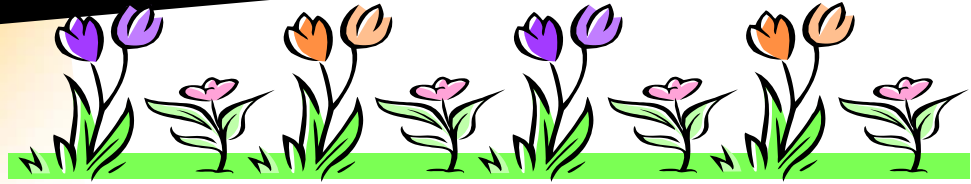


# SPRING 2006



**Inside this issue:**

Spring Cleanup	2
City/Township Water	2
2006 Golf Course Rates	2
Calendar of events	3
Streetscape project	3
Did you know?	3
CATV lineup	4
Featured Ordinance	4

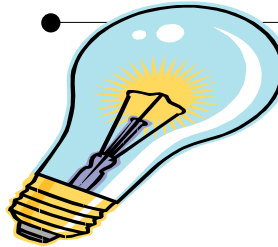
## ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE

Electricity has long been a stable energy source for the American public and more importantly the City and Township of Crystal Falls. However, an antiquated transmission grid between Wisconsin and Michigan, annual electricity growth of 2 percent, and the costs of other alternative energy resources have combined to create an atmosphere where consumers could see double digit increases in the cost of electricity beginning this year.

The U.P. receives most of its electricity from power

plants in Wisconsin. This requires a transmission grid able to carry that power to communities like Crystal Falls. This grid has not been updated in over 50 years. The cost of the upgrade is staggering (in the tens of millions of dollars) and unfortunately, it is our generation's responsibility to pay the bill for these improvements.

All this comes at a time when the City of Crystal Falls must renegotiate its power purchase agreement with WE Energies. Prices that were fixed at one



time are now subject to market fluctuations and for residents in the U.P., to the constraints of getting power into our area.

What does this mean to the Crystal Falls electric customers? The electric rates will need to be increased to pay for an overall projected rate hike by WE Energies of approximately 31%. Details of this increase are still being negotiated as of this writing. We are making

*(Continued on page 3)*

*The Crystal Falls City Newsletter has been produced as a means to keep the citizens of our community informed. It will be produced on a quarterly basis and available at the City Clerk/Treasurer's office at City Hall and on the city's website at [www.crystalfalls.org](http://www.crystalfalls.org).*

*Suggestions and comments regarding this publication are always welcome—please pass them on to Dorothea Olson, City Clerk/Treasurer*

## EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL DISCOVERED IN RUNKLE LAKE !

In 2005 it was discovered that Runkle Lake is infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. This is a feathery submerged aquatic plant that can quickly form thick mats in shallow areas that can interfere with swimming, boating, fishing, and waterfowl. Matted milfoil can

displace native aquatic plants, impacting fish and wildlife. Milfoil spreads when plant pieces break off and float on water currents. It can cross land to new waters by clinging to boats, motors, trailers, and fishing gear. Eradicating established

*(Continued on page 2)*



Illustration provided by: Dr. A.S. Corner for Aquatic Plants, University of Florida, Gainesville, 1998

## SPRING CLEAN UP TIME!

Every spring the City of Crystal Falls picks up yard rakings and branches, debris left after the snow melts away. This is conducted the week before Memorial Day weekend. This year ***you must have your yard debris on the curbing or along the alleyways by Monday, May 22nd.***

Then in early June the City will offer a chance for the City Residents to drop off any junk they have accumulated over the past year. This is done at the Bristol Mine site. Residents will be able to discard—*free of charge*—scrap metals, furniture, old appliances (except those that have a refrigerant chemical in them), just about



anything you might consider as "junk". The City first offered this service in 2000 as an incentive to clean up the community. The following is a breakdown of the cost assumed by the City for the residents each year:

2000—	\$2,142.45
2001—	\$1,914.38
2002—	\$1,932.87
2003—	\$1,956.60
2004—	\$1,507.99
2005—	\$2,015.75

Watch the next newsletter for more details and the exact date of the 2006 drop off!

