning, the Friday after Thanksgiving, the aroma of eggs and bacon were inviting as we walked in the door. Truer words were never spoken, "You need to start the day with a good breakfast."

Nearly fifty volunteers lined up at 7:00 AM for that hearty breakfast prior to working for the citizens of Macomb County and beyond. Their job this day was working together to put on the Mount Clemens Presents the Macomb County Santa Parade. 2008 marked the 33rd Santa Parade that marched down Main Street in downtown Mount Clemens to the cheers of thousands.

The Parade Committee starts meeting as early as June for this November date. Letters, requests for bands, deadline notifications, the hunt for floats and the most important sponsorship process (with all the applications and never ending paperwork), goes on for months. The endless phone calls and the search for volunteers is also part of the long process.

Citizens from all over our region brave the cold to put on this annual event. The volunteers drove golf carts to return other volunteers, who were dressed as cartoon characters, back to the start of the parade to carry more banners. Volunteers lined up the 121 units in 10 different staging sections so they could move in an orderly fashion down the street; and directed them where to go when they finished the parade.

This year Glenn Haege, "Ask the Handyman" from local radio station WJR, was our Grand Marshal. Mr. Haege was greeted with lots of "thank you" shouts from homeowners that he has assisted over the years via his radio program. Mr. Haege, along with Mayor Barb Dempsey, rode in beautiful convertible Mustangs provided by Russ Milne Ford.

The bands played Christmas music. The fire trucks blew their sirens. The floats rode by with candy being tossed to the crowd. The Macomb County Road Commission sent two

large snowplows with the E-poke system on the back. A truck filled with children, the winners of the Santa Parade coloring contest were also in the parade. And the list of entries goes on and on.

The biggest parade so far also drew the largest crowd. People were lined up to watch the parade as early as 8:00 AM for the 10:00 AM start. Hot chocolate and coffee were available to help keep the crowd warm as they waited for Santa and Mrs. Claus to arrive in their new Sleigh.

The Parade ended an hour and a half after the start, with adults and children singing Christmas carols and Santa receiving the key to the City. But the fun didn't stop there. Following the parade, a steady stream of happy citizens stopped by the Anton Art Center to view the display of 350 coloring contest entries.

To those who attended: *Thank you for coming.*
To those who participated: *Thank you for being in the parade.*

To those who volunteered: *Thank you for helping.*

To everyone that made this 33rd Santa Parade a success in all its different aspects:
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

The Parade Committee hopes everyone had a happy holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the 2009 parade!

*Article contributed by City Commissioner
Matthew Dreger.*

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Downtown Mount Clemens Events Calendar

Holidays have come and gone, but there are a couple events that will help break you out of the winter doldrums. Come down and walk around your historic Downtown in the wintertime.

Fourth Annual Fire and Ice Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

Thursday, January 29th

Starts at 6 PM

At participating bars and restaurants Downtown. Tickets can be purchased in advance at participating establishments. Call 586.469.4168 for more information
Proceeds to support the Macomb Family YMCA and Turning Point

Fourth Annual Mount Clemens Ice Carving Show

Friday, January 30th through

Sunday, February 1st

Show Opens 4 PM Friday through Sunday evening

Centered near the Fountain Stage at Macomb Place and Cherry Street Mall
Call 586.469.4168 for more information
Live ice carving will be taking place from midday Thursday to midday Sunday

For more information on these and other upcoming events, log on to www.downtownmountclemens.com.

Shopping Local – Your Own Way to Help Michigan's Economy

One of the best ways to support our State's economy and fellow Michiganders is to shop at locally-owned businesses.

The City of Mount Clemens and the Downtown district especially, have a preponderance of individually owned businesses. Of the 70 retail businesses, food establishments and service providers located in the Downtown, approximately only ten percent are affiliated with a regional or national chain.

More of every dollar spent at a locally owned business stays and is recirculated here in Michigan. These dollars support the proprietor, his or her family, and the employees. Profits remain in the community, often to be reinvested in the business. Franchise fees don't get sent to corporations located outside of our region.

