

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

Voice Mission Statement:

To share, educate, and connect with our residents and support a strong and engaged community.

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#14

January 2024

From the Desk of Ron VanZee:

I'm writing this just before Christmas and wondering 'what happened to the last year?' You'll be reading this well after the holidays and hopefully you had a great time with family and friends and have recovered.

I was recently appointed to the Charlevoix County bike trail committee to help seek funding and provide assistance for the completion of the final two phases of the trail between Charlevoix and Boyne City, almost all of which is in Hayes Township. Both ends of the trail are complete, now we need to fill in the middle and connect the two, and after almost 18 years of planning, we are down to connecting the dots. The final phases meet up right at our largest township park, and our Parks and Recreation Committee have been discussing and planning for the trailhead to be at Hayes Township Park Camp Sea-Gull.

Living on Boyne City Road I must admit that it will be a big relief to have bikes and walkers on a safe trail instead of on this busy, fast road. I have witnessed far too many close calls.

We will be meeting with the Road Commission this month to plan the next priorities for improvement. We will again commit an additional \$50,000 of general fund monies in addition to the road millage and continue our commitment to have the best roads in Charlevoix County.

It will be an interesting year with several millage proposals up for renewal and of course, the Presidential election. I encourage all to make sure you are registered to vote and use that opportunity to voice your opinion.

Happy New Year to everyone.

All my best,
Ron



Notes from the December 2023 Board of Trustee Meeting

- The Board approved Supervisor Ron VanZee to sign and submit the 2023 State Forfeiture report. There were zero items to report for the year.
- Board of Trustee meeting dates for 2024 were approved. These dates will be displayed at the hall and on the website.
- The Board approved \$7000 in ARPA fund donation to the Charlevoix Fire Department for new equipment, and \$10,000 in ARPA funds to the Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority toward purchase of a defibrillator.
- The Board accepted a resignation from Tom Darnton as Chair of the ZBA. Rod Slocum was appointed as an alternate to the ZBA through 3-16-25. The Board voted to re-appoint Matt Cunningham as PC Board Rep through 12-11-26, reappoint Rex Greenslade to the PC (3-year term), reappoint Mark Snyder (3 year term), and reappoint Marilyn Moorehead (3 year term) to the Planning Commission.
- Supervisor VanZee, accompanied by Julie Collard and Kristin Baranski, attended a meeting with other local representatives and led by Charlevoix Supervisor Dan Ulrich to discuss the Charlevoix Fire Department. Discussed was the need for better communication, updates on possible new equipment, and grant opportunities for the department. Another meeting will be held in the spring to share updated information.

Notes from the December 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

- The Planning Commission heard a presentation from Park and Recreation Chair/Treasurer Julie Collard. Julie presented an update of the Recreation Master Plan for their review. She requested a public hearing be set for community review of the update. A public hearing is set for January 16, 2024, to gather feedback on the plan update.
- Copies of the Recreation Master Plan update are available at the Hayes Township Hall, on the Hayes Website, and at the Charlevoix Public Library. Please direct all questions/comments for Planning Commission members to: HayestownshipPC@gmail.com

Notes from December 2023 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

- No Parks and Recreation meeting was held in December. A draft of the Recreation Plan Master Plan update was presented to the Planning Commission for review. A public hearing was set for January 16th, 2024.
- The updates to the plan include new pictures, updates to Hayes Township Camp Sea-Gull renderings, and budget information.
- Once the reviewed draft is commented on by the public and Planning Commission, it will be sent to the Board of Trustees for final approval. A Resolution will be approved by the Board, and then copies will be sent to Charlevoix County as well as the DNR.

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

Hayes Township Calendar

January 2024

Wednesday, January 3rd
Parks and Recreation
Committee, 6pm

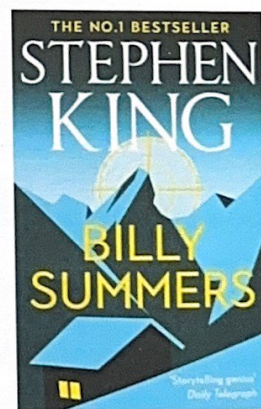
Thursday, January 4th
Community Coffee, 1pm

Monday, January 8th
Board of Trustees, 7pm

Tuesday, January 16th
Planning Commission/Public
Hearing for Park and Rec Master
Plan Update, 7pm

Thursday, January 18th
Book Club, 1pm
ZBA Organizational Meeting-TBD

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



January Book Club Pick!

Billy Summers
by Stephen King

One of our book club members suggested this story and says out of all of Stephen King's books, this one is her very favorite. We are excited to discuss it!

Our book club will meet
Thursday, January 18th, at
1pm at the Hayes Township Hall.

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

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

What is the Park and Recreation Master Plan?

The Park and Recreation Master Plan is a document that evaluates existing recreation opportunities and offers a five-year action plan for implementing proposed park improvements and initiatives. It is a requirement of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the township to be eligible to apply for MDNR parks and rec grant funding programs.

Hayes Township officials recognize the importance of our abundance of local resources as a true asset and benefit to our community, and we work to protect, enhance, and embrace our natural areas.

How was the current draft compiled?

The Parks and Recreation Committee, composed of 7 members, has been reviewing the previous draft since May of 2023. The committee members have had many meetings/conversations about edits and updates that need to be made to reflect current plans and options for our recreation facilities.

A community survey was also made available in the fall for residents to comment.

