

Hayes Township SENTINEL

Keeping Watch and Shining Light on the Politicians and Political News of Hayes Township

Published Monthly and Mailed Free to all Residences of Hayes Township, Charlevoix County

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JULY 2026

Hayes Township Officials Pro-Active Decisions Protect the Community NO DATA CENTERS PLANNED FOR CHARLEVOIX

After sharing a public service announcement with their residents, Hayes Township officials stood by their stance to not support Data Centers in our area. All of their officials, including board and planning commissioners, as well as the members of the advisory group, have reiterated to the public that they do not believe DCs are appropriate for our area.

Another piece of disinformation being spread around is that the site of the former Big Rock Nuclear Power Plant, owned by Holtec, was being scouted and sourced as a Data Center site. In a letter directly from Holtec, the Senior Manager of Government Affairs and Communications Nick Culp stated:

"Holtec is not pursuing a data center

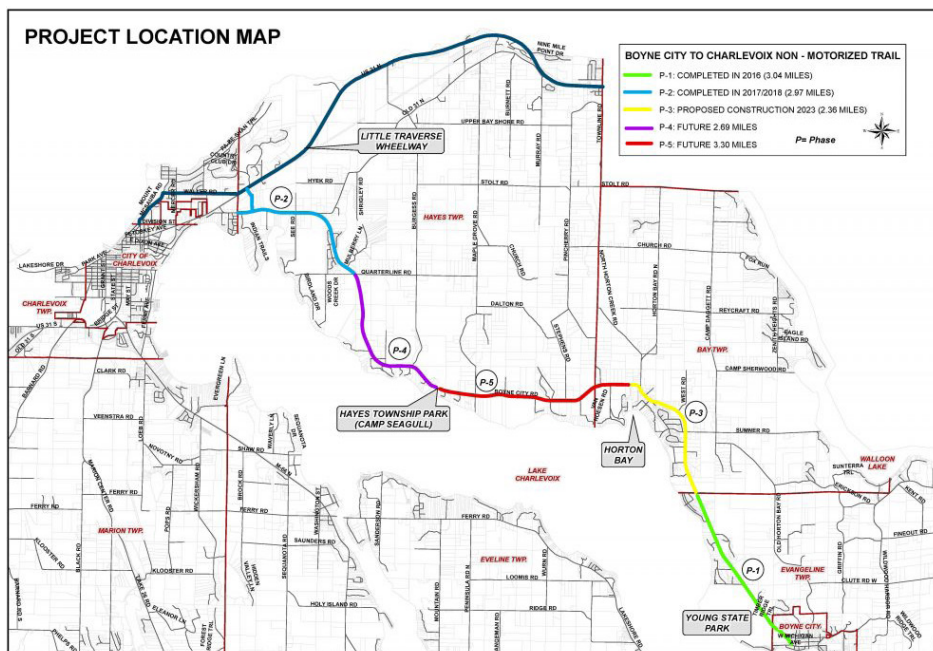
project at Big Rock Point. The site's purpose is the safe and secure storage and management of used fuel in accordance with federal regulatory requirements."

In an article published by the Boyne Citizen, Roy Griffiths, Chair of the Planning Commission and Planning Commission representative for the data center advisory committee, weighed in on the hot topic. "What we're really trying to do is create a way to protect Hayes Township," Griffiths said.

The Data Center Advisory Committee is working to research the strongest language to share with the Planning Commission to create an ordinance that can best legally protect the township.



Chx/Boyne Bike Path Spaghetti Fundraiser



AREA COMMUNITY SUPPORT POURS IN

There was a fantastic turnout for the spaghetti dinner fundraiser set up to raise funds to complete the Boyne City Road bike path. The trail has several phases to be completed, and the Top of Michigan Trails Council has been working hard to fundraise, acquire grants, and get the engineering and construction completed to finish this

important community project.

Keep an eye out for future fundraising events on their website:

[Trails council.org](https://trails council.org)

If you would like to support this project, please donate to:

Top of Michigan Trails Council, 1687 M-119 (Harbor-Petoskey Rd), Petoskey, MI 49770

Celebrating Five Years of Service

INSIGHTS AND UPDATES FROM LCEMSA BOARD CHAIR ROY GRIFFITTS

The Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority began operations at 8 am on July 26, 2021. The smooth transition from the City of Charlevoix service during the height of the summer activity was a credit to the hard-working staff under the leadership of the Director Jesse Silva. Since then, the Authority has grown by leaps and bounds to its current operating stature.

In the first year of service, we answered 1971 calls for service. In each of the last two years we have responded to over 3000 calls, including 226 in Hayes township alone. This translates to an annual operating expense budget of 2.8 million dollars which provides the around the clock emergency coverage our citizens have come to rely on. The millage support that the community supported provides approximately half of the needed funds to maintain operations, with the other half of the funds coming from the insurance payments we receive for service delivery.