Did you know that our Downtown business owners help make our city a great place to live, work, and visit? Approximately 1/3 of all of the City's tax base is paid by these properties and businesses located in the Downtown district. Without the Downtown's tax contribution, it would be very difficult for the City to provide the quality services that you expect.

Help keep your downtown vibrant and healthy by making conscious spending decisions to shop at its locally owned businesses. They have chosen to invest in the community.

With your support, our retailers, service providers, restaurants, and entertainment establishments will be able to weather this economic cycle and continue to make Mount Clemens a wonderful place to call home.

Thank You!

This holiday season, the staff of the City of Mount Clemens adopted two local families through the Volunteers of America Michigan. We would like to thank all of the employees who participated in making this Christmas very special for the two families. We were able to provide each family with a Christmas dinner, clothes, lots of toys and a variety of household items. Overall, we had an outstanding response and the donations received no doubt put plenty of smiles on their faces.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Lynne Kennedy, City Clerk

The City Clerk's Office prides itself in providing friendly and professional public service. The responsibilities of the City Clerk's Office include the following: Animal Licenses, Business Registrations, Preparation of City Commission minutes, Freedom of Information Act Coordinator, Election Administration, Voter Registration, Maintain Code of Ordinances, Maintain Public Records, Custodian of the Municipal Seal and Updating the City Web site.



Animal License Renewal



It's time to renew your pet's animal license. All licenses must be renewed by February 28, 2009. You must bring in the current rabies certificate when applying for your license. Licenses are available for purchase in the Treasurer's Office. The costs are as follows: Spayed/Neutered: \$3.00 per year; Male/Female: \$5.00/year. If you would like to renew your license by mail, please call the City Clerk's Office at 586.469.6818 x 3 for an application.

Don't Want Solicitors Knocking on Your Door? Sign Up for Our New "No-Knock" List

The City recently adopted an ordinance that would regulate door-to-door solicitors. As part of this ordinance, the City Clerk's Office has established a "no-knock" list. This list will be given to all permitted solicitors and they will be advised that if they attempt to solicit at addresses on the list, their permit may be revoked. If you would like your address to be added to our "no-knock" list, please call the City Clerk's Office at 586.469.6818 x 3 or send us an email at kennedy@cityofmountclemens.com. **Please Note:** The "no-knock" list is for residential properties only.

Code of Ordinances

City ordinances are available for review at the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The Mount Clemens Public Library also has a copy of our ordinances on file for your convenience. If you like to use your computer to search for documents, the ordinances can be found on-line through a link on our Web site www.cityofmountclemens.com.

Holiday Refuse CalendarMartin Luther King, Jr. Day –

Monday, January 19, 2009

Refuse pickup will run on schedule January 19th through January 23rd.

Presidents' Day – Monday, February 16, 2009

Refuse pickup will run on schedule

February 16th through February 20th.

Good Friday – April 10, 2009

Refuse pickup will run on schedule April 6th through April 10th.

Christmas Tree Pickup

A special yard waste collection truck is picking up Christmas Trees until January 23rd. Please make sure that trees are bare and not in a plastic bag when placed at the curb.

Winter Snow Removal

Winter is here...and with it snow and snowstorms!! Please help us keep our City streets clear of snow by not shoveling or blowing snow onto the streets.

Please use caution when driving in inclement weather. Salt does not react immediately under certain conditions. The lower the temperature, the longer it takes for salt to react. Also, please be friendly to the snowplow drivers and salt truck drivers. They are there trying to make the streets safe for all motorists.

Please keep in mind the Street Department will be clearing all major streets first during a snow storm. We will, however, plow the side streets as quickly as possible once the major streets are clear.

