



HURON

THE LIGHT

Spring 2024

Annual Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt

Join us this Saturday, March 23 for the Annual Pancake Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt!



Breakfast begins 8:00 AM
First Presbyterian Church
Magic Show - 10:00 AM
Egg Hunt - 1PM
Huron Boat Basin

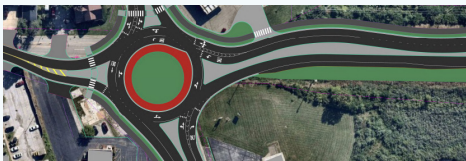
Many THANKS to the Huron Lions Club, Horvath Roofing, Abundant Life Counseling & Consulting Services, LLC, and AkzoNobel for helping make this event possible!

Public Open House Scheduled US 6 Connectivity Corridor

The March 28, 2024, Public Open House is hosted by ODOT, (Ohio Department of Transportation). The meeting will take place from 6-8 PM in the Cedar Point Center Auditorium at BGSU Firelands.

From March 28 through April 28, 2024, a Virtual Open House will be available online for residents to learn more about the Connectivity Corridor Project and to submit questions and/or comments.

The deadline for the questions and/or comments is April 28, 2024.
For project information:
<https://publicinput.com/q6010>



Unveiling of the Anchor Memorial



In the spring of 2020, the Huron Joint Recreation District board, comprising representation from the city, the township, and the schools, lost three very prominent founding board members in a relatively short period of time. Dr. David M. Dreffer, Don Ritzenthaler, and Tom Solberg, Sr. These three men, along with former City Manager, Mike Tann, were instrumental in the formation of the HJRD board and played a significant role in creating Huron's parks and public spaces into what they are today.

The HJRD board unanimously decided to recognize these individuals for their efforts through a form of public art. A sub-committee was formed, and ideas were generated and shared. After much consideration of prominent public art locations and symbolic representation of the founders the committee chose the top of the amphitheater at the Boat Basin as center stage to display a large ship's anchor. The anchor was the leading icon following lengthy discussions and considerations of a variety of symbolic representations. The honorees were the foundation and strength in anchoring the Huron Community through the HJRD by creating and increasing recreational opportunities while securing and improving the future of Huron's parks and greenspaces.

Dreffer, Ritzenthaler, and Soberg all served on the board for 25+ years and made significant contributions to Huron's parks and green spaces during their time. Then City Manager, Mike Tann, supported the group's efforts and intentions and was equally pivotal in creating the park system Huron has today.

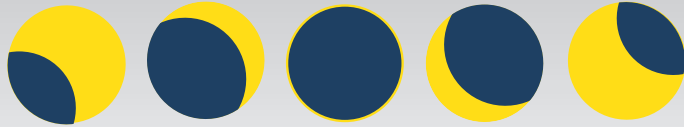
"The men were instrumental in the creation of Huron Boat Basin Amphitheater and Marina building, many Fabens Park enhancements, the development of the Lake Shore Electric Trail, and elevating the routine maintenance of Huron's public parks. The men had the vision to create a partnership with local public entities and businesses to support programs for youth in the Huron area," stated Doug Steinwart, Huron Parks & Recreation Facility Manager.

The City of Huron and Huron Parks & Recreation would like to thank Huron Township for their partnership in the project and Mr. Kenji Sanders and family for their generous donation of the actual anchor to the project.

The "official" unveiling of the Anchor Memorial will take place on Friday, May 31st at 1 PM at the Huron Boat Basin. This event is open to the public.



HURON



04|08|2024

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BE PREPARED! DON'T be left in THE DARK!

The City of Huron and surrounding areas will experience a **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE** on **Monday, APRIL 8, 2024**. This historic event is expected to attract an estimated **1 million plus visitors** to the Shores & Islands, Ohio area.

Huron, being in the path of **TOTALITY**, will enjoy **an incredible, unobstructed viewing time** of just under **FOUR MINUTES!** Due to the length of viewing time and location to Lake Erie, Huron is the **"two for one deal"** many visitors are seeking!

Whether you are staying home or heading out during the **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE**, Huron will experience a fairly large influx of visitors on April 8th. History predicts there will be a high demand on water, food, hospitals, restaurants, gas stations, businesses and more. **So - BE PREPARED! DON'T be left in THE DARK!**

Looking to stay local?

Drop **ANCHOR** at the Huron Boat Basin for a family-friendly event of **SOLAR FUN!**

A "Totality....in A GREAT LAKE PLACE!" WATCH PARTY!



