



# 2015 Hastings Highlights

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## At the City

The officers of the Hastings Police Department continually strive to make the City of Hastings the best place in Barry County to live, work, and play! We at the Police Department have taken steps in the past few months to show the citizens and visitors of Hastings dedication to the community. We will continue to make this great city even better.

### Patrol Officers on guard:

The Hastings Police Department is comprised of ten sworn officer's, one sworn detective, chief and deputy chief. We are supported by two office secretary staff and a parking officer. The department also maintains a non-sworn reserve officer staff of ten. The reserve officers assist sworn officers on complaints and are utilized for events and parades.

Located within the City website you will find a link to the Police Department. Here, various resources include messages to keep you informed of current events involving the Police Department, information for possible scams and public announcements the Police Department puts out.

The Police Department has implemented a Police Cadet Program, with Sergeant Sensiba and Officer Miller at the helm. In this program ten cadets are learning important life skills such as respect, honesty, hard work, and giving back to the community. The Cadet Program meets twice during the month and cadets maintain communication with Sergeant Sensiba and Officer Miller on a regular basis.

We have begun foot patrols in the downtown area and neighborhoods with specific concerns. We conduct daily foot patrols and door to door business checks as time permits. Our officers also maintain a close eye on the city parks, stopping to interact with youth and possibly join them in a few passes of a football.

The Hastings Police Department provides twenty four hours a day, three hundred sixty five days per year service. We respond to all calls for service that could be criminal in nature. These calls range from traffic

collisions, assault, fraud, parking, and animal complaints to name a few. Patrol officers are available twenty four hours a day to assist citizens with any possible needs.



We enjoy working with those who live, visit, and work in the City of Hastings. Knowing the people we serve and protect and interacting with them throughout the week changes the relationship from just a complaint number to persons we can call by their first name.

Our Police Department also enjoys the fact that we have a great community to serve. Hastings has skilled leaders who are smart and work very hard to support all departments within the City. It is especially nice to know, the leaders of Hastings know what it means to have an excellent Police Department. This quality allows Hastings to continue to be, at least in our opinion, the greatest small town to serve. Our community often comes together in times of need. We are proud to hear their expressions of gratitude to the Police Department in writing or by word of mouth.

As recently as January of 2015, the Hastings Police Department has made the purchase of body cameras for each sworn officer. The body cameras are worn by every Hastings Police Officer and record while they perform their duties. The cameras provide an exact dialog of what happens during investigations or complaints. With their use, Police officers and citizens can be assured of true representation and an increase in accountability with one another. With recent happenings in Ferguson, and New York changes are happening to the way Police work is viewed and conducted.

We welcome communication with our citizens, business owners, and visitors. Keep an eye on our website and these newsletters to be informed of communication opportunities like Coffee with the Chief, held at the Hastings Library.



**Police Chief Pratt  
will be available**

**March 25 at 9:30 AM  
in the Library 2nd  
floor conference  
room to connect  
with citizens.**

### Hydrant Safety

If you have a fire hydrant in front of your house, please take the time to clear the snow away from it. This is very helpful for fire and City personnel if they need access to them quickly.



## **March Library Events**

### **Toddlers and Pre-Schoolers**

**3/20:** “Stuffed Animal Sleep Over” 4:30. Have a special hour with Miss Peggy, and then tuck your cuddly friend in for the night. Who knows what mischief those friends will get into as they romp through the library before you pick them up in the morning.

Baby Time - **Tuesdays** at 9:30 -older children can bring a stuffed animal to be their ‘infant’ for the activities.

Toddler Story Time - **Tuesdays** at 10:30.

Pre-K Story Time - **Fridays** at 10:30.

**Pre-K through 5th Grades - MARCH is Reading Month** at the Library. Kids from Pre-K through 6th are invited to join “Pete the Cat Rockin’ in his Read Shoes” as they read books all month and earn prizes.

Young Chess Tutoring every **Tuesday** at 4:00.

**Teens** (6<sup>th</sup> grade and up)

**3/13:** Round Two of the **Teen Video Game Tournament** – 4:00-6:00.

### **Adults**

Chess Club **Tuesday** evenings at 6:00.

Movie Memories and Milestones **Thursdays** (except New

Year’s) at 4:30 (March has a surprise film on **3/5** and we celebrate Movie Buff Awards on **3/12**. March’s films feature Crimes, Corruption and Misery with “They Drive by Night,” “On the Waterfront,” and “China Doll.”

VITA Tax Help on **3/7** and **3/21**. Call 945-0526 for an appointment.

**3/2:** Library Board of Directors meet – 4:30.

**3/5:** The Library Book Club discusses “Invention of Wings” by Sue Monk Kidd and “Ruth’s Journey” by Donald McCaig – Noon-1:00.

**3/10 and 3/24:** Yarn Works Club – for all interested in needlework and the fiber arts – 6:15-8:00.

**3/17:** Frugal Living Exchange learns about “Green Cleaning” with Jen Howell – 6:15.

**3/24:** Genealogy Club.

More information: <http://www.hastingspubliclibrary.org>  
– or -- Find us on Facebook at Hastings Public Library-MI  
– or -- Call us at (269) 945-4263



## **Plowed Snow & Visibility**

Private plow operators should take extra care to keep snow piles low enough so as not to block vision of the driving public. Business owners should monitor the plowing of their respective parking areas to insure compliance and reduce traffic accidents. It is not lawful and may increase individual liability to plow snow high enough in areas near intersec-

### **WHAT’S GOING ON THIS MONTH**

02 Library Board 4:30 PM

02 Planning Commission 7:00 PM

09 Council Meeting 7:00 PM

11 Cemetery Board 3:00 PM

16 Joint Planning Alliance 5:30 PM (Rutland Twp. Hall)

17 ZBA 7:00 PM

18 LDFA/BRA 8:00 AM

18 Joint Planning Commission 5:30 PM (Rutland Twp. Hall)

19 DDA 8:00 AM

19 Cable Access 7:00 PM

23 Council Meeting 7:00 PM

25 Airport Commission 4:30 PM