This winter during snowstorms, please park your vehicles at an off-street location. Parking in a driveway or parking lot will be greatly appreciated. On-street parking can resume after the City has plowed the streets. Also be advised, in the downtown location, parking meters are labeled "No Parking 2 AM – 7 AM." If you are parked there between these hours during a snowstorm, your vehicle could possibly get towed.

Whenever there is an abundance of snow accumulated or there is a possibility that snow will accumulate to an extraordinary amount, the City may declare a "Snow Emergency." Local television and radio news stations will be alerted when a snow emergency has been declared and

cancelled, so tune in for this information during snow storms or excessive snow falls.

After the initial notice that a snow emergency has been declared, please remove all vehicles within six (6) hours on any major streets and/or within twelve (12) hours on local streets or alleys. Once the entire street has been cleared of snow from curb to curb and no additional snow has accumulated or is predicted to accumulate, vehicles may then resume parking on that street.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Street Department at 586.469.6847.

Composting program scheduled to begin the week of April 6, 2009.

A special yard waste collection truck will operate in the City from **April 6, 2009 through December 4, 2009 only.**

NO COMPOST OR YARD WASTE WILL BE PICKED UP AFTER DECEMBER 4, 2009.

BEGINNING APRIL 6th, please do one of the three following things to eliminate yard waste:

1. COMPOST YOUR YARD WASTE AT HOME.
2. PLACE ALL COMPOST AT THE CURB IN A 25- TO 35-GALLON REFUSE CONTAINER. THESE CONTAINERS WILL NOT BE EMPTIED IF THEY CONTAIN ANYTHING OTHER THAN YARD WASTE.
3. PLACE YARD WASTE IN LARGE 30-GALLON BROWN PAPER BAGS.

Compost must be placed at the curb for collection with your household refuse by 7 AM on your regular pick-up day. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected. Brush must be cut into four feet lengths and tied in bundles. Bundles must not weigh more than 50 pounds each or measure over 18" in diameter. Large logs over 3" in diameter, as well as stumps or roots, will not be picked up.

We recommend that residents comply with the City's composting guidelines. This helps us to keep up with constantly changing environmental standards and still provide efficient and economical refuse collection service within the City of Mount Clemens.

PLEASE REMEMBER. RAKING LEAVES OR GRASS INTO THE STREET IN THE CITY OF MOUNT CLEMENS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Services at 586.469.6847.

Ice Ponds

The ice ponds will be open in January (weather permitting) at the following City Parks:

- Lawndale Park
- Dorothea/Leonore Park
- Wilson Park

The ice ponds will remain open as weather permits. The hours for skating are from dawn until dusk.

The ponds are for the enjoyment of all ages. Please be courteous to fellow skaters.

Pot Holes

Pot holes typically appear in the spring during the freeze-thaw cycle and after a constant raining period. If you need to report a pot hole, please call the Department of Public Services at 586.469.6847.

Lost Dogs/Cats

Mount Clemens takes all stray animals to the Macomb County Animal Shelter. You may contact them at 586.469.5115. If an animal is licensed and wearing tags, the owner will be notified that the pet has been found.

Please be a responsible pet owner by following these City policies:

- ALL DOGS AND CATS MUST BE LICENSED. A current RABIES vaccination certificate WITH EXPIRATION DATES must be presented for both cats and dogs in order to obtain a license.
- A household may have a total of four (4) dogs or cats, or a combination of both totaling four (4).
- ALL DOGS AND CATS MUST WEAR LICENSE TAGS when outside a building or residence or otherwise outdoors.
- All dogs and cats shall be kept under restraint (leashed) and NOT PERMITTED TO BE AT LARGE.

DOGS AND CATS MUST BE LICENSED even if they never leave the house.

Recycling

The recycling program is available to all residents serviced by the City's refuse contractor. Residents can place their

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recycling bins at the curb for collection on their regularly scheduled refuse pickup day.

