



NEWSLETTER

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TAX PAYMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY TREASURER BEFORE THE DEADLINE OR THEY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE A DELINQUENT TAX.

CABLE TV RATES INCREASED

At the City Council meeting held on Monday, January 12, 2009, the City Council voted to increase the cable TV rates effective immediately. The increase became necessary for a couple of reasons. The annual subscriber rates charged to the City of each of the cable channels were increased, causing the Council to consider passing that cost along to the users. The other factor that is affecting the increase is the recent purchase of equipment to bring the system up to date and ready to broadcast a digital signal. This

equipment will insure that your cable signal is not interrupted when the feeds change from analog to digital. Subscribers to the City of Crystal Falls' cable system do not need to do anything to receive

the digital signals.

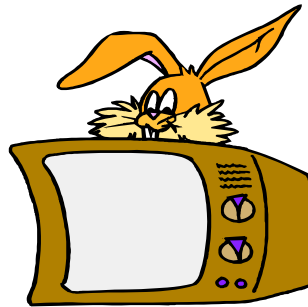
The rate for basic cable was increased by \$2.50 and HBO by \$.25 making the new monthly rates:

Basic cable = \$23.00

HBO = \$11.25

These rates will appear on the utility bills that are mailed January 30th.

Even at those rates, the City's cable system is still a very good deal with 30 Basic channels and HBO. Call the City offices today to have cable installed in your home!



When digital broadcasting begins rabbit ears will no longer pick up a TV signal.

TAX PAYMENTS DUE BY MARCH 2, 2009

The 2008 Summer and Winter tax collection is coming to a close. Payments will be accepted at the City offices until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2,

2009. Anything received after that date and time will be turned over to the Iron County Treasurer as a delinquent tax.

Postmarks do not constitute an on-time payment.

Partial payments are not accepted by the City Treasurer.

COLD TEMPS CAUSE WATER LINES TO FREEZE

Over the past few frigid weeks the City has been called upon to thaw several frozen water lines. The City will provide

thawing services for City water customers, however, these services will be billed for and completed according to the

guidelines set up in the "Frozen Water Policy". The details of this policy continue on page 2 of this newsletter.

CRYSTELLA SKI HILL—FUN ON THE

The 2008-2009 ski season at the city's Crystella Ski hill is now in full swing. So far this season the most popular use of the hill appears to be snowboarding, but the skiers are certainly getting their runs in too.

Crystella also offers a sledding run and skating rink. Use of the rink and sledding run are free, however, use of the tow ropes requires the purchase of either a Season Pass (\$30) or a Daily Pass (\$5).

Ski Hill rope tows will be in operation on:

Wednesdays: 4 to 8
 Saturday & Sunday:
 Noon—4

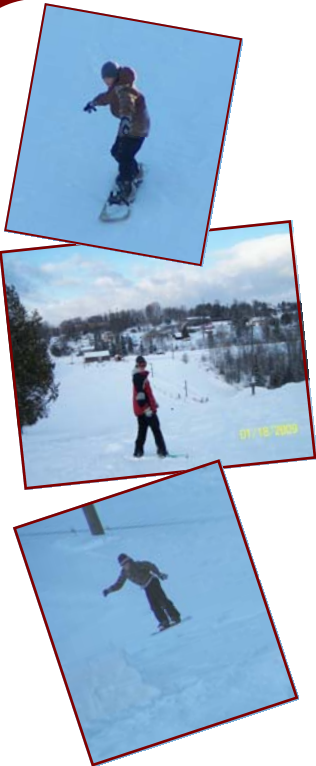
And on Mondays the lodge will be open and the lights will be on at the "little hill" for sledders and the skating rink for skaters. There will be no tow ropes running on Mondays but the concession stand will be available for your favorite snacks. (All proceeds from the concession stand will go toward the purchase of playground equipment for Lincoln Park.)

SO PULL ON THOSE SNOW PANTS, GRAB YOUR SNOW TOYS, AND WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE HILL!



This group of snowboarders takes a break in front of the lodge at Crystella Ski Hill.

**FUN FUN FUN
 Smear Tournament on
 March 7th at the VFW for
 Lincoln Park Playground
 Equipment Fundraising**



FROZEN WATER POLICY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

IF THE FROZEN WATER PROBLEM IS IDENTIFIED AS BEING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CITY, BETWEEN THE MAIN LINE AND THE CUSTOMERS CURB STOP then the line will be scheduled for correction by the City. The customer will be notified by the City when they may start letting water run without being charged for the wasted water. The customer will only be charged for the average of the past three months water use. If thawing is required before this authorization is issued, it will be done without charge to the customer as long as it is under the supervision of the City. IF THE PROBLEM IS IDENTIFIED AS BEING THE CUSTOMER'S RESPONSIBILITY, BETWEEN THE CUSTOMER CURB STOP AND THE HOUSE then there will be no authorization to waste water at the City's expense and thawing will be billed according to the current fee schedule. In addition, the customer

should follow the City recommendations on correcting the problem.

IF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROBLEM IS NOT IDENTIFIED then there will be no authorization to waste water at the City's expense until after the service has frozen and been thawed by the City. Thawing will be billed according to the current fee schedule.

