

HUDSONVILLE HOMETOWN NEWS



GOOD PEOPLE. GOOD LIVING.

Winter, 2016

MAYOR MARK NORTHRUP TAKES OFFICE

Since being elected and sworn in as your mayor in early November 2015, I'm often asked how I like being mayor. My answer is always "I'm privileged to be the mayor but also humbled to know I have the support and confidence of the city to be in this role."



Although it is a part time position I walk through City Hall nearly daily and speak with our City Manager, Patrick Waterman.

I keep regular office hours a couple days a week and I make myself available to any that would like to meet or speak with me.

The day-to-day running of our city is left to our city manager and his department heads. Your mayor and commissioners hold a monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall. The public is always welcome to attend; most of our visitors are typically students learning about the workings of local government, though I invite you to attend as well. Should you not be able to make it to City Hall, the meetings are also broadcast by our local cable access television station, WCET.

If you have questions or comments about our city I encourage you to call City Hall and/or contact your commissioners. We actually like hearing what folks think and we seek feedback on what we are doing well and where

you would like us to focus our energies. We are here to represent the citizens of this great community, so it is so wonderful to hear from you. In 2016 we will begin to see efforts towards advancing our Imagine Hudsonville 2030 Master Plan. Several key elements are being worked on including:

1. A pedestrian and bike underpass that would connect, in a walkable fashion, the north and south ends of Hudsonville. The underpass would traverse under Chicago Drive and the railroad tracks right along Buttermilk Creek. City staff is currently working on obtaining the appropriate permits to complete this project.
2. Chicago Drive landscaping that will both serve as a traffic calmer and will draw attention from the roadway toward downtown Hudsonville. Staff is currently in the process of obtaining permits from MDOT on this project.
3. A permanent home for the Hudsonville Farmer's Market and event rental space. A location has been identified and we are currently working on finalizing agreements with the property owners. This year you'll see opportunities to give feedback on this project through a series of focus groups that will be held, or to contribute to the project through a crowd-funding campaign that will be conducted later this year.
4. The re-development and extension of Harvey Street, creating a pedestrian oriented pathway through the heart of our downtown.

Hudsonville is a great place to live and raise a family, I look forward to being a part of improving it a bit more.

Mark Northrup
Mayor, City of Hudsonville





HUGHES PARK BATHROOM - SUMMER RENOVATIONS

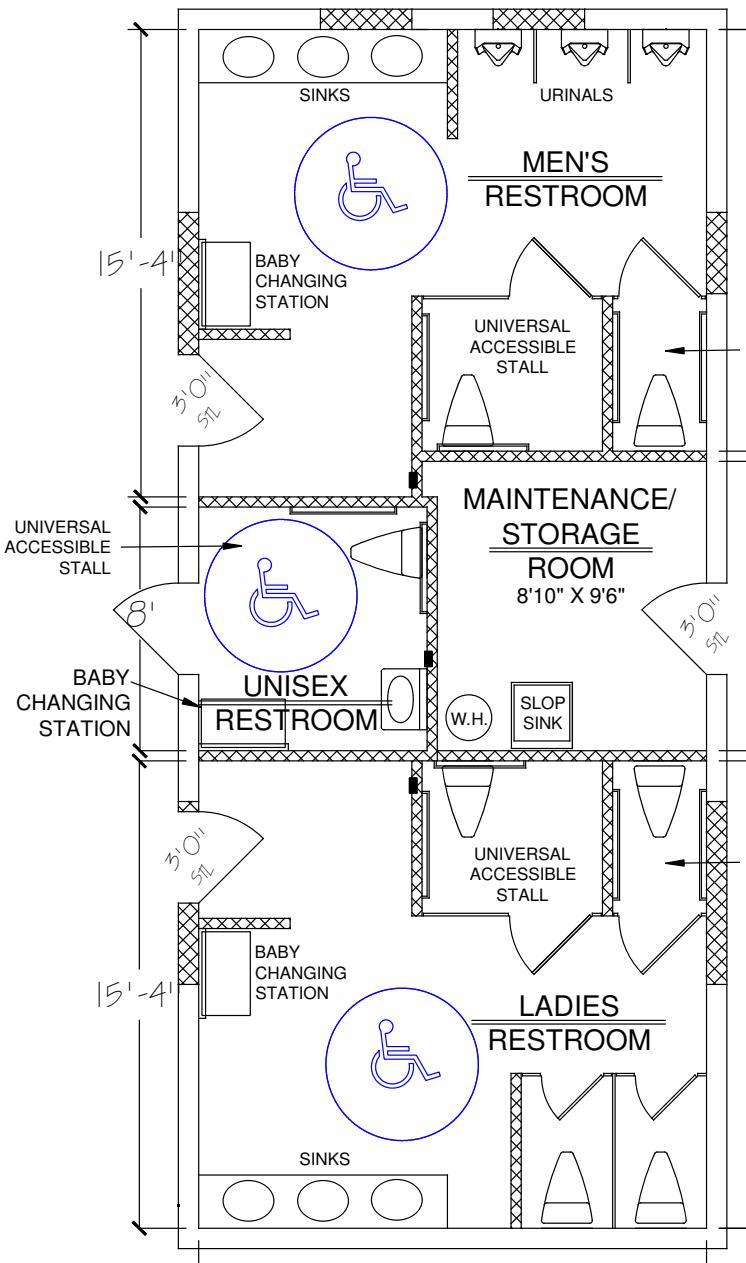
The City of Hudsonville has received a grant award from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) through the Recreation Passport program to renovate the Hughes Park Bathrooms! As you are aware, the bathrooms are significantly outdated, lacking modern amenities such as hot water, accessible stalls, changing tables, and even stall doors.

