

2019: The Year in Review



The following pages contain a brief summary of Hartland Township's various activities and accomplishments. In reflecting on the past year, it is also helpful to review the big picture.

Vision Statement

Hartland Township is a place where residents, businesses and civic leaders are partners in building a unique community that is family-oriented, attractive and inviting. We are a community that proudly invests in enhancing our history, our character and our natural environment, and serves with fiscal responsibility and excellence.

Mission Statement

To provide quality services, to exceed expectations, to steward the resources entrusted to us, and to promote and protect our environment and the health, safety and welfare of all who live, work or visit Hartland Township.

Values

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|------------------|---------------|
| • Accountability | • Integrity |
| • Community | • Service |
| • Excellence | • Stewardship |

The following pages are intended to provide a quick reminder of the many issues Hartland Township faced and results achieved throughout last year.

- Awarded **Top Performing Entrepreneurial Community** (and Four-Star Honored Community) by University of Michigan-Dearborn eCities program
- Completed **Retail Market Analysis** (Gibbs Planning), beginning implementation of new strategy & policy decisions
- Promoted “**Business Friendly. Business Ready.**” through multiple events, videos & posts
- Awarded Bronze certification for **Michigan Green Communities** for 2nd consecutive year
- Launched new Township website, promoting professionalism, convenience & transparency

- Received Township's first Moody **bond rating** at Aa2 (third highest possible)
- Achieved first year Board goal for budget reserves for future community investments
- Completed the third **citizen survey** for future strategic planning & policy decisions
- Launched **Hartland Living** branded portal & community calendar through ***Partners in Progress*** (Cromaine District Library, Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce, and Hartland Consolidated Schools), with continued social media promotion & management
- **Saved >\$845K** interest for businesses proactively refunding M59/Hartland Road SAD bond
- Enhanced Settlers Park through completion of the **mountain biking trail** Phase II, new monument sign and plant management plan document
- Completed Millpointe Road SAD **>\$200K under budget**
- Improved **security** (new keycards & outdoor cameras) at Township Hall, Heritage Park and Settlers Park, including assistance from grant funding
- Increased **cybersecurity** through broad computer updates, cloud servers & new training
- Hosted **State of the Township** at Emagine Theatre for the first time, with a packed house
- Approved final quota liquor license for local small business owners
- Promoted **public safety** by distributing more radon test kits to residents than any other community in Livingston County
- Sponsored Hartland Area Chamber of Commerce Polo Classic & Golf Outing
- Hired several **excellent team** members: Lynn Vollbrecht (Communications Director), Tyler Brooks (DPW Operator), Nathan Vermillion (DPW Seasonal Worker), Alex Vettraino (DPW Seasonal Worker), and Joshua Betcher (Finance Intern)
- Reviewed several site plans, including Hartland Sports Center expansion, Panda Express, Kubota Dealership, the Septage Receiving Station expansion, Hacker Road Planned Development (PD), Burger King remodel, Cottages at Clark PD, Hartland Senior Living PD, Wings Etc., and Waldenwoods Resort campground expansion
- Processed 456 total **permit** applications, significantly more than 2018 (333), including:
 - 69 new house starts (up from 54)
 - 3 variance cases for Zoning Board of Appeals (second consecutive year)
- Progressed on several **capital projects** (including engineering/design, easement acquisition, bid specifications, special assessments, bonding, construction, etc.) for: Gravel road improvements (Maxfield, Crouse & Cullen), Hartland Road sidewalk, Bullard Lake Woods & San Marino streets, Public Works cold storage building, and HERO Center exterior repainting & hoop house
- Implemented many new or added-value **services & policies**:
 - Savings on salt purchases through partnerships

- Increased business-friendly policies, practices & communication
- Added Premier Big Band to August concerts in Settlers Park
- Researched & studied many other **important issues & ideas** for policymaking decisions:
 - Fire millage revenue projections & options analysis
 - Water system expansion (M-59 east) feasibility & financing options
 - Future policing options for a growing community
 - Extensive options to resolve sewer case
 - Septage receiving station hosting fee
 - Repealed & replaced Parshallville Lake hunting & firearms ordinance
 - Phragmites mitigation strategies
 - Repealed sidewalk maintenance ordinance, rules & Zoning Ordinance regulations
 - Continued policing discussions with neighboring townships & county officials
 - Improving meeting room audio-visual technology, broadcast video quality & reliability
 - Board Room & lobby updates (finishes & furnishings)
 - Zoning ordinance landscape & architectural standards – industrial & light industrial
 - Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process for engineering services
 - Future impacts of recreational marihuana
 - Federal Communication Commission (FCC) order – cable franchise PEG funding
 - Wayfinding signs
- Departments achieved many other important projects, goals & milestones:
 - Planning – worked on several zoning ordinance amendments (light standards, lake lots, sidewalk maintenance, LED menu boards, fence regulations for swimming pools etc.); examined ordinances for small cells (5G)
 - Assessing – 831 property inspections (up 3.4%); 119 agricultural property reviews; complete field reviews of Hartland Estates and Cobblestone Preserve; inspected 86 bi-level homes for uniformity in assessing; successful completion of 2-year big box tax tribunal appeal; completion of a two parcel, 2-year tax tribunal appeal to dismissal
- Continued to build **relationships** with our major partnerships and contracts: Livingston County Drain Commissioner, Fire Authority, Hubbell-Roth-Clark, Economic Development Council of Livingston County (EDCLC) & Ann Arbor SPARK, Hartland Enrichment & Recreation Organization (HERO), Hartland Area Youth Athletic Association (HAYAA), Hartland Community Soccer Association (HCSA), Hartland Youth Lacrosse (HYL), Livingston Land Conservancy, Huron Cemetery, Senior Center, Foster Swift, Beauchamp, Horizons Landscape, Priess, BS&A, I.T. Right, and Wood
- Officials & staff also **served** with the Hartland Senior Center Advisory Council (chair), Hartland Area Community Council (treasurer), HERO, Winterfest (chair), Hartland Farmers Market (market master), Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association (MMTA), Education & Legislative Committees, Michigan Government Finance Officers Association (MGFOA) Accounting Standards & Legislative committees, Livingston County Clerks Association (president), EDCLC Board of Directors & Executive Committee (chair), Ann Arbor SPARK Board of Directors & Executive Committee, Michigan Municipal Executives (MME) Ethics

Committee (chair), Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) State Pool Committee (vice chair), Rotary Club and Optimist Club (treasurer)

- Ever improving **communications** with the residents, businesses, Board, Manager and staff
- Countless other routine services, day-to-day customers, tasks, phone calls, emails, etc.