



# HURON

# THE LIGHT

Fall 2024

## Changes Coming to 624 Berlin Road

There is a new recreational amenity in town! The City of Huron and Huron Parks & Recreation are pleased to announce the installation of a new fishing dock at the City owned property located at 624 Berlin Road. The EZ dock system was ordered in May of this year and installed on the north side of the property in late July. Extending approximately 15 feet out over the water, the new dock provides an opportunity to fish the catch and release, 3.5+ acre man-made pond.

In addition to the new fishing dock, Huron Parks & Recreation partnered with DL Smith Concrete to install a larger and delineated parking area for visitors to the park. This project widened the entrance, expanded the gravel surface with a proper base and significantly enlarged the parking area on the southeast portion of the site.

Both the parking lot area and the fishing pier were budgeted and funded from the City's capital improvement fund.



### What should we NAME it?



### Survey Launched to Name New Park

As the property at 624 Berlin Road begins to take shape, it is time to officially name the park! The City of Huron needs your help in coming up with the most fitting name for the property. A simple survey collecting name suggestions has been launched on the City website where the public may share their ideas and if desired, share the meaning behind their submission.

When considering a name for submission, it is important to note that the new park is going to remain passive in nature with a clean, welcoming, and comfortable atmosphere. The goal of creating this type of environment is to improve the quality of life for Huron residents by offering accessible and nature-based environmental, educational, and recreational opportunities. The new park is host to a variety of areas to explore, observe, and appreciate the existing natural wonders that are hidden within our community.

Plan a visit, stroll the property, explore the surroundings, catch & release a fish, let your creativity run free! The overall theme of the new park is "Come & Explore Nature"

Share your ideas on the park's name! We are taking name submission through September 1, 2024. The simple single submission survey may be found at the bottom of the homepage of the City's website: [www.cityofhuron.org](http://www.cityofhuron.org)



# Huron Police Patrol Shifts Changed

Beginning on Sunday, August 4th, the Huron Police Department changed their patrol shifts from 8-hour shifts to 12-hour shifts. Now working 6 AM to 6 PM and 6 PM to 6 AM, the Department is covered by three officers per 12-hour shift. Based on this change, officers will work on 80-hour bi-weekly schedules instead of 40-hour weekly schedules.

When comparing a 12-hour workday to an 8-hour workday, an officer stands to work the same number of total hours.

Police Chief Terry Graham presented to Huron City Council the need and desire for the change in hours per shift. Chief Graham advises that agencies all over the county operate on 12-hour shifts including Perkins, Sandusky and even the Sheriff's Office. The Department has lost officers and prospective officers to other departments that offer the 12-hour shift work environment, he explained. The proposed schedule should improve retention and recruitment efforts, and build a stronger department for the future.



The switch to the 12-hour workday was unanimously approved by Huron City Council during the July 23rd, 2024, regularly scheduled meeting. The changes will take effect on Monday, August 4th and run through Saturday, December 28, 2024. At that time, the pilot program will be re-evaluated from an operational and economic standpoint. If there are no issues, the 12-hour shift will be continued into 2025.

## Amphitheater Receives New Canopy



The Huron Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce their new Amphitheater canopy at the Huron Boat Basin has been installed and is ready for the weekend entertainment line-up! The new canopy was made possible through an Erie Metroparks Local Improvement Grant. The grant was applied for and awarded this past spring.

Stop down and take in a concert or two.

**August 17 at 7 PM - Master TC & the Visitors**

**August 24 at 7 PM - SOBOS**

## Employee Milestones

Congratulations to the following City of Huron employees for their milestone work anniversaries! These milestone anniversaries represent those accrued within the first half of 2024.

### February:

Steve Didelot, Street Foreman – 30 years

### March:

Lieutenant Dan Soisson, Huron Fire – 15 years

### April:

Jodi Rutherford, Finance – 25 years

Firefighter Nick Thaxton, Huron Fire – 15 years

Rick Reinbolt, Parks & Recreation – 10 years

### May:

Christine Gibboney, Planning & Zoning – 15 years

### June:

Lieutenant William Evert, Huron Fire – 15 years

*Congratulations!*





# City of Huron Employee Recognitions



## Meet Alec Romick

Alec joined the City of Huron in the Zoning and Building Department as the new Zoning Inspector. Alec brings with him over 20 years of experience as a foreman, heavy equipment operator, and tree and landscape crew member for Barnes Nursery.