## CRYSTAL VIEW GOLF COURSE NEWS!

The municipal golf course will open sometime in May, weather permitting. The 2006 golf season rates are:

Memberships	Local	Non-local*
Husband/wife	\$470	\$480
Single	\$295	\$305
College student	\$130	\$140
High Schl student	\$ 80	\$ 90
Student 8th & less	\$ 55	\$65

### Green Fees:

9 holes	\$15
18 holes or all day	\$20
10—play card	\$130

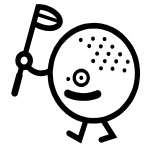
### Senior Citizens (Monday only)

9 holes	\$13
18 holes or all day	\$17

### Golf cart storage:

Gas cart	\$125
Electric cart	\$140
Annual Trail Fee	\$ 55
Daily Trail Fee	\$10

\*Non-local is any person not residing in the City limits of Crystal Falls.



## CITY/TOWNSHIP WATER PROJECT UPDATE

Since December of 2005, two tests have been run of the Lind Well aquifer (located in Crystal Falls Township) to determine whether it can support the water needs of both the City and Township. Results have been encouraging and are pending as of this writing. A cooperative project such as this between Crystal

Falls City and Township is viewed favorably by Federal and State authorities who review such projects for funding. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Rural Development) has already set funding aside for the City in the amount of \$4,224,000 which will cover the City's portion of this project, and replace antiquated water

mains and hydrants within the city, and further, to facilitate the implementation of water meters.



## EURASIAN MILFOIL (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

infestations is nearly impossible.

**Your help in detecting and reporting new infestations is vital for preventing their spread.**

The Runkle Lake Association, a newly formed group dedicated to the treatment and eradication of the Eurasian Watermilfoil, has already had the lake surveyed by a biologist and applied for a permit from the

State of Michigan to treat the milfoil. The cost of paying for this undertaking falls completely on the landowners because the State of Michigan currently is doing NOTHING about the problem.

The City of Crystal Falls, as owner of the municipal park located along the West shore of this lake, is participating as much as possible.

**Some of the things you can do are:**

- \* Learn to identify Eurasian Milfoil
- \* Inspect & remove aquatic plants

**and animals from boat, motor, & trailer**

- \* Drain lake or river water from livewells and bilge
- \* Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash
- \* Rinse boat & equipment with high-pressure hot water
- \* Dry everything for at least 5 days
- \* Report new sightings
- \* Donate to the funds for the treatment of the lake!

### Calendar of events

March 13, 2006: City Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m

March 16, 2006: Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

March 28, 2006: Recycle day.

April 3, 2006: Last day to register to vote for the May 2nd election.

April 10, 2006: City Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

April 14, 2006: **City Hall Closed** all day—Good Friday

April 20, 2006: Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

April 25, 2006: Recycle Day

May 2, 2006: Election Day (School Election) at City Hall

May 8, 2006: City Council Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

May 18, 2006: Planning Commission Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

May 22—26: Spring yard debris pickup.

May 26, 2006: Runkle Lake Campground Opens for the season

May 29, 2006: **City Hall Closed—** Memorial Day Holiday (and your City Clerk/Treasurer's Birthday too, but that's not why we are closed)

May 30, 2006: Recycle Day



### ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE (CONTINUED)

*(Continued from page 1)*

every possible effort to protect the City's interests and ability to eventually switch to other suppliers if better pricing is available. A final contract will be signed with WE Energies by May 14, 2006. Once this rate is established, your electric rate will be increased. (Watch for the next issue of the newsletter for additional details.)

### CRYSTAL FALLS STREETSCAPE PROJECT



The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Crystal Falls are in the planning stages of a new "Streetscape"

design for Superior Avenue in downtown Crystal Falls. This project is being funded thru funds secured by MDOT in the amount of \$1,000,000 which will serve to improve the appearance, update the sidewalks and street lighting, and rebuild the highway in the downtown area. Construction will begin in 2007 in coordination with the upcoming sewer separation and water

main replacement in Superior Avenue. An attempt to complete everything at one time and keep the downtown area open to the public will most certainly prove to be a challenge. Business owners along Superior Avenue have been encouraged by the City to improve the rear entrances to their stores to allow you access during this project.

### Did you know???

*DID YOU KNOW* that the City offers an **After Hours Payment Drop Box** for your convenience? This box is located at the City Hall on the right side of the steps just outside the front doors. When using this drop box for utility payments please attach the small portion of your utility bill to your check— use checks only—DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH IN THE DROP BOX. The drop box is checked daily, Monday thru Friday, in the morning. Please do not use the drop box during our office hours or your payment will not be processed until the following business day. Also, remember that when the 20th of the month falls on a weekend or holiday—

\*\*\*\*\*

you have all day on the next business day to get your payment to us before your bill is considered late!