The City strongly suggests that residents permanently affix their address to their recycling bin to avoid confusion if a bin is lost. Items that will be collected include food and beverage cans, clear glass bottles and jars with lids, plastic bags and containers marked #1 through #7, newspapers, glossy inserts, magazines, junk mail, catalogs, office paper, aluminum foil, paperback books, telephone books, kitchen pots and pans, and non-waxed coated cardboard (including cereal boxes, tissue boxes, etc.). Large corrugated cardboard (such as moving boxes, etc.) must be flattened to 2' x 2' sections or smaller prior to placing them in the bin. We apologize, but Styrofoam cannot be collected at this time. Please contact 586.469.6847 for further information about recycling or if your bin has been lost or stolen.

Sanitation Q & A...

Why can't I put my yard waste at the curb for pickup in plastic bags?

Since March 28, 1995, the State of Michigan has banned yard waste materials from going to landfills in an ongoing effort to reduce the waste that ends up in landfills. A separate refuse truck operates on your pickup day, hauling your yard waste to a local composting site that recycles your yard waste and/or turns it into compost. In order for the yard waste to be accepted by the composting site, it must be at the curb in a bio-degradable paper leaf bag or loose in a garbage can. Please do not mix garbage with yard waste. The contractor will not pick it up because it will get rejected at the compost site.

Did You Know...

Household batteries can be dropped off at the Post Office for recycling.

**Featured Park of the Month:
Lawndale Park**



Located at Lawndale and Dickinson. This 1.6-acre neighborhood park features playground equipment, picnic tables, and an outdoor ice skating rink open from dawn until dusk during the winter months.

Anton Art Center Exhibitions & Events

Check out our winter class schedule – we have everything from clay to photography to collage! Visit www.TheArtCenter.org, or call 586.469.8666 for a schedule.

The Anton Art Center strives to exhibit, educate and inspire. We are committed to the advancement of the arts through quality exhibitions, advocacy and educational programs for Macomb County and environs. The center is a non-profit community organization that relies almost entirely on donations to fulfill its mission. Support the center and support the cultural well-being of our community!

Upcoming Exhibitions

Michigan Annual XXXV

January 23rd – February 22nd
Opening Reception: Friday, January 23rd
6 - 9 PM

Warren Tri-County Arts

Sunday, February 1st – 22nd
Closing Reception: Sunday, February 22nd
1 - 3 PM

Portrait

February 27th – March 29th
Opening Reception: Friday, February 27th
6 - 9 PM

Kids on the Go

Saturday & Sunday, February 28th & March 1st
Reception TBA

Gift Shop Design Competition

March 3rd – 29th
Reception TBA

Family memberships cost only \$50 per year. Call us at 586.469.8666 for more membership information.

Gallery Hours: Tues./Wed./Thurs. & Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM; Fri. 10 AM - 6 PM; Sun. 12 PM - 4 PM; closed Mon.

For more information on upcoming exhibitions, artist opportunities, classes, or to volunteer, visit www.TheArtCenter.org or call 586.469.8666. To get regular email updates, email jcallans@theartcenter.org with "subscribe" in the subject line.



**Macomb County Sheriff's Office
Mark A. Hackel, Macomb County Sheriff**

www.macombsheriff.com

**A safety message from the
Macomb County Sheriff's Traffic Division**

Winter Driving Check List

- Keep your tires on the car at recommended pressure and routinely check tire pressure during the cold weather.
- Keep your car's windshield fluid at full strength and the reservoir full. Also keep new wiper blades on front and rear wipers, if so equipped.
- Keep your car washed for better visibility to other drivers, and remove ice and snow from all lights, windows and license plate before driving.

- Check all lights and replace when necessary.
- If you are stranded in a winter storm, do not leave your vehicle. Stay with the vehicle and wait for help.

Special Sheriff Hotlines

Sheriff Business Line	586.469.5151
MACE (Computer Crimes)	586.416.1225
MATS (Auto Theft)	586.469.6491
Marine Division	586.469.5803
SET (Drug Activity)	586.493.4861
Traffic Bureau	586.469.7704
Jail Information Office	586.307.9612
Detective Bureau	586.307.9358

What's New?