FEE SCHEDULE:

City Problem:
 First time each year—Free
 Additional times after water run authorization—\$100

Customer Problem:
 Normal working hours
 7 am—3:30 pm—\$225/hr
 Overtime hours—\$300/hr

Water meters are the property of the City of Crystal Falls, but customers are responsible for keeping the meter in acceptable operating condition, mainly prevention of freezing. If a meter freezes, it will be repaired or replaced at the water customer's expense as follows:

Freeze Plate Replacement:
 \$20 for the freeze plate
 \$50 for first hour
 \$25 for every other half hour

Replace Frozen Meter:
 Market cost of meter plus
 \$50 for first hour
 \$25 for every other half hour

REMEMBER, the best way to prevent pipes from freezing is with proper installation and insulation. Wasting water is at best a both-ersome and expensive temporary solution.

GUIDELINES TO PREVENT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

Water utility customers are advised to make an annual check of their water piping before the onset of winter weather. Every member of the household should know the location of the water shutoff which is located near the water meter. Typical reasons for water lines freezing are shallow lines and the location of the lines as they enter the dwelling. Crawl spaces tend to be poorly insulated, cold, and drafty.

To help protect lines from freezing follow these guidelines:

1. Plan the plowing, shoveling, and storing of snow to maintain maximum cover over shallow underground lines.
2. Insulate over shallow buried lines and/or lower them to at least 6 feet deep.
3. Maintain temperatures of at least 40° F in all basement, crawl spaces, garages, cabinets, and closet spaces where there are water pipes. If this is impractical, wrap the pipes with heat tapes.

4. Check all heat tapes to make certain that they are plugged in and working properly.
5. Insulate water piping that runs along exterior walls and located in a crawl space. Periodically check insulation to make sure it is dry. Wet insulation is worse than no insulation at all.
6. Run water 2—3 minutes each day to draw a change of water into the service line and house piping.
7. Seal cracks in doors, windows, and foundations. Small openings concentrate cold air creating a blow torch affect that can quickly freeze pipes.

If it becomes necessary to waste water to prevent service pipes from freezing, customers should follow these guidelines:

1. Continuously run the cold water at a rate of 1/4 to 1/2 gallons per minute. The tap used for this purpose should be in a location where the noise of running water will

have minimal impact on sleeping, etc. and where damage will be minimal should the drain become plugged.

2. Open a tap completely for 2—3 minutes at least twice each day. Before retiring and first thing in the morning are the most beneficial times.
3. Check tap to make certain it is not closed accidentally or by vibrations.
4. DO NOT use a hose or piping to connect a tap directly into a drain. This creates a cross-connection, a potentially serious health hazard.

NOTE: NO CREDIT IS AVAILABLE ON WATER BILLS FOR WATER WASTED TO PREVENT FREEZING UNLESS THE CITY THAWED THE LINE AND DETERMINED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROBLEM. The City then has the option of issuing a written authorization to waste water if no other corrective action is feasible at the time.



House in the country \$1 Million.

Three luxury cars \$150,000.

Leaving town during a cold Michigan winter without turning off the water pipes in your garage PRICELESS!

We're on the Web!
www.crystalfalls.org

CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS

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CITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

Feb 9: DDA Meeting 1:30 pm
City Council Meeting 5:00 pm
Feb 14: Valentine's Day
Feb 17: Planning Comm. 5:00 pm
Feb 24: Recycle Day

MARCH

Mar 7: SMEAR TOURNEY - Lincoln
Park Playground fundraiser at
VFW
Mar 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 9: DDA Meeting 1:30 pm
City Council Meeting 5:00 pm
Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day
Mar 20: FIRST DAY OF SPRING YAY!
Mar 31: Recycle Day

CRYSTAL FALLS CITY OFFICIALS

Janet Hendrickson, Mayor 875-3291
Jim Burke, Councilor 875-6670
Michael Smokevitch, Councilor 875-6350
Jeff Hagglund, Councilor 875-6369
Jack Bicigo, Councilor 875-6588
Charles Nordeman, Manager 875-6647
Dorothea Olson, Clerk/Treas. 875-3212
Robert Sherwin, Police Chief 875-3012
John Ahola, Fire Chief 875-6614

City Council meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 5 pm

**DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS
MARCH 8TH
TURN YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR**

Tara's Flavorites

Pot Stickers



Pot Stickers are sure to be a hit on your family's dinner table.

1 package Won Ton Wraps
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup very finely chopped cabbage
8 ounces lean ground pork
2 tablespoons finely chopped water chestnuts
1 green onion
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons soy sauce
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons dry sherry

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon minced fresh ginger
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons cornstarch
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon sesame oil
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon sugar
2 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup chicken broth, divided
Soy sauce, vinegar and chili oil

1. For filling, squeeze cabbage to remove as much moisture as possible; place in large bowl. Add pork, water chestnuts, onion, soy sauce, sherry, ginger, cornstarch, sesame oil and sugar; mix well.
2. Place 1 rounded teaspoon filling in center of each Won Ton Wrap.
3. To shape each pot sticker, lightly moisten edges of dough with water; fold in half. Starting at one end pinch curled edges together making 4 pleats along edge. Set dumpling down firmly seam-side up. Cover finished pot stickers while you make remaining dumplings. (Cook dumplings immediately, refrigerate for up to 4 hours or freeze in resealable plastic bag.)
4. To cook pot stickers, heat 1 tablespoon of the vegetable oil in large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Set $\frac{1}{2}$ of pot stickers in pan seam-side up. (If cooking frozen dumplings, do not thaw.) Cook until bottoms are golden brown, 5 to 6 minutes. Pour in $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of the chicken broth. Cover tightly, reduce heat and cook until all liquid is absorbed, about 10 minutes (15 minutes if frozen). Repeat with remaining vegetable oil, pot stickers and chicken broth.
5. Place pot stickers browned-side up on serving platter. Serve with soy sauce, vinegar and chili oil for dipping if desired. Makes 32 pot stickers.