Monday, April 8, 2024

12:30 - 4:30 PM

Huron Boat Basin & Amphitheater

330 N. Main St. | Huron | Ohio

LIVE on-stage:

The Michael Mage Experience Magic Show - 12:30 PM

Attraxxions - 80's Cleveland Style Band - 2:00 PM

Children's Activities with Miss Melissa and the Huron Public Library (while supplies last)

Eclipse Snack Packs | Sticker & Button Station | Coloring & Bookmark Station | Photo Ops with Props!

Presented by:



To SAFELY view the SOLAR ECLIPSE - it is recommended to wear SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES that comply with the ISO 12312-2 International Standard. Do not squint at the sun directly. UV rays of the sun can burn the retinas and cause permanent damage to your vision.



Flock Safety Cameras Installed



The Huron Police Department has entered into a multi-year agreement with Flock Safety for the installation of five Automated License Plate Reading (ALPR) cameras. Huron joins a growing list of over 1,000 communities nationwide who are using this technology to track down vehicles involved in criminal activities and missing person cases.

The ALPR cameras have been installed in various locations along the City's busiest roadways. ALPR cameras act as a public portal for over 3,700 police departments nationwide giving Huron Police access to Flock's entire database of about 250,000 cameras.

The City of Huron approved the \$15,000 contract earlier this year. The cost to operate the ALPR cameras is \$3,000

per camera annually. The funds come from the Police Department's Annual Budget.

The City has been using the ALPR cameras for the past month. During this time, there have been over 400,000 license plate reads. The ALPR's have been very instrumental in several incidents and investigations already.

Recently, the ALPR system was used to locate a suicidal person who later overdosed. Huron officers were able to locate the person and administer NARCAN potentially saving their life.

The ALPR cameras also aided officers recently following several vehicle entries in Huron and another jurisdiction. Within a few hours, officers from both jurisdictions used the combined ALPR cameras to identify the vehicle and the suspect. The suspect was from Toledo and was charged with 10 criminal charges, some of which were felonies. Hopefully, all or some of the victims' property will be recovered.

The Flock system is proving to be a valuable tool when it comes to the safety and well-being of the Huron community.

The Huron Police will continue to assess the usefulness of the Flock Safety program and evaluate the need for potentially more ALPR cameras to be installed throughout the city in the future.

Huron Police Welcome Officer Eric Ritter

Hired in January, Officer Eric Ritter, is Huron's newest member of the Huron Police Force. The leadership and officers on staff attracted Officer Ritter to the Huron Police Department, however, the citizens and the city are what ensured him of his career move.

"The people in this City are always so friendly and from day one the officers at the department greeted me with open arms," stated Officer Ritter.

Eric is working fulltime for Huron while attending the Police Academy at Owens Technical College. He is on target to complete his training in May. Once Eric becomes a certified police officer, he will be sworn in sometime in May or June. Although the expenses for sending a candidate to the Police Academy were budgeted in 2024, a grant from Erie County Jobs & Family Services, the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), was secured and is paying for all the training expenses. These expenses equate to approximately \$10,000 savings to the City. In addition, a grant was applied for from Ohio Means Jobs - Erie County which, if awarded, will be a 50% wage reimbursement to the City for the candidate's first six (6) months of employment.

Officer Ritter's short-term goal is to graduate from the academy and finish out his training period with the Huron Police Department. His long-term goal is to one day be in a leadership position within the police department.

In Officer Ritter's free time, he enjoys spending quality time with his friends and family, coaching baseball, and playing golf.



**Stay in the KNOW
& FOLLOW US!**





South Main Street Work to Begin

The South Main Street Water Main Replacement and Street Resurfacing project, along with the South Main Street Streetscape Enhancement and Wayfinding project are all coming to South Main Street, in the near future. A combination of recent bid projects has solidified the need and desire to mainstream Main Street.

