

# HUDSONVILLE HOMETOWN NEWS



GOOD PEOPLE. GOOD LIVING.

Fall, 2015

## THOUGHTS FROM TWELVE YEARS AS MAYOR

Time has a way of escaping one's conscience when busy and enjoying the activity. It was twelve years ago that I decided to run for mayor of this grand city. After serving three four-year terms a decision was made to step aside and turn the reigns over to another. After retiring once before in 2001 as superintendent of schools, it is now time to pursue other activities in my retirement.



It was a privilege to work with the excellent staff at City Hall and many business leaders who care so much about the future of Hudsonville, plus all the citizens willing to serve on several committees and commissions. It has certainly been a team effort. During my tenure as Mayor, many citizens have stepped forward to serve as city commissioners. I can truly say that all cared deeply about Hudsonville and were willing to give of their time to make this a great place to live.

Over the years many accomplishments were made and plans laid for the future of Hudsonville:

- More than 10 years ago public meetings were held to envision what the downtown should look like in the future.
- New lights were installed along Chicago Drive and landscaping designs are ready for implementation as well.
- The City constructed a new DPW facility with less than 20% of the cost left in a mortgage.
- Non-motorized pathways are planned to extend throughout the region to make ours a more connected City. Eventually one will be able walk or ride a bike across the City and reach Port Sheldon Drive. Part of this pathway system was recently completed behind City Hall.
- A new Master Plan along with a "Form Based Ordinance" was recently adopted.
- Several years ago the City Commission signed a contract with Ottawa County to provide police service saving the city over \$100,000 annually.



Many other things were accomplished but the point being made is that it takes a willingness to invest in our future to create a sustainable a City, making it a desirable place where others want to come to live, work and shop.

The City has a 2030 Vision for the future of our town. It was a privilege to be part of this planning process.

Thank you for the support and opportunity to serve the City of Hudsonville for the past twelve years. It was truly my pleasure.

Don Van Doeselaar  
Mayor, City of Hudsonville

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

### MARK NORTHRUP

#### CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR



Two years ago Norm Unema, my friend and fellow Coast Guard veteran, a City Commissioner and former mayor, passed away unexpectedly. Although I had no political aspirations, out of respect for him and love of Hudsonville I had the opportunity to fill his city commissioner seat.

In my life I have lived in small fishing villages in both Alaska and Japan as well as in the big city suburbs of Chicago, Dallas, Seattle, Minneapolis, Denver, Oslo (Norway) and Naples (Italy). Since 2003 I have been blessed to call the City of Hudsonville home and finally have no plans to find the next best place to live!

It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Hudsonville these last two years. It is a unique city—well managed and fiscally conservative with engaged citizens and a vibrant business community. The city has a long term master plan recognized as one of the best in our state. This plan seeks to have a Distinctive, Livable, Vibrant and Connected City. If elected Mayor of Hudsonville, I will insist on continuing good stewardship of community resources, while supporting efforts that lead to a better quality of life for all members of our community.

### JOHN O'BRIEN

#### CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR



I have chosen to run for mayor because our current mayor is retiring and after consulting with a number of my fellow commissioners and asking Jim Holtrup about running for the position.

Our city is a great place to live and work. I want to keep it that way.

I have lived in West Michigan all my life. I grew up in Ravenna Michigan attended High School in Grand Rapids then went to Muskegon Community College and graduated from Grand Valley State with a degree in Economics in August 1982.

I have been married to my wife Danita for 33 years. We have two children Meghan Hernandez and John Michael who attended Hudsonville Public Schools. Meghan and her husband Dan have two children Ayden and Maxwell.

We moved to Hudsonville in 1986. August 2000 we purchased our home on New Holland St. I sold O'Brien Insurance Agency in 2011 and continue to sell insurance through the new owner. I started O'Brien Tax Service in 2008 and continue to expand that service.

Our city has been well run with an ample rainy day fund. I wish to continue this effective management.

