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 www.cityofhartfordmi.org

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**REGULARLY SCHEDULED  
 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
 3RD MONDAY

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS  
 4TH MONDAY

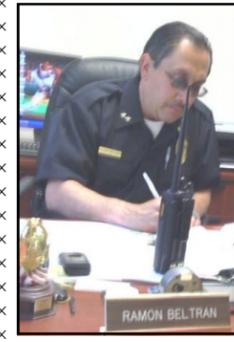
PLANNING & ZONING  
 2ND MONDAY

MEETINGS ARE OPEN  
 TO THE PUBLIC  
 AND START AT 7:30 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
 HARTFORD MI 49057

*Wishing our Community  
 Merry Christmas, & a  
 Happy and Healthy  
 New Year!!!*



*Did you know?  
 Police Chief Ramon Beltran  
 served the City of Hartford for  
 16 years! Thank you! Ramon  
 for your dedicated service to  
 the Citizens of Hartford!! We  
 wish you all the best and a  
 Happy, Healthy retirement.*



**Hartford Police—Tressa Beltran, Chief of Police 621-3225**



Wow! Where did the our summer go?! It's already time to remind people to tell their children to use the crosswalks at the main four intersection or the crossing guards, PLEASE! Keep snow removed from all the sidewalks to ensure that our children are not walking in the roadways.

In most areas there are sidewalks and should be used where available. In cases where there are no sidewalks the best practice is to walk facing traffic on the extreme outside of the street (single file). We receive numerous complaints of groups of students basically blocking the roadways and giving unnecessary commentary to passing motorists, it should be noted that obstructing any roadway is a violation of the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code and offenders can/will be cited, which would mean a trip to court and a fine. Please speak with your children about this issue as we do not want to have to take this to an extreme of issuing citations. I would like to request that all residents attempt to keep your sidewalks clear of debris and or snow (that bad word). If we all work together in doing this there will be no excuse for walking on the roadways. Also the curfew ordinance will be strictly enforced.

Trick or Treat hours will be 6—8pm October 31st. Please have your little Ghosts and Goblins avoid going to any houses that are not well lit! The Hartford Police Reserve Unit will be handing out treats in front of City Hall. If you need assistance with getting your child's candy checked for suspicious reasons please feel free to ask!

The Police Department is accepting donations for the Shop with a Cop program in December, please let us know if you have questions on sponsoring this worthy cause.

Holiday Suggestions: If you decorate your Christmas tree and put the gifts where both the tree and gifts are easily seen through the windows it could be an invitation for thieves to see what you have. Also, after the holidays if you put your boxes (T.V. Electronics, Game Stations, etc.,) out in the open for garbage removal, thieves know what you have. Tear up the boxes into smaller pieces and place into garbage bags.

We at Hartford Police wish you all a very happy Fall/Winter Holiday Season! Please be safe and if you need us do not hesitate to call! I do want to say "THANK YOU" to all of you that have reached out to us to show us support in light of recent World events! Your Support means everything to us!! Chief Tressa Beltran



Fall/Winter—2016

# HARTFORD CITY NEWS

City of Hartford \* 19 West Main Street \* 269-621-2477  
 Monday –Thursday 8:00am—5:00pm; Friday 8:00am-4:00pm

Volume 35 Issue 2

**THE CLERK'S NOTES** RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht—cityclerk@cityofhartfordmi.org

**Election News**—If you would like to serve on the City Commission (You must be registered to vote and a resident of the City for at least one year) you can still file by October 28 at 4:00pm to run as a write in candidate.

Three (3) Commission Seats will be on the November 8 Ballot along with the Fire Department Millage Renewal.

Have you registered to vote? Stop by my office for an application or use the [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos) to apply on-line and exercise your right to vote, you will need to register by October 11 to vote in the November 8th Election.

**Holiday Council Meeting Schedule:**  
 November 21, Workshop/Business  
 December 19, Workshop/Business

**Lawn Meter** - Drain & Protect your Lawn Meter from freezing. Turn your lawn meter readings in before the end of the year or risk losing your credit for the season.

**City's Freezing Waterlines Policy:** It is the responsibility of the home owner to protect their water lines from freezing. Water freezes at 32 degrees & will expand as it freezes causing water lines to break. We suggest you run your water at a flow that is about the size of a pencil to prevent freezing in pipes located against exterior walls or unprotected crawl spaces & basements. DPW will respond to assist you in thawing your pipes one time the 2nd incident will be at a cost of \$50 per/hr + time & materials. If your meter freezes & breaks there will be a charge of \$165 to replace it. Please contact DPW if you have additional questions.