The authority has managed its resources so successfully that it has not incurred an operating deficit since its inception in spite of the refusal of the governmental insurance programs like Medicare and Medicaid to reimburse us at anywhere near what it costs to meet their program requirements. Over the years of operations, our patient insurance coverages typically run around 66% of patients insured by Medicare programs and 15% by Medicaid programs with self-pay and private insurances as the balance of the mix. Currently we are collecting just under \$500/trip for Medicare patients and less than \$400/trip for Medicaid pa-

tients, compared to the all-in average cost of \$934/trip, regardless of the type of service or severity of patient need. It is the support from the community that makes it possible to provide care for all in need.

We face many challenges for the future starting with the rising cost of labor. As our staff have to be licensed by the State in order to work for us, the pool of available workers is small

the salary dollars are always under pressure. Some facilities are rumored to be paying over \$40/hour for paramedics. We have had staff work for us that have come from as far away as Detroit and Grand Rapids and they report more would join them but they face the issue of prohibitive housing costs in the area.

Another need is the upcoming replacement of the large size ambulances. Most have seen the large box ambulances with the cab in front. These vehicles, are typically diesel 4-wheel drive (think winter and mud season) and have room inside for multiple need response and equipment. We have supplemented these vehicles by adding more fuel-efficient van-based ambulances which handle more of our long-distance transport trips but the big ambulances will always be needed. Our fleet of these trucks is

aging and the costs of maintaining them through 100,000 miles/yr. service is steadily increasing until they reach the point where they can no longer be safely operated. The last thing anyone

would want is to have an ambulance breakdown while carrying a patient in an emergency. The cost of new ambulances of this type is now \$350,000 and rising with a two-year lead time to get one.

On a positive note, we have received a request from our neighbor, Bay Township to join the authority. This increase in service can reasonably be handled by the staff based in the Hayes Township EMS station. We are all strengthened by Bay's support of the programs and the millage which helps plan for the future with greater confidence.

This August there will be a millage renewal request as our original five-year millage expires this year. As you know, the Headlee rollback amendment reduces the millage rate each year from the previous year's level. At this time not knowing what the future economic situation will bring, we are adding Norwood township to the authority millage area and asking for only a three-year millage term, seeking to restore the previously approved amount of 1.5 mills and asking for additional .4239 mills to authorize an amount of up to 1.9239 mills to support our needs as previously outlined. This does not mean that we need to levy the full amount each year but provides a bit of a safety net should things change during the three-year period.

Your support of the Lake Charlevoix EMS programs, staff and services is greatly appreciated by all who live in our township and we continuously strive to provide you the best possible service in your time of need.

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and highly sought after by all the EMS services in the State. Wage wars seem to happen more frequently and while we try to offer the best quality work environment and a benefits package,

CONTACT YOUR OFFICIALS:

- SUPERVISOR Bill Conklin.....231-373-0059
- CLERK Kristin Baranski 231-547-6961
- TREASURER Julie Collard.....231-547-6961
- TRUSTEE Doug Kuebler906-298-1416
- TRUSTEE Matt Cunningham231-881-1533

Come to the Hayes Township Meetings!

9195 MAJOR DOUGLAS SLOAN RD. • CHARLEVOIX

- Board of Trustee..... Monday, July 13 @ 7:00 pm
- Planning Commission Tuesday, July 21 @ 7:00 pm

JUNE PLANNING COMMISSION

Zoning Permits Approved

The Township planning commission met June 16, 2026 at the usual 7 pm. The crowd was sparse, as was the agenda, with items under new business consisting of review and consideration of two shoreland landscape plans on parcels, fronting Lake Charlevoix, requesting zoning permits.

After the routine reports from the

Board, ZBA and Zoning staff representatives, the board took up the plan submitted for 8740 Boyne City rd. After the report of the shoreline protection subcommittee which included a detailed survey and planting plan discussion about the topography of the parcel and the use of permeable pavers took place. The planning commission voted to approve the plan as

submitted.

They next took up the plan submitted for 7738 Boyne City Rd. This plan review was unique in that the property was nearly flat to the water for several hundred feet in from the ordinary high-water mark. Evidence that in times of high lake levels that the 50-foot shoreland protection strip would be under water led to com-

ments about the reasonableness of requiring planting of trees and shrubs which would likely be damaged or destroyed in the next flood cycle. In the end the ordinance does not allow the consideration of such factors and the plan which contained the requirement that the owner plant 40 trees and shrubs was passed.

JUNE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Draft Budget, July Board of Review, & ZBA Hearings

BOT works together on Budget, praise on good communication and discussion

The Hayes Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, June 8, for their monthly board meeting. The board members reviewed a few items on the draft budget. The hall will most likely need a new well

and the trustees discussed getting bids and including that in the new budget. The board also approved a resolution to support the Hayes Township free pantry and holiday food box distribution.

