



Hills Newsletter

March / April 2026

Official Business and Community Calendar: <https://hills-ia.org/> Community News: www.facebook.com/hillsiowa/

Musings from the Mayor...

Well spring isn't too far off, and February weather was better than expected despite what Punxsutawney Phil said. Normally you would think 2026, what is the big deal, but when you realize that it is the 250th anniversary of our independence it is a big deal. It is also the 120th anniversary of the incorporation of Hills. Both have a colorful and interesting history.

I am currently teaching the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, and the writing of the U.S. Constitution to some fifth graders. While it may seem like familiar stuff to us, it is interesting to watch their faces and listen to their questions about the events back then. The Boston Tea Party, Paul Revere, what was said in the Declaration and the debates that went into the writing of the U.S. Constitution. While the country may currently seem divided, I think we all love our country and look forward to celebrating it this summer with events near and far.

This summer we will have Music in the Park on Thursday nights in June and of course the night of July 3rd. Our Fourth of July celebration will include the annual parade and fireworks, with other events being scheduled for that weekend. There will be more information to come on what all will be going on, as it gets finalized.

As the weather warms, hopefully families will get out to enjoy the new playground equipment at City Park and at Fire Station Park. Also, the pickleball courts that were initiated last fall with use by people both locally and out of town. Hopefully more people will get to use them with a full summer to get on the courts. If you haven't tried it yet, it is a fun sport to learn and play.

I hope everyone has a great spring, and that we get the right amount of rain for the crops, warm

weather to get out and enjoy the outdoors again, and for me personally, that the baseball season gets underway soon!

By Tim Kemp

Community Calendar

HCC: Hills Community Center – 110 E Main Street

HFS: Hills Fire Station – 90 N 1st Street

March

- 3/1** Open Burning Begins **10:00am**
- 3/5 – 3/7** Crafting Weekends **9:00am – 9:00pm** – Sharon Center UMC
- 3/8** Daylight Saving Time Begins **2:00am**
- 3/9** City Council Meeting **7:00pm** – HFS
- 3/11** Planning & Zoning Meeting (*if necessary*) **6:00pm** – HCC
- 3/11** Game Night **6:00pm – 8:00pm** – Sharon Center UMC
- 3/11** Yoga **7:00pm – 8:00pm** – HCC
- 3/13** Hills Town & Country Meeting **6:00pm** – HCC
- 3/17** St Patrick's Day and March Birthdays Party **10:30am** – Atrium Village
- 3/19** St Joseph's Day **9:00am** – Atrium Village
- 3/20** Utility Bills Due
- 3/23** City Council Meeting **7:00pm** – HFS
- 3/31** Meter Read

April

- 4/1** Yoga **7:00pm – 8:00pm** – HCC
- 4/2 – 4/4** Crafting Weekends **9:00am – 9:00pm** – Sharon Center UMC
- 4/3** Easter Bonnet Event **11:00am** – Atrium Village
- 4/4 – 4/5** Hydrant Flushing
- 4/8** Planning & Zoning Meeting (*if necessary*) **6:00pm** – HCC
- 4/8** Game Night **6:00pm – 8:00pm** – Sharon Center UMC
- 4/9** Community Center Board Meeting **6:00pm** – HCC

Continued next page

Community Calendar continued

HCC: Hills Community Center – 110 E Main Street

HFS: Hills Fire Station – 90 N 1st Street

April continued

4/10 Hills Town & Country Meeting **6:00pm** – HCC

4/11 – 4/12 Hydrant Flushing

4/13 City Council Meeting **7:00pm** – HFS

4/14 Senior Dining **Noon** – St Joseph Church Hall

4/15 Hills Access Reopens

4/18 Bulky Waste Clean Up **7:00am – 10:00am** – Hills City Park

4/18 – 4/19 Hydrant Flushing

4/20 Utility Bills Due

4/22 Volunteer Appreciation Event **Time TBD** – Atrium Village

4/24 April Birthdays Party **10:30am** – Atrium Village

4/27 City Council Meeting **7:00pm** – HFS

4/30 Meter Read

4/30 Open Burning Ends **7:00pm**

Coming Up – May

5/9 Rosary Walk and Mass with Bishop Walsh

5/10 Hills Fire Department Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser **7:00am – 1:00pm** – HCC

Coming Up – June/July

6/4, 6/11, 6/18, 6/25, 7/3 Music in the Park* **7:00pm** – Hills City Park

6/12 – 6/13 City-Wide Garage Sales

* Bands signed so far include the Detour Band, pFat Back Boys, Royce Johns Duo, and Schmidt Brothers. Which band will play which date has not yet been finalized.