*"This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer."*



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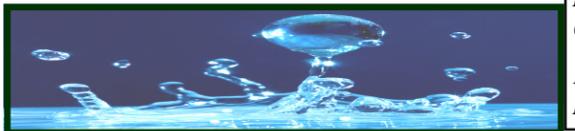
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Avoid Late Fees—When the office is closed you can put your utility or tax bill in the **drop box** on the EAST side of City Hall.



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**—Dan Staunton, Superintendent  
 621-3022 EMERGENCY.....269-208-5238

- ⇒ **WATER SHUT OFF**—if your water is shut off for non-payment & you want your water turned back on the same day you must make your payment before 4:00 P.M. any payments made after 4:00 P.M. water will be turned on the next business day. \$100 will be charged if you want your water turned on after business hours.
  - ⇒ **HOUSE NUMBERS**—Are your house number's visible to emergency & city services personnel?
  - ⇒ **STREET LIGHT OUT**—if you notice a street light out please report the pole number & location to AEP 800-311-6424 or City Hall 621-2477
  - ⇒ **Hydrant Flushing, October 3—7**
  - ⇒ **Brush Pick Up, October 10—14**
  - ⇒ **Leaves Pick Up, October 17—through bad weather**
- The 2015 Water Quality Report is available at City Hall or [www.cityofhartfordmi.org](http://www.cityofhartfordmi.org)*
- Conserve Water—Fix your leaks, whether you do it yourself or hire a plumber, fixing leaky faucets can mean big water savings!



**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- October 9—15—Fire Prevention Week
- October 31—Trick or Treat-ing 6:00pm—8:00pm
- Nov 8, General Election, Polls Open 7am—8pm
- Nov 24—25, City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving
- December 10—Lions Club Christmas in Hartford
- December 23—26, City Hall Closed for Christmas
- Dec 30—Jan 2, City Hall Closed for New Years
- February 28—Winter Taxes Due



This summer has quickly zipped by us and students are back to school for another school year. It makes you wonder where all the time has gone and what happened to all the summer fun we are supposed to be enjoying? Anyway, the Fall Season is just around the corner and it's time to welcome the students back to school and ready for another exciting school year. The good news is that it's time for FOOTBALL; Hartford Indians are ready to give us another thrilling and exciting season on the field. We wish our team another successful season. GO INDIANS!

As we do every year, a couple of our roads received much needed attention. Mary Street between West Main and Shepard Streets; Bernard Street between Elmwood and Pleasant Streets have now been paved. I want to thank the residents in that area for their patience and understanding before and during the construction. We hope this work will make your travelling within the City safer and a little easier; we will continue to assess our road conditions and prioritize accordingly, we only have so much road money every year to support our obligations.

The Concerts in the Park series continues to play a major role influencing City's arts & music culture by bringing a variety of musical entertainment into the community every Thursday evening at the park. Once again I want to take this opportunity to thank the Concerts in the Park Committee for another outstanding season. They have concluded another successful summer by transforming Ely Park into a Center of attraction for everyone. I am very proud of the work of the committee members and excited about the exposure they give the city every week.

The Concerts in the Park will be sponsored by the Lions Club next year; we hope you will continue to support them as you have supported the concerts in the past. If you have some time to spare, they will be happy to have your assistance. They are looking for a few volunteers to assist them in the planning and other logistical support.



**STORMWATER, ASSET MANAGEMENT, AND WASTE WATER (SAW) GRANT PROGRAM.**

This grant program gives the City the opportunity to prepare wastewater and storm water asset management plan and design engineering cost related to collection system, lift station and wastewater treatment plant improvements. The best way to explain this is that it allows us to collect a digital inventory of what we have relative to our storm sewer, sanitary sewer and water system, keep a good maintenance record and better oversight. All of the sewer lines are now being cleaned and televised to locate problem areas and develop a scheduled maintenance plan for them. We expect the cleaning and televising to be completed within the next month.

*From our family to yours wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!*

**REMINDERS**



**SNOW REMOVAL —**

- Do not push snow from your driveway and sidewalks into the roadway.
- It is the home owners responsibility to remove snow from the sidewalk in front of your home.
- If you plow your driveway or have someone plow for you do not pile snow on the sidewalk.
- Please keep trash cans at least **TWO** feet off the edge of the road during snow removal season, away from the snowplow.
- Observe Snow Removal Hours in City Parking Lots

**UNREGISTERED & UNINSPECTED RENTAL PROPERTIES:**

Register your rental property and make an appointment for inspection. The inspection allows you to obtain occupancy permit for your property or gives you the opportunity to fix what makes your property deficient of code.

**INOPERABLE/JUNK VEHICLES ON PROPERTY:**

Please make sure all vehicles stored are currently licensed and operational. This can easily give the impression of a property not well maintained.

