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### Mason Public Meetings Dec 2015 through Mar 2016

**City Council** — 7:30 p.m.  
Dec 21, Jan 4 & 18,  
Feb 1 & 15, Mar 7 & 21

**Downtown Development Authority** — 5:30 p.m.  
Jan 6, Mar 2

**Historic District Commission** — 7 p.m.  
Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 28

**Planning Commission**  
6:30 p.m.  
Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 15

**Traffic Commission**  
5:30 p.m. — Jan 27

**Zoning Board of Appeals** — 5:30 p.m.  
Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9

Contributors to this newsletter include Ken Baker, Sam Bibler, Debbie Cwierniewicz, David Haywood, Kerry Minshall, Shannon Orłowski, Michelle Pietsch, Tom Silsby, John Stressman and Steve Vaughn.

City of Mason

December 2015

## New City Administrator chosen



After interviewing four qualified candidates, the Mason City Council has offered the position of City Administrator to Deborah Stuart of Pleasant Lake, Michigan. Stuart has accepted the offer and anticipates beginning her new duties in January 2016. She replaces Martin Colburn who resigned in May to become Traverse City's city manager.

Since July 2012, Stuart served as Director of the Community Incentive Programs, a division of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), where she has been employed

since September 2008. While in this position she managed the MEDC's Community Development Block Grant program and served as a Community Assistance Team Specialist. Stuart has also worked as a Project Manager in Economic Development for the City of Jackson and earlier as Executive Director for the city's Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Stuart represents the Midwest on the Council of State Community Development Agencies Board of Directors.

Stuart has an extensive knowledge of community and economic development tools and strategies and is a strong manager who focuses on collaboration, open communication, and customer satisfaction. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Western Michigan University and a Bachelor of Applied Arts from Central Michigan University.

According to Pat Price, Acting City Administrator, "Although she has limited experience in municipal administration, the Council saw her potential to be a great city administrator," referring to her as a "bright star."

Stuart is "very excited" about her new position and says she'll start focusing on what's already working for Mason. "There are a lot of good things happening in the City, so I'm hoping to just build on that."

Mrs. Stuart is married and has a 4-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter.



*The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors provided a ribbon cutting on Friday, October 30, 2015 to celebrate the grand opening of the pedestrian bridge over Sycamore Creek leading to the Hayhoe Riverwalk. The bridge is located between the Mason Community Garden and the Maple Grove Cemetery off North Jefferson Street. Assisting George Hayhoe are Pat Weiler, Elaine Ferris, Chip Kosloski, Patrick Kelley, Christopher Mumby, Lisa Hayhoe, Jennifer Florinki, Ted Urban, Don Heck, David Haywood, Andrew Serratelli, Sandy Clark, and Tom Botsford. MACC Courtesy Photo*

## Mason police now using body cameras

In mid-September the Mason Police Department announced the implementation of body camera recorders to be worn by officers of the department, effective immediately.

The L3 Mobile-Vision *BodyVISION* cameras were purchased using drug forfeiture funds and a 50% match in funding by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA).

Each officer, supervisor, and investigator, as well as the code enforcement officer has been assigned a camera. Department policy requires the camera be activated during every contact made while on duty with specific exceptions identified by department policy.

According to Chief John Stressman, the department has been researching body cameras

long before the recent national outcry and media frenzy of distrust of law enforcement.

The model used in Mason utilizes digital recording systems which are exceptionally effective tools for both evidence and internal quality control. "The entire digital recording network is accessible through and stored on the same server," says Stressman, "allowing for easy downloading and user-friendly access."

Officers of the department support these systems as reliable documentation of their interactions with the public and for accurate reporting of incidents.

Body cameras are a win for Mason as a public safety tool and from a liability perspective.

## Assessment change notices to be mailed in February 2016

Assessment change notices will be arriving in the mail to property owners by February 29, 2016. The assessment notices will include times and dates for the March Board of Review meetings along with the 2016 Assessed, State Equalized and Taxable Values and the Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) percentage.