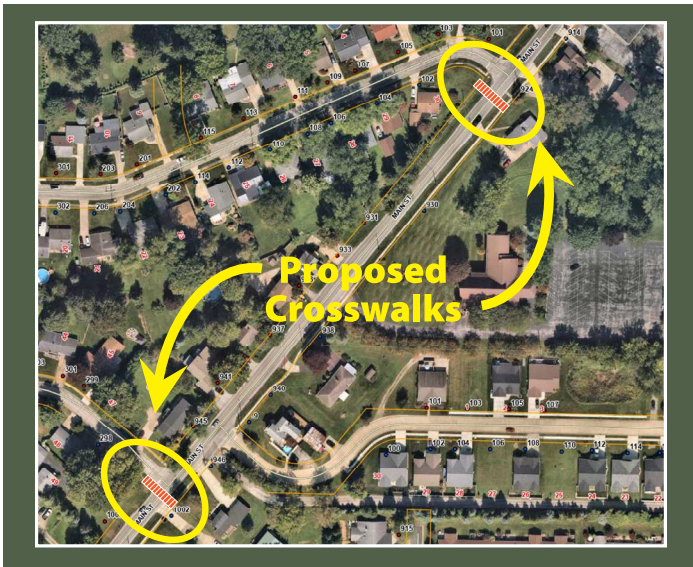
The first project, Water Main Replacement and Resurfacing, is taking place following a steady stream of water main breaks due to aging pipes around South Main and Forest Hills, Valley View, and Hickory Streets. Resurfacing will take place in the Forest Hills/Valley View neighborhood. During a recent Huron City Council meeting, Council awarded the construction contract to Spear Brothers of Sandusky. Spear Brothers came in under the engineer's estimate and the lowest bid of \$2,549,899. The project is set to begin later this spring. The City will largely utilize the Ohio Water Development Authority low-interest loan program to initially fund the project with the annual loan payments being made by water sales.

Sometime following the completion of the Water Main/

Street Resurfacing Project the second project, South Main Street Streetscape Project, will begin. The South Main Street Streetscape Project expands South Main Street from Bogart Road to US-6. The goal of the project is to increase vehicular and pedestrian access, create visual connections for existing businesses and tie into the northern portion of Main Street.

From an aesthetic and logistical sense, the intention is to relocate utilities underground, incorporate a multi-purpose trail with landscape buffers/bioswales, incorporate pedestrian safety enhancements for the sidewalk/multi-use path over either side of the railroad track, extend the multi-use trail on the west side of the street from Forest Hills Drive to Route 6, and add off-street parking with stormwater management to Standard Street. A scope meeting with OHM Advisors was held in mid-February. Staff will be working with the firm over the next few weeks to present a design proposal to City Council for consideration. As the project continues to solidify a Project Open House will be planned.

Two New Crosswalks Coming to South Main Street (SR 13)



To safely increase and promote connectivity in and around town, and in response to residents' requests, the City applied for a grant through Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to help cover the costs associated with adding crosswalks and safety measures to the South Main Street and Valley View Drive and Forest Hills Drive intersections. These crosswalks would be highly visible crossings with flashing beacons. In both cases the crosswalks will connect to existing sidewalks along South Main Street. The ODOT Systematic Safety Program grant has awarded 90% funding of the project.

The expected cost of the project is \$134,000 of which \$120,000 will be covered by grant funding. The crosswalk project is slated to take place following the South Main Street Water Main replacement and resurfacing project being constructed this summer.

The City is appreciative of our funding partners at ODOT in helping make this project possible.





Chaska Beach and Old Homestead I & II Road Repairs Begin

Road work began this past week in the Chaska Beach neighborhood after City Council approved the \$2.3 million contract to reconstruct streets in Chaska Beach, Old Homestead I, and Old Homestead II. The comprehensive concrete patch job should wrap up by mid to late June.

The original plan was utilizing the existing concrete as a solid base, carry out selective repair of any failing points, seal the roads with chip-seal and then finish them off with asphalt overlay changed to a comprehensive patch job after a series of soil borings determined the condition of the base and the thickness of the concrete was not substantial enough to support the original plan. These findings caused City Council to find an alternative plan to repair the roads.

After analyzing all three neighborhoods it was determined the updated project will consist of replacing approximately

25% to 33% of the worse portions of roadway in each community with concrete. City Council approved the \$2.3M project during a recent meeting. The comprehensive concrete patching program is significant in size not only by dollars, but also by impact the new roadways will have on extending the life of the roadways, and the overall look and feel of the community.

The roadway resurfacing project for Chaska Beach, Old Homestead I, and Old Homestead II surfaced following the comprehensive pavement condition rating report of every single public roadway within the city limits. This rating grades the condition of Huron's roadways ranging from 'good' to 'critical'. This rating system is crucial to providing the City with information in terms of what roadways to prioritize for resurfacing and reconstruction.

