

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024 | MARCH, APRIL, MAY



CONTACT US

CITY OF HILLSDALE

- 📧 www.cityofhillsdale.org
- ☎️ (517) 437-6440
- 📍 97 N Broad St, Hillsdale, MI 49242 (City Hall)
- 🕒 Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

HILLSDALE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES (BPU)

- 📧 www.cityofhillsdale.org
- ☎️ (517) 437-3387
- 📍 45 Monroe St, Hillsdale, MI 49242
- 🕒 Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH

- Monday, March 11, 2024 - March Board of Review Taxpayer Appeal Hearings Day 1, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall
- Tuesday, March 12, 2024 - March Board of Review Taxpayer Appeal Hearings Day 1, 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM, 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

- Monday, March 11, 2024 - Friday, March 22, 2024 - Oak Grove and Lakeview Cemetery Spring Clean Up

Note: All items shall be removed for safekeeping by Sunday, March 10, 2024 and may be returned on or after Saturday, March 23, 2024.

- Mid-March - Construction begins on the Westwood Area Special Assessment District as well as the Intersection of Lewis St and Westwood St. Please note that traffic will be restricted or limited in those areas during construction.

- Friday, March 29, 2024 - City Offices will be closed at noon to observe Good Friday. Normal hours of operation will resume on Monday, April 1, 2024.



APRIL

- Monday, April 1, 2024 - Spring Brush Pickup
- Monday, April 8, 2024 - Spring Leaf Collection

Note: These collection dates are one-time pickups. Notices and advertisements will be made available approximately one month prior to each event.

MAY

- Monday, May 27, 2024 - City Offices will be closed during normal business hours to observe Memorial Day. Normal hours of operation will resume Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

2024 PROJECT UPDATES

WESTWOOD AREA UTILITY & ROAD CONSTRUCTION

PHASE 1:

When: Mid-March - July
 Where: Highland Ave, Glendale Ave (from Bacon St to Westwood St), Westwood St (from Lewis St to Cold Springs Cir), and Cold Springs Cir

PHASE 2:

When: July - November
 Where: Sumac Dr, Scenic Dr, Westwood Dr, Corona Cir, Azalea Ct, and Picardy Pl

TRAVEL WILL BE RESTRICTED TO LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY

LEWIS ST AND WESTWOOD ST INTERSECTION

When: Mid-March - May

In conjunction with the Westwood Area project, this intersection will be closed for utility work around the railroad crossing and within the intersection.

NO TRAFFIC WILL BE ALLOWED IN THIS CONSTRUCTION AREA

Traffic will be detoured around this closure.

WATER VALVE REPLACEMENT

When: January - December

Where: Various

This project consists of the replacement of approximately 70 leaking or non-operational water main shut off valves located throughout the entire City. These replacements will cause water outages in many areas. If you are impacted by an outage, you will receive notification from the City prior to the start of work. This may result in a boil water notice. Boil water notifications will be by door hanger. Water boiling requirements will remain in place for a minimum of 48 hours or until two (2) consecutive tests indicate the water is safe for consumption.

Please note this work may stir up iron deposits in the water mains causing rusty/cloudy water. To remedy the situation, please run water at an outside spigot or bathtub until the water is clear.

SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENT

Where: E St Joe St, Willow St, Mechanic St, Marion St, and Various

This project includes the replacement of sections of sanitary sewer as well as repairs to small sections of sanitary sewer in other various location. Project specifics include cured-in-place lining of 3,400 feet of sewer, the construction of a new sanitary sewer lift station and force main on Marion St, and the replacement of a failing inaccessible sewer line. Project completion is expected by December 2024.

2024 ELECTION INFORMATION

2024 ELECTION DAYS

Presidential Primary Tuesday, February 27, 2024
 Primary Tuesday, August 6, 2024

POLLING LOCATION & TIME

Hillsdale Community Library
 11 E Bacon St, Hillsdale, MI 49242
 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM



NEW IN 2024

PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER BALLOT LIST

Voters who want to automatically be mailed a BALLOT for all future elections may sign up for the Permanent Absent Voter Ballot List. Sign up anytime with the City Clerk's Office when submitting an Absent Voter Ballot Application by marking the option.

NOTE: If select to be on the permanent list, it is the voter's responsibility to notify the Clerk's Office of a temporary address change. Official election material, such as ballots, will NEVER be forwarded by the USPS.

IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING

Any registered voter can vote during the 9-day early voting period for all State and Federal elections.

The City of Hillsdale's early voting site is:

Hillsdale County Courthouse
 29 N Howell St, Room 2
 Hillsdale, Michigan 49242

Saturday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Sunday: Noon - 8:00 PM
 M, T, W, & F: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
 Thursday: 1:00 AM - 7:00 PM
 Saturday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Sunday: Noon - 8:00 PM

Early voting sites operate exactly like an Election Day precinct! You will be issued a ballot by an inspector and you will feed your ballot into a tabulator. The results of the early voting sites are not tallied until 8:00 PM on Election Day.

PLEASE NOTE: Once your ballot has been tabulated, you will become ineligible to vote absentee or in-person on Election Day of that specific election.

Questions can be directed to the City Clerk. Her information is as follows:

Katy Price, City Clerk
 (517) 437-6441 | clerk@cityofhillsdale.org
 97 N Broad St, Hillsdale, MI 49242 (1st Floor, City Hall)

meet our NEW HIRES

- * Dale Hogue - Wastewater Operator
- * Rebekah Dobski - Library Director
- * Kathy Delcamp - BPU CSR
- * Corey Brewer - Lineman

We wish you the very best during your time with us at the City. Welcome aboard!

