

Beulah Newsletter

Winter 2009

From the Editors:

No doubt that winter is upon us and what a madcap mixture it has been. Watching the changing vista over the lake is always interesting and the brave ice fishermen who have shanties within sight of open water. Vicki was a first timer last winter and caught a 'mud puppy' which was an experience not soon to be forgotten! Fortunately for all involved, it slipped the hook before breaking the surface. Although winter finds less traffic and fewer visitors, there are many amazing activities and events in Benzie County, indoors and out. We want to acknowledge the work of the Village crew to clear the streets and remove snow to approved areas. It's very easy to criticize the work of others. It is much more difficult to be part of the solution. Everyone is encouraged to support their work and help them keep Beulah safe. Be warm and enjoy!

Phil Downs and Vicki Carpenter- Downs
Volunteer Editors

From the Village President:

Happy New Year!

I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2009. Wow, how time flies. As we enter into a new year, I would like to take a look back at 2008 and evaluate both our accomplishments and disappointments.

Accomplishments:

1. We completed a badly needed sewer upgrade resulting in open capacity for new customers and a much more reliable sewer system. This was done with a low interest loan and a \$260,000.00 grant.
2. The Cold Creek Holding Pond was dredged in conjunction with Benzonia Township. This is done every 5 to 7 years.
3. Sidewalks in the downtown area were redone.
4. Angle parking was instituted resulting in sorely needed increased parking.
5. Launch ramp improvements to keep boat trailers from extending past the end.
6. Expanded volunteerism, public participation, input thru the Beulah Boosters, and increased attendance at Village Meetings.
7. Donations by Village residents and businesses of park benches, signs, and picnic tables.

Disappointments:

1. Finding contaminated soil near the Village Office preventing us from fixing a small sewer problem. The cost of removing the soil far exceeded our budget.
2. The ability to hire and retain employees. We have taken steps to resolve this issue.

In summary, I believe we had a successful year by accomplishing the above within the budget. This would also be an appropriate time to mention that the Village has not had a mileage increase for the operating budget for 17 years, so I believe our tax dollars are being used wisely. Snow removal is taking a large bite out of our budget (it is within our allotted funds) but we will manage.

All the best to you and your family in 2009.

Jerry Rank, Village President

Village Council Trustees and Staff

At the December meeting, the 2 remaining Council vacancies were filled by appointments. The Council members, assignments, term expiration and co-chairs are listed below.

Jerry Rank – President-2010

Patty Cantrell –Equipment-2010

Co-Chair: Gary Pallin

Maxine Hansen– Law and Finance-2010

Co-Chair: Gary Siderman

Jim Kilgus – Water and Sewer-2012

Co-Chair: Charley Kinzel

Charley Kinzel– Streets and Sidewalks-2010

Co-Chair: Jim Kilgus

Gary Pallin – Parks and Recreation-2012

Co-Chair: Patty Cantrell

Gary Siderman – Buildings and Grounds-2012

Co-Chair: Maxine Hansen

Laura Spencer – Clerk-2010

Dawn Olney – Treasurer-2010

Brian Moore – Supervisor

John Lawrence – Village Crew

vacant– Village Crew

Village Office Hours

Clerk-Laura Spencer Tues-Wed-Thurs 10-2 pm

Treasurer Dawn Olney has new hours effective now
Mon. & Wed. 5-7:30

Phone 231-882-4451 Fax 231-882-5759

Free Fax services available to residents

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The Newsletter and Council minutes can be found on the web site: www.villageofbeulah.org

Village Meetings: First Thursday after the first Monday each month (1/8, 2/5, 3/5 and 4/9 at 7 pm).



Standing: Sideman, Pallin, Cantrell, Seger, Kinzel
Seated: Kilgus, Rank, Hansen, Olney

Darcy Library of Beulah Hours:

Mon.-Wed.-Fri. 12 to 5

Tues.-Thurs. 3 to 7 pm

Sat. 9 to 1 pm

231-882-4037 beulahpubliclibrary.blogspot.com

Friends of the Darcy Library meet the 1st Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited.

