
Voice Mission Statement:

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



#30

May 2025

From the Desk of Supervisor Bill Conklin

Hayes Township once again showed how resilient and community-minded we are. Neighbors and friends helped one another, visited one another, offered water, warmth, a meal or shower to those without power. Members of the community cleared debris and limbs from driveways, while others cut trees and hauled them off the roadways so people could travel for necessities.

Thank you to the Charlevoix Co. Sheriff's Department for personally contacting our residents to ensure that everyone was safe and their physical needs were being met. Thank you to our Fire Department for their help and to the Road Commission for opening the roads as quickly as possible.

CLEAN-UP: After a special meeting and a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board has decided not to formally undertake any storm debris cleanup. Please see the Hayes Township website for important information re: Storm Cleanup.

ASSISTANCE: Since many elderly residents have asked for help in cleaning up their property, I am organizing groups of Volunteers to assist those who need special help. If you need assistance, please contact me at 231-373-0059 and I will put you on the list for completion in May.

VOLUNTEERS:

1. We need folks of all ages who are willing to haul branches, limbs and brush from around the homes of the elderly (to be placed out by the road) on Saturdays and Sundays in May.

2. We need volunteer pickup truck (with hitch) drivers (8) to drive the woodchipper all day on Saturday (9:00am to 7:00pm) and Sunday afternoons (noon to 7:00pm) and volunteer drivers (8) to drive their cars behind the woodchipper with flashers on for safety.

3. We need experienced chain saw operators (10) to cut the limbs, trees and branches lying along the roadways ahead of the woodchipper so the branches can be fed efficiently into the woodchipper. Every volunteer will sign a waiver of liability and hold harmless agreement acknowledging that he/she is strictly a volunteer, assuming all risks.

Please call me at 231-373-0059 or email me at: supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov to let me know your availability and areas of help. We will start the clean-up on Saturday, May 3. Together we can help one another during this time of need. Thank you for offering to help.

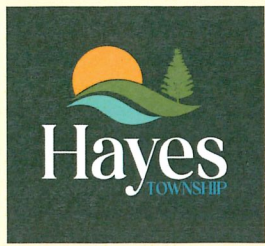
Emergency Assistance Committee: Rick Golding has offered to chair a proposed Emergency Assistance Committee which is currently in the planning stages. An Emergency Committee will be important to integrate neighbors, friends, and resources in planning for various emergency situations, which may occur in the future.

Camp Sea-Gull Drainage Improvements have been sent out for bids. The work will consist of demolition of a portion of the existing parking lot, sidewalk and curb; installation of approximately 154 linear feet of 12-inch storm sewer and new concrete sidewalk, curb and pavement. The work will take place in the fall and the time period will be three weeks.

Budget: We will be scheduling special meetings throughout May and June to work on the proposed budget. Your ideas and suggestions are welcome throughout the budget process.

Lighting Ordinance: Please be aware that Hayes Township has an outdoor lighting ordinance: "In order to minimize light pollution and promote the dark sky principles, all outdoor lighting...shall be shielded, shaded, designed and/or directed away from all neighboring properties and uses...". Please review and re-assess your outdoor fixtures so your lighting complies with our Ordinance.

- Bill Conklin, Supervisor



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

About 750 miles of road-clearing, and what did we find? Community

In the middle of a long day of clearing fallen trees and branches from roadways near Lewiston, Mich., Jason Mittlestat was able to put down his chainsaw and enjoy an unexpected treat: lunch at a community meal.

Sponsoring the lunch was St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, which also provided hot showers and beds for people who couldn't stay at home due to the ice storm that devastated parts of a 12-county area of northern Michigan starting March 30-31.

"It was donated food and all volunteers running it," said Teresa Collins, church secretary. "One day we served 600 meals."

Mittlestat, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources forester from Baraga, reflected on what will really stick with him from this effort: "Neighbors helping neighbors. People helping out," he said. "That's how people are getting out of this."

His story caused us to ask a similar question to another crew member, then another and another at dinner last night.

We've talked extensively about the mission of clearing roads and access to communications towers. This time we asked our crews: "After all of this, what is going stick with you?"

None of those we asked talked about trees or roads.

Mittlestat's coworker Todd Markham, also of Baraga, chimed in "The human spirit is to be kind. I don't want people to think we're bragging about the stuff we cut. So many people were out there doing all of this. Neighbor to neighbor. All over. And we got to see that."

The more we chatted, and people recounted their experiences during this emergency, age and experience melted away and we all simply appreciated the communities that welcomed us.

Rae Weiland, a firefighter based in Plainwell, eagerly added: "I'm sort of early in my career. Everyone being able to come together and work towards a common goal, that's what I've really appreciated."

One road clearing team was handed a stack of thank you notes written and decorated by children, with encouraging slogans like "We're cheering for you" and "You can do it."

The stories came faster from more and more crew members as they pushed their empty dinner plates out of the way, while the smell of chainsaw exhaust and saw dust hung in the air.

We all came to complete the mission of clearing nearly 750 miles of road assigned by the counties through the State Emergency Operations Center and to provide access to almost 50 communications towers.

What we're leaving with is insight into resilience – of the forest and our communities.

Jen Hansen, a DNR fire supervisor in the Atlanta office, shared a moment she found one day to appreciate the beauty of a grove of aspens, bent but not broken by the ice, arched into a tunnel shape. Not to mention the spirit of people in the area.

"The most impressive thing was the community support," she said. "Not just towards us, but towards each other."