- Mount Clemens Fire Department's thoughts and prayers go out to Walter Harris and his family and friends. Harris, a father of six, died on Saturday, November 15, 2008, when a roof collapsed during a fire in a vacant house on Detroit's east side. Officials said the blaze was deliberately set. Harris was a 17-year Detroit Fire Department veteran, who had spent his entire career in the 109-year-old station on E. Grand Boulevard, west of Mt. Elliott.
- The Mount Clemens Fire Department is looking for an individual interested in serving as the Fire Department Chaplain. This person must be an ordained member of the clergy, in good physical health, and prepared to serve in a crisis situation. If you're interested, please contact Firefighter Nick Candela at 586.405.7343.

Special Thanks

- The Mount Clemens Fire Department would like to thank everyone who stopped by the fire station to wish us happy holidays and a special thanks to those who dropped off baked goods; they were very much appreciated.
- The Mount Clemens Fire Department was especially pleased to see that the old fire station on 65 Market Street was purchased by Partners in Architecture and will remain a vital part of the fire department history. Due to the hard work of Mount Clemens resident Lois Ulintz, the old fire house is on its way to becoming a historical building. We would like to say thank you to everyone involved with this project.

Fire Safety Tips: Alternative sources of home heating

The high cost of home heating and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of providing warmth to their homes. The use of wood burning stoves is growing, space heaters are selling rapidly or coming out of storage and fireplaces are burning wood and man-made logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. You can prevent the loss of life and property, as a result of heating fires, by being able to identify potential hazards and following the safety tips contained in the facts that follow.

Electric or Gas Heaters

- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case it is tipped over.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room ventilation. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- Use ONLY the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. NEVER INTRODUCE A FUEL INTO A UNIT WHEN IT IS NOT DESIGNED FOR THAT TYPE OF FUEL.
- Keep kerosene or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers in a well ventilated storage area outside of the house.
- NEVER fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling. DO NOT use cold fuel, as it may expand in the tank as it warms up.
- Refueling should be done outdoors.
- Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

- Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly.
- Replace the batteries in your home's smoke and carbon monoxide detectors annually.
- Have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, to keep unwanted material from going in and to help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- Never burn charcoal indoors.
- Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.

- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

Medical Information Regarding the Physical Effects Cold Weather can have on the Body

1. Wind Chill — The wind chill is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by combined effects of wind and cold. As the wind increases, heat is carried away from the body at an accelerated rate, driving down the body temperature. Animals are also affected by wind chill.
2. Overexertion — It is easy to overdo it when shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car or walking in deep snow. The strain from the cold and the hard labor may cause a heart attack, and sweating could lead to a chill and hypothermia.
3. Hypothermia — Hypothermia occurs when the body temperature is dangerously low (below 95 degrees Fahrenheit/35 degrees Centigrade). The warning signs are uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness, and apparent exhaustion.
4. Frostbite — Frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by that tissue being frozen. Frostbite occurs when the skin and body tissues are exposed to cold temperature for a prolonged period of time. Hands, feet, noses, and ears are most likely to be affected. The first symptoms are a "pins and needles" sensation followed by numbness. There may be an early throbbing or aching, but later on, the affected part becomes insensate (feels like a "block of wood").

The Mount Clemens Fire Department encourages anyone who experiences any of these conditions during our cold winter months to seek immediate medical attention.

Quiz: Typically, how many hours does a Firefighter work per week?

- a) 40 hours a week
- b) 56 hours a week
- c) 30 hours a week

Answer: b) 56 hours a week
Most commonly firefighters work in 24-hour shifts, reporting to work at 0700 and work until 0700 the next day. On the average firefighters work a total of 56 hours per week.

Historical Marker Information

Did you know that the Mount Clemens Historical Commission has a historical marker program for homes and commercial properties that are at least 50 years old? The Mount Clemens Historical Commission believes that the unique past of a historical building should be publicly honored. These beautiful markers commemorate the date of construction and are placed near the entrance of your home or business.