Huron Public Power to Expand this Summer

Huron Public Power is excited to start phase one of an expansion effort of its electric distribution and supply services. Huron Public Power was originally created as an economic development tool to supply affordable and reliable power to businesses in the City. Historically, due to the railroad tracks, HPP's distribution area was restricted to the Huron Corporate Park and Mucci Farms.

This project will expand our service area northward down Rye Beach Road, under the railroad tracks to the western end of Sawmill Parkway. More businesses within the City of Huron will have access to the inexpensive and reliable power source.

During a recent Council meeting, Huron City Council awarded the \$369,870 project to a Cleveland based company, Daniel R. Schmoldt Enterprises, Inc. The size of this expansion calls for the addition of a new switchgear. The Council also approved the purchase of the switchgear through Pepco Professional Electric Products Company out of Elyria for \$58,700. The total cost for the Huron Public Power Expansion Project is \$428,570. The project will be paid for with funding from Huron Public Power.





Dedication Planned For The Courts at Fabens Park

Huron Parks and Recreation is serving up some exciting news! The Fabens Park Court project wrapped up last Fall allowing for a soft opening and now it is time to "officially" dedicate the courts with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 3 PM for the celebration of the two brand new court systems consisting of a total of 5 tennis courts and 6 regulation-striped pickleball courts.

The Huron Parks & Recreation Team is currently in the process of developing a Fabens Park Court Rental Plan. With the addition of 6 pickle ball courts, and the popularity of the game, staff sees the need to be able to manage the courts for individual and group play through online reservations. A resident will be able to reserve a court for \$5 (per court) for 2 hours or \$10 per court for 2 hours for non-residents for exclusive play times Monday through Friday. Weekend court time and non-reserved courts will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. As in the past with the tennis courts, staff will work with groups and organizations for long-term season play and/or tournaments.

The Courts at Fabens Park project was made possible through the partnership between the City of Huron, Huron Township and the Huron Joint Recreation District.

Save the Date!

THE COURTS AT FABENS PARK DEDICATION & RIBBON CUTTING

Wed., May 8, 2024 | 3:00 PM

Andrew L. Fabens Memorial Park
One Fabens Way | Huron, Ohio

...A FORMAL INVITE WITH DETAILS will follow.



Nickel Plate Beach Opening Memorial Day Weekend

Nickel Plate Beach is set to open Memorial Day weekend for the 2024 Summer Beach season! Again, this year, a gate attendant will be on-site daily from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Due to the rising costs associated with the operations of the beach the daily parking fee has been increased from \$6 to \$7 per vehicle per day. The Seasonal Pass rate for a resident will remain at \$25 for the season. While the Seasonal Pass rate for non-residents will increase from \$30 to \$40 for 2024. A Seasonal Parking Pass covers entry to the park any day from 10 AM to 6 PM between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

This is the first parking price increase in over 6 years at the beach. This increase will raise revenues to about \$7,000 per year. Operational expenses that justify this increase include the addition of beach combing services, temporary restrooms facilities, outdoor shower, foot washing towers, drinking fountains, and staffing.

Season passes may be purchased on the City website (cityofhuron.org) or at the Park during gated hours. As a reminder Nickel Plate Beach is dog free from 10 AM to 6 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Save the DATE

April 8

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE
Family-Friendly Watch Party
12:30 - 4:30 PM
Huron Boat Basin

April 10

Youth Summer Program
Registration
Opens Online at 9 AM

April 20

City-Wide Clean-Up
9 - 11 AM
Parks Garage | 110 Wall Street

May 18

City-Wide Garage Sale
9 AM - 1 PM
Huron Boat Basin





Huron City School News

New School Bus Delivered

Did you know that daily Huron City School buses travel approximately 350 miles on our local roads in the city and township limits transporting students safely to and from school?

Did you know that approximately 325 students ride our six routes daily for safe transportation to and from school?

The Huron City Schools bus fleet consists of 11 Bluebird buses ranging from model years of 2003 through 2024 and a grand total of 1,400,000 miles. Of those buses, six are used daily for routes to and from school as well as EHOVE and other educational sites for students with special needs. The six daily route buses have an average of 64,000 miles. The fleet consists of five buses that serve as spare/sub/extra trip buses; those buses have an average of 203,000 miles.

