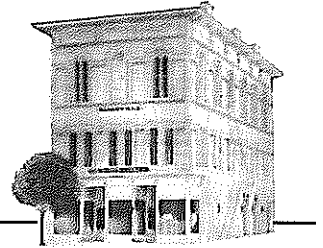




VILLAGE OF JONESVILLE

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Council Corner
January 2012

Where has time gone? It seems that I greeted you with a "Happy New Year" just yesterday, and now it is time say "Happy New Year" again! May the year 2012 hold many wonderful things for you and your family.

Many things have been happening within the Village this past year. I will try to highlight a few of those events in the following paragraphs.

This past June, we said goodbye to long-time employee, Betsy Brooks, who spent over 23 years with the Village in various capacities. While her duties were many, including Village Clerk, Betsy was a wonderful employee who knew the Village & cared about the people and the employees. She is deeply missed by Village staff, and I am sure by many of the residents, who she would greet with her smile when they visited the office. Betsy and her husband are enjoying each other traveling and busy with family. We wish Betsy the very best.

Mr. Tim McLean, who is now the Assistant to the Village Manager, was hired to fill Betsy's position. Tim comes from the Grand Rapids area via Bowling Green State University & a stint with the City of Troy. We welcome Tim to the community, and we wish him well.

The DDA (Downtown Development Authority) & Village Council have approved reconstruction of the downtown parking lot behind the stores on the North side of US 12. Bonds will be issued for the reconstruction, and work should begin by early spring. The DDA has also approved a water splash pad for the G. Carl Fast Park. This should be in place by mid-summer.

The DDA & the Jonesville American Legion worked together making improvements to the GAR memorial & new flagpole in the G. Carl Fast Park. Rededication was this past Veteran's Day, November 11th.

The former Kiddie Brush & Toy building lies within the DDA district. The DDA, along with the Village Council, have been working with a developer from Ohio on the possible redevelopment of the building. If approved, the building would be completely renovated, allowing 46 units affordable housing units, some for senior housing, and some for 1 & 2 bedroom family housing. Through June, July & August, presentations were made to the DDA, Planning Commission & Council. The site plans were approved. In August, MSHDA reviewed projects throughout the State, and the Jonesville project missed the cut. The developer will be resubmitting the project to MSHDA in February again for review. We are hopeful that The State will approve the project this round. If approved, construction should start within one year.

Our LDFA (Local Development Finance Authority) and council approved several IFT (Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificates) which gives industrial businesses a 12-year tax credit on funds invested. IFT's were issued to Martinrea, Jonesville Paper Tube, Alphi Mfg, and Jonesville Tool & Mfg, for significant investment. Martinrea also received a significant tax credit from the State of Michigan. These companies are reinvesting in our community. Martinrea is now one of the largest employers in Hillsdale County.

Significant investment was made by the State of Michigan with the reconstruction of US 12 from Village limits East to West, along with M-99 North to South. The Village also reinvested significant dollars with the reconstruction/resurfacing of Murphy, Case, Craig, Franklin, Fayette, and Bowman Streets.

One of the council's main goals this past year was to look at Cityhood for Jonesville. An independent committee was established to review the possibility. After months of review, the committee presented their findings at the October Council meeting, supporting Cityhood. They cited the following advantages:

- **Streamline Government for Village residents so they only deal with one Government, not two. This eliminates the double tax duplication of services.**
- **Residents, businesses, and property owners will no longer pay Township taxes. Property tax bills will be reduced by .9011 mills.**
- **City assumes responsibility for assessing property, preparation of tax roll, collecting taxes, and elections.**
- **City retains the existing 1% tax administrative fee, to cover the cost of those additional responsibilities.**
- **Continue to collaborate with surrounding business and units of government.**
- **With incorporation, residents are able to develop their own city charter to meet current and future needs of government.**

The Village Council is in full support of this activity, and invites the residents of the community to review the brochure "Village to City Incorporation Information Sheet". One can be picked up at the Village Hall, or by contacting any of the Village Council members.

In September, after the suggestion of the Village Manager, the Village Council was introduced to "Sustainable Energy Financing, LLC" to review the possibility of using solar electricity at our Waste Water Treatment Plant. A review of this possibility will be forth-coming at our January Village Council Meeting.

A very important part of our community is our summer recreation program. The program, run by Mrs. Cindy Means, had over 400 young people involved in the program this past year. We are told that this program is the largest in the county with kids coming from various locations throughout Hillsdale County.

Finally, enough cannot be said about the Village staff. Our Village Manager and staff have been very busy this past year with all the projects, but many are also behind the scenes, keeping an eye on your local tax dollars. We are blessed to have a wonderful group of people working for the Village. They care greatly about our community, and it shows in their everyday efforts in the operation of the Village.

As I did last year, I invite you to contact any of the department heads of the Village. We encourage you to take a tour of the Waste Water Treatment Plant or the Department of Public Works. Visit with the Village Manager & staff at the Village Hall, as all would be more than happy to share about their activities.

We invite you to take an active part in your community by getting involved in many of the organizations that help Jonesville be the wonderful community it is. Rotary, Lions Club, JABA, PTA, American Legion, or one of the many churches!

This truly is a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Wishing you all the very best for 2012.

Bob Snow
Village President