To obtain approval for purchasing a marker, the current owner may apply to the Mount Clemens Historical Commission. The Historical Commission must be able to verify the date of construction. Please include on your application the source used to identify this date. If a precise year of construction cannot be determined, it is permissible to list a range of years, such as "sometime between 1906 and 1910." The first date in the range will be used on the marker preceded by the letter "c" for the word "circa."

The marker is 10" X 13.25". It is available in aluminum only. It includes the words "Historic Mount Clemens" and the date of construction. The commission will order markers in batches of ten after they have approved the applications. The current cost of the marker is \$100.00. Cost is subject to change without notice.

Application forms may be obtained from the City Manager's Office at the municipal building, One Crocker Boulevard and at the reference desk at the Mount Clemens Public Library, 150 Cass Avenue. If there are any questions about the project or to obtain the current marker cost, please contact Historical Commission Member Nancy Donahue at 586.463.4144. The Historical Commission will be happy to lend assistance to owners interested in researching the history of their structures.

The Impact of Snow Removal to Our Waterways

Winter brings with it lots of fun outdoor activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of slippery ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways.

We often attempt to make the job easier by using various products to melt the snow and ice. However, many people do not realize that many of these products have hidden impacts. When the ice melts, the salt and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to a lake or stream, that in the Clinton River Watershed, lead directly into the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair.

Does snow or ice need to be removed? If so, how much? We don't always need to see bare concrete to have a safe winter surface. Here are some tips to help you this winter.

- Shovel early and often. When it comes to snow removal, there is no substitute for muscle and elbow grease! Deicers work best when only a thin layer of snow or ice must be melted. So head out and shovel and move as much snow as you can during the storm if possible. You can also use a hoe to scrape ice off the surface before putting down a deicer.
- Reduce your use of deicing products. The most important step in deicing is to physically remove as much snow and ice as possible before applying a deicer. Use a shovel to break up the ice before you add deicer to your sidewalk. Adding more deicer without removing the ice that has melted can result in overapplication, meaning more salt and chemicals end up in the river and Lake St. Clair. Reduce deicer use by limiting access to your home to one entrance. For every doorway that isn't used, there will be less deicer washing into your street's catch basin. Even if the surface you are applying a deicer to is relatively far from a street or stream, much of the product will not

soak into the soil because the ground is frozen. It will instead runoff as the snow melts and as rain falls in early spring.

- Avoid fertilizers. Fertilizers, including those with urea (carbamide, ammonium, carbonyl diamide, etc.) don't contain chlorides but they contain nutrients. Potassium chloride (Potash) is another fertilizer used to combat snow and ice. Potassium chloride typically costs 3-5 times as much as sodium chloride and doesn't work as well at low temperatures.
- Limit your use of sand. Sand doesn't melt ice. Sand provides traction. When sand is washed off of our driveways and sidewalks into storm drains, it ends up in our lakes, rivers and streams, increasing the amount of sediment there. This extra sediment degrades and even eliminates important habitat for aquatic organisms. Sand is often used by municipalities on roads to help maintain traction. However, ice removal is more typically the concern of homeowners and businesses and therefore proper use of chemical alternatives may be more appropriate.
- Try an alternative. Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause corrosion. CMA is recommended for environmentally sensitive areas but is very expensive. Early studies indicate that sugar and corn products may have minimal negative environmental effects and are safe for surfaces. While these products are available to road commissions and municipalities, access to these products by the general public is limited in southeast Michigan. Begin asking your local stores to stock these safer products.

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TREASURER'S OFFICE

Lori Holland, Deputy Treasurer

Winter Tax Bills

Residents should have received a winter tax bill in the mail around December 1, 2008, and it is due on February 27, 2009. Please note: the due date on the bill was printed as February 15 in error. Any 2008 tax that remains unpaid after February 27th will be transferred to the Macomb County Treasurer's Office for collection.

