



# Hills Newsletter

January / February 2026

Official Business and Community Calendar: [hills-ia.org](http://hills-ia.org)

Community News: [www.facebook.com/hillsiowa](https://www.facebook.com/hillsiowa)

## *Musings from the Mayor...*

I want to give a shout out to city staff and the vendors who have helped to keep our streets clear of snow. December certainly got off to a snowy start and the people who work plowing our streets and then getting rid of the resulting piles of snow have done an amazing job. City staff get up early, work late, and do a great job of making sure the roads are passable. Hopefully the rest of the winter won't be as harsh as it began, but it is Iowa, so I will keep my fingers crossed.

Last month the Johnson County Board of Supervisors released their Housing Assessment Study. There were several key points from the study, chief among them was that the non-metro area would need 950 new housing units in the next ten years. Other issues mentioned were the aging population in the non-metro areas along with the lack of diversified housing options.

The study had some interesting information about Hills. While our under-19 age group has shrunk in the last eight years, our population of 19-49 has grown by 10%. The 50-64 and the 65+ age groups haven't changed much, growing by 1% and 2%, respectively. The median income in Hills is \$81K. That's up 21% since 2015.

While the majority still own their homes in Hills, the percentage of rental-occupied housing has grown. That's to be expected with the increase in rental units in Hills over the last ten years. Two key takeaways from the study were Hills's growing population in the 19-49 age group and having the highest number of rental units among the six smaller communities in the county.

I think over the last 20 years the various Councils have done a great job of encouraging residential and commercial growth in the city. They have made sure we did offer diverse housing options for

residents. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your point of view, we have reached a point where there are very limited areas that offer growth for residential homes. We have the river to the east, Highway 218 to the west and the north/south options are limited by being in the flood plain or other areas of concern. Whether Hills sees continued growth in the next ten years is still to be determined.

On a separate note, I would like to offer my thanks to Teresa Volk, who retired from public service December 31<sup>st</sup>. I thank her for her many contributions to the City, most recently as a Council Member, and as a former City Clerk.

I would also like to welcome her replacement, Sue Henderson, who will begin her term January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and congratulate Emily Hudachek on her reelection to the council.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope it finds you in good health!

*By Tim Kemp*

## *Community Calendar*



**HCC: Hills Community Center – 110 E Main Street**

### **January**

- 1/1 Happy New Year!** – City Office Closed
- 1/6** Christmas Tree Pick Up
- 1/7** Yoga in the Community Center **7pm–8pm** – HCC
- 1/9** Hills Town and Country Meeting **6pm** – HCC
- 1/12** City Council Meeting **7pm** – Fire Dept
- 1/13** Annual Memorial Service **10am** – Atrium Village Main Dining Room
- 1/14** Planning & Zoning Board Meeting **6pm** – HCC *(if necessary)*
- 1/14** Game Night **6pm–8pm** – Sharon Center UMC Fellowship Hall

*Continued on page 2*

## Community Calendar continued...

HCC: Hills Community Center – 110 E Main Street

### January

- 1/19 City Office Closed – Martin Luther King Day
- 1/20 Utility Bill Payment Due
- 1/26 City Council Meeting **7pm** – Fire Dept
- 1/30 Water Meter Read

### February

- 2/4 Yoga in the Community Center **7pm–8pm** – HCC
- 2/9 City Council Meeting **7pm** – Fire Dept
- 2/11 Planning & Zoning Board Meeting **6pm** – HCC (if necessary)
- 2/11 Game Night **6pm–8pm** – Sharon Center UMC Fellowship Hall
- 2/13 Hills Town and Country Meeting **6pm** – HCC
- 2/16 City Office Closed – Presidents' Day
- 2/20 Utility Bill Payment Due
- 2/23 City Council Meeting **7pm** – Fire Dept
- 2/27 Water Meter Read

## Snow Policies



### Snow and Ice Removal:

All property owners are responsible for removing snow from sidewalks within 48 hours of any snowfall. Any ice accumulation must also be removed or salted/sanded for the protection of pedestrians within 48 hours of the event.