Recycling Update-for info call 882-0554

1. Effective now, #5 plastic can be recycled along with #1 and #2 (make sure it's all clean)

- **Styrofoam** will have date specific recycling sites each quarter; please check the web site.
- Beulah sites remain behind the Village Offices for glass, paper/cardboard and plastic/tin, available to residents; businesses should call regarding permits.
- County residents may transport and unload yard waste, tree branches, small brush by appointment, call 882-0554.
- Cardboard may also be dropped at Benzie Central High School.
- Large trash cans are in place at all sites for #2 plastic shopping bags.

- Call the Recycling Coordinator, Marlene with any recycling or disposal questions 231-882-0554. Go to www.benzieco.net for more info.

Remember:

- Christmas trees can be put out curbside as well. Please tie up the branches to help with pick up.
- Sidewalk snow removal is the responsibility of the building occupant or owner if unoccupied, per Village ordinance.
- **No overnight parking** on any streets from November 1 to April 1 regardless of the snow conditions. Violators risk cars being towed.
- Please keep your shoveled snow out of the street. It can become a frozen hazard for the road crews and equipment.
- All dogs in the Village are to be on leash. **Only certified service animals are allowed on the Trail.** Please clean up after your pets.
- Red trash bags are sold at Village Office, yellow at Stapletons (single bags) and Shop & Save (10/pkg). Friday mornings is pick-up for red and yellow bags in the Village. Weekday holidays move pick-up to Saturday morning. **Price increased from \$20 to \$21 for 10 red trash bags when purchased from the Village Office, effective 1/1/09.**
- Business owners and staff are encouraged to park away from the downtown parking in order to save spaces for visitors and patrons.

Pick up litter, let's keep Beulah beautiful

Did You Know:

- Village residents at the corner of Crystal Ave. and Lake St. put in curbing and painted the existing retaining wall. Well done & thanks!
- Soap Barrel Co. is open Sat., 10-5, downtown
- Darcy Library has a variety of winter activities: foreign films, fly-tying classes, special topic speakers, book group as well as free laptop-Internet availability. Come in and check it out or visit beulahpubliclibrary.blogspot.com for info.
- Fresh paint on the building front of Crystal Crate & Cargo made for a nice start to winter.
- Many shop owners have adjusted winter hours.

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Members of BCHS Chorus at Christmas Magic

Crystal Lake Community Business Association (CLCBA) Past and Future Events:

Halloween: This mild evening found over 100 children enjoying the haunted maze in the Village Park. Many thanks to the volunteers who assembled, decorated, distributed candy and put things away. An added treat this year was music in Library Park, provided by True North and hosted by the Darcy Library.

Christmas Magic: It was held on Saturday, December 13 with activities in Benzonia and Beulah. The second day of the Darcy Library Cookie and Book sale started the festivities in the Trailhead Building. Santa greeted over 50 children at breakfast at the Hungry Tummy as well. The afternoon found the Trailhead building hosting face painting and cookie decorations while Santa listened to holiday wishes. Thanks to Carol Rader, a parade of holiday theme floats, led by Frosty the Snowman made their way through town to the Village Park. Horse drawn wagon rides added to the festive feeling as did carols led by members of the Benzie Central Chorus. The streets and then the park had over 100 hardy souls listen as winners of the store front decorating, float and snowman competitions were announced.

Store front: 1st Northern Décor, 2nd Beading Frenzy and 3rd Brookside Inn

Floats: 1st Victoria's Floral, 2nd Odyssey of the Mind (OM) students, 3rd Maples Medical Care

Snowman: 1st OM students-Benzie Farmer, 2nd Northern Décor-Snowshopper and 3rd OM students-Jinglebell

Many thanks to the businesses who generously gave drawing prizes which were awarded in the Pavillion at the end of the event and the volunteer judges.

