

# Clementimes

A Bimonthly Publication from the City of Mount Clemens

January/February 2008



**Have a question?  
Give us a call.**

There's friendly staff available to assist you. The main phone number for the City of Mount Clemens is 586.469.6818. For specific departments, please see the options/phone numbers listed below.

Accounting . . . . .	x 1
Animal Control . . . . .	x 909
Assessing. . . . .	x 4
Cable Television . . . . .	586.461.3751
City Clerk . . . . .	x 3
City Manager . . . . .	x 7
Mayor/City Commission	
Community Development . . . . .	x 2
Building/Inspections	
Community Relations . . . . .	586.469.HELP
Dial-A-Ride . . . . .	586.469.RIDE
Downtown Dev. Authority . . . . .	586.469.4168
Finance . . . . .	x 301
Fire . . . . .	586.469.6840
Human Resources . . . . .	x 5
Parking Matters . . . . .	x 909
Public Housing . . . . .	586.468.1434
Department of Public Services . . . . .	586.469.6847
Purchasing . . . . .	x 6
Treasurer's Office . . . . .	x 1
Tax/Water Bills	
Utilities . . . . .	586.469.6847
Water & Sewer/Water Filtration	

Macomb County	
Sheriff's Department . . . . .	586.469.5151
41B District Court	
Civil - Mount Clemens . . . . .	586.469.6870
Criminal - Clinton Township. . . . .	586.286.8010

**Mount Clemens City Hall  
One Crocker Boulevard  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

**You may also visit our Web site at  
[www.cityofmountclemens.com](http://www.cityofmountclemens.com).**

## Messages from the Mayor

Happy New Year! With the new year brings new faces to the City Commission. We have just had a historical election. First there was a tie vote, and then a toss of a coin resulted in Gary Blash being sworn in as Commissioner. However, a recount was conducted which resulted in a one vote victory in favor of Jack Johns. Jack was sworn in on December 3, 2007. During this whole process, both of these men displayed fine examples of character. Also elected this past November to the City Commission was Ron Campbell and Karan Bates-Gasior was re-elected. I would like to welcome all to the Commission.

I would also like to acknowledge Dave Herrington and John Milkovich for their previous years of service on the Commission and wish them much success in their future endeavors. Another new (old) face you will be seeing at Commission meetings and around City Hall is Doug Anderson, a 27 year employee with the City who has accepted the position of City Manager. Congratulations to him.



On Friday, November 30, 2007, I had the opportunity, along with Commissioners Dreger, Hill and Bates-Gasior, to present the State of the City address which was sponsored by the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce. This address gave us the opportunity to highlight some of the activities and accomplishments that have taken place over the past year. We also discussed projects and activities that are planned for the future. If you are interested in viewing the presentation, a copy is available at the Mount Clemens Public Library.



The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mount Clemens presents the Macomb County Santa Parade was a

great success. (Pictures are available on page 6.) A special thank you goes to our Presenting Sponsor: DuPont, our Gold and Silver Sponsors: LaBelle Electric; Powder Cote II; Break thru Medical; Rizzo Services; the Downtown Development Authority and The Macomb Daily. Our Balloon Sponsors were Community Central Bank; Mount Clemens Rotary; HM Environmental Services, Inc.; Mineral Springs Development; First Financial Services of MI; Mount Clemens Goodfellows; Mount Clemens Gus' Coney Island; Kiwanis Club of Mount Clemens and the Gebran and Suzanne Anton Foundation. Additional sponsors included Luigi's Downtown; Luedtke Refrigeration & Air Conditioning; Orleans Billiards Cafe; Will & Schwarzkoff Funeral Home; Ryan Farnen; J. LaFranca Agency, Inc.; Printing by Johnson; ABC Entertainment; Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick; Trolley Limousine Service, Inc.; Bath City Bistro; Full Kilt; Anton, Zorn and Sowerby; Philip Greco; Gowanie Golf Club; Jah-Lion Graphics; Ruehle's Towing and Russ Milne Ford. Without all of their financial support we would not be able to put on the parade.

