The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced today that the City of Hastings has been awarded a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in drinking water to a level that is effective for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that achieved excellence in community water fluoridation by maintaining a consistent level of fluoride in drinking water throughout 2015.

For 2015, a total of 1,510 public water systems in 30 states received these awards, including 53 in Michigan.

"Water fluoridation is one of the best investments that communities can make in maintaining the oral health of its citizens. It is equally as effective in preventing cavities in children and adults," stated Casey Hannan, MPH, Acting Director, CDC Division of Oral Health. "Fluoridation is also highly cost effective; studies continue to show that for every $1 invested by communities in water fluoridation, $38 are saved in dental treatment costs."

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. Currently, nearly three-quarters (74.4 percent) – or 211 million people – served by community water systems have access to optimally fluoridated tap water. CDC recommends water fluoridation as one of the most practical, cost-effective, equitable and safe measures communities can take to prevent tooth decay and improve their oral health.

"Water fluoridation is one of the most effective means we have for preventing and controlling tooth decay throughout a person's life," said Dr. Eden Wells, Chief Medical Executive with the MDHHS. "In fact, our latest studies show that even in an environment where people have access to multiple sources of fluoride, such as fluoride toothpaste and professional dental treatments, fluoridation continues to prevent at least 25 percent of tooth decay in children and adults."
Upcoming Events at Hastings Public Library

Toddlers through the Primary Grades

- Toddler Time for children 18 months to 3 years on Tuesdays at 10:30
- Pre-School Story Time for kids from 3 to 6 years on Fridays at 10:30

Teens (6th – 12th Grades)

- 2/11: Dungeons & Dragons – 10:00-2:00
- 2/17: Teen Video Game Tournament, Round 2 from 4:00-6:30

Kids Pre-K through 12th Grades

- 2/15: LEGO Club from 4:00-5:00 (*Adults must be accompanied by a child*)

Families

- 2/22: Creative Science Night for Families 6-8pm

Adults

- Movie Memories and Milestones every Thursday at 4:30 and Love is in the air this month:
  - VITA Tax Prep – please see note below
- 2/6: Library Board of Directors meets at 4:30
- 2/8: Friends of the Library meet Noon – 2pm
- 2/8: Novel Ideas Book Club – 6:00
- 2/28: Genealogy Club on Tuesday at 6:00

Everyone

- Chess Club every Tuesday evening at 6:00

VITA – once again volunteers will be helping with tax preparation. Call 269-945-0523 to make an appointment. The volunteers will be working at the Library on Saturdays, February 4 and 18; and Wednesdays February 1, 8, 15, and 22

For more information about all of our activities Visit our web page at [http://www.hastingspubliclibrary.org](http://www.hastingspubliclibrary.org) – or – Find us on Facebook at Hastings Public Library-MI – or – Call us at (269) 945-4263.

YMCA Events

**Adult Women’s Volleyball**: Mondays, 5 weeks, Hastings Middle School, $150.00. Dates: 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20 & 2/27.

**Youth Basketball Season**: Season starts the week of February 20th with 1 practice. Games start on Saturday, February 25th. Games will be 5 Saturdays in a row. Cost is $50. Still taking registrations!

**Gymnastics**: NEW PROGRAM! Hastings High School Cheerleading Coaches will be the INSTRUCTORS (in charge) and the cheerleaders will assist in the program as spotters/helpers. 4 weeks, 1x per week for 1 hour, Central Elementary, 3-5 year olds, boys and girls, Limited to 20 participants. MORE DETAILS COMING SOON! Contact the YMCA.

**Moving For Better Balance**: This fall-prevention program uses the principles and movements of Tai Chi in helping older adults improve their balance, coordination, functional abilities and increase their confidence in doing everyday activities. This is an evidenced based program. The program runs for 12 weeks, 2x per week.

    Start Date: February 27, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10am-11am at the COA in Hastings. Cost: $25 for the whole 12 week program OR $5 as a drop in (each class)

Contact Gina McMahon for further information: gina@ymcaofbarricounty.org or 269-945-4574