Utility Bill Notice

Effective immediately, the City Office will no longer be able to make change for one-hundred-dollar bills. If you choose to pay with one-hundred-dollar bills, the excess will be credited to your account.

Notice

Minimal spot-spraying of weeds on City properties using over-the-counter herbicides may occur around the first of each month.

Community-Wide Bulky Waste Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 18, 2026

7 am – 10 am

Hills City Park Parking Lot
201 W Main St

N & N Sanitation will be accepting residents' bulky waste items at the first of two bulky waste clean-up day of 2026. The next clean-up day will occur in October or November of this year.

- This clean-up day is for residents only – no businesses.
- Residents will need to transport their bulky items to the parking lot and remain there until N & N accepts their items.
- Residents must provide proof of residency.
- Except for appliances, this event is free for residents. There will be a \$10 charge for each household appliance, e.g., washing machines, televisions, computer monitors, etc., which must be paid that day, directly to a City staff.
 - Please, no \$100 bills – unless you're bringing 10 appliances.

Items that will **not** be accepted:

Waste from Construction Jobs · Shingles
Paint or Toxic Waste · Commercial Appliances
Yard Waste · Household Garbage · Tires
Recyclables, e.g., Carboard

Remember: All trash and recycle customers can have their bulky items picked up at their curb on a regular Tuesday trash day. Contact N&N

Sanitation by phone at **319.656.4200** or email at **office@nandnsanitation.com** the week before and describe your item(s); they will tell you how many garbage stickers you will need to affix to each item. Stickers are available at the City Office, 201 N First St, for \$3 each.

Note: There is a cost difference for the convenience of pick up at the curb. For example, a refrigerator currently requires 8 stickers, or \$24. However, this is substantially less than the \$50-\$60 often charged by big box stores to haul away your old appliance.



Open Burning

March 1st – April 30th, 2026
10:00 am – 7:00 pm

Fire Chief Pantel has set the open burning of yard waste **to begin Sunday, March 1st and last through Thursday, April 30th, 2026.** Per City Code Chapter 105.21, open burning of residential yard waste is permitted within the rear portion of the residential lot in accordance with the following:

- Open burning is limited to yard waste only (and possibly marshmallows) (and maybe hotdogs)
- Open burning is allowed between the hours of 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM, or the onset of darkness, whichever occurs first
- Have a water source nearby, and never leave your fire unattended
- All fires must be at least 25 feet from any buildings
- Open burning is not allowed on City streets
- Open burning is not allowed on windy days

Notes:

Burning of yard waste is allowed only during designated open burning periods, which occur in the spring and the fall.

Otherwise, N&N Sanitation will pick up yard waste that is placed at the curb with the trash and recycle carts **between April 1st and November 15th.** The yard waste **must be put into N&N Sanitation yard waste bags** to be picked up. These bags can be purchased at the City Office for \$1.75 each.

Recycling Do's and Don'ts

- **DO** break down all cardboard boxes prior to placing in your recycle cart.
- **DON'T** place the following in your recycle cart, as they are not recyclable:
 - **Shredded paper**
 - **DO** bag shredded paper prior to placing in your trash cart. This prevents it from making a mess, especially on windy days.
 - **Styrofoam**
 - **Plastic bags**

Thank you!

It's Back! New Location! Antelope Lending Library Bookmobile

Thursdays
March 5th – May 21st
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Splash Pad Park 200 Knoll Ridge Dr

Antelope Lending Library is an independent, non-profit, fees-free bookmobile library. All materials are lent on a no-fees basis, so access is always free, no matter what. They provide library book checkouts, games, snacks, and a sensory-friendly activity each week. Sign up for a FREE library account, no identification or proof of address required. Visit their website at **AntelopeLendingLibrary.org** for more information.

Sensory-friendly activities were still being finalized when the newsletter was printed. We will post information on our Facebook page, **www.facebook.com/hillsiowa**, and at the Post Office.

Let us know whether the new location works for you – email **deputyclerk@sharontc.net** or call the City Office at **319.679.3197**.