*continued on page 6*



## Take a Look Inside

- DDA & Calendar of Events . . . . . 2
- Shadyside Park Playscape . . . . . 2
- Dept. of Public Services. . . . . 3
- Assessing . . . . . 4
- City Clerk's Office . . . . . 5
- Treasurer's Office . . . . . 5
- Ice Arena Information . . . . . 5
- YMCA Programs . . . . . 6
- Fire Department . . . . . 7
- Utilities Department . . . . . 7
- Comcast Notice. . . . . 7
- Macomb Cable Network Schedule . 8
- Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water . 8

## Downtown Mount Clemens Winter Events Calendar

### Third Annual Mount Clemens Ice Carving Show

Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> through  
Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Show Opens at 4 PM Thursday through  
Saturday Evening

Centered near the Fountain Stage at  
Macomb Pl. and Cherry St. Mall  
586.469.4168

### Third Annual Fire and Ice Chili Cook-Off Fund-raiser

Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Starts at 6 PM

At Participating Bars and Restaurants  
Downtown  
Tickets Can Be Purchased In Advance  
at Participating Establishments  
586.469.4168  
Proceeds to support the Macomb  
Family YMCA and Turning Point

For more information on these and  
other upcoming events, log on to  
[www.downtownmountclemens.com](http://www.downtownmountclemens.com).

Through the 1960s and 1970s, many municipalities were having budget problems due to the erosion of their tax bases, especially in their downtown districts. In 1975, the State of Michigan granted cities the authority to create Downtown Development Authorities to fight property blight and disinvestment in their downtowns.

This goal would be accomplished by creating Tax Increment Finance (TIF) districts in the DDA areas to generate funds to invest in downtown redevelopment. These funds are separate from regular municipal funds that are used to pay for basic services. Without a separate funding source, many communities wouldn't be able to prioritize money for redevelopment activities versus public safety or other basic services.

## What & Why of DDAs?

In 1983, the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was created by the City Commission to support revitalization in Downtown Mount Clemens.

Over the last 25 years, it has had great success in supporting reinvestment in our Downtown. Today, 30% of the State Equalized Value of the City is found in the downtown district.

Through various projects and events, the DDA works to strengthen the economy and vitality of the downtown district. A lively downtown is the city's welcome mat and what is the basis of how visitors judge a community. A vibrant and attractive downtown increases property values citywide while improving the quality of life for all residents.



## Mount Clemens Foundation Park Playscape Initiative – Shadyside Park 2008

The Mount Clemens Foundation embarked in 2006 on an effort to rehab playground equipment in all of the City parks – the Park Playscape Initiative. This summer, they have identified Shadyside Park to be recipient of new playground equipment. Efforts are underway now to raise money for the approximately \$75,000 project.

The Mount Clemens Foundation was established in 1999 by community members to provide private philanthropic support to worthy community projects. This effort is their most ambitious program to date.

On the day of the blitz build (sometime late in the summer), dozens of volunteers will be needed at Shadyside



Park to help build and install the newly donated equipment. The Mount Clemens Foundation is looking for donors and volunteers to help make this project a success.

If you would like more information on the project, please contact Cheryl Printz at the City offices, and she will relay the information onto the foundation. Cheryl may be reached at 586.469.6818 x 902. Checks, of any amount, may be

mailed to the Mount Clemens Foundation, 49 Macomb Pl. #28, Mount Clemens, MI 48043-5675. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



Go and see the successes first hand! In September 2007, volunteers installed new playground equipment in Dorothea Park on the city's Northwest side. Pictures from this fun and exciting build

day surround this article. Take a drive or walk by Dorothea Park to see this new wonderful equipment. You won't believe how many children now use the park with this new playground in place.

Please consider helping support this worthy community-based initiative!



**Holiday Refuse Calendar**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21, 2008

Refuse pick-up will run on schedule January 21<sup>st</sup> through January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Presidents' Day - February 18, 2008

Refuse pick-up will run on schedule February 18<sup>th</sup> through February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Christmas Tree Pick-up**

A special yard waste collection truck will start picking up Christmas trees from the first week in January until the third week in January.

**Winter Snow Removal**

Winter is here...and with it snow and snowstorms!! Please help us keep our City streets clear of snow by not shoveling or blowing snow onto the streets.

Please use caution when driving in inclement weather. Salt does not react immediately under certain conditions. The lower the temperature, the longer it takes for salt to react. Also, please be friendly to the snowplow drivers and salt truck drivers. They are there trying to make the streets safe for all motorists.

