

HUDSONVILLE HOMETOWN NEWS



GOOD PEOPLE. GOOD LIVING.

Winter, 2014

CLARITY IN A SNOWSTORM

by Michelle Fare, Marketing Coordinator

As winter swirls by my window, I wonder why I choose to live in Michigan. 'Not a very optimistic way to start an article' you might be thinking, but hear me out.

I dislike the snow and so for a moment I forgot why we chose this beautiful place to call home. Just recently I read a Facebook status of a Hudsonville friend as she discussed this very same winter weather. She wrote:

"In the white I see plowmen with work that pays their bills. I see my tax dollars at work as the sidewalk and street plows blow through in a thriving civil system.

I count my blessings by the number of warm outerwear items I can afford to put on my little guys. By the way, shovelling by hand is a free workout. When I am out there throwing the white, I wave at neighbors I don't see often in winter. And these messy streets just mean we have a good reason to slow down in a world that moves way too fast."

It is wonderful to glean a fresh perspective in the middle of a snowstorm. So with this crisp view, I share with you eight reasons why Hudsonville is an amazing place.

1. Sense of Place: In so many communities, there are houses and businesses, but the 'sense of place' of 'belonging' is missing. This is a town where you are bound to run into someone you know at the local grocery store. A friendly face in a busy world.
2. Family Focused: Hudsonville is a place where the families truly stand for something, plus there are always wonderful family-friendly things for residents to do, from visiting a weekly summer farmer's market, to attending concerts and enjoying fall hayrides; good things are always happening.
3. It is Safe: Hudsonville is overall a safe environment to raise our kids. When emergencies do happen though, the response from emergency services is quick and professional.



4. The Beautiful Parks: We are certainly blessed with lovely parks, are we not? I love having beautiful green spaces to roam with my family, especially the Nature Center complete with free hiking tours!
5. Connections: The non-motorized pathways connect the town in a wonderful way. Between these paths, and well cared for sidewalks, we can travel almost anywhere... and sidewalks get plowed in the winter!
6. The Library: The Gary Byker Memorial Library is a special place. They offer great programs and the staff is always so friendly!
7. Resident Services: From quickly plowed and salted streets to free leaf disposal, the perks abound.
8. The People: Hudsonville homes host families with excellent values. I have the privilege of interacting with lots of residents at community events and this one attribute really stands out for me!

I feel blessed each day (despite those howling winter winds) to serve this amazing community.

HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHIFTING TO 100% SUMMER TAX COLLECTION

**IMPORTANT!
CONCERNING YOUR
SUMMER TAX BILL**

The Hudsonville Public Schools Board of Education recently adopted a resolution to move from a 50% winter tax collection and 50% summer tax collection to a 100% summer tax collection.

While this is NOT a tax increase, it does shift the timing of the tax collection. Currently, Hudsonville Public Schools is one of three districts in Ottawa County that does not collect 100% of the school taxes in the summer. Transitioning to 100% summer tax collection will help the school district during the summer and fall months since the State of Michigan does not provide the first state aid payment to schools until late October and will reduce the district's need to borrow.

Questions about this change should be directed to the Hudsonville Public School's Director of Business, Dennis Baine, at (616) 669-1740, extention 2.

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS

As the snow falls the Department of Public Works continues to clear City streets and sidewalks for residents.

Here are some friendly reminders.

- Remember to remove all items away from the street and sidewalks. This includes, but is not limited to cars, basketball hoops, trash bins, and sleds.
- The city will clear streets as a first priority. If time allows then city staff will assist with clearing sidewalks throughout the city. If sidewalks have not been cleared within 24 hours of a heavy snowfall, residents are asked to clear thier own.
- Don't shovel or blow snow into the streets or onto sidewalks
- Keep fire hydrants clear of snow and ice



PLANNING COMMISSION

**Do you have an interest
in being a Planning
Commissioner? The City
of Hudsonville Planning
Commission has a vacancy.**

**If you have questions and/or
interest in serving in this role,
please contact
Dan Strikwerda at
(616) 669-0200 x 1414**

THANK YOU RESIDENTS!

Thanks to you, the City of Hudsonville residents, the ordinance regarding solicitors is working great! Since you recognize the importance that ALL solicitors register with our office and be identified by wearing a lanyard before visiting residents, we have seen a decrease in the number of un-registered solicitors.

Please continue to call our office with any questions or concerns at (616) 669-0200 x 1416.