- Patrick Ertel, 989-370-1163



Michigan Department of
Natural Resources
Caring for Michigan's outdoor places and stories since 1921

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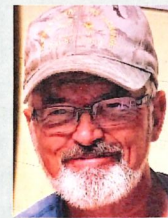
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Life Flight for Charlevoix Hospital Patient

A Charlevoix Hospital patient is alive today due to a life-saving flight to Mayo provided by a Coast Guard helicopter crew and local EMS providers during the first week of April. The patient was suffering from chronic issues due to cancer and needed specialized care that only Mayo could provide. No other hospitals in Michigan could accept the patient and the other flight services were not flying due to inclement weather and the State of Emergency due to the ice storm. Ground Transportation was not possible due to distance and staffing of multiple crews that would have been required for such a journey.

Thanks to the quick work of Jesse Silva, Director of Lake Charlevoix EMS; Brenda Wilson, Manager of Boyne Valley EMS; and Lori Embrey, Department Assistant, MHC Patient Transfer and Placement Center, a Coast Guard flight was arranged.

Upon arrival from the 4-hour flight, the patient was rushed to pre-op and then underwent a 14 hour surgery with a good prognosis.

"This was a great example of team work on all parts," said Embrey, who also helped coordinate ground transport from the airport to Mayo for the patient. "Jesse was incredible with his resource knowledge and quick thinking to get this patient moved safely in the best manner for the medical attention he needed. The ice storm was devastating for all Northern Michigan hospitals and communities. It was incredible to see us be able to come together for a good outcome for this patient." - Karlyn Haas

Steven Wilson

Steven Brent Wilson, 79, passed away on April 1, 2025. He was born on September 26, 1945 in Napa, California, to parents Woodrow and Margaret (Houze) Wilson.

Steven graduated from Charlevoix High School in 1964. He served our great nation by enlisting in the Army in February of 1966. He also earned the Purple Heart award.

Steven Worked for Hayes Township for many years and in his later years, worked various volunteer jobs. This included working at the Charlevoix public pool and the Bergmann Center.

He had many joys in life, some including traveling and bird watching with his loving wife of 33 years, Mary (Gallagher) Wilson, "Buggs". Steven's memory will carry on through loved ones and happy memories.

Steven is survived by his wife, Mary; and three siblings, Laureen, Moria, and Jeff.

There will not be any services taking place at this time.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Charlevoix Public Library.



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Would you like to receive e-mails when we update our website posts? Please visit hayestownshipmi.gov and scroll down to the green box on the left side of the screen under our township calendar. Simply put your email in the box and hit the 'subscribe now' button. You will receive an email each evening if there are any new posts on the website. If you need assistance, please contact us at (231)547-6961.



Hayes Township Trivia

We had two super quick responders to our April trivia question:

Regina Crandell and Denise Daniel

knew that A B52-C bomber crashed into Little Traverse Bay near the Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant on January 7, 1971. Nine crew members were killed in the crash that occurred during a simulation of dropping electric bombs. It was a very big event in this region that left many residents concerned of Cold War attacks on Northern Michigan.

MAY TRIVIA QUESTION:

Undine is a former settlement that existed along the northern shores of Pine Lake (now Lake Charlevoix). It began as a lumber settlement and received a post office on January 15, 1880 with farmer Charles Whitford serving as the first postmaster.

Where did the name Undine come from?

Submit your answers to treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov.
Good Luck!



During a field trip to Washington DC, Charlevoix Student Julius Jess was chosen to help lay the wreath at the Tomb of Unknown soldier (above, third person from left). On this same trip, Julius and his dad, Bob Jess, visited the tombstone of Major Douglas E. Sloan (left).



Hayes Community Spirit Shines

As the ice storm gets further in our rear-view, we would be remiss if we did not mention the acts of kindness and incredible deeds within our community. We observed neighbors helping neighbors: clearing fallen trees, bringing food, fuel, and water to those in need. We had families opening their homes to anyone who needed to charge their phone, get warm, eat, shower; or simply shelter with others instead of being alone in their homes through the storm. Residents drove hours for fuel to share with others, assisted with getting generators started and cleared fallen trees from main roads. Crews from local businesses cleared logs from driveways of residents who were blocked in, delivered goods and fuel through the township, and checked in on those who were most vulnerable. They even set the EMS crew up with a generator and kept the fuel filled, helping our first responders as they endlessly helped our residents.

Our first responders, Fire/Police/EMS, went above and beyond to reach out to our community. They made sure oxygen tanks were replaced, made daily calls/visits to individuals they knew were most at risk during the storm, went door to door through the community, and hosted warm spaces for residents to shelter as they waited for the power to come back on.

The spirit of community is stronger than ever in the place we call home.

Hayes Township Calendar May 2025

Thursday May 1 • 1pm
Community Coffee

Monday May 5 • 4pm
Parks & Recreation
at Camp Sea Gull

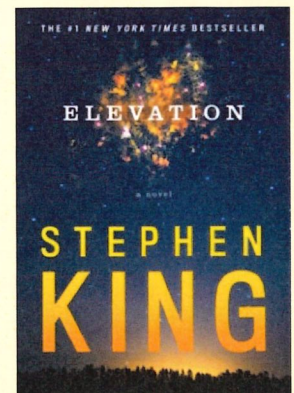
Tuesday May 6 • 7am-8pm
May Special Election

Monday May 12 • 7pm
Board of Trustees

Tuesday May 20 • 7pm
Planning Commission

Thursday May 15 • 1pm
Book Club

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



May Book Club Pick!

Elevation

by Stephen King

To get more information or be
added to our Book Club
e-mail list, please contact
Clerk Kristin Baranski at
(231)547-6961

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