Bookmobile Winter/Spring 2026 Schedule

Tuesdays March 3rd – May 26th, 2026

2:45 pm – 3:15 pm
Atrium Village
117 S 3rd St



Hills residents may get a library card from the Iowa City Public Library (ICPL) with full access to the library's services. For convenience, the ICPL Bookmobile makes a stop at Atrium Village on Tuesdays. The Bookmobile is stocked with new and popular books and DVDs. You may also place a hold on any item in the ICPL's collection and request pickup via the Bookmobile, as well as return library items to the Bookmobile.

For more information, or to get your library card, visit **https://www.icpl.org/** or call **319.356.5200**.

City and Community News

Time to Replace Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

Fire Chief Matt Pantel and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) would like to remind you to replace your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving time (Sunday, March 8th), and to check your batteries monthly thereafter.

Hydrant Flushing

April 4th – 5th, 2026
April 11th – 12th, 2026
April 18th – 19th, 2026

City hydrants will be flushed the first three weekends in April to remove sediment from the system. We advise that you do not wash clothes – especially whites or light colors – during this time as they may become rust-stained. If you must wash clothes, we suggest you use a product such as Iron Out in the wash to avoid rust stain issues.

Reminders will be posted on the City's Facebook page ([facebook.com/hillsiowa](https://www.facebook.com/hillsiowa)) and on the City board at the Post Office. If not all three weekends are required, that will also be posted.



**SHE'S 103!
TIME FOR TEA!**

Let's help Lottie Yeries celebrate
her 103rd BIRTHDAY on March 12th
with a card shower!

**Atrium
Village | PO BOX
220 | Hills, IA
52235**

Yoga in the Community Center

Wednesdays, March 11th and April 1st
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Hills Community Center
110 E Main St

Want to have some bendy fun? Join Megan Palmer, certified yoga instructor and former Hills resident, for a FREE monthly yoga class in the Hills Community Center on Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 pm and again on Wednesday, April 1st, same time.

Yoga has many physical and mental health benefits, including improved flexibility, strength, balance, and mood. Megan designs her classes to be appropriate for all levels, including those with no yoga experience at all.

Come join in the camaraderie! All are welcome and encouraged. Participants are required to bring their own yoga mat.



ATRIUM VILLAGE

NOW HIRING

Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA):
2nd shift Part-Time

RN/LPN:
Full-Time: 3rd Shift Monday-Friday

Please send resume to
atriumv@sharontc.net

Or call (319) 679-2224 to inquire
about current opportunities

Community News

Our Three Parish Cluster *Sts Mary & Joseph Catholic Churches* Lone Tree, Nichols, Hills

St Mary Church

216 W Jayne St, Lone Tree 319-629-4225

Church of St Mary

201 Short St, Nichols 319-330-5324

St Joseph Church

209 Brady St, Hills 319-679-2271

Rev David O Paintsil, Pastor

email: paintsild@diodav.org

Carol Kaalberg, Pastoral Associate

email: kaalbergc@diodav.org

Nancy Waldschmidt, Director of Faith Formation

email: njwald1@gmail.com

Rev Lou Leonhardt, Retired

PO Box 454, Lone Tree, Iowa 52755

Website: stsmaryjoseph.com

Saturday Mass Schedule:

St Mary Church 4:00pm

Sunday Mass Schedule:

Church of St Mary 8:00am

St Joseph Church 10:00am

Daily Mass Schedule:

(Tuesday – Friday) Atrium Village Chapel, Hills
8:00am Rosary | 8:30am Mass

Wednesday Holy Hour Eucharist Adoration (and Confessions):

St Joseph Church 6:00pm

First Saturday Healing Mass March 7th and April 4th (Spiritual, Physical, and Emotional):

St Joseph Church

9:00am Confessions | 9:30am Rosary | 10:00am Mass

EASTER SUNDAY Mass of Resurrection, April 5th

Church of St Mary 8:00am

St Mary Church 9:00am

St Joseph Church 10:00am

SAVE THE DATE!

May 9th Rosary Walk and Mass with Bishop D Walsh

Pilgrimage walk from St Mary Iowa City to Hills City Park. Mass in the park approximately 11:30am. (Inclement weather, will be moved to St Joseph.)

We invite and welcome all, from all faiths, or if you have been away from the Church to worship with us at any of our services to learn more about our rich Catholic faith.



“Souper Bowl” Food Drive a Success

The Hills Hometown Pride Committee would like to thank everyone in the community who generously donated to its “Souper Bowl” Food Drive to benefit the food pantry at St Joseph Church.