WinterFest: A variety of events are scheduled for this annual event, Saturday, February 14. Most activities are centered in the Village Park Pavilion. Chili Cook-Off participants must pre-register on the CLCBA website or at the Hungry Tummy and bring 3 gallons of chili to the Pavilion. Other activities include: frozen fish toss, children's ice fishing contest, poker run, airboat rides, softball tourney, rubber ducky race, horse drawn wagon rides, frozen turkey bowling and Sheriff's dive team demo as well as a parade. The fireworks will begin at 7 followed by a bonfire and music in the park. A complete list is on the website, in the paper and on posters. For more complete information, go to: www.crystallakecommunitybusinessassoc.com



Santa and Frosty listen to this young lady's wishes during Christmas Magic.

Dock Space has a waiting list, contact Laurie at the Village Office for information, 882-4451

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New Angled Parking on Benzie Blvd:

Overall, feedback has been positive on the new parking. Since the last newsletter, a center line has been laid down (sometimes visible through the snow/ice) which was a suggestion. Concerns about large vehicles remain and discussion on signage to prohibit oversize vehicle parking continues. Several people wrote in and shared that this has slowed the speed downtown and that was a positive outcome. The Council appreciates the feedback and will continue to accept your thoughts and suggestions. Adequate and available parking for boats/trailers is of concern for boaters and residents and is a topic for the Council.

Beulah Master Plan Update in Progress: In 1997 the Village developed a Master Plan with input from residents. It was overdue for a review and revision and that process started in November with the new Council. In addition to a review of the original goals and objectives and their current status, Council will give input on revision, deletion and/or development on current and/or new goals. Residents and other interested citizens will be given opportunity for input later this winter through a specific questionnaire as well as public meetings. As always, everyone is encouraged to attend Village Council meetings and the original Master Plan is available for review at the Village Office.

Upcoming Events:

- 2/5/09 Village Council Meeting-7 pm
- 2/13/09 Chocolate/Art/Champagne Party at Darcy Library-Friday, details at Library
- 2/14/09 Winter Fest in Beulah, , see article
- 2/15/09 Water bills are due
- 3/5/09 Village Council Meeting-7 pm
- 4/9/09 Village Council Meeting-7 pm
- "Read to Rosie" at the Darcy Library, every Thursday, 3-7, call for a time slot, 882-4037
- Children's Story Time, Darcy Library, every Thursday at 11 am

Park Yourself at Beulah Beach

The Village-owned travel trailer park at the beach in Beulah is ready for your 2009 business. Sites at the park are available for the 2009 season.

Contact the Village Clerk at 231-882-4451 or email beulah@chartermi.net for more information.

Beulah Boosters: Thanks to the enthusiasm and leadership of some key people, the Beulah Boosters has officers, a board and a roster of supporters in place. The focus of the Boosters is to provide volunteers, support and develop activities that promote Beulah. The group held a picnic last June, helped with several activities on July 4th, coordinated water stops for the Team Marathon as well as helped with Fall Fest, different decorating activities, Halloween Maze and Christmas Magic. If you'd like to be a Beulah Booster, please pick up a membership form at Crystal Copies.

President: Steve Wentworth

Vice President: Carroll Frankenberger

Secretary: Joan Duggen

Treasurer: Bob Bishop

Directors: Kitty Sabatos, Phil Downs, Vicki Carpenter

New Collection Fee:

It seems as if every quarter there are a number of water/sewer bills that make the delinquent payment list. Our policy has been to notify late customers by certified mail that their water will be shut off on a "drop dead date" if the outstanding bill has not been paid. Many times I have accompanied our Maintenance Supervisor to those locations scheduled for shut-off and been handed a check for the outstanding balance. We would certainly rather have payment for a past due bill than to shut someone's water off. However, it has taken the time of two men, a truck using gas and much aggravation to collect payments on this basis. It is not our intent to be bill collectors and should not be necessary after sufficient notice has been provided to customers. That being the case, as of January 1, 2009 we have instituted a \$25.00 "Collection Fee" if bills are paid after staff has been dispatched to shut off water for delinquent accounts. This fee will be assessed on the subsequent water bill.

Jim Kilgus, Chairman; Water and Sewer

Your feedback, ideas and information are welcome. You can drop a note with your water bill payment or leave a message at the Village Office, 882-4451.