The project includes making the Hughes Park bathrooms accessible to all users (accessible pathways, signage, doors, and stalls), improving the sanitary conditions (adding hot water connections and motion censored soap & paper towel dispensers), including environmentally sustainable features (low flush toilets, efficient lighting, native landscaping), and enhancing the safety of users and reducing vandalism (through better locking doors and improved lighting). The project will also reconfigure the building to accommodate the addition of a stand alone unisex toilet room. From an aesthetics perspective, the building will also receive façade improvements.

The new floorplan of the building is shown to the right.

Looking at findings from the Parks Survey of 2014, Hughes Park is the most utilized park in the community, and new bathrooms are ranked as a high priority for those completing the survey.

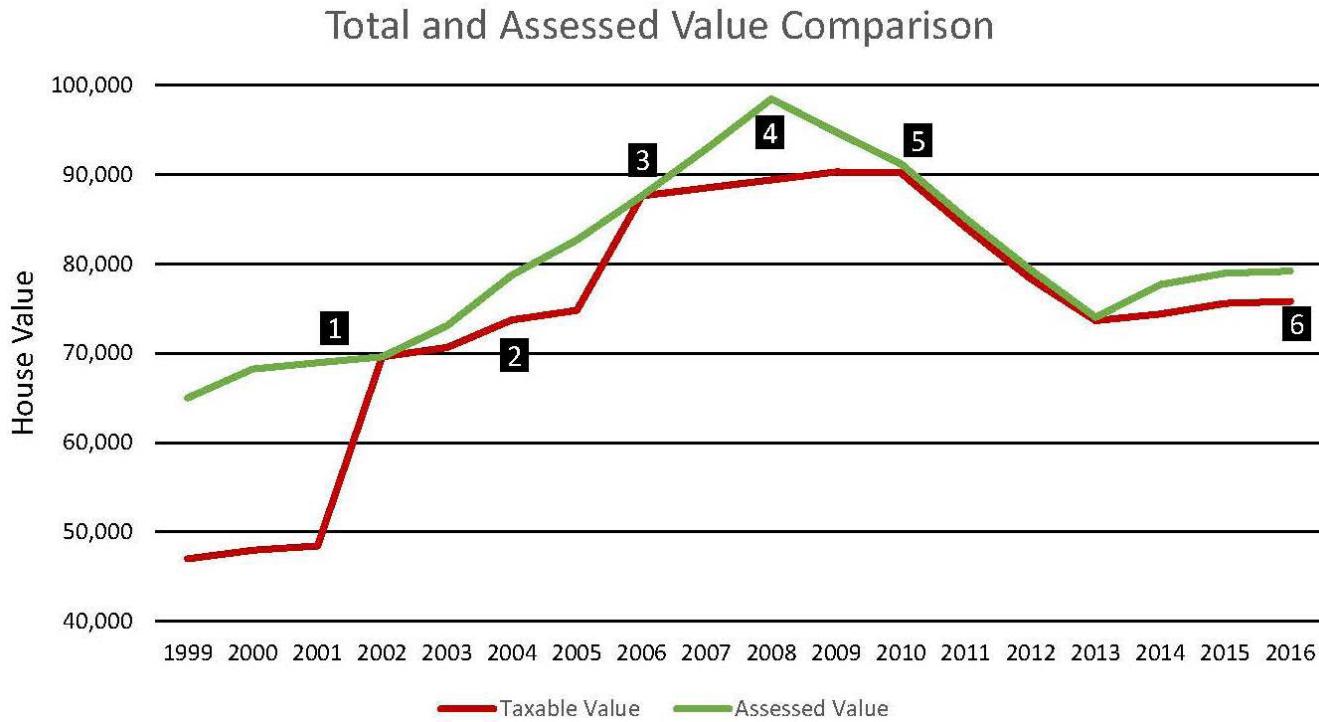
The DNR Recreation Grant was identified as a promising grant opportunity to secure \$45,000 to renovate the bathrooms. The City will be matching \$15,000 of the total project cost in a combination of cash and labor. Grant agreements are required by State statute to be executed by August, 2016, so we anticipate receiving our agreement in Spring 2016.



CHANGE OF ASSESSMENT NOTICE

Each February, the Assessing Department determines the assessed and taxable values for properties within city limits. There are a few terms to be aware of in order to understand the assessment notice you will receive from the city. The first is Assessed Value (AV) which represents 50% of the market value of a property. This figure is calculated through a sales study conducted each year. In the sales study, properties are grouped into different neighborhoods based on style and quality of construction. Then, the sale prices are evaluated against Assessed Values to establish the percentage by which values will change (AV will go up in a strong market, down in a weak market.)