## ELECTION INFORMATION

The CITY GENERAL ELECTION will be held on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 2015. Offices to be filled and the candidates that will appear on the ballot include the following (all are 4 year terms)

1 – Mayor

Mark Northrup  
John O'Brien

1 - Ward 1 Commissioner

Jim Holtrop

1 - Ward 3 Commissioner

Philip Leerar

## CANDIDATE PROFILES

### JIM HOLTROP

#### CANDIDATE FOR WARD 1 COMMISSIONER



I have been a resident of Hudsonville for 52 years and have 32 years of elected service as a City Commissioner (6 years), Mayor (16 years) and County Commissioner (10 years). I have been married to Cindy (Talsma) for 32 years and we are expecting our first grandchild in January! I

am a graduate of Calvin College majoring in Political Science and a member of Hillcrest Christian Reformed Church where I have served as Trustee, Sunday School teacher and Superintendent, and Kids Hope mentor. I have worked as a home-based travel agent 20 years and am currently with Railside Travel in Zeeland.

My interests are maintaining our roads and utility systems, achieving a proper balance between taxable and non-taxable land, and working together with our school systems, other governments and businesses to preserve our quality of life. I believe in collaboration and cooperation, where it makes sense, by the City with other organizations to provide a high level of service while reducing cost.

### PHILIP LEERAR

#### CANDIDATE FOR WARD 3 COMMISSIONER



I've been employed by Amway as a project engineer for the past 20 years. Before this I spent six years working with a consulting engineering firm in Chicago as well as working as a civil engineer for a Chicago suburban municipality. My skills and knowledge as a civil engineer have

been a good fit on the Hudsonville City Commission.

Prior to being elected to the City Commission I served on the Planning Commission for seven years. I have lived in Hudsonville for 19 years and enjoy living here immensely.

I am married to Sharon (Lameyer) who grew up in Hudsonville. We have two kids – John is a junior at Calvin College studying bio-chemistry and Allie is a junior at Unity Christian. Sharon teaches at Hudsonville Christian. We are members of Fairway Christian Reformed Church. My hobbies include home projects, reading (especially military history and sports), and spending time with my family.

I graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. I served two years as an adjunct professor of engineering at Calvin College. My work experience and current involvement in the City of Hudsonville have provided me good preparation for serving another term on the City Commission.

I believe in Hudsonville and I believe in its people. I would be honored to earn your support.

The polling location for Wards 1 & 2 is at City Hall, 3275 Central Blvd. Ward 3 is located at the Hudsonville Congregational UCC, 4950 32nd Avenue. All polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and are handicapped accessible. Absentee Ballots are also available from the City Clerk's office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Any person/s wishing to become a write-in candidate must file a "Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate" with the City Clerk by 4 o'clock pm, Friday, October 23, 2015. Forms are available. To qualify as a candidate, a person shall have been a resident of the City for one (1) year immediately prior to the last day for filing petitions for such office (April 21, 2015) and shall be a qualified registered elector of the City on such day.



## URBAN HAYDAY - HUDSONVILLE'S FREE FALL FESTIVAL

Looking for something to do Saturday, October 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in downtown Hudsonville? Look no more! Urban HayDay, presented by Todd Wenzel Chevrolet, has so many neat components that it has to be stretched out to two locations: Gemmen's Home and Hardware at 3488 Kelly Street and Hudsonville Farmers Co-op at 3302 Prospect Street. Hayrides will be the source of transportation between the two venues.

### AT GEMMEN'S HOME & HARDWARE

Invite friends and family to compete in the pumpkin races, the Rubber Chicken Launch, the eating contests (12 p.m. and 2 p.m.), and the kid's tractor pull. Register for the Kids Tractor Pull at 12:00 p.m. Races will begin at 1 p.m. Ages 3 to 10 are welcome.

Bring complimentary donuts and cider to the relaxation tent, carve pumpkins and leave your mess in Gemmen's parking lot, enjoy the critter barn and pony rides, along with a chainsaw carver and bounce house. Visit the Kiddo Corral too! Local businesses will be running free kids activities for your family to participate in.

### BUILD A PUMPKIN RACER

Pumpkin racers can compete in the 2nd annual RE/MAX Premier Pumpkin Races! Build your pumpkin and bring it to Gemmen's Home and Hardware. Register from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., races will begin at 3 p.m. Another prize will go to the best looking pumpkin.

### AT HUDSONVILLE FARMER'S CO-OP

Ride the mechanical bull or run in human hamster balls at the Hudsonville Farmers Co-op! Let the little ones play in a bounce house, walk through the Halloween House and ride around in the mini train. You can also vote on your favorite 2015 tractor from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You will not want to miss out on the opportunity to see the Fire Department drop pumpkins at the top of every hour from the top of the ladder truck while you shop the farmer's market & craft show.