Please keep in mind the Street Department will be clearing all major streets first during a snowstorm. We will, however, plow the side streets as quickly as possible once the major streets are clear.

This winter during snowstorms, please park your vehicles at an off-street location. Parking in a driveway or parking lot will be greatly appreciated. On-street parking can resume after the City has plowed the streets. Also be advised, in the downtown location, all parking meters are labeled "No Parking 2 AM - 7 AM." If you are parked there between these hours during a snowstorm, your vehicle could possibly get towed.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Services at 586.469.6847.

**Ice Ponds**

The ice ponds will be open in January (weather permitting) at the following City Parks:

- Lawndale Park
- Dorothea/Leonore Park
- Wilson Park

The ice ponds will remain open as weather permits. The hours for skating are from dawn until 11 PM.

The ponds are for the enjoyment of all ages. Please be courteous to fellow skaters.

**Recycling**

The recycling program is available to all residents serviced by the City's refuse contractor. Residents can place their recycling bins at the curb for collection on their regularly scheduled refuse pick-up day. The City strongly suggests that residents permanently affix their address to their recycling bin to avoid confusion if a bin is lost.

Items that can be placed in the bin for pick-up include newspapers, magazines, glossy ad inserts, catalogs, office paper, carbonless paper, junk mail, envelopes, phone books, paperback books, clean aluminum foil, non-waxed cardboard, non-waxed cereal boxes, corrugated cardboard (2' x 2' or less), clear glass jars and bottles, clean cans, and plastics marked 1 and 2 inside of the triangular arrow symbol.

Please contact 586.469-6847 for further information about recycling or if your bin has been lost or stolen.

**Sanitation Q&A...**

*I just had a new washer and dryer delivered. Can the contractor put the old set out for pick-up?*

**A** Yes. Appliances are picked up by the sanitation contractor on your regular garbage pick-up day. If you put an appliance at the curb and it is not your normal pick-up day, please call the Department of Public Services to schedule a pick-up.

*What kind of cardboard can I put in my recycling bin?*

**A** Any kind of clean cardboard that is not wax coated can go into the recycling bin for pick-up. Tissue boxes, soda can boxes, cereal boxes, etc. Corrugated boxes can also go into the recycling bin if they are broken down to 2' x 2' or less. Cardboard that has contained some type of liquid (orange juice cartons, milk cartons, etc.) is most likely coated with wax. This type of cardboard cannot go into the recycling bin. Please dispose of this cardboard with your regular household trash.

*I have left over wood from some projects I did over the summer, can I place it at the curb for pick-up?*

**A** Yes. Wood and lumber can be picked up by the contractor on your garbage day. Please make sure the wood is in 4 feet lengths or less, bundled and tied together, less than 50 pounds, with no nails sticking out of the wood. Wood that comes in sheets such as plywood and paneling must be cut down in 2' x 4' lengths or less, bundled and tied together, less than 50 pounds, with no nails sticking out of the wood.

*continued on page 4*

### Featured Park of the Month: Wilson Park

Wilson Park is located between South Wilson and South Highland at Church Street. This park contains a playground with a community playscape. It also has a multi-purpose gym for volleyball and basketball. Outdoor activities include a small softball field and an outdoor ice skating rink open from dawn until 11 PM during the winter months.



**Changes to Names & Mailing Addresses**

To change the mailing address for taxes and assessment notices, please contact the Assessor's Office. In order to change the owner's name on a property, a registered deed or contract is required.

**Important Information for Property Owners**

If you are delinquent in payment of your property taxes, you should know that the law governing late payments has changed dramatically.

Public Act 123 of 1999 decreases the amount of time which owners have to pay delinquent taxes before losing their property. Property taxes that are two years delinquent will now be subject to foreclosure and subsequent sale at public auction. Most importantly, the new law no longer allows for redemption of the property once foreclosure has taken place. Foreclosure is final. Contact the Assessor's Office for more information.

**A Reminder to New Homeowners**

If you have recently purchased a new or previously owned home in the City of Mount Clemens, please be sure you have submitted a Property Transfer Affidavit and a Principal Residence Exemption form (formerly known as homestead exemption affidavit) to the Assessor's Office. The closing agent usually provides these forms at the time of closing. The State of Michigan requires prompt submission (within 45 days) of these forms to ensure appropriate taxation.