Earlier in the school year, Huron City Schools replaced its aging 2011 Bluebird handicapped bus with the odometer reporting over 280,000 miles. A new 2024 Bluebird gas engine was purchased. The new bus came equipped with



a wheelchair lift and various safety features for transporting students with special needs. Purchase price inclusive of all add-on features totaled \$123,582. This purchase was made possible through capital spending of the permanent improvement funds as well as grant funding through the state of \$45,000. The former handicapped bus is still with Huron City Schools and will serve as a backup.

Kindergarten Enrollment & Early Intervention Kindergarten Registration Now Open

Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Intervention Kindergarten registration is now open for the graduating class of 2038. Any child who is a resident of the district and will be five-years old by August 1, 2024, is eligible for kindergarten.

Students who will be six-years old by August 1, 2024, are required to register for kindergarten if they are not already enrolled in school. Applications for open enrollment of non-residence students will be accepted later in the spring once projections on resident student enrollment class sizes are better known. As an Ohio public school, we must serve our resident students prior to accepting non-resident students.

Huron City Schools offers a comprehensive full-day kindergarten program that is tuition free for families. In addition to kindergarten, Huron City Schools is mandated to offer special education services for students identified with disabilities starting at age three. If a parent has concerns about their child's milestone developments, they should contact the Student Services office to discuss eligibility and service offerings or Erie County Help Me Grow

<https://www.eriecbdd.org/early-intervention-services/>

While typical peers are included in the preschool programming, the service must serve students with disabilities as a priority.

For more information regarding Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Intervention Kindergarten:
<https://www.huronhs.com/PreSchoolKindergartenRegistration.aspx>

Safety Town Program Offered

In conjunction with Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Intervention Kindergarten registration, Huron Parks & Recreation offers Safety Town to all local children entering Kindergarten in the fall. Important safety lessons presented in a fun, memorable way, while helping to familiarize children with the school setting.

The two week Safety Town Program will take place June 10-12 (Monday through Wednesday) and June 17-19 from 9 AM to 12 PM at Woodlands School. The cost of the program is \$50 for residents, \$55 for non-residents. In addition, Huron Parks & Recreation is also offering an Extended Safety Town Camp. The camp takes place on the same days as Safety Town and is held from 12 PM to 2:30 PM. The Extended Safety Town is offered both weeks, but registration is for one week only. To enroll more children, the programming is duplicated in the second week. Registration for Safety Town, Safety Town Extended Camp and all of the HPRD Summer Camps & Programs opens on Wed. April 10, 2024.



Visit: cityofhuron.org,
parks & recreation, youth programs



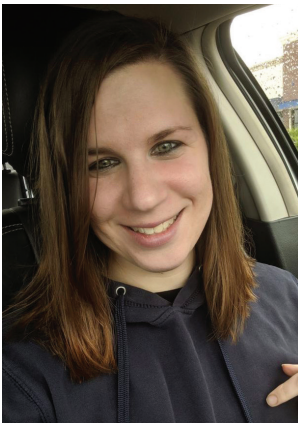


DID YOU KNOW?



The Huron Water Filtration Plant produced over 888,000,000 gallons of drinking water in 2023. This equates to an average of 2.4 million gallons of drinking water per day provided to the City of Huron and surrounding Erie County. The filtration plant draws water from Lake Erie and it is then purified by a conventional treatment process. This process consists of coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. (Pictured: Sedimentation Basins)

Huron Water Filtration Plant Welcomes Two New Employees



Shari Kreutzfeld joins the team while accomplishing her short-term personal goal of obtaining her Class III Water License and Lab Certification. Shari is excited to operate and learn more in the water treatment field. She appreciates the Water Filtration team in place, finding them extremely helpful and devoted to their work.

Shari's responsibilities include rounding the plant hourly, running labs to check the chemical balance and monitor Scada to

make sure the plant is operating properly.

Outside of work, Shari enjoys spending time with her three sons, going to parks, zoo's, museums, and exploring new places. Being from Oak Harbor, Shari appreciates the small-town comfort Huron has to offer.



What attracted Kyle Capodice to the Huron Water Filtration position was it was a new opportunity with the potential room for growth.

Kyle's short-term goal is to fully learn the plant operations and obtain his Class I Water License. His Class II and Class III Licenses are among his long-term goals.

Kyle's primary responsibilities currently include maintenance and operation of the Water Filtration Plant.

Outside of work, Kyle and his wife share a Rottweiler named Kinsley. In Kyle's spare time he likes to work out and run half marathons, as well as driving racecars, sprint cars, and super modifieds.

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