Finally, meet for the costume contest walk near the mini train ride at 4:30 p.m. for a chance to win cash!

## DON'T RUSH TO FLUSH

Recently the City's Department of Public Works has seen an increase in sanitary lift station repairs. A high volume of hygiene products, and foreign items have been accumulating and clogging/breaking lift station pumps. Each time a foreign item clogs or breaks a lift station, pump crews must pull the pump, untangle the item from the propeller and then repair or replace the pump or its parts. This can get very costly.

We need your help! Remember...Just because items state that they can be flushed down the toilet does not mean they should be flushed. Help reduce the cost of sanitary lift station repairs by only flushing human waste, toilet paper and water.

For more information on why certain items should not be flushed, check out the video at [www.hudsonville.org/flush](http://www.hudsonville.org/flush).





## MOST RECENT ISO AUDIT GIVES IMPROVED RATING FOR CITY

This month, the city received the results from the most recent audit by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), which is also known as a Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey. The PPC is an analysis of the city's structural fire suppression delivery system. Specifically, it analyzes the city's water supply in terms of flow (GPM), pressure (PSI), and delivery (location and vehicles). The PPC also takes into account our fire personnel's practices and procedures. The PPC rates each community on a scale of 10 to 1, with 1 being the best. These ratings are then shared with local insurance companies and can positively affect (ie reduce) consumer rates when they improve.

We are pleased to report that ISO's analysis resulted in the city's PPC improving from a 5 to a 4. We believe that the improved rating has much to do with our ongoing efforts to replace aging and undersized water mains throughout the city, as well as the continued commitment to excellence by our Fire Department.

Please be sure to check with your insurance provider to see how this change may affect **your rates**.



## HUDSONVILLE HOLIDAY PARADE

Let the winter festivities begin! Celebrate the holiday season close to home at Hudsonville's Holiday Parade, Saturday, November 21 at 10 a.m.!

The parade will begin at the Pinnacle Center and run north on 32nd Street. Follow us up to the fire station on Central Blvd. for beverages, treats, and holiday entertainment! You will see Santa and Mrs. Claus there with their reindeer as well!

We will see you at the 22nd annual Hudsonville Holiday Parade!

## PARKING REMINDERS

### SEASONAL PARKING IN EFFECT: NOV 1 - APRIL 1

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 a.m. and 6 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.



### DON'T PARK ON THE GRASS

The parking of any vehicle on grass or landscaped areas are prohibited by city ordinance. If you are selling your vehicle, please display it on your driveway, not in the grass.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for any of the following programs by calling (616) 669-1255 or on our online event calendar. Programs are free unless otherwise noted.

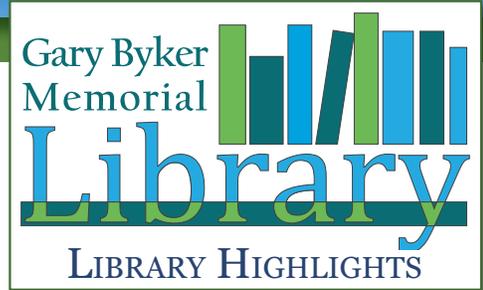
- **32 Degree winter reading club for adults (October 1, 2015 - May 1, 2016):** Read 32 books over the course of the winter and earn a club mug with a treat inside!
- **Friends of the Library used book sale (October 22-24)**
- **Beginning Zentangle (November 16):** Join us and instructor Nancy Van Rooy from 7-9 p.m. to learn about the fascinating world of Zentangle, which is an easy to learn, relaxing and fun way to create images by drawing structure patterns. \$5 fee. Ages 12+.
- **The S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald (November 17):** Maritime historian, James Spurr, will present a free program on the 40th anniversary of this famous Lake Superior shipwreck.
- **Adult Fiction Book Club:** Teens and adults are welcome to join this club that meets monthly to discuss popular fiction titles. Please register. Book selections to be announced.
- **Wooden Christmas Blocks (December 1, 6:30 p.m.):** Ages: 10 to adult. You can make up to 5 decorated Christmas blocks in this class. Fee: \$10
- **Fitness Programs** at the library include Zumba Gold, Yoga Pilates, and, new this fall, Tai Chi.