**Important Dates to Remember**

In January, personal property statements will be mailed out to all commercial and industrial taxpayers. These statements must be completed according to State

law. Please return the completed forms to the City Assessor's Office by February 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not fill out and return a personal property statement for your business operation, an estimated value will be placed on that account, as authorized by State law.

Prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, assessment change notices will be mailed to the property owners in the City of Mount Clemens. If you disagree with your assessed value for 2008, your chance to appeal the valuation of your property is at the March Board of Review meetings, scheduled for March 17-18, 2008. Your appeal may be made by letter or in person. *This is the only time that your valuation may be appealed according to State law!!!*

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to file for a PRE (Principal Residence Exemption). In order to qualify, the property must be owned and occupied by the individual that is applying for the exemption. For more information contact the Assessor's Office.

**Subdivision plat maps** are available online through the State of Michigan's Web site at [www.cis.state.mi.us/platmaps/sr\\_subs.asp](http://www.cis.state.mi.us/platmaps/sr_subs.asp).

**Land Division Applications** for land division are available at the Assessor's Office. When the application is completed, return it with the required documents and appropriate fee. A fee schedule is available at the Assessor's Office.

If you have any questions or need more information, the Assessor's Office can be reached at 586.469.6818 x 4 during business hours.

**Dogs and Cats . . .**

- Mount Clemens takes all stray animals to the Macomb County Animal Shelter.
- You may contact them at 586.469.5115.
- If an animal is licensed and wearing tags, the owner will be notified that the pet has been found.
- Please be a responsible pet owner and follow these City policies:
  - ALL DOGS AND CATS MUST BE LICENSED by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. A current RABIES vaccination certificate WITH EXPIRATION DATES must be presented for both cats and dogs in order to obtain a license.
  - A household may have a total of four (4) dogs or cats, or a combination of both totaling four (4).
  - ALL DOGS AND CATS MUST WEAR LICENSE TAGS when outside a building or residence or otherwise outdoors.
  - All dogs and cats shall be kept under restraint (leashed) and NOT PERMITTED TO BE AT LARGE.
  - DOGS AND CATS MUST BE LICENSED even if they never leave the house.
- Remember...Winter weather is here and many animals will be left outside during these months. A doghouse or shelter is required for outdoor pets and this shelter should provide the animal with a dry place that is free from drafts.
- A wooden dog house with four sides, a floor, a wooden roof, and straw bedding is recommended.

Winter is upon us again and we would like to remind homeowners, business owners, and renters that under City Ordinance 30.114, a clear path, free from snow and ice, is required where a sidewalk would otherwise be to facilitate pedestrian use. The snow and ice must be cleared within 12 hours after the snow has fallen or accumulated. Please be a good neighbor and citizen by thinking of others who use our sidewalks. Failure to remove the snow and ice within 12 hours will result in the City doing it for you and placing a lien on your taxes.

**Please continue to look for the launch of our new City Web site. Progress is continuing and we hope to have it available to the public at the end of January.**

The City Clerk's Office prides itself in providing friendly and professional public service. The responsibilities of the City Clerk's Office include the following: Animal Licenses, Business Registrations, Preparation of City Commission minutes, Freedom of Information Act Coordinator, Election Administration, Voter Registration, Maintain Code of Ordinances, Maintain Public Records, and Custodian of Municipal Seal.

**Absentee Voter List**

The City Clerk's Office maintains a list of voters who are interested in receiving absent voter applications for every election. We are in the process of updating that list. If you are interested in absentee voting, and would like to receive an application for each election, please contact our office at 586.469.6818 x 3 to be added to our mailing list.

**January 15, 2008 Election**

According to State Law, in order to vote at the January 15, 2008 Presidential Primary, a voter must indicate, in writing, which participating political party ballot he or she wishes to vote. This selection will be made in writing at the precinct on Election Day. If a voter is requesting an absentee ballot, the selection must be indicated on the application for absentee ballot.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning with the November 6, 2007 election, you will be asked to present photo identification at the polls.