LIFE EMS AMBULANCE – PROUD NEW EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER FOR HUDSONVILLE AREA RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

Over the past several months, you have likely seen some new faces and distinctive green and white vehicles around the streets and neighborhoods of Hudsonville.

We're pleased to welcome the expert services of Life EMS Ambulance to our community, a nationally recognized and locally owned emergency services provider serving West Michigan for more than 30 years. With the recent addition of the City of Hudsonville, Georgetown Charter Township and Jamestown Charter Township to its emergency 911 response footprint, Life EMS Ambulance now serves a total of nine counties, spanning approximately 3,800 square miles.

The company's more than 400 full and part-time associates are dedicated to the daily mission of providing "skill and compassion when you need it most." It's a commitment deeply rooted in Life EMS Ambulance's founding vision.

Richard Mohr, Fire Chief for the City of Hudsonville, couldn't agree more. "Life EMS Ambulance is the best choice for excellence in clinical performance, customer service and community leadership."

Mark Meijer, president and founder of Life EMS Ambulance and a licensed paramedic, is pleased to be a part of the Hudsonville community and looks forward to a building a long-term relationship.

"We appreciate the trust the city and township managers and their respective fire and sheriff department leaders have in us to provide the emergency care and support their communities need," he said.

In addition to emergency services, Life EMS Ambulance's fleet of 30 wheelchair mobility vans offer safe, customer-focused non-emergency transportation to Hudsonville residents desiring door-to-door service to/from doctor visits, to dialysis or chemotherapy appointments. You can learn more about this service, including costs and scheduling, by calling (616) 458-5433.

Life EMS also provides a great value in personal response systems for anyone looking for added peace of mind in their home. These emergency help buttons are answered by the local, caring professionals in the Life EMS Ambulance Control Center, who can send help to residents immediately. CPR and other types of emergency training are available to anyone including church groups and businesses.

"When we serve a community, we make a full commitment to your residents," said Jan Mosson, community relations manager. "We truly care and are committed to showing that in all that we do." Jan can be reached at 616-242-8812 to help organize ambulance demonstrations or other community activities such as school career days.

For more information about Life EMS Ambulance, please visit www.lifeems.com or www.facebook.com/Lifeems.



FESTIVAL OF TABLES

Come spring and people want to get out and have fun! The Gary Byker Memorial Library's fourth "Festival of Tables" will be held on Saturday, April 26 at the Hudsonville United Church of Christ. This event showcases beautifully decorated tables, laden with china, flowers, and other decorations. People are invited to purchase tickets which includes lunch served at those tables by library Friends and staff. There will also be a silent auction with many handmade items or gift baskets from local businesses and some fun entertainment!

Please call Melissa at 616.669.1255 or email her at mhuisman@hudsonville.org for more information, if you would like to donate a good or service for the auction, or if you are interested in decorating a table and being a hostess for the event!



OTHER EVENTS

- **Jan. 28 (6:30 p.m.):** Zentangle Workshop: Zentangle is an easy to learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structure patterns. \$5 fee and registration is required. Teens to adults
- **Feb. 11 (6:30 p.m.):** Board Game Night: Stop by the library to learn and play the next level in board and tabletop gaming! Free. Teens to adults
- **Jan. 28 (7:00 p.m.):** Bard Bash: Join other Shakespeare fans to discuss the play "McBeth". Free, registration is required.
- **Mar. 15 (10:30 a.m.):** Bracelet Craft: Make a lovely bracelet out of faceted beads. \$10 fee, registration required. Class size is limited. Teen to adults.
- **Mar. 20-22:** Used Book Sale: A Friends of the Library fundraiser at the library. Doors open at 10am.
- **BeeKeeper Event:** A presentation by Hudsonville Honey for children and adults. Call the library for more details!
- **Ongoing Fitness Classes:** Yoga and Zumba are offered weekly at the library. Call for details.



Gary Byker Memorial Library

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

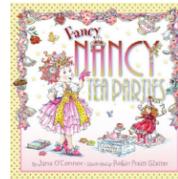
CHILDREN'S EVENTS

STORY TIME: DOWN ON THE FARM:

The winter story time will be Down on the Farm. This story time is for independent children ages 3 1/2 to 6. Registration begins Monday, January 6th and the eight week session starts January 20th. There is a \$10.00 fee for non-residents. The Wee Wiggles will also have the theme Down on the Farm. This is for children 18 months to 3 1/2 years along with an adult lap. (Registration and fees as above.) Call the library for days and times. 616-669-1255.