*DID YOU KNOW* that when you don't pay your utility bill on time that you lose a 10% discount? That's right, your late payments actually bring in additional revenue for the City. In 2005 this amounted to a total of \$24,472.46. On the average, 230 of the 1,600 utility bills printed each month, are late. This will have a bigger impact on the late bill payer as the electric rates are increased. So get those bills paid on time and save yourself a buck or two.

**AND ALSO REMEMBER THAT...**



**We would be de-lighted if you pay your bill on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be.**

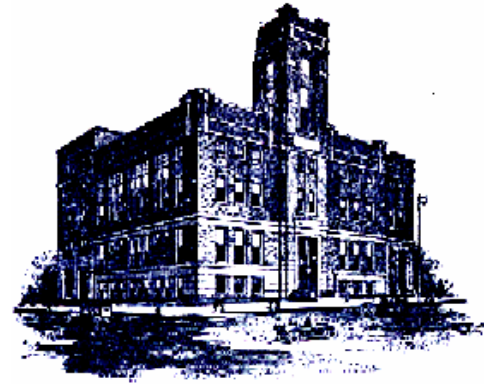
*DID YOU KNOW* that the City has been awarded a grant from Rural Development toward the purchase of a new police patrol vehicle? The City will be responsible for \$10,825 with the balance of the \$37,000 for the new 2006 Ford Expedition equipped as a police patrol vehicle paid by the grant. This will replace the 1999 Ford Explorer currently used by the department.

*DID YOU KNOW* financial institutions request that you use either black or blue ink when writing a check. Do not use red ink or gel pens.

401 SUPERIOR AVENUE  
CRYSTAL FALLS, MI 49920

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

Phone: 906-875-3212  
Fax: 906-875-3767  
E-mail: CFCLERK@UP.NET



CATV CHANNEL LINEUP

- 2 HISTORY
- 3 USA
- 4 HBO\*
- 5 CBS
- 6 NBC
- 7 ESPN
- 8 FOX SPORTS
- 9 WGN
- 10 ABC
- 11 FOX-GREEN BAY
- 12 CNN
- 13 PBS
- 14 VH-1
- 15 SPIKE TV
- 16 DISNEY
- 17 WEATHER
- 18 HOME & GARDEN
- 20 A & E
- 21 TBS
- 22 TCM
- 23 EWTN
- 25 MTV
- 26 DISCOVERY
- 27 TNT
- 28 HALLMARK
- 29 TV LAND
- 30 LIFETIME
- 31 HOME SHOPPING
- 32 CMT
- 33 ESPN2
- 34 NICKELODEON
- 35 WMQF-FOX-MARQUETTE

\*HBO is available as a premium channel for an additional \$11/mo.

Basic cable -City-\$19/mo  
Twp-\$19.50/mo

*Cable TV basic rates were increased effective with the February 2006 billing*

**CONGRATS TO  
STANLEY "STOSH" ROSE-  
WINNER OF THE RED WINGS TICKETS!**



**CRYSTAL FALLS CITY OFFICIALS**

Janet Hendrickson, Mayor	875-3291
Edna Heikkinen, Councilor	875-6590
Scott Thrasher, Councilor	875-3648
Mark Valesano, Councilor	875-6043
Jack Stachowicz, Councilor	875-3950
Charles Nordeman, Manager	875-6647
Dorothea Olson, Clerk/Treas	875-3212
Jack Bicigo, Chief of Police	875-3012
John Ahola, Fire Chief	875-6614

**FEEDING DEER IS AGAINST THE  
LAW IN CRYSTAL FALLS!**

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE NO. 2.20**

***AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE  
FEEDING OF DEER WITHIN THE  
CITY OF CRYSTAL FALLS.***

No owner or occupier of land within the City of Crystal Falls shall intentionally feed, cause to be fed or provide or make available food or other substances for the consumption by deer within the city, either on private property or on public property. Feeding deer the following food is expressly prohibited: salt, corn, apples, cabbage, potatoes, acorns, oats, carrots, beets, straw, hay, fodder or any combination thereof. UNLESS the above noted food is natural to that particular land owned or occupied where feeding of deer is occurring. For example, by way of illustration only, this Ordinance shall not

apply to apples or acorns generated from an apple tree or oak/acorn tree located upon the subject premises or carrots and corn grown in a garden located upon the subject premises.

**PENALTY:** Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed to have committed a civil infraction, subject to the payment of civil fines.

Passed and adopted by the City of Crystal Falls, County of Iron, State of Michigan, on November 12, 2001.

A complete copy of this ordinance is available at the City Clerk's office or at [www.crystalfalls.org](http://www.crystalfalls.org) on the web.