In Alec's new position, he is most excited to be out in the community, serving the residents of Huron, and working with local contractors.

Born and raised in Huron, Alec is married to Jessica and together they are raising the next generation of the Romick family.

If you are passing through the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department, be sure to drop in and say hello to Alec!



## Meet Officer John Dusza

Officer John D. Dusza joined the Huron Police Department in May of this year. He is a full-time officer bringing with him seven years of full-time law enforcement experience.

Residing in Huron, Ofc. Dusza has a bachelor's degree in Criminology from the University of Toledo. Officer Dusza's ceremonial swearing-in took place on June 11th during the regularly scheduled Huron City Council meeting.

If you happen to see Officer Dusza out in the community, be sure to wave and say hello to him!

## Meet Mr. Ed Widman, Finance Director



"Since 1978, I have worked in local government finance in both county and municipal governments. I enjoy working for taxpayers and have vast experience in capital projects as well as day to day operations," stated Widman.

Ed is happy to be serving as the new finance director for Huron as he feels there is a history of being a well-managed, fiscally strong community. "It is my desire to continue to maintain this history and deal with new challenges. My goals are to work with City Manager Matt Lasko and City Council as they continue to strive to make Huron a place where families and businesses choose to be."

The Finance Department is responsible for collecting funds due to the City as well as paying employees, vendors, bond holders (borrowings), and following laws according to the Ohio Revised Code/City Charter.

Ed has been married since 1982, has four adult children, enjoys gardening, home projects, and golf. He's been a member of the Sandusky Kiwanis Club for over 35 years, a member of Knights of Columbus, a former member of Habitat for Humanity, and has volunteered for Stein Hospice.

The City of Huron is pleased to welcome Mr. Edward A. Widman to the team! Widman, the new Finance Director, began his employment with the City on Monday, August 5th. Ed is a very experienced municipal finance professional, and has served in the past as the Finance Director for the City of Sandusky, Erie County and most recently, Avon Lake.

Stay in the KNOW  
& FOLLOW US!







# Chaska Beach & Old Homestead I & II Road Repairs



The Chaska Beach and Old Homestead I & II road repairs are nearing completion. The contractor is finishing the punch list items established during the walk through last month and the Street Department is in the process of ordering new street signs to complete the project.





# Save the Dates



## Huron Pumpkin Fest

**Saturday, October 12**

**11 AM to 5 PM**

*A Fall, Family, Fun Festival!*

**Pumpkin Drop at 2:30 PM**

## Huron Winter Fest

**Saturday, December 7**

**1 to 6 PM**

*Festive sights & sounds  
of the holiday season!*

**Santa & Mrs. Claus**



## Huron Sports Academy Offers Local Students Learning Options

The Huron Sports Academy is a new, public charter school that will be opening this fall in the former Shawnee Elementary School building. The Academy's mission is to promote both the academic and physical development of their students. The school promotes the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and self-competition. According to the school's website, by promoting these skills, students will become confident, contributing members of our community. Currently, the Academy is accepting enrollment of students from both Huron and surrounding communities.

"The Huron Sports Academy is a unique opportunity to incorporate physical activity with learning. Based on many academic studies, the more activities some students are exposed to the more they are engaged in their surroundings," stated Principal Elaine Beeghly. The goal of the new Academy is to be an extension of the Huron community by offering students and their parents a choice in education styles.

Huron Sports Academy prides itself on implementing a strong focus on academics, life skills, and sports. Pertaining to academics, the Huron Sports Academy will use the BLITZ Model of learning while teaching to the Ohio standards-based curriculum. The BLITZ Model uses fun and friendly competition to learn, gain confidence, showcase talents, and encourage one another to do their best, explained Principal Beeghly. Their curriculum incorporates real-world learning so that students are primed for success.