**Code of Ordinances**

City ordinances are available for review at the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The Mount Clemens Public Library also has a copy of our ordinances on file for your convenience. If you like to use your computer to search for documents, the ordinances can be found on-line through a link on our Web site [www.cityofmountclemens.com](http://www.cityofmountclemens.com).

**Animal License Renewal**

It's time to renew your pet's animal license. All licenses must be renewed between January 1 and February 29, 2008. You must bring in the current rabies certificate when applying for your license. The costs are as follows: Spayed/Neutered: \$3.00 per year; Male/Female: \$5.00/year. If you would like to renew your license by mail, please call the City Clerk's Office at 586.469.6818 x 3 for an application.

There are currently vacancies on the following boards, committees and commissions:

- Beautification Advisory Committee . . . . . 2
- Board of Zoning Appeals . . . . . 1
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority . . . . . 2
- Community Tree Advisory Committee . . . . . 2
- Election Commission . . . . . 1
- Historic District Commission . . . 3
- Local Officer's Compensation Commission . . . . . 1
- Housing Commission . . . . . 1

Applications are available at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

**Winter Tax Bills**

Around December 3, 2007, residents should have received a winter tax bill in the mail, which is due on February 29, 2008. Any 2007 tax that remains unpaid after this date will be transferred to the Macomb County Treasurer's Office for collection.

The winter tax bill consists of 0.8101 mills and will include the following County items: Macomb County SMART, Macomb – Chpt. 20 (drain) and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (Metroparks). Every resident will receive a tax bill, even if your taxes are paid by a mortgage company. Please keep this tax bill for income tax purposes. If you request any tax printouts from our office, there will be a \$5.00 charge.

**Riverfront Gazebo**

The Treasurer's Office will be able to take 2008 reservations for the gazebo on February 1, 2008. The fees are: \$50.00 for the first hour and \$25.00 for each additional hour.



Have you ever wanted to learn how to ice skate? If you answered yes, we have the perfect program for you. The Mount Clemens Ice Arena offers a year round Learn to Skate program for all ages and abilities. Our professional program offers quality instruction on many comprehensive skills using the United States Figure Skating Association guidelines. Our professional instructors will conduct classes in a positive atmosphere

making learning to skate a fun experience for recreational, hockey, and figure skaters of all ages.

Session 3 of our Learn to Skate program starts Wednesday, January 2. We offer classes Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If you would like more information, please feel free to call the arena at 586.307.8202 or visit our Web site [www.mountclemensicearena.com](http://www.mountclemensicearena.com).

continued from page 1

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make sure everything went smoothly.

At this time, I would like to announce the winners of our band and float contests. In the band category, Utica High School took the honors. For most original float, the title went to "The First Thanksgiving" and included Cub Scout Pack 71, Brownie Troops 37 and 103, Junior Troop 165 and Cadet Troop 810. Most humorous float was the banana split float from Lori's Lick 'em Up Ice Cream. Lastly, Boatown USA took the honors for the most colorful float. Congratulations to all of the winners.

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Please see page 7 for an important notice from Comcast.

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The Beautification Advisory Committee will be awarding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Snowflake Awards for the Best Holiday Decorations on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

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I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season and best wishes for the new year.



## Travel the USA through the YMCA Summer Programs

Season's greetings Mount Clemens residents and thank you for reading the Macomb Family YMCA section of the Clementimes newsletter. As winter is fast approaching and the snow is falling, we at the YMCA are thinking warm and about summer! Summer day camp that is! It is never too early to start thinking about plans for your child while they are out of school for summer break. This summer at Y camp, our theme is "Map your own adventure." Last year we traveled the world, learned new cultures, tried new food and enjoyed going home each night. This year at Y day camp we are going to travel the USA! Have you ever wanted to tour the Grand Canyon? Climb Mount Everest? See Mount Rushmore? Visit the U.P.? Well, this is your opportunity and you don't even have to stay over night, drive in a car, or fly! At the Macomb Family YMCA, our staff works year round to ensure you have the safest most fun summer possible. All of our camp counselors go through extensive training, background checks, complete an on line child abuse safety training and are

current in CPR and First Aid. This is not only a requirement of the YMCA, but a requirement of the State of Michigan. Our summer day camp program is licensed by the State of Michigan and we meet and exceed all safety standards. All of this is to ensure that your child is safe and having fun.