What has changed?

The main changes to this updated draft apply to Hayes Township Park Camp Sea-Gull. The former renderings of the park were outdated, and many things were no longer an option at the park. New renderings have been added, as well as plans to stabilize the shoreline at the park that was disturbed during the construction of Phase 1.

There were also updates on many of the photographs used in the plan, budget information was added, and maps/charts were updated to bring clarity to the location of Recreation areas in Hayes.

What happens now?

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft has a 30-day review period. A notice has been sent to the newspaper, and copies are available to view at the Hayes Township Hall, on the Hayes website, and at the Charlevoix Public Library. A public hearing has been set for Tuesday, January 16th, at 7pm at the Hayes Township Hall for any comments or feedback on the draft. The Planning Commissioners vote on acceptance of the draft and send it to the Board of Trustees. The Board then has a resolution to adopt the new draft. It is then sent to Charlevoix County for their records, as well as uploaded in the Michigan DNR database.

How do I comment on the draft?

You can submit your comment in writing to clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov. Or you can attend the Public Hearing on January 16th at 7pm and share your comment verbally.

Is there anything else I should know about the update?

The thoughts and ideas presented in the update are suggestions. The plan serves as a blueprint for the Parks and Recreation Committee. Many factors must be considered for each project, and, just like the last plan's information, things change. Just because a suggestion for a park has been made does not guarantee it will happen.



Our Free Food Pantry/Library overflow hours will be Monday, 9:30-11am, and Wednesday, noon-2pm. If these times do not work for you, please call 547-6961 to make a separate appointment. We currently have soups, canned fruit, canned vegetables, pasta, sauces, cereal, rice, beans, pancake mix, syrup, peanut butter, jelly, and other shelf stable non-perishables. We also have some personal hygiene items available.

We have had several blu-ray players donated to Hayes Township for residents to check out, as well as a large selection of movies. They are available on a first-come basis. You can call the office or stop in during regular office hours to reserve one. The movies are also available to view.



January 17th is Benjamin Franklin's Birthday. In addition to him being one of the Founding Fathers, he was an inventor and fascinated by agriculture. Ben said, "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."



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

The Zen of Ron VanZee

BY JULIE COLLARD, TREASURER

Ron VanZee, our Hayes Township Supervisor, is one of the wisest and calmest individuals I have ever had the pleasure to know. I'm among the many people who feel this way. Ron probably gets between 40-80 calls a day, on average, from residents, friends, leaders in the community, and many others, looking to pick his brain on something, share a story, or ask a question.

He is not only the Supervisor in Hayes, but the Zoning Administrator in Hayes and Bay Townships. Ron serves on the Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority Board as well as several other local groups. He is a proud Patriarch of his family, runs a working farm alongside his wife, is a father to three teenagers, three grown children, and is blessed to have his mother in law under the same roof and his priorities reflect this. His patience is unwavering, steadfast.

There is never a time when he is not tackling a home improvement project or renovation on their large classic farmhouse. Everything he does is to make his home warm and welcoming for the revolving door of visitors and clients that find themselves sharing stories and laughing in his kitchen with his wonderful family. How he finds the time to juggle all the commitments in his life is one of the mysteries of the world.

When faced with a new or unusual task, making a challenging decision, or figuring out the right direction to head, Ron is the best person to consult. He has a composed serenity, listens intently, and when he responds to questions, genuinely has the knowledge to set anyone in the right direction. I've witnessed him be yelled at, insulted, berated, personally and professionally attached, both in public and privately, and not once has he lost his composure or reacted in a negative manner. This is because he lives his life with truth and respect. He is beyond an asset to not only Hayes Township, but our entire community. In choosing to call Hayes Township home, Ron is committed to keeping everything on the right track as we talk about the future.

Exceedingly generous with his time, Ron volunteers his help and know-how whenever there is a need. He is humble and quietly uses his own resources to support those in the community who need it. Always looking out for our first responders, he acknowledges their hard work and sacrifices and makes sure they understand how respected they are by our community.

If you have an opportunity to meet with or talk to Ron, you can see for yourself what a true gentleman he is. Always looking out for what's best for our Township, our residents, our community.

I'm truly proud to serve alongside him on our Board and humbled to call him a friend.

HAYES TOWNSHIP REGISTERED VOTERS:

Happy New Year to everyone! And with the new year brings new Michigan Election Laws to be implemented.

Every voter was mailed a notice regarding Early Voting options in Charlevoix County. Each voter that requested, on the November Absentee Ballot Application, to receive an absentee ballot before each election (Permanent Absentee Ballot List- a total of 337 of you) was mailed a Presidential Primary Ballot Selection Form for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election Forms at the end of December. Please complete them and return.

For those of you remaining on the Permanent Absentee Voter list (approx. 500), you were mailed an application for a ballot as usual. Please complete and return.

At any time, a voter can request to be placed on or removed from the Absentee Ballot Permanent List.

Please contact me at 231-547-6961 or clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov.

The State of Michigan will be phasing out the Permanent Voter Application list, no decision as to when - I will keep you all informed as I receive definitive dates.

Look for additional Election info in future editions of The Voice, on our website, www.hayestownshipmi.gov, and posted at the hall. Of course, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Once again, Happy New Year. Here's to an amazing 2024!

*****ECRWSSDDM****
Local Postal Customer

USPS Mktg. Mail
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage Paid
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