Taxable Value (TV) is the basis for your property tax bill and is set to match the AV anytime a property changes ownership. The property shown in the graph below was sold twice, in 2001 and 2005. You can see the TV being set at the AV in the years following each sale (Points 1 and 3.) TV can increase in two other ways. In the event that home prices (and therefore AV) are rapidly rising, taxable values will increase by the lower of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 5%. This is happening between points 3 and 5. Also, TV can rise due to property improvements. For example, a deck worth \$3000 was built in 2003 and you can see the taxable value increasing beyond just the CPI in 2004 (point 2.)



TV may increase even while AV is decreasing, as seen between 4 and 5. However, TV will never exceed AV. At point 5 TV began decreasing with AV as the real estate market continued to decline.

For 2016, many of Hudsonville's residents will again see increases in both AV and TV as a result of improving home values (point 6.) In February, you will be receiving a Change of Assessment Notice, listing both the Assessed and Taxable Values. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office at that time.

For more information on the assessing process please visit www.hudsonville.org/Finance-Assessing. Maps of the sales studies are also available on the web page.



PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION - TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

The Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

The 2016 Presidential Primary will be conducted as a "closed" primary, which means there will be three ballots; a Republican ballot, a Democratic ballot and a No Party Declaration ballot. The No Party Declaration ballot may be used for those who wish to just vote on the County millage proposal. Voters will be required to indicate on their applications to vote which ballot they want to receive.



at City Hall, 3275 Central Blvd., and residents in Ward 3 will vote at the Hudsonville Congregational UCC, 4950 32nd Avenue. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SEASONAL PARKING REMINDERS

To ensure that our city streets can be plowed and salted after heavy snowfalls, the city enforces the following citywide parking ordinance:

Between the dates of November 1 and April 1, parking is prohibited on all city streets between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Please make arrangements to move your vehicle off the street during these hours or a Civil Infraction Notice (ie: ticket) will be issued to the owner of the vehicle. Please help keep our streets safe this winter by complying with our Seasonal Parking limitations.