Per Mike and Lucille Parker, volunteer coordinators of the food pantry, the need for it has grown sharply. A year ago, they were helping 20 – 25 families each week; now, it's more than 30 families.



Above, members of the Hills Hometown Pride Committee pose with donations. From left, Veronica Capesius, Rodney Lenz, Katie Miller, Carol Kirkpatrick, food pantry coordinator Mike Parker, Adriane Sedlacek, Sarah Lenz, Tam Frembgen Kesner, and Jessica Walker.

Below, Mike and Lucille Parker put the donations away.



In 2024,
1,005 families
(2,793 people)
were served. And
25,125 pounds of food
were given away.

In 2025,
1,095 families
(2,863 people)
were served. And
27,375 pounds of food
were given away.

Tornado Preparedness

Peak tornado season (March through May) is upon us, though tornadoes can occur throughout the year. Tornadoes can strike quickly, with little or no warning, so be prepared:

- Be aware of your surroundings prior to an emergency and pick a safe place where people could gather during a tornado.
 - The safest place to be is underground, or as low to the ground as possible, and away from all windows.
 - If you do not have a basement, go to an interior hallway or room on the lowest floor without windows. Put as many walls between you and the outside as possible. If you have control of the space, keep it uncluttered.
 - If you are in a multi-story building, pick a place in a hallway in the center of the building, if you do not have enough time to go to the lowest floor. Central hallways are often structurally the most reinforced part of the building.
- Use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- Stay in your safe place until the warning has ended.

Did you know?

Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms within the funnel.

Tornadoes usually move from southwest to northeast but can move in any direction, at up to 70 mph, although the average speed is 30 mph.

Tornadoes can occur at any time of the day but are most likely between 3:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

2025 Summary of Tornadoes in Iowa

Total number of tornadoes: **32**

Total number of deaths from tornadoes: **0 (Phew!)**

Average path length: **3.56 miles**

Longest path length: **19.72 miles**

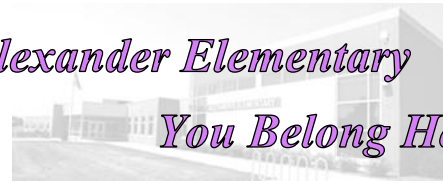
Average width: **159 yards**

Largest width: **1,971 yards (More than a mile wide!)**

Peak Hour of Tornado Occurrence: **3 pm**

Peak month of occurrence: **July**

Alexander Elementary



You Belong Here

Falcon Family,

As we settle into the rhythm of the second half of the school year, I wanted to take a moment to pause and share how incredibly proud I am of our students and staff. Walking through the hallways lately, there is a tangible energy – a mix of focused determination and the joy of reconnecting after the winter break. Our 25-26 theme “You Belong Here” has been majorly felt these past few weeks at school.

We recently wrapped up our Winter Testing window, and the results are a testament to the hard work happening in our classrooms every day. We are seeing significant gains in both reading and math across all grade levels. Our educators have been looking at this data and celebrating the growth. Our teachers are already diving into these results to tailor their instruction to meet your child's specific needs for the remainder of the year.

Thank you for your partnership at home; your encouragement plays a massive role in these successes! It was wonderful to see the many families at our recent PTO Family events: Movie Night and PJ Storytime. An important upcoming event is Parent/Teacher Conferences on February 25th and March 4th. We work to get 100% attendance at conferences – whether it is in person, on Zoom, or via phone call.

Our next Falcon Family Community Meeting is on March 9th, in the Alexander Library at 6:30 pm. The focus of that meeting will be Attendance, as Attendance Awareness Month will start in April. We will celebrate Attendance Awareness Month with the longtime Hills Elementary tradition of Kite Day at the end of the month.

Thank you for reading through these updates. Contact your child's teacher or call our school at **319.688.1095** with any questions.



Community News

Sharon Center United Methodist Church

2804 520th St SW, Kalona
319-683-2564

Rev Olympia Muller, Pastor

Email: olymarmuller@gmail.com

Misty Christner, Secretary

Email: sharoncenterumc@gmail.com

Website: sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Sharon-Center-UMC-631969050162157/

Sunday Service Schedule

First Sunday of the Month:

9:00 am Combined Service

10:00 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

All Other Sundays of the Month:

8:30 am Casual Worship Service with Praise Band

9:30 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:30 am Traditional Worship Service

Upcoming Events – Please Join Us!

Crafting Weekends

March 5th – 7th, April 2nd – 4th, April 30th – May 2nd

9:00am – 9:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Come when you can and bring a craft to work on.