AIRPORT NOMINATED FOR PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Hillsdale Municipal Airport has been nominated for the "Project of the Year" Award by the Michigan Airport Conference for their Airport Terminal project.

This award is presented for development and/or design of a significant airport project which enhances community and economic benefit and promotes sustainability and environmental benefit for the future.

The new terminal is scheduled to break ground in March 2024.

CEMETERY ANIMAL ORDINANCE AMENDED TO BAN ANIMALS

Ordinance No. 2023-06 - "Amendment to an Ordinance No. 2017-01 to Prohibit Persons from Bringing or Maintaining Animals within Cemeteries Owned or Controlled by the City of Hillsdale, Michigan" was passed by City Council and became effective on 10/31/2023.



Note: This prohibition shall not apply to "dogs or animals trained to provide assistance to persons with disabilities."

This ordinance amendment was a result of animals being allowed to run unleashed through the premises and complaints of animal defecation being found on headstones and other locations through the cemeteries.

The full ordinance language can be found in the City of Hillsdale, Michigan Code of Ordinances. They are available online at the City's website.

LIBRARY GIFTED AROUND \$420,000 IN FARMER'S TRUST

The Hillsdale Community Library was listed as a beneficiary in a trust established by Edward L. Kunesh, a local farmer.

A 2022 obituary stated that Mr. Kunesh, of Litchfield, passed away Saturday, November 26, 2022. He was born February 4, 1939 in Defiance, Ohio. He graduated from Ayersville High School and was a member of their Future Farmers of American (FFA) chapter. Mr. Kunesh served in the United States Naval Reserves. He was said to be a proud lifelong farmer who enjoyed tinkering, running heavy machinery, and being outdoors.

Library Director Rebekah Dobski told the Hillsdale Daily News in a November 2023 interview, "Unfortunately, we don't know enough about Mr. Kunesh and his life to [know] why he decided to name us in his trust. [B]ut, we are rather thankful he did."

The Library first learned they were named in the trust in 2022.

In his trust, it is listed that the Library would receive 10% of the earnings from the sale of his estate following his death. Dobski stated in the Hillsdale Daily News interview that the sale "totaled \$4,846,096... Following the bequests and other fees that needed to be paid out, we were recently quoted to be getting around \$420,000."

Library Board of Trustees President George Allen, in the same November 2023 interview with the Hillsdale Daily News, stated, "All that's left to say, I think, is to express the most profound gratitude to the late Mr. Kunesh for his generosity, and the happy expectation that this gift will provide much good to our community through the library's services for years to come."

Dobski stated that the "money will go back to support the community. Expanding and updating services, adding new services, [and] more materials. [T]he sky really is the limit."

In a Facebook post in January 2024, the Library stated, "We are overwhelmed with gratitude for Edward L. Kunesh's incredibly generous donation. This gift means more to us than words can express. Thanks to his generosity, we are able to work towards our goals of making a positive impact in our community. - Hillsdale Community Library."

We are excited to see how the Library will use their new found funds! We are grateful for Mr. Kunesh's investment in the future of the Library and his selfless generosity.

MEIJER TO OPEN SPRING 2024



Located at 3600 W Carleton Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242.

Please be aware of the traffic changes that come with their opening at the intersection of Moore Rd and Carleton Rd.

VERIFY PHONE NUMBER ON FILE WITH BPU



BPU staff are in the process of updating our customer database and we need your help to be sure that we have your current phone number on file.

Why? It is important that your account contact information is up-to-date because the phone number linked to your account is used by our automated outage system to record your address should you call to report a power outage or service-related issue. This helps us diagnose the problem faster and know where to dispatch crews to make repairs. Additionally, having a current phone number in our system ensures that if our staff need to contact you regarding your account or service status, they are able to reach you easily.

If you only have a landline number on file, consider providing us with your mobile number if you have a cellular device. During a power outage, you may not be able to call from your landline phone.

At your earliest convenience, here are some options to verify your phone number is linked to your account:

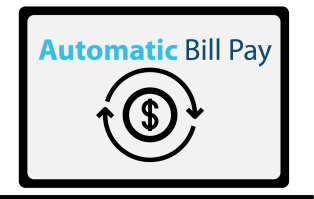
* Call us at (517) 437-3387, select "Option 3" to speak to a customer service representative;

* Send us an email at customerservice@hillsdalebpu.com; or

* Stop into our office at 45 Monroe St, Hillsdale, MI 49242 during normal business hours, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday.

Thank you for helping us serve you better!

SIGN UP FOR AUTOMATIC BILL PAY/E-BILLING



Leave late fees behind in 2023 by signing up for BPU's Automatic Bill Pay (ACH Payments).

Customers who are enrolled in Automatic Bill Pay will have their payments deducted from a designated checking or savings account each month on their bill's due date. There is **NO FEE** for signing up. Customers also have the option to sign up for E-billing to go totally paperless.

STEP 1: Download the Automatic Bill Payment enrollment form

STEP 2: Fill out the form with your banking information

STEP 3: Return the completed form to our office or email it to customerservice@hillsdalebpu.com

Questions about an account or billing service can contact BPU at (517) 437-3387.