July Board of Review was set for July 21 from noon to completion of business. This is an opportunity to

address qualified errors that need to be corrected.

Board members also discussed the offer of shoreline stabilization along Lake Charlevoix next to Camp Sea Gull. The board voted to make an offer for the work for \$3000.00. Treasurer Julie Collard will reach out to the contractor and report back to the board at

the July meeting.

The board will have their budget meeting on June 23rd at 7pm to review and adopt a budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026 at 7pm.

**Do you look forward to the
Hayes Township Sentinel
in your mailbox each month?**

**Do you like to keep up with the current events and
news of Hayes Township?**

**Is knowing the truth about decisions being made and
taxpayer money being WASTED important to you?**

The Sentinel is committed to continue to provide the most
current news and events in Hayes, and keep our community
aware of important topics.



**DONATIONS ARE WELCOME TO SUPPORT OUR
FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION:**

Hayes Township Sentinel
P.O. Box 581
Charlevoix, MI 49720

Thank you for helping us continue to shed light on the truth in our community.



OPINIONS

Shining Light on Political News

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EDITORIAL:

Protests for Profits

AGITATORS SOLICITING DONATIONS, NO ACCOUNTABILITY

Scare tactics and Fear Mongering, Misinformation and Attempted Mayhem

It's a sign of the times: pick any current 'hot topic'. Maybe it's environmental, political, or a current event that stirred up strong emotions. Social media provides a connection to others who feel they need to take to the streets and make their voices heard. Someone comes up with a name for their 'cause', dubs themselves the president, and creates a platform page. They can pretty much say anything they want—it's not illegal to lie, necessarily. Living in America, we have the freedom to peacefully protest what we believe is an injustice or speak out against what we believe to be a dangerous or bad decision being made by those in places of power.

The freedom of speech amendment is a cornerstone of American democracy, ensuring individuals can express ideas, challenge government policies, and participate in public debate. Its protections are broad but balanced with narrowly defined exceptions to maintain public safety and protect others' rights. The First Amendment, adopted on December 15, 1791, as part of the Bill of Rights, protects several fundamental freedoms: religion, speech, press, assembly, and petitioning the government for redress of grievances. Limitations and Protections.

While the First Amendment broadly protects expression, it does not allow all speech without consequence. Exceptions include:

Defamation: False statements harming another's reputation

Incitement: Speech intended to provoke imminent lawless action

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right, but abusing it—through harassment, hate speech, or harmful online

behavior—can carry serious legal and social consequences.

Understanding Abuse of Free Speech

Freedom of speech allows individuals to express opinions, share information, and challenge ideas. However, this right is not absolute. *Abuse occurs when speech is used to intentionally harm, harass, or incite violence against others, or when it spreads misinformation that can cause real-world damage.*

She who shall not be named, the self-proclaimed activist, continues her plight to make a living soliciting funds by alleging and spreading false information. Playing the victim, the line is thrown out for assistance with legal fees; curious, her husband is her attorney.

It's been a constant circus for years. There is a different 'group' for each flavor of the month: Fracking, Save Lake Charlevoix, Confused Hayes Residents, Anti-Pickleball League, and the most recent, but surely not the last, No Data Centers in Charlevoix. All with their own webpages, all asking for donations. Donations for what? Posterboard? Maybe to pay the bail when they finally get arrested for trespassing on private property or harassing/targeting residents, businesses, and local government workers. They have a reputation, but it is NOT the one they have created in their own world.

What about attention seeking behavior at an inappropriate time? Our friends decided that a community fundraiser was a good place to camp out and spread disinformation to people waiting in line. They were very ill-received and individuals being accosted told them straight out that what

they were saying was not true. The smartest thing they did was to pack it up and go home.

Speaking of home, it has become increasingly obvious that this individual pretends to be a local because of her mailing address, but a local would have a much better approach to EVERYTHING that has transpired. A local would respect their neighbor and communicate in a calm way. They would understand how the township has evolved and the reasons for changes along the way. But this person is a plant from a different coast line, coming in like a wrecking ball and claiming to know everything. Not only does she take a scorched earth approach to everything, she has no real-world

credibility, and has named herself the expert on everything. It's been the wrong approach from the start, and now the path she has been bumbling down is pretty much a dead end.

Advice from a real local: don't attack your neighbors. Don't trespass. Don't prey on vulnerable residents with scare tactics and lies. If you truly want to help with something, then be part of the solution and not the problem. Don't confuse your opinion for fact. Don't create chaos where it does not exist to get attention. And don't mess with the heart and soul of a community that has deep roots and strong history.

If you want to play those games, we hear the East coast might be a better place for that...

