



# CITY OF HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH

- March Board of Review Organizational Meeting
  - Tuesday, March 7, 2023 @ 9:00 AM
- Cemetery Spring Clean Up (Oak Grove & Lakeview)
  - March 12 - March 30, 2023
  - All items shall be removed for safekeeping by March 11, 2023 and may be returned by March 31, 2023.
- March Board of Review - Appeal Hearings (Day 1)\*
  - Monday, March 13, 2023, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- March Board of Review - Appeal Hearings (Day 2)\*
  - Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

\* **Note:** Appointments are recommended. All Board of Review meetings are open to the public and held in the 2nd Floor Conference Room at City Hall. For more information or to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review, call (517) 437-6440 or email [assessor@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:assessor@cityofhillsdale.org).

### APRIL

- City Offices closed to observe Good Friday
  - Friday, April 7, 2023 @ noon
- Spring Brush Pick Up (one time pick up)
  - Monday, April 3, 2023
- Spring Leaf Collection (one time pick up)
  - Monday, April 10, 2023

### MAY

- Special Election
  - Tuesday, May 2, 2023
  - Polls open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM
  - Hillsdale Community Library, 11 E Bacon St, Hillsdale, MI 49242
  - Absentee Ballots will be available through the City Clerk's Office near the end of March.
- City Offices closed to observe Memorial Day
  - Monday, May 29, 2023 (all day)

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the City's website, Facebook page, the Hillsdale Daily News, or tune into WCSR.

## 2023 STREET PROJECTS

In 2023, the following local city streets will be part of a large utility and road reconstruction project known as Special Assessment District (SAD) #22-07:

- Full extent of Westwood Dr, Sumac Dr, Picardy Pl, Azalea Ct, Corona Cir, Scenic Dr, and Cold Springs Cir
- Westwood St - Cold Springs Cir to Lewis St
- Highland Ave - Westwood St to Bacon St
- Glendale Ave - Westwood St to Bacon St



The estimated cost for this project, including utility work, is \$5,852,465 with the Special Assessment portion of the work for street reconstruction and storm sewer estimated at \$2,681,664. City funds will cover an estimated amount of \$2,260,914 (84%) of the eligible project costs with approximately \$420,750 (16%) being covered through special assessment to the 89 parcels currently identified in the Special Assessment District (SAD).

It is important to note that the total assessed cost to the affected property owners will not go above the policy maximum assessment limit of \$5,000 per parcel or 25% of the property value per Hillsdale Ordinance Chapter 2, Article V, Section 2-335, whichever is the lesser amount.

This work is expected to begin late spring and continue to the end of 2023. Due to supply chain issues the project may extend into 2024. Once a contractor is selected, we will be able to more clearly identify the project schedule.

## CITY AWARDED \$2 MILLION IN MEDC GRANT FUNDS

On Tuesday, October 25, 2022, the City of Hillsdale was awarded \$2 million in a Community Development Block Grant Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Grant by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

The WRI grant will be used towards a combined water and sewer infrastructure project costing a total of \$2,680,000, including the City's matching funds. The proposed grant project will include the following items:

\* **Water System:** Replacement of approximately 75 (12%) of the in-line shut off valves in the water main system. This work will include the installation of new valves and removal of the failed valves.

Per the City Engineer: Water valve replacements are scattered throughout the City and, at times may require the shut off of the water main requiring residents to adhere to a "Boil Water Notice" for several days after the work is complete. We will provide notices to affected areas prior to the work and information will be provided via media outlets, social media, and the City's website.

\* **Sanitary Sewer System:** Replacement and/or cured-in-place lining of approximately 1.40 miles of sanitary sewer located throughout the City.

"The WRI Grant will help move forward this project that otherwise wouldn't be possible," said David Mackie, Hillsdale City Manager. "We are very appreciative and proud of our collaborative relationship with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) Board, local residents and businesses."

Under the terms of the WRI Grant, the City of Hillsdale is required to begin project work by the end of Spring 2023. The City will share additional information with the public about the full scope of the project to include starting date, work areas, and more, after project plans have been finalized.

Any questions about this grant award should be directed to David Mackie, City Manager at (517) 437-6444, or by emailing [dmackie@cityofhillsdale.org](mailto:dmackie@cityofhillsdale.org).