Absentee ballots for the March 8 election are available at the City Clerk's office.

A voter who is physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another person, who is at least 60 years of age, or who expects to be absent from the community while the polls are open, is eligible to receive an absent voter ballot. If you wish to apply for an absent voter ballot, please stop by City Hall or contact Jan Wiersum, City Clerk, at 669-0200 ext. 1412 to obtain an application. The City Clerk's office will also be open on Saturday, March 5 until 2:00 p.m. for the purpose of issuing absentee ballots.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER

The last day to register to vote in the presidential primary election is Monday, February 8, 2016. To register to vote you must be a citizen of the United States and at least 18 years of age on or before March 8, 2016

You may register to vote or change your address at any Secretary of State Office, the Office of the City Clerk during regular office hours or other designated agencies. If you are already a qualified elector in and for the City of Hudsonville, you do not need to re-register.





NEW FIRE VEHICLE

We are introducing a new medical vehicle for the Hudsonville Fire Department.



A 2016 Ford Expedition 4 wheel drive SUV was purchased from Borgman Ford. This vehicle takes the place of the 1996 Chevy Van.

It has the latest in communications and lighting installed by Time Emergency in Cutlerville.

The vehicle will allow better and quicker response time in the winter months with the snow and ice covered roads.



SNOW & ICE REMINDERS

1. Help keep waterbodies clean by disposing snow and ice in vegetated areas on your property. Never dump snow or ice into city streets, catch basins or creeks/streams.
2. Clear snow away from fire hydrants to ensure they are accessible if needed.
3. Keep your neighbors in mind...don't pile snow so high that it obstructs their vision.
4. The DPW Crew wants to help you get to work and school on time. Remember to park in your garage/driveway during the hours of 2:00 a.m and 6:00 a.m. so that the DPW can efficiently and effectively clear city streets.
5. The city will clear sidewalks, if time allows, as a courtesy to property owners. If you stake your property to help guide us, please do not use steel stakes and remember to leave at least a 6 inch gap so the sidewalk plow can get through.

CAR SEAT CHECKS

Do you want to get your car seat checked to make sure it is installed properly?

We have two dates set up to have certified car seat inspectors on site to check your seat out! January 28 and April 12 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hudsonville Fire Station.

All car seat inspections are free. A limited number of low cost replacement car seats are available at all locations, for those who qualify. Children who need a replacement seat must be present with parent or legal guardian.

Visit www.spectrumhealth.org/injuryprevention-lakeshore for more information. All safety checks require an appointment. Call (616) 748-2285 to request at time.





KID'S PROGRAMMING

YOGA FOR KIDS!

A yoga class led by instructor, Andrea Keeley, will be offered Saturday mornings, January 9th to March 19th,(there will be no class February 20th) from 10:30—11:30 am.

This class is for students 1st—6th grades. Classes explore yoga poses, breathing exercises, games to develop patience and relaxation techniques.

This session will cost \$40 for the ten weeks or \$5.00 per class. Registration begins January 2nd, online, by phone or in person.

MAYORS BOOK CLUB

The City of Hudsonville is proud to announce the third Mayor's Book Club for children ages 4 to 7. This program is designed to encourage a love of reading. Read a book a month, along with Mayor Northrup.

Here is how it works: Each participant will get a list of the 12 books either at the library or downloaded from the library website (www.hudsonville.org/library). Every time the child reads (or is read) any of the titles, they can come into the library and get that title stamped.

Children who read all 12 of the books will receive a book, coupon and a certificate from Mayor Northrup. Deadline is December 31, 2016.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MURDER AND MAYHEM IN GRAND RAPIDS WITH AUTHOR TOBIN BUHK

While the River City is known for its history of furniture making, it also has a sinister side. Join Michigan True Crime Author Tobin Buhk as he delves into the colorful characters of Grand Rapids' past and the heinous crimes they committed!