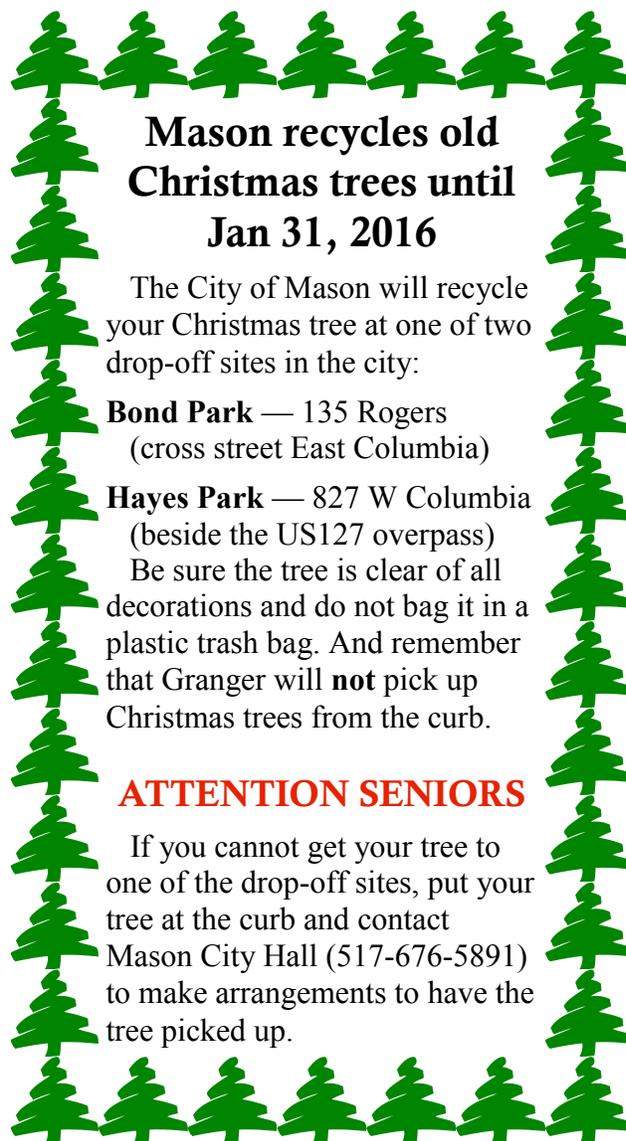
The Assessed and State Equalized Values represent an amount that should not exceed 50% of market value.

The Taxable value along with the millage rate determines the amount of your July and December 2016 tax bills. Unless in 2015 there was a transfer of ownership of your property or a physical change such as new construction or demolition, your taxable value will only change by the rate of inflation which has been determined to be .3% for the 2016 assessment year.

The PRE should be 100% if you own and occupy your property as your principal residence.

Please review the assessment, taxable value, and PRE when you receive your assessment notice. If you have questions regarding the information provided, contact the Assessor's Office (517-676-9155, ext 213, Monday and Tuesday, 8 am – 5 pm).

If you feel your assessment or taxable value is incorrect, you may want to schedule an appointment with the Board of Review. In regards to the PRE, you may bring concerns to the Assessor's Office any time.



## Mason recycles old Christmas trees until Jan 31, 2016

The City of Mason will recycle your Christmas tree at one of two drop-off sites in the city:

**Bond Park** — 135 Rogers  
(cross street East Columbia)

**Hayes Park** — 827 W Columbia  
(beside the US127 overpass)

Be sure the tree is clear of all decorations and do not bag it in a plastic trash bag. And remember that Granger will **not** pick up Christmas trees from the curb.

### ATTENTION SENIORS

If you cannot get your tree to one of the drop-off sites, put your tree at the curb and contact Mason City Hall (517-676-5891) to make arrangements to have the tree picked up.



## Last chance to order a Legacy Tree is 12/30/15

For all you procrastinators, the deadline to order a Legacy Tree is coming up pretty fast: **December 30, 2015** is the **absolute last day** you can order a tree in honor or in memory of a loved one through the Legacy Tree Program which is part of the City of Mason's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Trees ordered by that date will be planted in spring 2016.

Each tree can be purchased for \$150 which includes the tree, soil preparation, professional planting, mulch and continuing care. The trees are guaranteed for two years.

For more information or to buy a tree, call 517-676-5891. You can also access order forms and available tree species on the Mason website ([mason.mi.us](http://mason.mi.us)). Click on City Administration, Forms and Reports, Mason 150 Legacy Tree Program.