FANCY NANCY PARTY

On February 8th from 10:30 to 11:30 am the library will have a Très Elegant and Très Magnifique Fancy Nancy Party. Girls (recommended ages 6-8) are invited and asked to "dress up". We will supply the boas and materials to make fancy hats. Our party will include a high tea (tea and cookies), games, and a craft. Please register beginning Monday, January 27th. No fee for Hudsonville patrons and \$3 for all others.



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

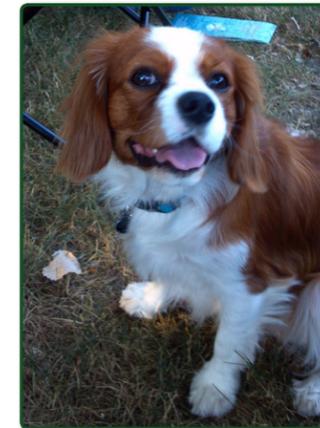
Lego Building Club for kids 2nd through 6th grade: the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 am. No fee or registration.

Pizza and Pages reading club for kids 3rd through 5th grade every first Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. No fee or registration.

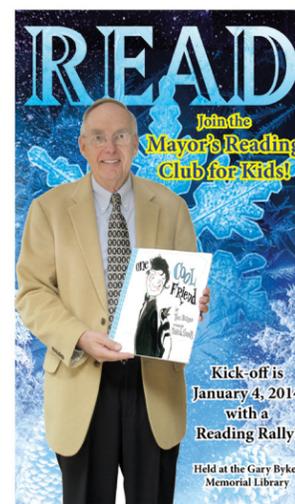
CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET

It is easy to let your dog out during the winter without thinking about yard cleanup. After all, you are not constantly reminded about your pet's waste while mowing, raking or chasing your kids around your yard during these chilly months. Despite the fact that you don't notice it as much, pet waste still can pollute streams and lakes!

Dog droppings are one of the leading sources of E. coli bacterial pollution which make our streams and lakes unsafe for swimming. The runoff from droppings left on sidewalks, streets or yards is washed into our storm drains. This will lead to the contamination of our water sources and creates hazards for people, fish, ducks, etc.



Do your part! Clean up after your pet during the winter while on walks, at the park and at home by disposing of waste correctly. Use plastic bags to pick up your pet's waste, tie the bag and place it into the trash.



MAYOR'S READING CLUB AND RALLY

The city of Hudsonville is proud to announce the first Mayor's Book Club for kids. This program is designed to nourish the love of reading in children ages 8 and under. Read a book a month, along with Mayor Van Doeselaar! 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 in and get that title stamped. Children who read all 12 of the books will receive a special prize.

NATURE CENTER

Starting to feel cooped up and sluggish during the winter months? Come out to the Nature Center and take a hike with the City's Naturalist, Craig Elston. Craig will teach you about native species and natural features while enjoying a great walk through the Nature Center.

- *Sunday January 12, 2:00 p.m.*
Winter Nature Hike
- *Saturday January 18, 7:00 p.m.*
Winter Evening Hike and Owl Watch
- *Sunday February 9, 2:00 p.m.*
Late Winter Nature Hike
- *Sunday March 16, 2:00 p.m.*
Signs of Spring
- *Sunday April 20, 2:00 p.m.*
Early Spring Wildflower and Nature Hike



Participants should for come prepared for the weather, as the walk will be held except in the event of threatening or severe weather. Long pants and shoes or hiking boots are recommended for all walks.

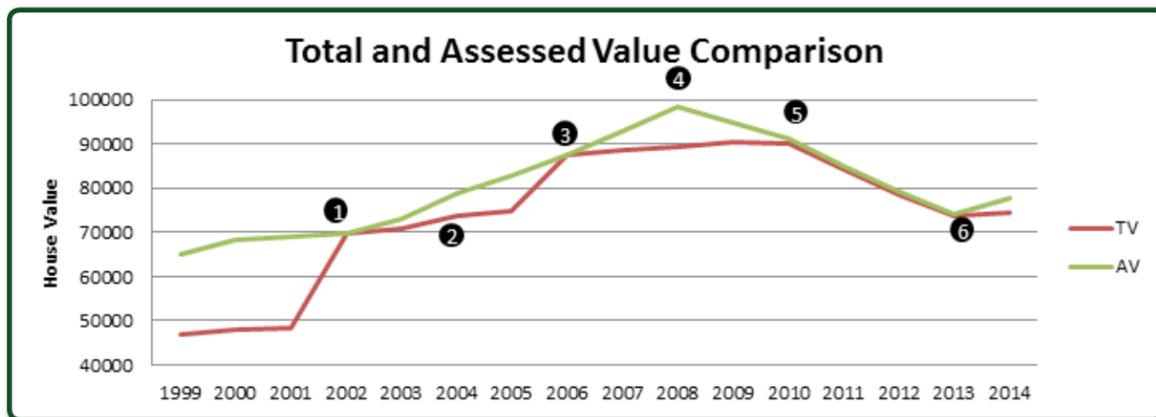
Visit www.hudsonville.org for complete descriptions of the hikes, or to learn more about Craig Elston, Master Naturalist.