## FEATURED KIDS ACTIVITY

### PIZZA AND PAGES

Help us re-start this club for kids 3rd through 5th grade who love reading, sharing, and learning more about books! Each month we'll have pizza, talk about books we've enjoyed, play some word games and win some prizes. Please bring a copy of the book you are reading and be prepared to tell us a little about it.

First Meeting: Thursday, October 1st from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This program is free but registration is necessary. Can't make it to the first meeting? We'll have Pizza and Pages again - same time, same place every first Thursday of the month through March. Registration begins October 1st in person, by phone or online.



## BOOK CLUB FOR SERIOUS READERS

Come join us for a book club that will be discussing primarily non-fiction works in the areas of Religion, History, Science, etc. Each discussion will be co-led by an "expert" in the field.

Nov 19: *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Eric Larson. Led by Daniel Huisman, History Instructor, GRCC.



## MELCAT.ORG NOTICE

Melcat.org is your place to order library materials statewide, including items from the Grand Rapids Public Library and the Kent District Library system. Materials from these libraries no longer will appear in our shared lakenet.llcoop.org catalog.



## WINTER REMINDERS

### SIDEWALK, HYDRANT, & STREETS

Please be aware that it is each property owner’s responsibility to keep their sidewalks clear of snow and ice. The city will clear streets as a priority during a snow storm and will get to sidewalks if and when time allows (i.e. please do not wait for the city to clear your sidewalks). Please also be aware that damage that occurs to the adjacent lawn areas as a result of sidewalk plowing is NOT the responsibility of the city. Please also make sure to keep hydrants clear and do not blow snow into the street.

### MAILBOXES

Snowplowing of streets is an essential service that sometimes results in physical damage to private property. Most of this damage is not from the plow itself, but the force of snow coming off the plow. The city has a general policy to repair or replace a mailbox that has been physically struck by a city snow plow; however the city will not pay for damage caused by snow being thrown against the mailbox. Please report damaged property within 24 hours so a site visit and damage assessment can be scheduled by the Public Works Superintendent.

### FROZEN PIPES

Frozen water lines are caused from several days of extremely cold temperatures that drive frost into the ground. Freezing generally occurs in uninsulated pipes that are located in unheated basements and against outside walls, or outdoors where snow has been removed (ie. streets, driveways or parking lots). If your water pipes freeze, contact the Department of Public Works about unthawing your service. The first call for the season will be at no charge. Any follow up calls during the season will be billed according to the city’s fee schedule. This service does not include the cost of replacing broken pipes.



## LEAF DROP

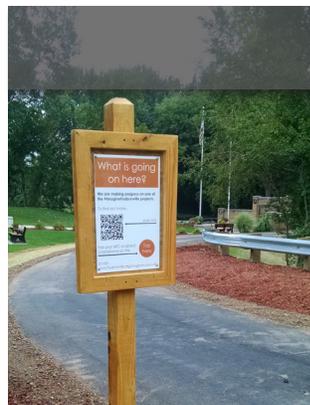
The City of Hudsonville’s annual leaf drop off will once again be held at Roark’s Lawn and Garden located at 5340 Chicago Drive. Here are a few things for you to remember before heading to the leaf drop:

- Please plan to take ALL your bags with you. Roark’s will not be accepting paper or plastic bags this year.
- Bring identification to verify residency!
- Remove all branches, brush or garbage from your leaf piles. Only leaves will be accepted.
- Any leaves dropped off outside of the listed dates and times will be at the expense of the individual.

This service is funded by City taxpayer dollars and will only be available to residents. Remember, please do not blow leaves into streets, storm drains, or onto the sidewalk.

### LEAF DROP DATES

Friday, October 30th	1pm – 5pm
Saturday, November 7th	9am – 3pm
Friday, November 13th	1pm – 5pm
Friday, November 20st	1pm – 5pm
Saturday, November 28th	9am – 3pm
Saturday, December 5th	9am – Noon



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Look for these signs around town if you want to stay in the loop about the latest #ImagineHudsonville projects.

You can also sign up for email alerts about projects from [www.hudsonville.org](http://www.hudsonville.org).



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US POSTAGE  
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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	Don Van Doeselaar	669.8045	dvandoes@hudsonville.org
Commissioner - Ward 1	John O'Brien	669.2670	jobrien@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	Mark Northrup	662.2663	mnorthrup@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.