

HURON

THE LIGHT

late Summer/early Fall 2025



City Council Approves General Concept & Site Plans for Huron Harbor Development

Members of Huron City Council approved the General Development Concept Plan/Site Plan for the Huron Harbor development during the Council meeting following a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 12th. The new condominium development is aimed at providing modern, high-quality housing options and supporting the community's long-term growth strategy.

The Huron Harbor development, to be located at the former ConAgra site, will consist of 106 condominium units ranging from 1,649 square feet to 2,548 square feet and will feature sustainable designs, accessible amenities, and landscaped green spaces. The plans include a private pool, a dockage element, a six-foot wide public access path around the perimeter, and a 6,000 square foot restaurant.

Council's approval of the proposed Concept and Site Plans followed a very extensive review and the recommendation by the City's Planning Commission/Design Review Board (PC/DRB). The PC/DRB is comprised of several community members and a council representative. Additionally, the

PC/DRB held two Public Hearings (May 21 and June 18, 2025) as they worked through modifications, clarifications, and several changes to the initial plan.

"We recognize the growing need for diverse and attainable housing in our community," said Interim City Manager, Stuart Hamilton. "This project represents an opportunity to welcome new residents, support local businesses, and strengthen our tax base while maintaining the integrity of our community."

City officials have noted that the development is expected to generate long-term economic benefits through increased property tax revenue and consumer spending. Local businesses should expect to see a positive impact from the arrival of new residents.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2026. The City of Huron will continue to work closely with the developer to ensure all building codes and zoning regulations are compliant and the community benefit commitments are fulfilled.



Welcome Issac Phillips - New Finance Director



The City of Huron is pleased to introduce Mr. Isaac Phillips as its new Finance Director. With extensive experience in public finance and with strong financial/analytical skills, budget management, strategic planning, and fiscal accountability, Isaac brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to Huron's financial operations. In this role, he will oversee the development and implementation of the city's budget, ensure compliance with financial regulations, and work closely with city departments to promote transparency and long-term financial sustainability.

Isaac brings with him the confidence and ability to be a good business partner to city leadership by providing financial visibility and insights. He plans to work alongside his team within the finance department and other staff members to respectfully lead the communities' financial interests with fiscal responsibility while serving the Huron community.

The finance team performs daily operational transactions including utility billing management, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. The finance team also manages the annual budget, audit and compliance projects, and investment and debt portfolios on behalf of the city.

Isaac and his wife are from the Attica/Republic area, where they currently have their hands full with a 3-year-old son and a 7-week-old daughter. "We love spending time at the lake and Cedar Point; our son's favorite ride is the Snoopy Bus, and our daughter is currently content with her rides in the stroller," Isaac shared.

Isaac began his new career as Finance Director for Huron at the end of June. "Every interaction I have had with the staff and community members has been very positive, which has confirmed my decision to join the team!"

The City of Huron welcomes Isaac and looks forward to his contributions in supporting the economic health and growth of our community.

Huron Fire Welcomes Collin Armstrong Full Time



The City of Huron is proud to welcome its newest full-time member, Firefighter/Paramedic Collin Armstrong, to the team. Firefighter Armstrong brings with him a strong commitment to public service and a passion for helping others in times of need.

Prior to becoming full-time with Huron, Firefighter Armstrong worked part-time with Huron and full-time with Margaretta. Having had the part-time experience, the required certifications, department knowledge, and the on-the-job experience made Firefighter Armstrong the logical choice for the position. Firefighter Armstrong is eager to serve and protect the residents of Huron.

Joining Shift 3 at Station 1, Firefighter Armstrong is also a rope technician for the department. Rope technicians hold the experience and specialization to safely conduct rescues with advanced rope handling, tie-offs, physics, strong communication, and teamwork skills.

Outside of work, Firefighter Armstrong enjoys all things fishing. His recent fishing endeavors include tournament Bass fishing by kayak, travelling to participate in fishing tournaments, and ice fishing in the winter. He and his wife live in Marblehead.