Per Chapter 135.12 of the Hills City Code, **it is unlawful for any person to throw, push, or place snow from their sidewalks and driveways onto the street or alley.**

### Snow Emergency Declaration:

1. Snowfall of 2 inches or more; however, any amount of snow combined with ice, rain, and/or wind can also require a snow emergency declaration.
2. Emergency is declared by the Mayor, City Administrator, or Public Works Director.
3. An emergency may be declared: in advance of an anticipated storm; to start at a specific time; or during or after a storm.
4. Announcements are given to:  
WMT AM 600 · KCJJ AM 1630 · KCRG AM 1600  
KCRG TV9 · KGAN TV2  
KHAK FM 98.1 · KNRA FM 94.1 · KXIC FM 100.7

### Sequence of Service:

1. Residents need to move their vehicles off city streets to accommodate emergency snow and/or ice removal.
2. A resident may file an appeal at the City Office for a special exception to the parking prohibition.
3. Snowplows will normally operate between 3:00 am–9:00 pm; however, trucks may be called off the road if snow and blowing snow reduces visibility to make hazardous working conditions.
4. Initial removal will focus on getting all routes open to one-lane traffic as soon as possible and/or practical.
5. It is not the policy of the City to provide a “dry” pavement condition. The entire width of the road may not be cleared of all snow, ice, or frost.
6. The City will not clear snow from private drives.
7. The City will clear snow from alleys after all paved street snow removal operations have been completed.

## Bookmobile Winter/Spring 2026 Schedule

Tuesdays January 6<sup>th</sup> – May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm



Atrium Village  
117 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St

Hills residents may get a free library card from the Iowa City Public Library (ICPL) with full access to the library's services, including – but not limited to – the Bookmobile. For convenience, the ICPL Bookmobile makes a stop at Atrium Village on Tuesdays. It returns for its winter/spring schedule on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you can't make it to either the Bookmobile or the actual library, if you have tech, you can access ICPL's extensive digital library, which includes eBooks, magazines, newspapers, music, videos, and more.

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

## Your New City Council Member

### Sue Henderson



Hi,  
I'm Sue Henderson, the newest member of Hills City Council. My husband Dave and I moved to Hills about five years ago. I retired from the Johnson County Sheriff's Office in 2012 and worked at the U of I and retired from there. I currently work at Extreme Arena part-time.

I'm excited to be involved with Hills City Council and to serve the community to the best of my ability.



Sue's term begins January 2<sup>nd</sup>. She replaces **Teresa Volk**, who had served on the City Council from July 2023 until her retirement from public service in December 2025. We thank her for her dedicated service to the City of Hills. We would also like to congratulate Mayor **Tim Kemp** and Council Member **Emily Hudachek** for their successful reelection bids.

## Christmas Tree Disposal



N&N Sanitation will pick up Christmas trees on **Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. This is for real trees only. All decorations need to be removed. Please place your tree by the street next to your trash and recycle carts.

## Notices

The City Council voted to move its meetings to the Fire Department (90 N 1<sup>st</sup> St) effective with its January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There is no Antelope Lending Library stop until March.

There is no Senior Dining until April.

## JoCo Ready App

The Johnson County Emergency Management Agency's (EMA) new app, JoCo Ready, is now available for download. The free JoCo Ready app combines multiple public safety-related resources in one convenient location, including:

- 511 Iowa road conditions
- County weather conditions
- Alert Iowa mass notification system
- Pulse Point AED locator
- Project Lifesaver, a search-and-rescue initiative for children and adults prone to wandering

Some of these programs require additional steps to register.

### Why should I sign up?

Johnson County EMA will use the JoCo Ready app to quickly notify users of important public safety announcements, such as snow emergencies, boil advisories, and other time-sensitive notifications.

### How do I download?

iPhone and Android users can go to the Apple Store or Google Play store, respectively, and search for "JoCo Ready" or scan the QR code below. There is no cost to download.

### Questions?

For more information, contact Johnson County EMA Director Dave Wilson at **Dave.Wilson@jecc-ema.org** or **319-356-6761**.



## Notices continued...

Our Village meetings at Atrium Village will be limited to inhouse during the winter months and not open to the public.

## *Important Numbers*

<b>Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Gas Leak</b>	<b>800-595-5325 <i>and</i> 911</b>
<b>Electrical Emergency</b>	<b>911 <i>and</i> 800-255-4268</b>
<b>Poison Control Center</b>	<b>800-222-1222</b>
<b>Suicide and Crisis Lifeline</b>	<b>988</b>
<b>Johnson Co. Sheriff's Office</b>	<b>319-356-6020</b>

Take these steps for **gas leaks**:

**Get Out** – Evacuate everyone (including pets) from the building or area.

**Don't Touch** – Avoid anything that could spark (light switches, phones, lighters).

**Call** – From a safe distance, call MidAmerican Energy (number above) and 911. (Note: MidAmerican Energy will have several questions for you to answer.)

**Wait** – Stay away until the gas company tells you it's safe to return.

Take these steps for **electrical emergencies**:  
(That is, immediate danger from downed lines, with or without vehicle contact.)