**UNWANTED VISUAL OBSTRUCTION:**

Growth near corners cannot obstruct the view of drivers. Please trim your yard to ensure that pedestrian and drivers may safely cross the streets without getting into an accident.

**OVERSIZE BRUSH LIMBS AND BRANCHES:**

The City picks up brush and leaves at different times. Please make sure you separate the leaves from the brush. The brush must not exceed 4" in diameter. If you cut down a tree, it is your responsibility to get rid of the brush. Do not pile your brush against the fence, poles or trees. We try to help, but please help us in the process. For people getting ready for fall cleaning, the City will have scheduled brush pick up which will be announced for everyone to have their brush picked up. If you missed the pickup, you will need a brush permit to dump the brush at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The brush permit will cost you \$2.00 per load of brush or you can obtain a seasonal pass for \$10.00 at the City Hall. The hours at the Wastewater Treatment Plant for brush disposal are from 1p.m. to 3p.m., branches cannot exceed 4 inches in diameter. Dumping without a permit is a violation of City Ordinance and comes with a penalty. If you have a tree cut down by a contractor, let the contractor make arrangement for proper clean up. Special pick up after the City wide pickup will cost \$25.00 per load. Please have your brush at the curb side during the days specified for pick up. If you do not have your brush at the curb during the pick-up, you will be cited for blight violation ten (10) days after the City pick up. The City cannot afford to have personal brush pick up for everyone.



**WINTER TAXES**

The 2016 winter taxes will be issued on December 1, and are due by February 28, 2017. All of the 2016 winter tax information is available at Van Buren County's website [www.vbco.org](http://www.vbco.org) by the last week of November. Please check your tax bill for your principal resident exemption, this is a very big savings on your tax bill. Call right away if this is not correct so errors can be corrected at the December Board of Review on Tuesday December 13 @ 1:30pm

To defer your winter taxes, you must have a Michigan Property Tax Credit due and present a copy of the tax form to defer your winter taxes; a very important reason (along with the refunds) to get your income tax done early this year. You must have the deferment form to me by February 28 when the winter taxes are due.

Looking ahead to the 2017 tax year, you will be receiving your 2017 Notice of Assessment in late February or early March, please call with questions or to schedule an appointment for the March Board of Review, this is the only time you can protest your property valuation or apply for the hardship exemption. Those eligible for the Veteran's Exemption you must fill out the paperwork after January 1st and before the March Board of Review.

**City Officials**

Mayor.....	Ted Johnson
Mayor pro-tem.....	Rick Hall
Commissioner.....	Ron Burleson
Commissioner.....	Frank Dockter
Commissioner.....	Dennis Goss
Commissioner.....	Terry Tibbs
Commissioner.....	John Miller
Assessor.....	Diana McGrew.....445-2921
Ordinance Enforcement Officer.....	Jim Coleman
Building Inspector.....	Chuck Moore....569-0015
Electrical Inspector.....	Russ Puckett 208-7465
Mechanical Inspector...Walt Devisser.....	427-7543
Plumbing Inspector.....	Mike Fields..269-348-4386

**!!! IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS !!!**

**Police:**

EMERGENCY.....	9.1.1
NON--EMERGENCY.....	621-3225
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.....	888-833-8114

**FIRE:**

EMERGENCY.....	9.1.1
NON-EMERGENCY.....	621-4707

**MISCELLANEOUS**

ANIMAL CONTROL.....	621-4624
LOAN CLOSET.....	621-4266
PUBLIC LIBRARY.....	621-3408
POST OFFICE.....	621-3701
VAN BUREN COUNTY.....	657-8200
HEALTH DEPARMTENT.....	621-3143

**Mark you calendars for December 10th!!**  
**Christmas in Hartford**  
 Lighted Parade,  
 Tree Lighting and  
 Pictures with Santa,  
 call 621-3651 or 621-4870  
 for more information or to volunteer

**Senior Services of Van Buren County**  
 Offers local activities, services & lunch on Monday, Tuesday & Friday at the Hartford United Methodist Church located at 425 E. Main from 11:00—3:30 p.m.If you need any information or services please call Paw Paw office at 888-899-8687 (toll-free) or the South Haven office at 866-627-8904 (toll-free).

**Community Bulletin Board**  
**Hartford Fire Dept**

**Fire Prevention Week**

- Pancake Breakfast Oct 9, 7am—Noon
- Parade October 15, 1pm
- Safety Jamboree October 15, 1—3pm @ Middle School

**Holiday & Winter Reminders**

- Water your live Christmas Tree to keep it fresh longer.
- Check smoke detectors batteries, test to ensure they work.
- Don't overload electrical circuits with your holiday lights and never use frayed cords or run them through a doorway.
- Make sure Fire Hydrant's are clear of snow.