Staff Members Celebrate Work Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following City of Huron staff members for their milestone work anniversaries in 2025!

January:

John Orzech, Sergeant HPD – 10 years

August:

Anthony Jones, Water Filtration - 10 years





Private Donor Funds New Police Boat



The City of Huron has received a generous private donation that will fund the purchase of a new police marine patrol boat, significantly enhancing public safety and emergency response capabilities along the city's shoreline and on Lake Erie.

The donation, made by a local benefactor who wishes to remain anonymous, covers the full cost of the new vessel. "I am so proud, honored, and humbled to announce that an anonymous private donor has offered to purchase the Huron Police Department a brand new 2025 marine patrol boat," stated Police Chief Terry Graham.

The new vessel, an Alukin CW 750, will replace the Police Department's aging patrol watercraft and is expected to include modern navigation and communication technology, enhanced speed and maneuverability, and improved rescue equipment. "The new boat will allow us to respond more quickly and efficiently to emergencies on the water, assist boaters in distress, and work more closely with other local and regional agencies," stated Chief Graham.

The Alukin 750 CW's unique design features include a reinforced all-aluminum, heavy-duty hull, exceptional durability, versatility, and advanced handling capabilities, making it perfect for the challenging conditions of Lake Erie. Its reputation for offering maneuverability and reliability in Sweden's harsh marine environments ensures it will excel in protecting and serving the Huron community.

"The Alukin CW 750 is valued at \$200k and is being sold through Castaway Yacht Sales in Port Clinton. Castaway Yacht Sales saw the importance of this new Marine Patrol boat to the local community and offered a substantial discount; the final purchase price is \$167,500 all of which the anonymous donor has agreed to fund completely. We thank them for their continued partnership" stated Chief Graham. "This generous gift is a true investment in the safety and well-being of our community."

The Huron Police Department has long played a critical role in maintaining safety along the city's waterfront and harbor. The new vessel will also support the department's efforts in enforcing boating laws, conducting search and rescue operations, and participating in regional mutual aid missions.

Interim City Manager Stuart Hamilton values the donation, saying, "This is a great example of how community members

can make a tangible difference. We are truly grateful for this act of civic generosity."

The new vessel will not affect the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Watercraft Marine Patrol Grant. The available grant money covers the costs associated with the department's Marine Patrol Program which includes overtime, maintenance, fuel, storage, and dockage. The Marine Patrol Grant awarded by ODNR for 2025 is \$28,046.36 and the City's matching funds are \$9,348.79 for a total of \$37,395.15 for the program. The Marine Patrol Program has received these grant funds for the past 32 years.

Upon taking possession of the new vessel, the current marine boat will be taken out of service and eventually sold.

A formal unveiling and demonstration event will be planned sometime after taking possession of the vessel to showcase the new equipment.





HHS Student Launches Hometown Hero Banner Program to Honor Military Veterans and Active Duty Service Members



The City of Huron is proud to support and back Huron High School Senior, Grant Bauer, and his efforts in launching the Hometown Hero Banner Program, a heartfelt initiative designed to recognize and honor the brave men and women from our community who have served or are currently serving

in the United States Armed Forces.

Bauer's goal is to honor and pay respect to local active duty, retired, and/or deceased service members who have fought and sacrificed their lives to protect our country. His plans are to display Hometown Hero Banners along Main Street in Huron. Bauer kicked off his initiative earlier this summer during a fund-raising event over River Fest weekend.

"My goal is to proudly display banners on prominent light poles across the city to create a powerful visual tribute to the service and sacrifice of service members from the Huron community. Each Banner will have a picture of the service member, their name, branch of service, and years of service (if known) of local military veterans and active-duty service members," explained Bauer.

Over the past few years, Bauer has gained incredibly deep respect for not only veterans, but also those who are currently serving our nation. "Every day, they put their lives on the line protecting our country and one day I hope to do the same. As I was ringing the bell for the Salvation Army last year in December, the thought came across my head of trying to start up a project to create banners in honor and respect of our service members. So, in the second semester of my junior year, I began gathering information on how this could potentially work so I could attempt to start this project," stated Bauer.