Each day, the core subjects of English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies are taught at all grade levels. Students also participate in Art, Music, Technology, and Social-Emotional learning instruction. At Huron Sports

Academy, students are assessed biweekly to determine mastery of content, and a game plan is then formulated. Throughout the school year students, teachers, parents, and administrators track academic performance based on regular assessments and academic competitions.

In early grades (K-3), the students are introduced to a wide variety of sports. A new sport is introduced to students every few weeks to keep instruction fresh. Students play both card and board games to learn important aspects of sportsmanship, collaboration, and leadership. The Huron Sports Academy values family time, ensuring that student-athletes are home by dinnertime each night, regardless of practices and games.





# Huron City School News

## Attendance Lines

New this school year each building has a dedicated absence line. Any time day or night parents can leave a message for when their child is missing school. Please leave a detailed message including the date of absence, child's first and last name, homeroom teacher or grade level and reason for absence. Enter the direct dial number in your phone today for a future absence.

**High School - (419) 433-1430**

**McCormick - (419) 433-1440**

**Woodlands - (419) 433-1450**

## Mark your Calendars Return to Schools Dates

### Building Open House

August 20, 2024  
times to be posted

\*\*Woodlands will offer three Open House sessions After August 14, (Ice Cream Social). When families know their child's teacher, they can schedule their open house visit using the following website and finding their teacher's name:

<https://www.huronhs.com/openhouseSign-up.aspx>

Session #1: 5:00-5:25

Session #2: 5:30-5:55

Session #3: 6:00-6:25

### First Day for students

First grade - High School  
August 22, 2024

### First Day for half of Kindergarten

August 22, 2024

### First Day for second half of Kindergarten

August 23, 2024

### All Kindergarteners

August 26, 2024

### First day for Preschool

August 27, 2024

## New Year - New Staff

Please help welcome the following new staff to Huron City Schools and Community:

**Matthew Ayers**

*Director of Activities & Athletics, District*

**Jennifer Bowen**

*Cafeteria Staff, High School*

**Courtney Miller**

*French, High School*

**Matthew Smith**

*Mathematics, High School*

**Katie Springer**

*Intervention Specialist, Woodlands Elementary*

**Lauren Zimmerman**

*Intervention Specialist, MMS & Woodlands Elementary*

## Community Feedback

The district is open to community feedback on what we do great and where we can improve. Submitting your comments here ensures review and response by school officials. [https://bit.ly/HCS\\_Feedback](https://bit.ly/HCS_Feedback)

## Volunteer Screener

Huron City Schools encourages volunteers to support experiences for students and enrichment of opportunities. Contact the buildings' main offices to learn ways you can get involved. Board policy requires all volunteers to complete a background check. More details are linked here:

<https://www.huronhs.com/HuronCitySchoolsVolunteerScreener.aspx>

## High School Parking Lot Refinished

Using permanent improvement funds the district resurfaced the aging north parking lot of Huron High School. This is the primary lot for students, staff and visitors to the building. The Kreimes Co. completed the work timely, under budget and scheduled around district summer events.





