

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



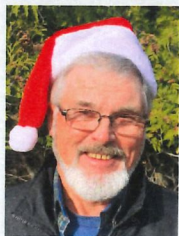
**Ron VanZee**, Supervisor  
supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



**Matt Cunningham**, Trustee  
Trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov



**Kristin Baranski**, Clerk  
clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov



**Doug Kuebler**, Trustee  
Hayestrustee5@gmail.com



**Julie Collard**, Treasurer  
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov



# Hayes VOICE TOWNSHIP

## CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#13

December 2023

### From the Desk of Hayes Township Supervisor, Ron VanZee:

At a recent Planning Commission meeting, I asked our Chairman if it would be okay for me to change hats to provide an explanation from a different perspective. It happens all the time to our Township officials. We not only carry out our statutory duties, but the myriad of responsibilities that go along with making sure things run smoothly in our office and community activities. We also work hard to not overlap our personal views with what is best for the Township as a whole. We cooperate, deliberate, and at times, it is an extra challenge that goes hand in hand with our public service.

Our Clerk, Kristin Baranski, is the center of all Township business. She maintains all records, ledger, warrants, book of oaths, meeting packets and minutes, notices and is pulled in a hundred different directions in any given moment in the office. Not to mention all the election responsibilities and crew of dedicated workers she makes sure are properly trained, certified, and have plenty of sustenance through their long workdays...they know how appreciated their hard work is. In addition to any errands or any Township needs, Kristin keeps a positive attitude and is always here for our residents.

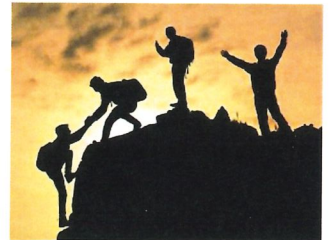
Our Treasurer, Julie Collard, in addition to collecting, processing, and disbursing taxes, handles all the deposits, gathers the information for newsletters, serves as Chair of the Parks and Rec committee, and, like Kristin, never hesitates to run a Township errand or jump in and help with anything that needs to be accomplished. Both run all community activities, our free pantry, and free library.

Doug Kuebler keeps his Trustee eye on the conditions of the Township roads, and he makes sure to pop into the office and ask if his assistance is needed. He never hesitates to help with any project or need of the Township. Matt Cunningham, our other wonderful Trustee, is on top of all fishing pier maintenance and equipment, and is always there to help pitch in on any project that needs attention.

On top of all those things, this crew has to put up with me as a Supervisor... I could not have asked for a better group of people who genuinely care about the Township and go above and beyond to address not only the physical needs, but the needs of the people in our community.

We change hats often, we change hats freely, we change hats to make us all better. A special thank you to my fellow board members for the many hats they all wear, without complaint or hesitation.

All my best,  
Ron



## *Notes from the November 2023 Board of Trustee Meeting*

- The December Board of Review date and time was set for Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am until all business is complete.
- Fire Chief Dan Thorpe spoke to the Board and shared information on the current state of the fire department. He also spoke about the recent fire on Burns Road and the timeline of events of the emergency response.
- The Board of Trustees voted to commit \$7K from the ARPA funds to the Fire Department to assist in buying safety equipment for fire fighters.

## *Notes from the November 2023 Planning Commission Meeting*

- Tom Darton, representing the Charlevoix Lake Association, provided the Planning Commission with suggestions to protect and preserve Lake Charlevoix. The suggestions included: making room for people and wild-life, working with the surrounding lakefront areas (townships) on the same issues, and working through a watershed advisory council.
- Planning Commission members discussed Zoning Ordinance Articles for definitions, waterfront, site plan review, zoning districts, and maps.
- The Commissioners discussed the need to treat each property as an individual due to the variety of topography.

*Please direct all questions/comments for Planning Commission members to: HayestownshipPC@gmail.com*

## *Notes from November 2023 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting*

- Renderings for the Recreation Master Plan update will be shared with the committee once we have them from Beckett and Rader.
- A rustic wellhouse has been ordered from a local contractor to replace the current one at Camp Sea Gull.
- The committee will be discussing future community fundraising and events, as well as grant opportunities at their next meeting.
- The skid pier has been removed from the boat launch for the season, and the host house has been winterized. The new water station has been installed and will be turned on in the spring.

*All Parks and Recreation correspondence can be sent to  
hayestownshippr@gmail.com*

## *Hayes Township Calendar*

### **December 2023**

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**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Parks and Recreation  
Committee, 6pm

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**Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Community Coffee, 1pm

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**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Board of Trustees, 7pm

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**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**  
December Board of Review,  
11am-end of business

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**Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Planning Commission, 7pm

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**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Book Club, 1pm

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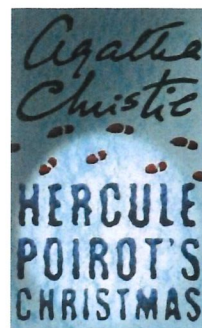
**Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> &  
Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Holiday Meal Box pick up  
and delivery

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**Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Treasurer End Of Year Office  
Hours, 9am-5pm

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*All events are held at the  
Hayes Township Hall unless  
otherwise noted.*



### **December Book Club Pick!** *Hercule Poirot's Christmas,* *by Agatha Christie*

We wanted to pick a fun whodunit for our holiday read, and this book should deliver both the fun and create some delicious speculation and conversation.

Our book club will meet  
Thursday, December 21st, at 1pm  
at the Hayes Township Hall.