## Make sure you understand Mason's snow removal plan



### WHAT IS THE CITY OF MASON'S SNOW REMOVAL GOAL?

Our main goal is to provide an expedient and efficient snow removal operation. While neighborhood and residential streets will be cleared last, all streets are generally cleared within 18 hours of a snowfall.

The average snowfall in Mason is about 49 inches per year, which can be exacerbated by strong winds. Because of the cost of equipment and labor, the City cannot economically justify removal of all accumulations of snowfall from every street in the City.

### WHO CLEARS THE SIDEWALKS AND BIKE PATHWAYS?

The City of Mason clears the snow from the City-owned sidewalks. Business owners in the downtown business district are required to clear the snow from the walks in front of their businesses. It is recommended that residents clear their walks in the morning for the children who have to walk to school.

### WHEN ARE STREETS PLOWED?

Snow removal operations generally begin when snowfall accumulations have exceeded more than two inches.

### WHICH STREETS ARE CLEARED FIRST?

Our number one goal is to maintain the main arterials for emergency response equipment.

**PRIORITY ONE** — emergency vehicle access and bus routes

**PRIORITY TWO** — all main arterial collectors and business districts

**PRIORITY THREE** — all other streets

### WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO CLEAN DRIVEWAYS AND SNOW PILES?

The City is not responsible for clearing snow piles from driveways. During normal snow plowing events and clean-up operations after heavy snowfalls, the City endeavors to minimize driveway snow piles but in heavy snow, it sometimes cannot be avoided. Please do not blow the snow from your driveway into the road.

### WHO CLEARS STATE ROUTES?

The Michigan Department of Transportation clears state roadways within the City of Mason which includes Ash and Cedar.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Always park your vehicle(s) off the street. This will save you a possible ticket and/or towing charge
- Advise your children to **never play near or in a snow pile near the roadway.**
- Do not follow snow removal equipment too closely.
- Make certain your speed is reasonable for conditions.
- **Buckle up for safety**, and thank you for helping us keep your roads safe!



# Time to brush up on safe driving tips for winter

Living in Michigan means the possibility of extreme cold weather with snow and ice making for treacherous driving conditions. Each year the Mason Fire Department responds to several vehicle accidents related to poor weather conditions. So check out these driving tips before venturing out in your car the next time snow starts to fall.

- Before you travel, make sure your car is tuned up and in good running condition. Check the antifreeze and other fluid levels, make sure the battery is in good condition, and be sure to check your tires for wear.
- Take your coat, boots, gloves, hat and cell phone even for short trips. If you have an accident, you may be standing out in the cold weather until help arrives.
- For long trips, take along some food, water, extra clothing or blankets, and enough of any required medications just in case you get stranded or delayed for longer than you planned.
- Prepare an emergency kit for your car including a flashlight, jumper cables, salt, sand or kitty litter for traction, ice scraper, snow brush, small shovel, blankets and warning devices such as flares or reflectors.
- If you must travel in bad weather, allow plenty of time and drive slowly. Better yet, avoid driving in bad weather until the storm passes or conditions improve.
- If you park your car outside, make sure the exhaust pipe is not covered or plugged with snow before you start the car.
- Do not warm up or let your car run while parked in the garage. Even with

the garage door open, harmful carbon monoxide may enter the home or car.

- Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to landmarks and where you are as you travel. If you slide off the road your car might not be visible. If your car gets stuck in the snow or stalls out and you call for help, you will need to be able to tell the dispatcher where to send the emergency responders.
- Light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Make sure snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe. Then stay in your vehicle and open a window slightly to let in fresh air. Wrap yourself in blankets and run your vehicle's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.

We all have to travel, whether just running to the store or visiting relatives out of town. Whenever you drive, keep these safety tips in mind so you can arrive at your destination and back home safely.



## Last but not Least ...

### Want to volunteer?

City staff would like to hear from you if you have talents to share or a desire to give some of your time to benefit your community. We would love to have you be part of our team! Contact Mary at 517-676-5891.

### Winter tax bills in the mail

Winter tax bills were mailed November 30, 2015, and are due February 16, 2016 without penalty. If winter bills are paid after February 16, they are assessed a penalty of 3%. All unpaid taxes are turned over to the Ingham County Treasurer on March 1, 2016.

Any unpaid summer tax amounts will be listed on the bottom of the winter tax bill.

Questions? Call the Finance Department at City Hall (517-676-9155).

