Smoke Testing N. Muskegon Sanitary Sewer System
The City of North Muskegon will be smoke testing the entire sanitary sewer collection system in the spring and summer of 2016. The purpose of the test is to identify defects in the collection system where storm water can infiltrate the system. It will identify illegal connections, faulty laterals and even some indoor plumbing issues.

Infiltration and illegal connections can increase the city’s operating costs. It is our goal to identify and eliminate problems so we can keep our operating costs in check.

During testing, air pressure will be used to force a harmless white smoke through the collection system. The smoke escapes wherever there’s a crack in a pipe, broken clean-out, manhole or vent pipe. City staff wants residents to understand this process so they won’t panic if they notice smoke in their homes or neighborhoods during testing.

Volunteers will be needed to walk the neighborhoods during testing to record the location of possible problems. Call City Hall at 744-1621 if you’d like to volunteer.

More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the spring of 2016.

Circle of Trees & Dog Parade
Sunday December 6th
Join us for the 11th Annual Circle of Trees!

12:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Tree Decorating
5:30 p.m. - Line up for Santa/Dog Parade at the corner of First Street and Ruddiman

Santa will be in attendance, so don’t forget your camera!

Sponsor a tree!
Anyone can be a sponsor! Make it a family tree, promote a business or a non-profit organization, church, club, etc.

More information is available on our website: www.cityofnm.com, email lclausen@cityofnm.com, or call (231) 744-1621.

Help Keep Storm Drains Clear
Lock down your road and you will see a storm drain. Storm drains are designed to prevent flooding. Large volumes of water from heavy rains and snowmelt wash over streets and into the drains. Underground pipes transport the moving water into area creeks, rivers and lakes.

There is a downside to storm drains. When water washes into the drains, pollutants are carried along for the ride. Litter, pet waste, dirt, fertilizers, antifreeze and motor oil are just a few examples of contaminants that enter our waterways through storm drains.

Stormwater is different than wastewater from toilets and sinks, which goes to a treatment plant before being discharged into the water.

5 Simple Ways You Can Help:
· Use a pooper scooper!
· Limit your pesticide and fertilizer use
· Check your vehicles for fuel and oil leaks
· Wash your car on the lawn or go to a car wash
· Only Rain Down the Drain! In other words, use trash cans. Please check your storm drains and remove any visible debris.

Visit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) web site to find out more about stormwater runoff: www.michigan.gov/deq

City of North Muskegon
1502 Ruddiman Dr.
North Muskegon, MI 49445
Call Us!
(231) 744-1621

Keep Sticks & Twigs out of Loose Leaf Piles
Please separate all sticks/twigs and branches from your loose leaves. Leaf piles containing sticks and twigs will NOT be picked up because the debris causes damage to the leaf vacuum truck. Please rake leaves to the terrace area. Leaves in alleys will NOT be picked up.

Did You Know?
The City has a drop box so residents can drop off payments at their convenience. City staff checks the drop box daily at 8:30 a.m.
Information and tips on preventing Oak Wilt Disease

Oak Wilt first appears as a gray clump on the bark of an infected oak tree. The disease splits the bark and is noticeable when a tree’s leaves change color months too early. This fungal disease is spread when beetles carry spores from an infected tree to a freshly pruned tree. It can also spread below the ground when the roots of neighboring oak tree graft together, venturing Oak Wilt from spreading underground by trenching around the roots of tree pruning. If pruning is necessary or the wind has broken a tree limb, consider contacting Sam Janson at sjanson@cityofnm.com.

For more information on Oak Wilt Disease prevention and identification, contact Sam Janson at sjanson@cityofnm.com.

Ordinance Reminders

Night parking: On city streets is prohibited from November 1 to March 31.

Alleys: No person shall park a vehicle in an alley in a residential district in such manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten feet of the road way for the free movement of vehicular traffic.

Address Identification Information: All buildings are required to have address numbers which are legible and visible from the street.

Snow Plow Licenses: Snow plow licenses are required prior to engaging in the business of snow removal. There is a $10 fee and licenses are now available at City Hall. A valid drivers license is required.

Recreational Vehicles/Trailers: RVs and trailers may not be stored in your primary or principal front yard. At no time shall trailers be parked on an unpaved surface within a lot.

From September 15 through October 31, recreational vehicles/equipment may be parked within any yard for the purposes of moving, cleaning and transfer for a period not to exceed a total of 14 days if no public sidewalk is blocked or visual obstruction is created.

Renters and rental properties are subject to the same laws and ordinances as owner-occupied properties.

Frozen Water Pipes

Pipes or hoses exposed to the air will freeze when the temperature reaches 32 degrees or colder. Water pipes buried in the ground are insulated from the freezing temperatures until the frost in the ground reaches the depth of the water pipes. The time it takes for the frost to reach buried water pipes varies greatly depending on snow cover, average temperatures and the type of soil. When air temperatures stay below 32 degrees for extended periods, like it does during our winter months, areas such as roads, driveways and sidewalks freeze first because the snow cover that acts as insulation has been removed. One interesting fact is that when the sun shines during the winter months, it actually pushes the frost deeper before thawing begins.

When water freezes in a pipe it expands and the expansion can result in a burst pipe. Letting a faucet drip during extreme cold weather can prevent a pipe from bursting. It’s not that a small flow of water prevents freezing; this helps, but water can freeze even with a slow flow.

A Citizens’ Guide to Broken or Frozen Water Services

Why did my water service (lateral) freeze? Your water lateral may not be buried deep enough to prevent a frozen service during times of deep frost.

Who is responsible for the connection (water lateral) between the water main and my home? Section 66-33 of the North Muskegon Code of Ordinances states that property owners are responsible for the expense of repairs and replacement of the water lateral from the main line to the home.

My water lateral is broken/frozen. What should I do? To maintain service to your home, it is recommended that you contact an excavator and begin exploring the installation of a new water lateral.

Who should I call? City Staff has compiled a list of contractors that may have the equipment and experience repairing or replacing water service lines. Please call City Hall at (231) 744-1621 for more information.

Mail Boxes

Nothing is quite so disheartening in the dead of winter as a mailbox kneecapped by a snowplow or decapitated by the heavy wet stuff the plow throws its way. Here are a few solutions we found online:

Install a mailbox post that revolves, seesaws, and literally springs out of the way.

Attach a flat wooden wall or large board to protect it during the winter.

Make sure the mailbox isn’t too close to the road.

Snow Removal Tips

1. Use snow melt before it snows.
2. Use the right shovel.
3. Don’t stall - shovel several times, even while it’s still raining as snow doesn’t bond to surfaces. Sunlight can warm pavement and prevent ice from forming.
4. Watch your step - Use sand to add traction to slippery surfaces.

Be A Courteous Neighbor!

Please shovel sidewalks in front of your residence to ensure pedestrian safety.

Information regarding Accountability & Transparency can be found at www.cityofnm.com

Calendar


View the calendar of events on our website!