Bauer's goal is to have as many banners up on light poles across the city as he can before the end of his senior year (Spring of 2026). Included in Bauer's plan is to work with local military organizations and civic groups to not only help potentially offset the cost of the banners, but to also keep them up to date as well.

"In my opinion, the ones who serve and protect our nation do not get enough credit for what they do and have done in the past. Though this does not fill that void, it will hopefully help them recognize that we do see them, and that we are so incredibly grateful for them," stated Bauer.

Mayor Monty Tapp expressed pride in the launch of the program, saying, "Our veterans and service members are the backbone of this country and this community. The Hometown Hero Banner Program is a small but meaningful way for us to show our gratitude and ensure their dedication is recognized by all who live in or visit Huron."

The Huron Hometown Heros program is open to all current and former military members who have lived or are currently living in Huron. Each banner will be sponsored by family, friends, organizations, or local businesses. Sponsorships will include production of a double-sided, hemmed banner, installation, and maintenance throughout the display period of one year. Following the display period of one year, the banner will be returned to the sponsor. The current plan is to replace the banners yearly to maintain their integrity.

More details regarding cost and how to sponsor a service member will be available in the upcoming weeks. Bauer is currently focused on fundraising opportunities to help get the project going. In the interim, the project may be followed by social media. Both a Facebook page and an Instagram account have been created to help promote the project. For questions or additional information, contact Grant Bauer at huronhometownheroes@gmail.com

Show your community support to celebrate and honor the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of those who have served—and continue to serve—our country.

Join us in making this program a success and lasting tradition in Huron.

"As former President John F. Kennedy once said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." So let's make this project happen together for the ones who fought not only for this nation but for us," shared Bauer.





Projects Around Town

Sidewalk Project Taking Shape

Exciting News! The East Side Sidewalk project is set to wrap up later this month. Crews have been busy working on the straightaway sections. Once these have been completed, they will move on to the areas where infrastructure work, such as catch basins, drainage issues, stormwater work, and driveway aprons, will be completed.

As a reminder, this project consists of extending the sidewalk on the south side of Cleveland Road, East between Lincoln Avenue and Heron Drive at the entrance of Huron Green. There will be a high-visibility pedestrian crossing at Anchorage Circle and Bald Eagle Drive. This crossing will be well-marked and have a flashing light warning system.

This joint project between the City and the Township was made possible with the assistance of the Erie Regional Planning Commission (ERPC) and the Ohio Department of Transportation.



Bike Lane to Receive Makeover

The Huron bike lane will take on a new look later this fall as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has updated bike lane marking standards. The work to be completed on the bike lane extends from Berlin Road to Williams Street through town. The paint in the current footprint will first be blasted off, followed by cracksealing and application of new paint in accordance with the new standards. The current white stripes and symbols will be painted with a high-visibility white paint. The green areas of the bike lane will be limited to 25 feet on either side of an intersection and the bridge decks. The new standards reduces the amount of paint on the lane drastically.

SealMaster of Sandusky has offered to apply the paint to the bike lane for the City. The City is grateful for their partnership and looks forward to working with them on this project.

South Main Street Crosswalks

The installation of two new pedestrian-friendly crosswalks on South Main Street is a key step in enhancing safety, accessibility, and walkability in a busy corridor. The project entails adding two high-visibility crossings with flashing beacons on South Main Street at the intersections of Valley View Drive and Forest Hills Drive. In both cases,

the crosswalks will connect to existing sidewalks.

Once the final submittals are complete and the lights are received the project will commence. Temporary lane closures and minor traffic delays may occur during the construction, but the City will work to minimize these disruptions.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE VACANCY

The City of Huron is seeking a:

Finance Committee Member



The Finance Committee is a strategic advisory board focusing on how tax payer money is collected, allocated, and spent, ensuring the City remains fiscally responsible and transparent.

Responsibilities include:

- Budget Oversight & Recommendations
- Revenue & Tax Policy
- Expenditure Review
- Debt & Capital Planning
- Financial Reporting & Transparency

This committee meets Quarterly at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.