Atrium Village Devotions

2nd Tuesdays (March 10th and April 14th)

10:30am

Atrium Village, 117 S 3rd St, Hills

Game Night

2nd Wednesdays (March 11th and April 8th)

6:00pm – 8:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Bring a dish to share, dinnerware, and a game, deck of cards, or a puzzle.

Blood Drive

Thursday, March 12, 2026

2:30pm – 6:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Contact Impact Life (800.747.5401) to sign up.

Free Lunch Program

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Membership Refresh

March 30, 2026

Sharon Center United Methodist Church continued

Lent and Easter

Pastor's Lenten Study

Mondays, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd

6:00pm

Maunday Thursday Service

Thursday, April 2, 2026

7:00pm

Washing of the feet and holy communion.

Dressing of the Cross Service

Friday, April 3, 2026

7:00pm

Easter

Sunday, April 5, 2026

6:30am *Sunrise Easter Service*

7:30am *Easter Breakfast*

9:00am *Easter Celebration Service*



ATRIUM VILLAGE

HILLS, IOWA 52235

**APARTMENT & CARE CENTER
VACANCIES**

**INDEPENDENT LIVING
APARTMENT**

WAITLIST AVAILABLE

CARE CENTER

SEMI-PRIVATE FEMALE ROOM

SEMI-PRIVATE MALE ROOM

PRIVATE SUITE

Are you interested in hearing more about Atrium Village? Give us a call at 319-679-2224 or check out our website: atriumvillagehills.com, Facebook Page (Atrium Village Hills) or in-person at Atrium Village 117 S. Third Street, Hills

Community News

Hills Fire Association T-Shirt Fundraiser for Hills Fire Department

Help the Hills Fire Association raise money for the Hills Fire Department for the purchase of some much-needed equipment and show your support for our volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical care providers at the same time by buying a cool "Hills Fire & Rescue Support" t-shirt.

The t-shirts (below, back [left] and front [right]) are Jerzees, made of a 50/50 cotton/poly blend, come in sizes Youth Large to Adult 3X, and cost \$20.00 each, cash, check or Venmo. Make checks out to "Hills Fire Association". To Venmo: **account.venmo.com/u/hillsfire-association** (or @HillsFire-Association).



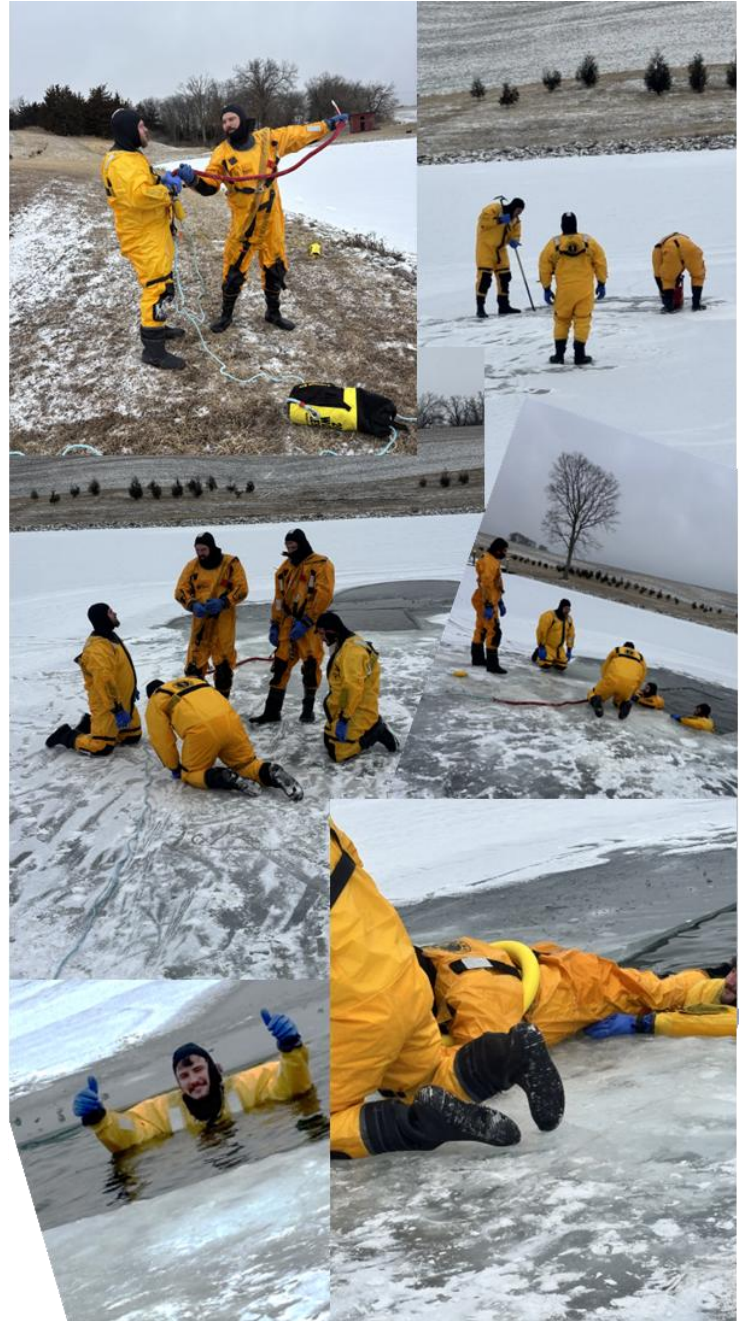
To get yours, contact any member of the Hills Fire Association or Department, or contact Matt Pantel through the City Office at **319.679.3197** or Kathy Septer at **319.530.4012**.