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 2014, many of Hudsonville's residents will begin seeing 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 <http://www.hudsonville.org/Finance-Assessing>. Maps of the sales studies are also available on the web page.

SEASONAL PARKING REMINDER

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

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.

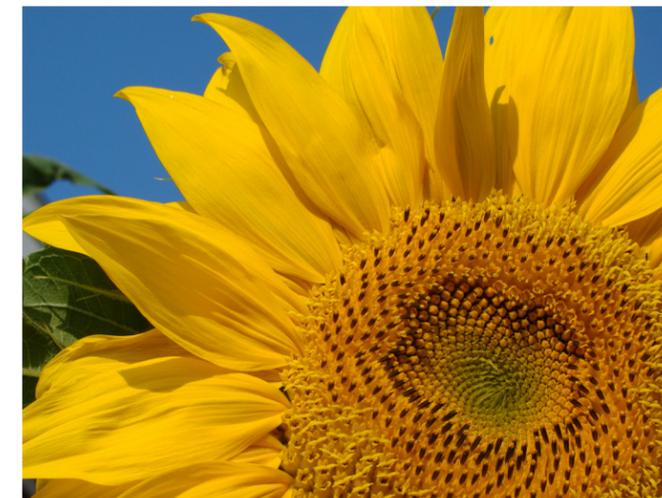
Please help keep our streets safe this winter by complying with our Seasonal Parking limitations.

HEART OF HUDSONVILLE

Congratulations to the winners of the 2013 Heart of Hudsonville photo contest!



Bob Townsend
Category: Community



Heather Miller
Category: Places

SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOSTS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING

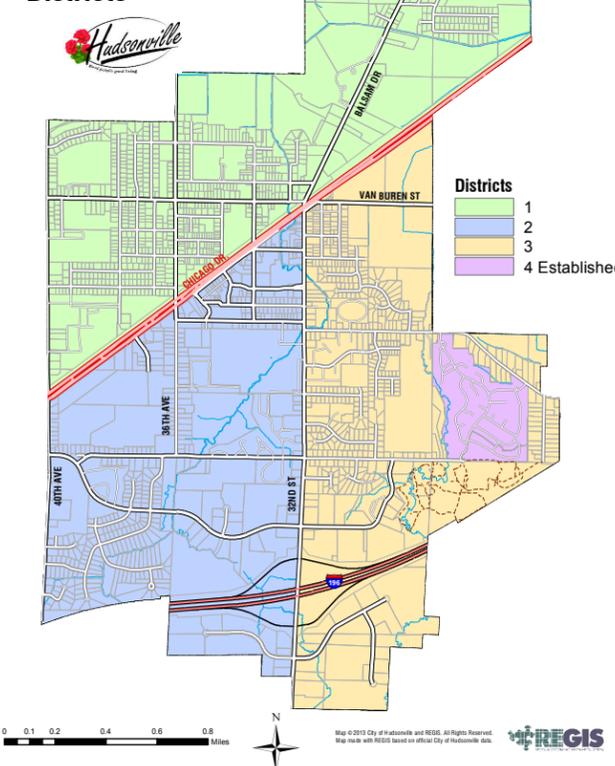
The Ottawa County Sheriff's Office will be holding a Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Saturday, February 8th, 2014 at 1 p.m. at City Hall. Through the implementation of the Neighborhood Watch program, communities have seen a reduction in crime and a better quality of life.

This meeting is designed to help community participants in understanding the benefits, roles and responsibilities of becoming a part of a Neighborhood Watch program with the goal of organizing crime watch groups and forming partnerships with local area law enforcement to fight crime in their neighborhoods.

If you are planning to attend this meeting, please RSVP by calling 616-669-0200 x 1416.



City of Hudsonville Neighborhood Watch Districts





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	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	
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 418.