

# WINTERIZING YOUR PIPES

## **Don't let cold weather catch you unprepared.**

Every winter, many homeowners face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. You can cross that off your list of winter worries by taking a few simple precautions.

## **Locate your master shutoff:**

It is most likely where the water line comes into the house or near the water heater or washing machine.

## **When you locate it:**

Paint it a bright color for easy identification. Make sure everyone in the house knows where it is located, what it does and how to use it.

## **REMEMBER:**

If any pipes burst outside the house PLEASE call the Village office at 231-882-9981 and our personnel will promptly respond and turn off your meter.

## **REMINDER:**

After hours calls (evening, weekend & holiday) will be billed the standard after hours service charge.

## **Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses:**

Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the pipe. Otherwise a single hard overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe it is connected to.

## **Insulate pipes or faucets that pass through unheated areas:**

Areas of concern may be under the home, garage, crawl space or outside faucet. Good pipe wrapping materials are available at local hardware and building supply stores.

## **Check your heat tapes:**

Make sure your heat tapes are in good working order. Damaged tapes won't warm the pipes and can cause fires.

## **Insulate and seal exposed areas:**

Insulate and seal off access doors, air vents and cracks where winter winds can quickly freeze exposed pipes. DO NOT plug any air vents your furnace or water heater needs for good combustion. Some experts advise to keep a steady drip or pencil-lead thin stream of water flowing from the bathroom faucet during the worst of the cold spell.

## **Keep telephone numbers handy:**

Village of Benzonia 231-882-9981

Plumber \_\_\_\_\_