The winter tax bill consists of 0.9501 mills and includes the following County items: Macomb County SMART, Macomb - Chpt. 20 (drain), Huron-Clinton Authority (Metro Parks), Veterans Millage and Zoological Authority. Every resident receives a tax bill, even if your taxes are paid by a mortgage company. Please keep this tax bill for income tax purposes.

Riverfront Gazebo

The Treasurer's Office will be able to take 2009 reservations for the gazebo on February 2, 2009. The fees are: \$50.00 for the first hour and \$25.00 for each additional hour.

Tammy Murphy
Dial-A-Ride Supervisor

Special Weather Statement: During extreme weather conditions, Dial-A-Ride, the Shopper Route and the Shuttle may be cancelled or only take emergency calls and/or customers going to work or to the doctor.

A Friendly Reminder: Due to the increased volume of customers, there is an average wait of 30 to 45 minutes. Please allow sufficient time to arrive at your destination.

Shopper Route Information

- The times listed are approximate.
- The drivers will do their best to stay on time. Please be ready 5 minutes before the scheduled time.
- When the Shopper bus is at Meijer, it may wait an extra 5 minutes past the time.
- The Shopper will also pick up and drop off, upon request, at the following destinations:
 - Phil's Pharmacy • 133 S. Main
 - Dollar General • Smoke Shop
 - Rite Aid • Big Boy
 - Payless Shoes • Public Library
 - Huntington Bank
 - 5/3 Bank on Groesbeck
- The cost is 75¢ one way, \$1.50 round-trip.
- Out of Service (OS) - The Shopper Route will be on break from 11:20 AM until 11:50 AM, Monday – Friday. Following the break, the Shopper will resume its route at Meijer at 11:50 AM and proceed from there.

Name & Mailing Changes

- To change the mailing address for taxes and assessment notices contact the Assessor's Office. To change the owner's name on a property parcel, a registered deed or contract is required.

Important Information for Property Owners

- If you are delinquent in payment of your property taxes you should know that the law governing late payments has changed dramatically.
- Public Act 123 of 1999 decreases the amount of time which owners have to pay delinquent taxes before losing their property. Property taxes that are two years delinquent will now be subject to foreclosure and subsequent sale at public auction. Most importantly, the new law no longer allows for redemption of the property once foreclosure has taken place. Foreclosure is final. Contact the Assessor's Office for more information.

A Reminder to New Homeowners

- If you have recently purchased a new or previously owned home in the City of Mount Clemens, please be sure you have submitted a Property Transfer Affidavit and a Principal Residence Exemption form (formerly know as homestead exemption affidavit) to the Assessing Office. The closing agent usually provides these forms at the time of closing. The State of Michigan requires prompt submission (within 45 days) of these forms to ensure appropriate taxation.

Important Dates to Remember

In January, personal property statements will be mailed out to all commercial and industrial taxpayers. These statements must be completed according to State law. Return the completed forms, by **February 1st** to the City Assessor's Office. If you do not fill out and return a personal property statement for your business operation, an estimated value will be placed on that account, as authorized by State law.

Prior to March 1st, assessment change notices will be mailed to the property owners in the City of Mount Clemens. If you disagree with your assessed value for 2008, your chance to appeal the valuation of your property is at the March Board of Review. The dates for this will be March 16 & 17, 2009. Your appeal may be made by letter or in person. **This is the only time that your valuation may be appealed according to State law!!!**

May 1st is the deadline to file for a PRE (Primary Residence Exemption). In order to qualify, the property must be **owned and occupied by the individual** that is applying for the exemption. For more information, contact the Assessor's Office.

Subdivision plat maps are available online through the State of Michigan web site at www.cis.state.mi.us/platmaps/sr_subs.asp.

Land Division Applications for land division are available at the Assessor's Office. When the application is completed, return it with the required documents and appropriate fee to the Assessing Office.