### 2016 Election News

#### March 8

Presidential Primary Election

#### August 2

Primary Election

#### November 8

General Election

## Mason Organizations

ALAIEDON SCOUTS 676-6499, Tony Assaf  
CAPITOL CITY CAR CLUB 676-5046, Shirley Wilcox  
COUNTY SEAT OLD CAR CLUB 676-5978, Arnold Short  
DDA 676-3661, Mark Howe  
EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOC.  
517-589-5051, Vickie Vandebelt  
FRIENDS OF THE MASON LIBRARY 676-4175, Elaine Ferris  
GIRL SCOUTS OF MASON 676-6093, Christine Hesch  
"GOLDEN K" KIWANIS CLUB, 676-5358, Don Jacot  
INGHAM COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
676-5115, Barb Chapman  
INGHAM COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
676-7140, Diane Bishop  
MASON ANTIQUES/ COBBLESTONE VILLAGE  
676-1270, Larry Silsby  
MASON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
676-1046, Doug Klein  
MASON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
676-9837, Barbara Tornholm  
MASON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB  
676-2931, Ron Town  
MASON ART GUILD 676-5314, Shirley Renwick  
MASON BAND BOOSTERS 676-9055, Beth Bousfield  
MASON BREAKFAST OPTIMIST 676-2791, Pete Hanover  
MASON BULLDOG BOOSTERS 676-6535  
MASON CHAPTER 150 ORDER EASTERN STAR  
663-8636, Beatrice McMann  
MASON COLLEGE CLUB 676-5876, Kris Taylor  
MASON COMMUNITY PARTNERS 676-4519, Ext. 215  
MASON FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
517-202-5051, Jessica Stahl  
MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT 244-9025, Chief Minshall  
MASON HOMESCHOOLERS NETWORK  
676-5073, Rebecca Schwartz  
MASON KIWANIS CLUB 676-5284, Ginger Kinney-Sweet  
MASON LIONS CLUB 676-2518, Stan Jordan  
MASONIC LODGE #70 F&AM 517-525-5101, Scott Waldron  
MASON ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY  
676-3678, Kay Rinker-O'Neil  
MASON ROTARY CLUB 699-1554, Tony Cherniawski  
MICHIGAN STEAM ENGINE AND THRASHERS CLUB  
676-5160, Sandy Smalley  
MASON SUN DRIED MUSIC FESTIVAL  
676-3522, Leon Clark  
MICHIGAN TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION  
676-2295, Rick Shirkey  
NORTH AURELIUS SCOUTS 694-3624, Suzanne Ferris  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 676-7309, Bob Jordon

Please help us keep this list up-to-date. Send changes/additions/deletions to [maryg@mason.mi.us](mailto:maryg@mason.mi.us). Thanks so much!



Do you recycle? These area businesses will help you in your efforts!

#### CABLE BOXES

Mason Chamber of Commerce, 676-1046  
City Limits (bowling counter), 676-2476

#### CELL PHONES

Mason City Police Department, 676-2458

#### COMPUTER RECYCLING

Mason Goodwill Store, 244-9306

#### COOKING OIL

Delhi Township WWTP, 699-3873  
Delta Township Recycling Center, 323-8500

#### MID-MICHIGAN FREECYCLE NETWORK

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION, 887-4521

#### MERCURY THERMOMETERS, 887-4521

#### OIL, ANTIFREEZE, and CAR BATTERY

Carquest, 676-2464  
NAPA Auto Parts, 676-5481

#### PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

Meijer, 244-1900

#### POLYSTYRENE

Dart Container, 500 Hogsback Road  
24 hours a day/7 days a week

#### SHARPS COLLECTIONS

272-4145

CITY OF MASON, Mason City Hall,  
201 W. Ash Street, Mason MI 48854  
517-676-9155, xt 203, [maryg@mason.mi.us](mailto:maryg@mason.mi.us)



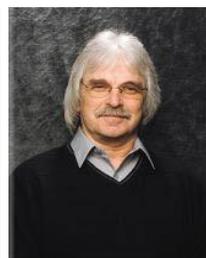
Mayor  
Mike Waltz



Mayor Pro Tem  
Marlon Brown



Councilmember  
Les Bruno



Councilmember  
Leon Clark



Councilmember  
Jon Droscha



Councilmember  
Elaine Ferris



Councilmember  
Jim Mulvany