We are now registering for basketball and indoor soccer leagues and basketball and volleyball clinics. We are also registering for swim lessons for all ages. We offer parent/child programs, pre-school, youth, and adult programs. All swimmers are tested at the beginning of each session and placed in the appropriate age specific and swimming ability group. We also offer sports for adults! Sign up now for adult softball, volleyball, and basketball.

How would you like to get a jump start on those New Year resolutions? We have 3 nationally certified personal trainers ready to help you achieve and succeed your goals and to get you on the right track for a healthy life and

living. Right now, we are in the process of remodeling and transforming our old activity center into a state-of-the-art free weight room to ensure that you are comfortable and ready to exercise.

For a complete listing of current programs offered to our community you can visit our Web site at [www.ymcadetroit.org](http://www.ymcadetroit.org) and click on Macomb Family YMCA.

Please join us for our annual Healthy Kids Day April 12, 2008 at the Macomb Family YMCA. This is a free event for our residents where kids can participate in all types of activities and learn a little about healthy living, all while having fun!

You can stop by the YMCA located at 10 North River Road or call us, 586.468.1411 anytime Monday – Friday 5:00 AM – 10:00 PM, Saturday 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM or Sunday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM and request information on any or all of the programs that are available.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Captains Mark Percefull, Gregg Shipman & Joe Stark

### What's New

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, the Mount Clemens Fire Department went live online with 800 MHz radios with the help of the Macomb County Sheriff's Department.

The annual retirees' lunch was held on December 20<sup>th</sup> at the fire station.

### Special Thanks

In the month of November, the Mount Clemens Fire Department held a food drive. All donations went to Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeast Michigan. A special "THANK YOU" goes out to those who contributed food and monetary donations.

We would also like to thank the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1269 of Mount Clemens for bringing dinner to the Firefighters on Thanksgiving Day.

### Safety Tips

When putting up and taking down Christmas lights, you should always check for exposed wires and burnt out bulbs. Exposed wires and burned out lights can lead to outages and fires. If you do encounter this problem, you should replace the lights or dispose of them properly.

### Did you know?

In 2006, the Mount Clemens Fire Department responded to 2,510 emergency calls. As of 2007, the Fire Department is on its way of exceeding last year's number for emergency calls.

### Quiz

How many smoke detectors should you have in your home?

Answer: There should be a smoke detector in each room of your home.

## UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Charles Bellmore, Director of Utilities

### Meter Reading

The meter reading unit is responsible for reading all meters, inspecting all new/changed meter settings, disconnecting services that go unpaid, providing a free inspection of customer's residences in regards to water leaks/loss and handling general customer concerns about meter reading. Meters are read on a monthly basis.

The meter shop is responsible for the maintenance and replacement of water meters, remote meters and handling general customer concerns about their meters.



### Frozen Meters

A water meter can freeze when the weather is permitted to penetrate near the location of the meter. For instance, if a meter is near an outside window that is broken, the chance of the meter freezing is greatly increased. When customer service is dispatched to replace a meter due to freezing, the customer is responsible for the cost of the replacement meter. In order to

determine if you have a frozen meter, you will need to check the bottom of the meter. Water will be spraying from the bottom plate of the meter when the meter freezes.

### Automatic Reading Box (ARB)

An ARB is a small box attached to the meter with a cable running to the outside of your house. When our meter reader plugs into the box with his meter reading device, it displays the numbers on your meter that show the amount of water you use. Some homes are equipped with a radio read device which transmits the meter reading to a vehicle equipped with a mobile computer-based data collection system. Each transmission includes current meter reading, tamper status, and error detection. The computer receives and validates the data and uploads it to a computer for billing. Each transmission takes 1/30 of a second and will transmit over a typical range of 500 feet.

By having a remote register installed, the meter reader can obtain a good read without entering your home. You can enjoy several advantages:

- You do not have to be at home to have a reading
- The meter reader can record an actual meter read without entering the premises.

For questions regarding your meter readings, call the Utilities Department at 586.469.6818 x 502.