**Call 911** – Emergency services can secure the area. Then call Alliant Energy (number above).

**Stay Away** – Never touch a downed line or anything touching it (fences, puddles, etc.). Always assume downed lines are live and dangerous.

**If in a Car** – Stay inside, warn people away, and wait for professionals to say it's safe.

**If you MUST exit the car** (due to fire/imminent danger):

**Call 911**; and

**Open door** carefully and place feet together at the door frame; and

**Jump** out with both feet together, clearing the vehicle completely; and

**Shuffle** (don't step normally) away, keeping feet together and touching the ground; and

**Continue shuffling** at least 35-50 feet away from the car and lines.




ATRIUM VILLAGE  
INVITES YOU TO OUR

# *Annual Memorial Service*

Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:00am  
Main Dining Room

Join us as we remember  
residents we've lost in 2025.

  
ATRIUM VILLAGE  
HILLS, IOWA 52235

## Join our village today!

**Now Hiring**  
**CNA: Part-Time 2<sup>nd</sup> shift**  
**Nurse: Part-Time 2<sup>nd</sup> shift**

Health, Dental & Life Insurance  
401(k) and paid time off  
available for full-time employees

Enjoy a free meal for the shift you work  
and get paid double-time on holidays!

Call us today! 319-679-2224 or check out our  
website: [atriumvillagehills.com](http://atriumvillagehills.com), Facebook Page  
(Atrium Village Hills) or in-person at Atrium Village,  
117 S. Third Street, Hills, Iowa 52235

## *Sts Mary & Joseph Catholic Churches*

**Our Three-Parish Cluster in Nichols, Lone Tree, Hills**

### **Church of St Mary**

216 Short St, Nichols 319-330-5324

### **St Mary Church**

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

### **St Joseph Church**

209 Brady St, Hills 319-679-2271

**Rev David O Paintsil**, [paintsild@diodav.org](mailto:paintsild@diodav.org)

Pastor

**Carol Kaalberg**, [kaalbergc@diodav.org](mailto:kaalbergc@diodav.org)

Pastoral Associate

**Nancy Waldschmidt**, [njwald1@gmail.com](mailto:njwald1@gmail.com)

Director of Faith Formation

**Rev Lou Leonhardt**, PO Box 454, Lone Tree, 52755

Retired Priest

Cluster Website: [stsmaryjoseph.com](http://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**

#### **(Spiritual, Physical, and Emotional):**

(February 7<sup>th</sup> Only – **No Healing Mass January 3<sup>rd</sup>**)

St Joseph Church

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

## **Season of Lent**

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in the Catholic Church that prepares us for Easter, the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. It begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026) and ends on Holy Thursday (April 2, 2026). For all our events, services, and schedules for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, please visit our Cluster website and click on our most current bulletin.

***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.***

## **Food and Utility Assistance**

The winter months can be especially difficult financially. The following organizations are available to help:

### ***CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Pantry***

**Crisis Text/Phone: 988 – Available 24/7/365**

#### **Food Bank**

**1045 Highway 6 East Iowa City**

**319-351-0128**

#### **Financial Support**

**1121 S Gilbert Court Iowa City**

**319-569-6393**

**website: [builtbycommunity.org](http://builtbycommunity.org)**

Provides a variety of crisis assistance to Johnson County residents, including food and financial assistance for housing, utilities, prescription medications and more.

### ***Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP)***

**367 Southgate Avenue Iowa City**

**319-337-5765**

**email: [energy@hacap.org](mailto:energy@hacap.org)**

**website: [hacap.org](http://hacap.org)**



Offers a variety of services and administers the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The LIHEAP application can be downloaded or completed online.

### ***Food Pantry at St Joseph Church***

**Wednesdays 10:00 am – Noon**

**East Door, St Joseph Church, Hills**

**209 Brady St**

The food pantry is for anyone who is food insecure. There are no forms to complete, no income requirements to meet, and 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 canned vegetables and fruits, as well as other goods, will be loaded into your car.

## Alexander Elementary

*Happy New Year!*

Falcon Family,

It has been a fantastic few weeks at Alexander with lots of learning, and plenty of fun! Our Falcons have accomplished so much, and the bell has been ringing off the hook! We make an intentional effort to keep our routines the same, and the focus on learning, even as break(s) approach. In the weeks between Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks, we focused on a school-wide goal of earning 5,000 Talon Tickets. **Students earned Talon Tickets when they showed Falcon Pride: making choices that are Respectful, Responsible, or supporting Relationships.** We taught, and re-taught, school expectations and handed out Talon Tickets to students who were following these expectations, with the reward a Winter Wonderland celebration.