Join us January 28 at 7 p.m. A book signing will follow the presentation. Held at the Gary Byker Memorial Library.

LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE

The next Used Book Sale will be March 17-19. Find your next great read at the used book sale and support the library! Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

TORNADO ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

The year 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the April 3 tornado that hit Hudsonville, Standale and many other locales in 1956.

Ernie Ostuno from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will be here Saturday, April 2, at 10 a.m. to reflect on that tornado and the destruction it caused in our community. If you lived through the tornado, we'd love to have you there!

We'll have all our tornado related local history items on display. Any pictures or artifacts you have and would like to share with us, please bring them! Refreshments will be provided.



IMAGINE HUDSONVILLE UPDATE

Another project has been completed that addresses the goals in the Imagine Hudsonville 2030 Master Plan. This time it is a very colorful goal!



In December 2015, the Hudsonville Area Arts Council completed a community art project of inspiration poles. The poles were completed by community members and Arts Council members at local festivals, at the Gary Byker Memorial Library, and even in local schools.

This project addresses the distinctive city objective, specifically implementation strategies 3 (Install Great Public Art) and 4 (Promote Great Public Art).



LED LIGHTS

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) recently completed a conversion of all Chicago Drive and DDA parking lot lights to LED fixtures.

This project allowed the city to take advantage of a \$9,072 rebate from Consumer's Energy.

As you can see as you drive down Chicago Drive, the conversion resulted in higher quality (i.e. whiter) light in the downtown. You can see an example below of the difference this lighting makes.



Source: www.surelight.com

PLEASE STOP FLUSHING TOWELS!



Yes, it sounds like a bizarre request, but you'd be amazed to hear about some of the things that are clogging up the sewer pumps such as, you guessed it, hand towels.

Just a reminder that you should only flush water, human waste, and toilet paper!

Some items that you may think are safe to flush, but you really shouldn't include:

- 'Flushable' Wipes
- Baby Wipes
- Paper Towel
- Dental Floss
- Kitty Litter
- Cleaning Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Medical Waste
- Toilet Seat Covers

Just remember, to keep your toilet happy, don't rush to flush!



PRSR. STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 657

The City of Hudsonville
3275 Central Blvd.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
Phone: 616.669.0200 Fax: 616.669.2330
www.hudsonville.org
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

YOUR CITY COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

Mayor	Mark Northrup	662.2663	mnorthrup@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 1	Jim Holtrop	669.6523	jholtrop@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 1	Gary Raterink	669.6191	graterink@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 2	Dan Bolhuis	206.0584	dbolhuis@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 2	Greg Steigenga	669.2336	gsteigenga@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 3	Philip Leerar	662.1520	pleerar@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 3	Larry Brandsen	669.3365	lbrandsen@hudsonville.org
City Manager	Patrick Waterman	669.0200 x 1418	pwaterman@hudsonville.org
City Clerk	Jan Wiersum	669.0200 x 1412	jwiersum@hudsonville.org
Assessor/Finance Director	Jan Sal	669.0200 x 1413	jsal@hudsonville.org
Planning/Zoning Director	Dan Strikwerda	669.0200 x 1414	dstrikwe@hudsonville.org
Marketing Coordinator	Michelle Fare	669.0200 x 1411	mfare@hudsonville.org
Sheriff Sergeant	Mike Bagladi	669.0200 x 1428	mbagladi@miottawa.org
Fire Chief	Dick Mohr	669.0200 x 1429	dmohr@hudsonville.org
Public Works Director	Dutch Besteman	669.0200 x 1424	huddpw@hudsonville.org
Library Director	Melissa Huisman	669.1255	mhuisman@hudsonville.org
Emergency Services Director	Dave Dahl	669.0200 x 1404	ddahl@hudsonville.org

The City of Hudsonville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, or limited English proficiency in any of its programs or activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: City Manager, City of Hudsonville, 3275 Central Blvd., Hudsonville MI 49426. 616.669.0200 x 1418.