Volunteers Wanted!

Do you want to make an immediate, positive impact on your community? Then consider joining the Hills Fire and Rescue team and enjoy the camaraderie of a tight-knit group of dedicated volunteers.

- Must be 18 years of age and live or work full-time within the fire department district.
- Contact Matt for more information via email at **HillsFireDepartment@gmail.com** or the Hills City Office at **319.679.3197**.
- Applications available via email or at the Hills City Office, 201 N 1st St.

Hills Fire Department Trains in Ice Rescue



Shown: Volunteers Travis Brown, Dan Newendorp, Nick Smith, Ben Sommers, and Peter Woodward. Thanks to Matt Pantel for the photos.

Community News



ATRIUM VILLAGE

HILLS, IOWA 52235

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day Party & March Birthday Party **10:30**

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

St. Joseph's Day Community Welcome **9:00**

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Easter Bonnet Event Community Welcome **3:00**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Volunteer Appreciation Event **TBD**

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

April Resident Birthday Party **10:30**

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

MASS & ROSARY
Every Tuesday-Friday @ 8:00
Atrium Village Chapel

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 & 24 @ 6:30
TUESDAY, APRIL 14 & 28 @ 6:30
Bible Study in Conference Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 AND APRIL 14 @ 10:30
Worship with Sharon Center United Methodist Church
Atrium Village Care Center Dining Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 & APRIL 16 @ 3:00
Worship with Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Atrium Village Care Center Dining Room

Food Pantry at St Joseph Church

Wednesdays 10:00 am – Noon
East Door, St Joseph Church
209 Brady St

The food pantry is for anyone who is food insecure.

- There are no forms to complete.
- There are no income requirements to meet.
- No appointment is necessary.

Just pull up to the east door and tell the volunteers your household size. You will receive a week's worth of food. Pre-packed boxes containing either frozen chicken, pork, or beef plus other goods which may include such items as canned and fresh vegetables and fruits, soups, cereals, bread, eggs, and milk, will be loaded into your car.

Senior Dining

2nd Tuesdays Beginning April 14th
Noon – 2:00 pm
St Joseph Church Hall
209 Brady St

After a winter hiatus, Senior Dining is back beginning Tuesday, April 14th. Senior Dining is a potluck, so bring a dish to share, and your own table service. Drinks are provided. It is open to the entire community and is held at St Joseph because they have plenty of parking in their adjacent parking lot, and an elevator to take you to the hall downstairs. The meal is followed by cards and bingo.

Hills Access to Reopen

The Johnson County Conservation Department is projecting that Hills Access will be open for camping April 15th.

Council Members

Sue Henderson
Emily Hudachek
Cathy Knebel
Michelle Rummelhart
Jackson Willette

City of Hills

201 N 1st St / P O Box 345
Hills, Iowa 52235-0345
Phone 319-679-3197
www.Hills-IA.org

Mayor

Tim Kemp

City Administrator

Adriane Sedlacek

Deputy Clerk

Tamara Frembgen Kesner

The city office is open from 9am – 4pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

City of Hills
P O Box 345
Hills, Iowa 52235-0345



*****ECRWSEDDM*****

P O Box Holder

Hills, Iowa 52235