January is a wonderful month to celebrate a new, fresh start and set goals for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. We will launch into academics in January, with an exciting opportunity for students to take their Winter Screener/Benchmark Assessments – and compare their scores to their initial Fall assessments. We anticipate and celebrate a great deal of growth between September and January and then set goals for January – April/May (Spring Assessments). You can set up your Scholars for success with testing by ensuring they are getting plenty of sleep at night, and a solid breakfast each morning. You can also encourage them to take the test(s) seriously, to trust their brains, and what they have worked hard to learn so far this school year!

**Students will return to learning on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026!** I wish you all a fantastic holiday and a Happy New Year!

Take care,



## Sharon Center United Methodist Church

2804 520<sup>th</sup> St SW, Kalona  
319-683-2564

**Rev Olympia Muller**, Pastor

Email: [olymarmuller@gmail.com](mailto:olymarmuller@gmail.com)

**Misty Christner**, Secretary

Email: [sharoncenterumc@gmail.com](mailto:sharoncenterumc@gmail.com)

Website: [sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com](http://sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Sharon-Center-UMC-631969050162157/](http://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

A green-themed graphic for Atrium Village. At the top is a line drawing of a large, modern building with a flagpole. Below the drawing, the text 'ATRIUM VILLAGE' is written in a large, serif font. Underneath that, in smaller text, is 'HILLS, IOWA 52235' and 'Committed to Caring since 1981'. The middle section lists services: 'Independent Living' with 'WAITLIST Available', and 'Care Center' which includes 'Semi-Private Female Room', 'Semi-Private Male Room', and 'Private Suite'. At the bottom, it provides contact information: '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, Iowa 52235'. The graphic is decorated with green leaves and branches.

## Atrium Village Snow Removal Help

Atrium Village is looking for someone to help with snow removal of their sidewalks, particularly on weekends. They note it would be a great job for a teenager. If interested, contact Atrium Village at **319.679.2224**.

## *Atrium Village Receives Deficiency-free State Survey for the Second Consecutive Year*

The Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL) visited Atrium Village for the annual recertification of its Care Center October 27-29, 2025. Through their inspection and task completion, they submitted no concerns to the office. This is Atrium's second consecutive year of successful surveys, and per administrator Stephanie Kronlage, "This is fully attributed to our outstanding team and their diligence with providing excellent service, love, and compassion while maintaining regulatory compliance."

She adds, "We live in a world where many nursing homes don't meet the standards of care which are established by state and federal entities, and we are proud to be outside of that group. Integrity is important to us at Atrium Village and doing the right thing all the time helps us maintain this high expectation of outstanding care. It is rare for nursing homes to be found in substantial compliance by surveyors for one year, but even more so to be found in substantial compliance two years consecutively."

Atrium Village is licensed only in the State of Iowa and is a private pay only facility, accepting no federal funding for their services.

## *Please Do NOT Flush...*

A reminder to please do not flush feminine products or disposable wipes down the toilet. These items advertise that they are flushable – and technically, it's true, you can flush them – but they clog the sewer lines and cause thousands of dollars in repairs. Thank you!

## ATRIUM VILLAGE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Tuesday-Friday  
8am

**Mass & Rosary**

St. Joseph's Church- Atrium Chapel

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
6:30

**St. Joseph's Bible Study**

Second Floor Lounge

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
10:30

**Worship with Pastor Oly from  
Sharon Center UMC**

Care Center Dining Room

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
3:30

**Worship with Our Redeemer  
Lutheran Church**

Care Center Dining Room

## *Yoga in the Community Center*

**Wednesdays, January 7<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm – 8:00 pm**

**Hills Community Center**

**110 Main St**

Join Megan Palmer, certified yoga instructor and former Hills resident, for FREE yoga classes in the Hills Community Center on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Come join in the camaraderie and have some stretchy fun while you improve your physical and mental health. No worries if you're new to yoga – Megan provides alternative poses for beginners and those with physical limitations.

Participants must bring their own yoga mat.

# Happy New Year!

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUE HENDERSON

EMILY HUDACHEK

CATHY KNEBEL

MICHELLE RUMMELHART

JACKSON WILLETTE

### CITY OF HILLS

201 N 1<sup>ST</sup> ST / P O Box 345

HILLS, IOWA 52235-0345

PHONE 319-679-3197

WWW.HILLS-IA.ORG

### MAYOR

TIM KEMP

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

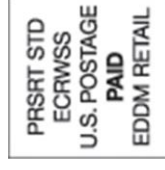
ADRIANE SEDLACEK

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