UTILITIES COMMITTEE VACANCY

The City of Huron is seeking a:

Utilities Committee Member



The Utilities Committee acts as an advisory board for City Council on matters relating to public utilities.

The committee advises on municipal services such as:

Water Supply
Storm Water & Sewer Systems
Electricity
Solid Waste & Recycling
Broadband Services

The Utilities Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 5 PM in Council Chambers.



Handling Skyrocketing Electric Rates

Electric bills are climbing across the country (not only in Huron) at a pace that's leaving households and businesses scrambling to adjust. Many residents are seeing rate increases well above inflation. In some areas, prices have surged by more than 30% just this year!

Why is this happening?

Research indicates a combination of technological demands and climate pressures are the greatest causes of prices soaring.

Massive data centers, which can consume as much electricity as Huron, are being built at record speed. These facilities run 24/7 and require enormous amounts of cooling.

The summer of 2025 has brought record-breaking heatwaves. Prolonged high temperatures have spiked the demand for air conditioning, pushing utilities to their limits.

What is the local impact?

Due to the highly volatile aggregate market, the City had to let the Huron Public Power aggregate program expire in July. The City was unable to secure meaningful aggregate pricing to extend to their customers. At that time customers were returned to Ohio Edison.

What can you do?

The City of Huron recommends residents explore Energy Choice Ohio - Apples to Apples website to compare and shop for the most competitive pricing.

<https://energychoice.ohio.gov/applestoapples.aspx>

Some tips to consider when comparing different options:

1. **Choose a fixed rate over a variable rate** - this will lock in the rate in the event prices continue to rise.
2. **Select a short-term option** - with the volatility of the market, things could change quickly. Don't lock yourself into a long-term situation.
3. **Check out the cost to leave a program** - if a better rate should come along, you don't want to have to pay to leave a program.
4. **Is there a monthly fee in an effort to bring the rate down?** This fee should be factored into what is paid out.

In the interim, the City of Huron will continue to monitor the electric market and will aggregate again when electricity can be purchased at a price that is beneficial to our residents. When that time comes, letters will be sent out to allow residents to choose for themselves to either opt in or out.





Fishing for FUN – Inaugural Fishing Event for Kids



The City of Huron's Parks & Recreation Department was thrilled to host a new event this year for kids interested in learning to fish – Fishing for Fun. The inaugural Fishing for Fun event was held today at the new Dancing Waters Park located on Berlin Road in Huron. The family-friendly event introduced kids ages 6-12 to the basics of fishing in a safe manner.

The Fishing for Fun event kicked off with an educational presentation about the new park and pond, covered fish species, wildlife habitats, conservation and responsible fishing practices. The presentations were designed to spark curiosity and appreciation for the outdoors and the new city park.

The 30 participants, who were accompanied by either a parent or guardian, were broken down into six small groups to work directly with an assigned skilled angler. The anglers taught them how to cast their line, when to reel in their catch, and how to safely and properly release a fish back into the pond.

All participants received their very own fishing rod and reel with drawstring bag provided by the Wightman-Wieber Foundation, a tackle box provided by the Kedas Memorial Foundation and a complimentary lunch provided by Huron's Cameo Pizza and KONA Ice. During the lunch break two representatives from Aqua Doc gave a demonstration on how they collect and test the water.

"Fishing for Fun is an opportunity for children to connect with nature, learn new skills and create lasting memories



with their families," said Doug Steinwart, Director of Huron Parks & Recreation.

The Parks & Recreation Department came up with the idea of hosting such an event after the City of Huron purchased and remediated the 6.6-acre property on Berlin Road. The a 3.5+ acre manmade, stocked pond with a walking trail makes it the perfect venue to host a fish from shore educational event.

The event was made possible by the generous support from the Wightman-Wieber Foundation, Fish Huron, the Kedas Memorial Foundation, Lake Erie Walleye Trail, Central Basin Bait, Tackle & Carryout, Aqua Doc, Huron's Cameo Pizza, and Kona Ice.