### A Notice to Comcast Customers

The City administration has been notified by Comcast that our government channel (channel 5) will be moving to channel 915 effective on January 15, 2008. This move is a result of Comcast offering the Public Education and Government (PEG) channels in a digital format. This move does not require a customer to subscribe to their digital tier of service, although a digital box will be required

to continue to view these channels unless a customer subscribes to CableCard or has a QAM TV. To ease this transition, Comcast is offering a special promotion of a free converter box to analog customers for 12 months. Customers can call 1.877.824.2984 for details. Customers will be notified of this change via newspapers and through public service announcements.

# Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water

## 1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 5 million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains. **Remember, only rain in the drain!**

## 2. Fertilize sparingly and carefully

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With 1.5 million homes in Southeast Michigan, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative effects of our lawn care practices.

What can you do? Simple. **Use fertilizer low in phosphorus**, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is "water insoluble" (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and **sweep excess fertilizer** back onto your lawn.

## 3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil

Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams . . . instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, **take them to a local hazardous waste center or collection day.**

## 4. Clean up after your pet

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that are harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, **dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the toilet or trash.**

## 5. Practice good car care

Did you know that just four quarts of oil from your car's engine can form an eight-acre oil slick if spilled or dumped down a storm drain? There are over 4 million cars in Southeast Michigan, so even small leaks matter. **Keep your car tuned and fix leaks promptly.** Not only will this make your car run better and last longer, it will be good for our lakes, streams, and air. When washing your car, keep the polluted water from going into the street and storm drain. **Consider taking your car to the car wash or washing your car on the grass.** Your lawn will gladly soak up the excess water.

## 6. Choose earth-friendly landscaping

When landscaping your yard you can protect your kids, pets, and the environment from harm. **Use pesticides sparingly.** Put mulch around trees and plants. Water your lawn only when it needs it (1-2 times a week is usually sufficient) and **choose plants native to Michigan.** Once established, these plants tolerate dry weather and resist disease.

## 7. Save water

Did you know that individually we use about 77 gallons of water each day? When we overwater our lawns, it can easily carry pollution to the storm drains and to our lakes and streams. **Consider using a broom instead of a hose** to clean sidewalks and driveways. Direct hoses and sprinklers on the lawn, not the driveway. Water when necessary instead of on a fixed schedule. Remember, saving water also saves you money.

We might not be able to see the lake or stream from our window, but it's there. It might be a small stream or ditch or even the storm drain in the street. All of these lead to our lakes and streams. So, what we do at home affects our rivers and lakes!

*The Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water formed to engage the public in activities that protect our water resources through continued awareness, knowledge, and action. The partnership includes representatives from SEMCOG, various counties, communities, watershed councils, and water-quality professionals in Southeast Michigan.*

*Brought to you by the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water.*

*Support provided by SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (313-961-4266) and the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.*

**Find out more at [www.semco.org](http://www.semco.org)**

## Macomb Cable Network Programming Highlights

### Author Series

Mount Clemens Public Library  
"Great Issues, Great People,  
Great Books"  
Mondays at 5 PM

### Bath City Beat

Local News Show created by  
Mount Clemens High School  
student reporters  
Daily at 4 PM & 10 PM

### Detroit Radio

**Information Service (DRIS)**  
Local publications are read  
aloud for the visually impaired.  
Monday - Friday from 1 PM - 3 PM

### Mount Clemens

**Community Schools  
Board of Education Meetings**  
Monday at noon  
Monday & Tuesday at 7 PM

### Mount Clemens

**City Commission Meetings**  
Wednesday & Thursday at 7 PM  
Thursday at noon

### NASA TV

Video File  
Daily at 9 AM; Weekends at 11 AM

### This Week at NASA

Daily at 3 PM  
Tuesday & Wednesday at noon

### Special Programming:

Town Hall Meetings, Soapbox  
Derby, Graduation Ceremonies  
and much more!  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday at  
noon & 7 PM

### World Full of Knowledge

#### Sherwin Wine Lecture Series

Each lecture is shown in 3 parts!  
Part 1 - Tuesday at 5 PM  
Part 2 - Thursday at 5 PM  
Part 3 - Friday at 5 PM

A complete schedule and  
community calendar can be  
found online at [www.mcntv.com](http://www.mcntv.com).

Macomb Cable Network is a  
collaborative venture between  
the city and the school district.  
Business Hours: M-F 9 AM - 5 PM  
586.461.3751.