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FROM THE CITY ASSESSOR:

The Assessing Department is actively conducting field reviews to verify building dimensions and take updated photographs for use in calculating assessed and taxable values for the 2020 tax year. State Tax Commission guidelines recommend that every assessor physically inspect 20% of each property class to ensure that assessments are based on accurate and current information. Property information used to calculate the 2019 values can be found online by following the link at www.cityofhillsdale.org/assessor.

The deadline to file the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) Affidavit is **June 1, 2019** for new claims for exemption effective with the 2019 summer tax bill. Forms and more information can be found online at www.michigan.gov/pre.

The Board of Review is scheduled to meet **July 16, 2019** to correct clerical errors and to consider some claims for exemption. Clerical errors, including amended personal property statements, may be corrected by the Board for 2018 and 2019 tax years only. Principal Residence Exemptions not previously on the tax roll may be granted for tax years 2016, 2017, 2018, or 2019. The Board does not have the authority to reverse a denial of a PRE. Requests for Disabled Veterans Exemptions and Poverty Exemptions may be considered for 2019 only.

Written requests for review from the property owner(s) should be submitted **no later than July 1, 2019** to allow time for verification of eligibility by the Assessor prior to Board action. The Board does not have the authority to hear or act on petitions from property owners appealing their 2019 assessed or taxable values, property classification, or to consider requests for Small Business at this meeting. Forms and more information can be found online at www.michigan.gov/statetaxcommission.

Please contact the City Assessor at (517) 437-6456 or email assessor@cityofhillsdale.org with any questions or to schedule an appointment for inspection of your property.

PROPERTY TAXES

2019 Summer Tax Bills will be due and payable beginning **July 1, 2019** and may be paid without additional penalty or interest through **August 1, 2019**. Taxpayers may request **form 471**, the Application for Deferment of Summer Taxes, from the City Treasurer if the property is their principal residence and they meet one or more of these requirements:

- 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who is 62 years of age or older at the time of death;
- Paraplegic, Hemiplegic, or

- quadruplegic;
- Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower;
- Blind Person; or
- Totally and Permanently Disabled.

Payment must be received **on or before February 14, 2020** to avoid penalty and interest. Please contact the City Treasurer at (517) 437-6454 with any questions or to make payment arrangements.

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Born and raised here in Hillsdale, Olivia Jones graduated from Hillsdale Academy in 2014 and Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN with a bachelor's degree. She majored in English Writing and Political Science. Find her in the Assessor's office!



TALL GRASS

Pursuant of Section(s) 14.142 - 14.144 of the City of Hillsdale Municipal Code, all property owners and/or agents (occupants) of property are responsible for maintaining lawns so that grass and weeds **do not exceed a maximum height of 10 inches**.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCING AUTHORITY (TIFA) BOARD UPDATE

On Tuesday, April 23, 2019, the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board approved a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the Dawn Theater project in the amount of \$1,415,000. The project is expected to cost \$1,700,000 and create approximately 27 jobs.

The rehabilitation will convert the vacant theater into a community event space hosting movies, special events, and private rentals. The hope is that the Dawn Theater project will encourage continuing development in the historic downtown district. Work on the theater will include updated mechanicals, new roof, lead and asbestos abatement, and handicap accessibility compliance.

The Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA) anticipates construction to begin sometime this summer.

REMINDER

City offices will be closed Monday, **May 27, 2019** and Thursday, **July 4, 2019** in observance of the Memorial Day and Independence Day holidays.

GREAT AMERICAN PARADE AND CELEBRATION

Break out your red, white, and blue as we celebrate our country on **Wednesday, July 3rd** with the Great American Parade beginning at **6 PM**.

If you're interested in participating, contact Julie Games at **(517) 437-7771**. Line-up for the parade begins at **5 PM** in the **Midtown Parking Lot**.

Stop by the County Fairgrounds for the All American Celebration following the parade. Fair food, entertainment, and fireworks! **Admission is FREE!** Fireworks begin after dark.



SANDY BEACH

Enjoy all your favorite summer activities at Sandy Beach including: swimming, sand volleyball, basketball, a playground, the Baw Beese Trail, or the concession stand for some refreshments to help you cool off.

Open 7 days a week from 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

Day Pass: \$5.00



LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Summer Reading Program kicks off this year on **Wednesday, June 12, 2019**. Sign-up begins at **2:00 PM** with a comedy, magic show following at **3:00 PM** with Joel Tacey.

Events will include: Design a Bookmark contest, LEGO building, Crefts, Movies & Popcorn Afternoon, SLIME-TIME, a Stuffed Animal Hospital, Story Time, an Extreme Duct Tape Workshop with Joel Tacey, and so much more.

All children who complete



DOCK SLIP RENTALS

The City offers dock slips along the Baw Beese shoreline. Rental fees are **\$200 for city residents** and **\$325 for non-city residents**. Rentals are available from **April 15th to October 15th**. Season passes to Sandy Beach are included.

For more information, contact Hillsdale Recreation at **(517) 437-6457**.

their summer reading goal will be entered into the drawing for the grand prize in their age group and be invited to attend the Camp Michindoh Water Slide Party at the end of the summer.

Cant' make it in on June 12th? No problem! Children can sign up anytime throughout the duration of the program.

Did you know? Summer Reading isn't just for kids! Adult Summer Reading Program also begins on **Wednesday, June 12th**. Adults can sign up and earn prizes for completing their summer reading goals as well.

HILLSDALE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

The Hillsdale Municipal Airport is anticipating the arrival of a new fuel farm sometime in the Fall of 2019. This project will locate the fuel facility in its ultimate configuration adjacent to the new aircraft parking apron. Relocation of the existing fuel facility is necessary to accommodate the future parallel Taxiway C extension, as well as facilitate the increased fueling demand at the airport. The design and construction of the next portion of Taxiway C are scheduled for 2019-2020, making the relocation of the fuel facility a critical project for the Airport.

The preliminary estimated design and construction costs for this facility are \$330,000. Construction cost trends continue to be observed, and a final estimate of probable cost will be provided prior to bidding. The City is prepared to fund 5% of the costs. It is planned that 90% of the costs would be funded by federal AIP entitlements and 5% funded by State entitlements.

This facility will likely be above-ground tanks serving both Avgas and Jet A. The proposed Avgas tank is expected to match the existing 5,000 gallons. The Airport anticipates increasing the size of the Jet A tank compared to the existing tank size due to the increasing trend in Jet A fuel sales. A 10,000 gallon tank is anticipated. A credit card reader at the tank will also be a criterion that is investigated during the design phase of this project.

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES AWARDS

Hillsdale Board of Public Utilities has received national recognition for achieving exceptional electric reliability in 2018. The recognition comes from the American Public Power Association (www.PublicPower.org), a trade group that represents more than 2,000 not-for-profit and community-owned electric utilities.

The Association helps members track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. They then compare the data to national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

"This recognition demonstrates public power's exceptional reliability," said the Association's Senior Vice President of Engineering Services Michael Hyland.

"Community-owned electric utilities have a strong track record of reliability," said Hyland. Nationwide, the average public power customer has their lights out for less than half the time; compared to other times of utilities.

"We are proud to receive this recognition. It is a testament to the hard work of all our staff to ensure that the lights stay on for all our customers," said Chris McArthur, Director at Hillsdale Board of Public Utilities.

WWW.CITYOFHILLSDALE.ORG