## NEW BUSINESSES IN THE CITY



Quality PC & Repair - under new ownership  
37 Waldron St  
(517) 610-5372



Willis Information TechNologies  
37 Waldron St  
(517) 610-5372

## Printer Source Plus

Solutions - Technology - Trust

Printer Source Plus (PSP Office Solutions)  
37 Waldron St  
(517) 610-5372



Farmhouse Charm Shoppe  
77 N Broad St  
(517) 212-8121

## FETHER STUDIOS

& HANDMADE GIFTS

Feather Studios  
20 N Howell St  
(734) 652-1327

Are you a **NEW** or **RECENTLY OPENED** business in the City of Hillsdale? Do you want to be advertised in our next newsletter and highlighted on the City's social media? Fill out our Business Social Media Spotlight Form on our website.

#ShopHillsdale



## FORESTER HONORED WITH ISA AWARD



The Michigan chapter of the International Society for Arboriculture (ISA Michigan) has recognized Hillsdale City Forester Gary Stachowicz with their Professional Service Award. The award recognized outstanding service and contributions to the arboriculture or urban forestry professions in the state of Michigan.

Stachowicz was nominated for the award by Kevin Sayers, Michigan's urban forestry coordinator at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, who offered high praise for the longtime City of Hillsdale employee.

"He's more than deserving," Sayer said. "He has been a pleasure to work with for all these years. Professional, knowledgeable and dedicated in every way."

Stachowicz retired on January 26, 2023, after working for the City of Hillsdale for 17 years. During his employment, he tended to Hillsdale's urban forest canopy, along with pitching in on various Department of Public Services projects as needed. Thanks to his efforts, Hillsdale achieved Tree City USA status every single year during his time working with the municipality, which has kept alive a 44-year unbroken tradition.

"Gary is the very definition of reliable and dependent," said Jake Hammel, Hillsdale BPU Electric Superintendent and former Department of Public Services Director. "He is also incredibly passionate about nurturing and taking care of trees in the City. It was a pleasure to work alongside him."

Stachowicz formally accepted his Professional Service Award on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, during ISA Michigan's ArborCon, held in Lansing, Michigan.

## HILLSDALE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES RECOGNIZED FOR SAFETY RECORD



American Municipal Power (AMP) Inc., has recognized the Hillsdale Board of Public Utilities for its safety record.

Hillsdale BPU received an AMP Safety Award - Transmission and Distribution during the 2022 American Municipal Power Annual Conference, which took place September 26-28 in Columbus, Ohio. The award recognizes AMP member utilities which have had not time lost due to reportable accidents or injuries.

"Safety is a priority at AMP, and we commend the efforts of our members and congratulate Hillsdale BPU and all those who were recognized for their achievements," said Michelle Palmer, AMP Vice President of Technical Services and Compliance.

Hillsdale BPU prioritizes the safety of customers and employees in all of its operations. The municipal utility conducts year-round safety training to ensure that all utility employees are able to go home safe to their families every night.

"This AMP safety award is a testament to the safety briefings, training and exercises that we do on a regular basis," said Ken Keasal, Hillsdale BPU Safety Coordinator. "Our electrical department personnel have all bought-in to creating a strong culture of workplace safety and we're proud of their accomplishments."

## LEDYARD RETIRED IN FEBRUARY

DPS Mechanic Lindsay Ledyard retired on February 2, 2023 after 10 and a half years of service to the City.

The City thanks him for all of his hard work and wishes him the very best in his retirement!

## NEWELL RETIRED IN FEBRUARY

BPU Office Manager Kelley Newell retired in February after 23 years of service to the Hillsdale BPU.

The City and BPU thank her for all of her hard work and wishes her the very best in her retirement!

## DEMOLITION OF HAZARDOUS STRUCTURE AT OWEN MEMORIAL PARK A PRECURSOR TO FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The demolition of a dilapidated, two-story house located within the City of Hillsdale's Owen Memorial Park began the first week of January with the removal of asbestos siding.

The house at 280 Waterworks Dr, which came with the park property deeded to the City in 1960, has long been unoccupied and used as City storage space. In recent years, the City sought funding to demolish it due to the mold and mildew inside making it a danger to continue to use for storage. Razing the structure is the only feasible option, as deed restrictions prevent selling the home or using it for commercial purposes, and it has deteriorated past the point of rehabilitation.

In September 2021, Hillsdale's City Council approved an updated Baw Beese Park System Master Plan, and the demolition of this structure will serve as a precursor to future park improvements.