If there are any questions, please  
contact Kristin at 231-547-6961.

# Looking for something special to do for the holiday season?

Check out these events at  
**GREAT LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS:**



**Handel's Messiah**  
December 7-8<sup>th</sup>

**Nutcracker Ballet**  
December 16-17<sup>th</sup>

**Home for the Holidays Double Feature:  
The Grinch & Home Alone**  
December 23<sup>rd</sup>

Visit [www.greatlakescfa.org](http://www.greatlakescfa.org) for ticket price, purchase, and show times

## Veteran's Social

The Charlevoix Commission on Aging and the Veteran's Affairs office invite all Veterans to join in every Tuesday for a Veteran's Social. The event will start at 9am and lunch will be served at 11:30am. Veterans can contact the Charlevoix County Transit for FREE rides to and from the hosting Senior Centers. Call 582-6900 to arrange your ride.

Charlevoix Senior Center, 06906 Norwood Road, Charlevoix, 547-5361, will host the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month.



## Hayes Township Clerk Election Update:

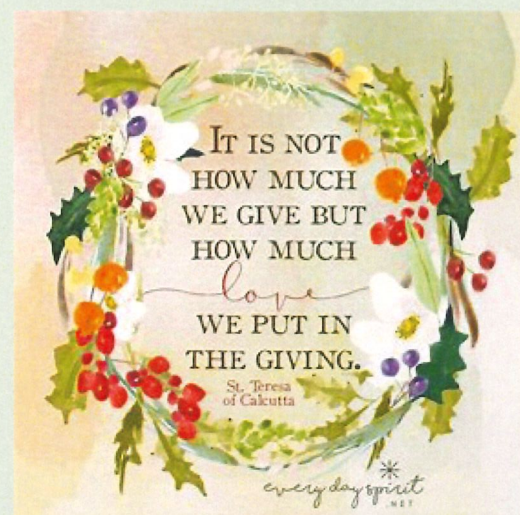


Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to vote in our November election. An extra thank you to our hard-working election inspectors who kept smiles on their faces all day and worked in sync for a smooth and safe election.

Next year will bring 4 elections to our township, and I will share all informa-

tion on our website, at the hall, as well as in our monthly newsletter, The Voice.

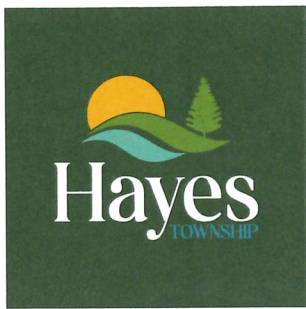
If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me: 231-547-6961/clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov



## 'Tis the Season

If you or someone you know is in need, we will be preparing holiday food boxes for Christmas. Please call us at 231-547-6961 or email [treasurer@hayestownship-mi.gov](mailto:treasurer@hayestownship-mi.gov) to sign up or with any questions. We will be assembling the boxes for pick up at the township hall. If you need your box delivered, please let us know and we will have one of our volunteers bring it to your home.

**"WE MAKE A  
LIVING BY  
WHAT WE GET.  
WE MAKE A  
LIFE BY WHAT  
WE GIVE."  
-- WINSTON  
CHURCHILL**



# VOICE VIEWS

## CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Hayes Township Hall  
9195 Major Douglas Sloan Rd.  
Charlevoix, MI 49720  
(231)547-6961

For the most up to date information,  
Visit:  
[Hayestownshipmi.gov](http://Hayestownshipmi.gov)

*Hayes Township Residents: We understand that the holidays can be difficult for some people. We want to share information that may help. We also want you to know that you are not alone. There are local resources available. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need extra support this holiday season. (231)547-6961/(231)675-5927*

### 5 Tips for Coping with Loneliness during the Holidays

(excerpts from Melissa Boudin, PsyD & Dena Westphalen, PharmD)

1. Embrace Feeling Lonely. Journaling and writing your thoughts can be a cathartic release and help you declutter your brain. You can think about how you want to take care of yourself.
2. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. Be grateful for the things you have, as well as positive experiences and memories you have made.
3. Make a list of people who have positively impacted you. If possible, send them a message directly to say, 'thank you' and share how they made a difference in your life.
4. Practice Self-Compassion. One of the most helpful things we can do during difficult times is to treat ourselves with genuine kindness and caring. It doesn't come natural to a lot of us but practicing self-compassion allows us to treat ourselves like we would treat our friends. Self-compassion = mindfulness + kindness + common humanity.
5. Make a Plan. Have a list of people you can reach out to, places you can visit, or activities that boost your mood ready for when you need extra support.

Loneliness during the holiday season is a common phenomenon that affects millions of people around the world. Social gatherings play a major role in most winter festivities, but it's entirely possible to feel isolated amid all the joy. Loneliness is a personal concept, and it can have a powerful impact on your mental health. Much of the research about loneliness centers on older adults, but you can feel lonely at any age. If you're experiencing feelings of loneliness this holiday season, here are some tips to cope in a healthy way:

1. Remember that you're not alone. It's okay to feel isolated during the holidays, and you are not alone.
2. Reach out to people around you. If you feel isolated, make it a priority to work on your relationships with others.
3. Practice self-care. Focus on taking special care of yourself.
4. Redefine your expectations.
5. Give back to your community.

*Don't forget, it's important to take care of your mental health and well-being during the holiday season. If you're struggling with loneliness or other mental health challenges, don't hesitate to seek professional help.*

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*  
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