If you have questions or need more information, the Assessor's Office can be reached at 586.469.6818 x 307. Our hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

SHOPPER ROUTE SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY	CLINTON PLACE	PARK PLACE	MACOMB PLACE	CLEMENS TOWERS	MEIJER	OTHER
8:00 AM	8:00	8:05	8:07	8:10	8:15	8:20
8:30	8:30	8:35	8:37	8:40	8:45	8:50
9:00	9:00	9:05	9:07	9:10	9:15	9:20
9:30	9:30	9:35	9:37	9:40	9:45	9:50
10:00	10:00	10:05	10:07	10:10	10:15	10:20
10:30	10:30	10:35	10:37	10:40	10:45	10:50
11:00	11:00	11:05	11:07	11:10	11:15	11:20
11:20 - 11:50	**OS** SHOPPER OUT OF SERVICE				11:50	
12:00 PM	12:00	12:05	12:07	12:10	12:15	12:20
12:30	12:30	12:35	12:37	12:40	12:45	12:50
1:00	1:00	1:05	1:07	1:10	1:15	1:20
SATURDAY						
10:00 AM	10:00	10:05	10:07	10:10	10:15	10:20
10:30	10:30	10:35	10:37	10:40	10:45	10:50
11:00	11:00	11:05	11:07	11:10	11:15	11:20
11:30	11:30	11:35	11:37	11:40	11:45	11:50
12:00 PM	12:00	12:05	12:07	12:10	12:15	12:20
1:00	1:00	1:05	1:07	1:10	1:15	1:20
1:30	1:30	1:35	1:37	1:40	1:45	1:50



To obtain information regarding programs at the Mount Clemens Ice Arena please call the arena at 586.307.8202 or visit our Web site at www.mountclemensicearena.com.

CABLE TELEVISION

Patrick Linabury
Senior Producer

Digital Transition on February 17, 2009

The Federal Government has required all television broadcasters to broadcast their signals in a digital bandwidth beginning on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. This move creates improved communication for emergency responders. If you currently subscribe to cable television or satellite television service, you WILL NOT be affected by this change. Mount Clemens residents who watch free television (off of an antenna) will be required to upgrade their current antenna to a digital antenna.

The federal government is currently offering a coupon towards the purchase of a digital antenna converter box. Log on to www.dtv2009.gov/ApplyCoupon.aspx to apply for your coupon. After February 17, 2009, any Mount Clemens residents who do not have a digital antenna converter box and do not subscribe to cable or satellite service, WILL NOT receive free television programs.

Cable Access Now Available on AT&T U-verse

Through the partnership between the City of Mount Clemens and the Mount Clemens Community Schools, Mount Clemens cable access is now available to AT&T U-verse customers. Many residents were disappointed to find out that the Macomb Cable Network (MCN) was not available on the U-verse system. At the urging of the City Commission and the School Board, funds were allocated to purchase the necessary equipment to provide AT&T customers with MCN programming. By accessing channel 99 and selecting Mount Clemens, AT&T customers will now enjoy the same program lineup that is shared with Comcast channel 5 and Wide Open West channel 10. This lineup includes City Commission and School Board Meetings, Bath City Beat, Bather Babble and a host of other locally-produced cable programs. A complete program lineup is available on both the city and school district web sites. Residents can download and print their own program lineups.

Any questions or concerns about either of these projects, or other cable television programs or issues, should be directed to Macomb Cable Network Senior Producer, Patrick Linabury at 586.461.3751 or email: LinaburyP@mtcps.org.

Pictures from the 33rd Annual Mount Clemens Presents the Macomb County Santa Parade

Photographs taken by Jon Kohlmann

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus receive the Key to the City from Mount Clemens Mayor Barb Dempsey while announcer Top Hat John looks on.



The winners of the coloring contest dressed up like Bob the Builder and had the opportunity to ride with him in the parade.



Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus make their way down Main Street in their new sleigh.



Left: The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 154 of Mount Clemens proudly march along the parade route.