

# Between the Lines

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 1, 2009

### General Information

One Grand Street  
Coldwater, MI 49036

Office:  
517-279-9531

Internet Helpdesk:  
517-278-9276

Websites:  
www.cbpu.com  
www.coldwater.org

Payment options:  
Mail, Drop-box, Automatic Bill Pay,  
On-Line Bill Pay or just stop in  
Mon-Fri, 8 am - 5 pm

Suggestions for Newsletter:  
Newsletter@coldwater.org

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 \* The City and CBPU \*  
 \* Offices will be \*  
 \* **CLOSED** on the \*  
 \* following dates: \*  
 \* Thursday, Dec. 24th \*  
 \* Friday, Dec. 25th \*  
 \* Thursday, Dec. 31st \*  
 \* Friday, Jan 1st \*  
 \*  \*  
 \* \*\*\*\*\*

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Christmas Tree Pickup  
begins December 28th

Winter Taxes are due  
February 16, 2010

Daylight Saving Begins  
March 14, 2010

## Michigan—A Long Road to Recovery

The rapid collapse of the Michigan economy will spill into next year with the federal stimulus money largely spent and state tax revenues plummeting. The challenge to cities, villages and counties will be considerable. Services will be reduced or eliminated with a focus on maintaining public safety – police and fire.

It is fair to ask when prosperity will return to our state, county and city and what will make it happen. The Michigan Municipal League, the advocacy organization for cities and village across the state, has developed a prosperity agenda that provides some answers. Prosperous communities are home to an educated and talented work force, a critical component in an information and technology driven economy.

The educational system to support a highly skilled workforce includes opportunity beyond K-12 with access to college curriculum, technical training and flexible schedules where people can work while earning a degree or enhancing skills.

But there is more. We have to ask what do prospering

places offer that make them attractive?

The answers are fairly uniform regardless of geographic area and include the following:

- Significant access to public transit and alternatives to driving including bike lanes, running and walking trails.
- Vibrant downtowns and neighborhoods where people live, work, play and shop in close proximity.
- Entertainment and cultural attractions – restaurants, cafes and bars where people can socialize, access the Internet, read and do a little work, art and historical museums, libraries, theaters, plays and live music.
- Green spaces with parks, trails, gardens and fountains. Places for the kids to play and walk the dog.
- Economic development strategies that grow the local economy by a few jobs at a time through support of entrepreneurs.

The good news is that Coldwater enjoys many of these amenities and the opportunity to enhance them is never far from the mind of the city’s elected and appointed leaders. We constantly seek new opportunities to show that there is something special and unique about Coldwater as a

place to do business.

As an example, a dedicated group of Branch County residents continues to chase the dream of restoring the Tibbits Opera House by seeking grants, benefactors and holding fundraising activities. To some, the restoration effort may appear out of sync with the current economy. This project, though, is a piece of the puzzle that reminds visitors and residents that our history is also part of our future.

Economic prosperity includes all of the above and more. It is more than difficult to be optimistic when backs are against the wall and many citizens are suffering for lack of a job. We have to move forward one job and business at a time and do our very best to put Coldwater’s best foot forward.

Every one of us can be a promoter of our community in some small way - a friendly smile and a wave or taking the opportunity to help a stranger, visitor or person in need. It is something to look forward to doing each and every day.

—Contributed by our City Manager, Bill Stewart

# Happy Hallo-Green Indeed!

Recycle, reduce and reuse! That's what over 650 citizens of Coldwater did when they participated in our "Hallo-GREEN" event the week of October 26th. It's very promising to see our customers engaged and interested in energy efficiency and things they can do at their home or business to conserve in general.



Of course, we couldn't have such a successful event without such strong community support, so thank you to everyone that came out and picked up a reusable bag, a CFL and safety trick-or-treat bags for the kids. We

greatly appreciate your input and feedback. It helps us better plan for these types of events in the future.

Also, a huge thank you to our local Coldwater Meijer store. They generously donated 300 CFL's and 300 Meijer branded reusable grocery bags.

Congratulations to our lucky "Hallo-Green" winners: Emma Woods, Carole Bolton, Fred Jenner, Ron Smith, Jeffrey Smith & MaryAnn French-Humber all received gift packs full of reusable bags, CFL's and 3M window insulation kits. Grand

prize winner Emily Olmsted won the prize pack with a programmable thermostat. Congrats!!

Detailed information on our Energy Efficiency Program or Appliance Rebate program can be found at [www.cbpu.com](http://www.cbpu.com) or 279-9531.



United Methodist Preschool Class took time out of their day to learn about Trick-or-Treat safety & recycling.

# Updating Your Utility Account

We are always looking for ways to stay better connected with our customers. One improvement we are looking to make is enhancing our communications to be able to provide outage information via text, e-mail or mobile device.

To accomplish this, we need your help! The first step is to ensure we have the most up-to-date contact information on your account. Many of us have had an

account with the CBPU for years, so it's likely phone numbers have changed. I'm sure most of us have added cell phones and e-mail addresses as well, since the account was started.

Please, take a moment to call us and update your account information. The CBPU does not give out personal information or sell it to a third party. Updating your account helps us get important

information to you in the quickest way.

If you are a senior citizen (65 or older) it is **very important** that you contact us and update your account. We want to make sure that you're aware of discounts and services that are available to you.

Customer Service can be reached at 279-9531 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

# Come Downtown for Wintery Fun

Start your holiday season off by coming downtown Saturday, December 5th to celebrate Christmasfest! Enjoy a wonderful winter day with friends and family while strolling the streets, shopping local stores and enjoying tasty treats and hot chocolate.



From 10—2, there'll be refreshments, drawings, music, kids activities and much more! Make sure you're there before the Parade starts at 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 30th from 9:00 to 3:00 see ice carvers create over 20 awesome ice sculptures in various downtown Coldwater

locations. Get into the Chili Tasting Competition featuring your favorite local downtown restaurants and pubs!