## Huron Sports Teams' First Home Contests

**Boys Soccer vs. Delta**

August 17 @ 11:00 am

**Girls Soccer vs. Toledo Christian**

August 17 @ 1:00 pm

**Volleyball vs. Norwalk**

August 22 @ 7:30 pm

**Football vs. Norwalk St. Paul**

August 23 @ 7:00pm

**Cross Country vs. Bellevue**

October 2 @ 10:30 am



## Akzo Nobel Community Paint Freshen-up McCormick Auditorium

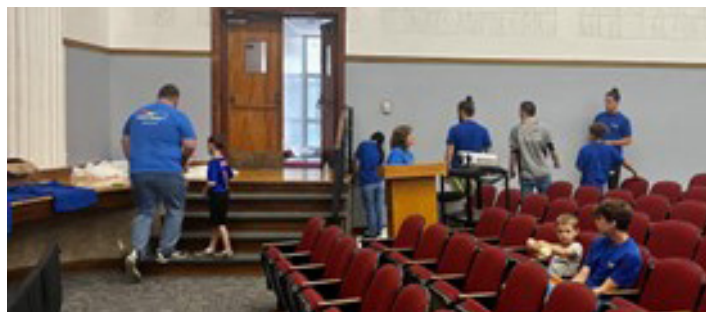
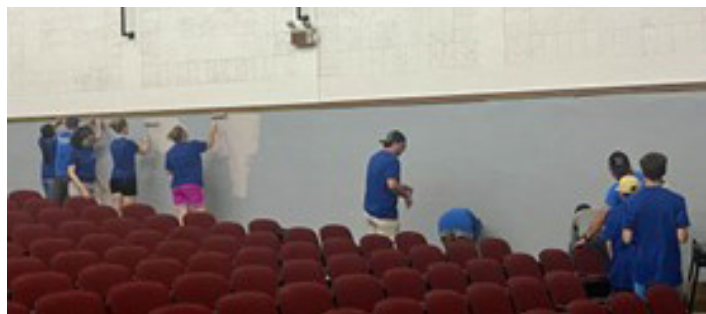
Featured in the River Fest Parade, the Huron's Boys Track team won the 2024 Division II OHSA State Championship, repeating this feat 50 years after the first championship (1974). Huron earned State Championships in the 4x100- and 4x200-meter relays, run by the same quartet in the same order: Austin Brunow(11), Andrew Delaney(12), Joe Schaeffer(10) and Beau Harkelroad(12).

Harkelroad added 16 points to the team score by finishing as State Runner-Up in both individual hurdles races for the 110 and 300 meters. The 300 hurdles required a run-off after Harkelroad was knocked down by a competitor's hurdle in the original running of the race while en route to second place, and in the run-off, he finished second again.

The Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches awarded Coach Lemponen Ohio's National Federation of High Schools Boys Track and Field Coach of the Year.

***Congratulations to the team and Coach Lemponen!***

Through generous donation of time and \$60,000, Akzo Nobel helped the district make cosmetic improvements to the McCormick Auditorium. Employees, families and friends volunteered time to paint the auditorium for a fresh look. This donation also supported replacement of the runway carpeting and a new curtain will be installed this fall. The McCormick Auditorium remains a unique venue for our Arts and Athletics not commonly found in communities similar to Huron.





## New Business Spotlight



A hometown *congratulations* to:

# Lakefront Tanning

Back in the middle of July, Emily Hitchens and Josh Ollendick opened their new joint venture, Lakefront Tanning. Located at 501 Cleveland Road, West in the Port Huron Plaza, the "boutique-style spa" opened its doors offering unique spa experiences in a newly renovated and clean environment.

The new salon's products and services include a wide variety of bronzers, intensifiers, moisturizers, lotions, UV and hybrid tanning beds, sunless spray tanning bed, and a red light therapy massage chair, to help their customers feel their best. Drawing a following from mid-teens to mid-80's, Lakefront Tanning focuses on helping with self care, chronic pain, arthritis, inflammation, anti-aging, sunspots and/or acne scars.

One of the couple's goals was to offer a high-end-vibe spa experience at an affordable price in their hometown of Huron, explained Hitchens. The next closest tanning salons are located in Sandusky or Vermilion. Ironically, the

Hitchens/Ollendick team purchased the Vermilion salon two months prior to opening their Huron location. Hitchens explained this was an excellent business decision that allowed them to learn the tanning business and train their staff.

Neither of the two are strangers to running a business. Ollendick owns Ollendick Construction & Sewer Solutions, while Hitchens owns Lakeside Executive Marketing. Together the couple wanted to start a joint venture, fill an empty store front, and bring a new business to Huron all in one.

Both the Huron and Vermilion locations offer a wide range of packages ranging from a single visit to automatically deducted monthly packages that can be used at either location. Hitchens is very excited about the upcoming changes in seasons as they begin to alter and gear their offerings and packages toward Fall/Winter.

**Monty Tapp, mayor**  
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**Sam Artino, councilperson**  
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**Joe Dike, councilperson**  
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**Joel Hagy, councilperson**  
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**Mark Claus, vice-mayor**  
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**William Biddlecombe, councilperson**  
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**Matt Grieves, councilperson**  
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**Matt Lasko, city manager**  
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