



 Linda Marble, Mayor
lmable@galesburgcity.org

 Judy Lemon, Vice Mayor
269.665.9231

 Stanley Chovanec
269.665.9184

 Roger Frazee
rfrazee@galesburgcity.org

 Ryan Harnden
rharnden@galesburgcity.org

 Glen Hawes
ghawes@galesburgcity.org

 Carol Wortinger
269.665.7781

 Sarah Joshi, City Manager
sjoshi@galesburgcity.org

 Ann Howard, Treasurer
treasurer@galesburgcity.org

 Lisa McNees, Clerk
clerk@galesburgcity.org

 John Megdan, Assessor
assessor@galesburgcity.org

 Fritz Pins, Building Official
fpins@safebuilt.com

 Josh Ranes, DPW Supervisor
jranes@galesburgcity.org

Assessed value Make sure your principal residence exemption is in place

Each year, prior to the March Board of Review meetings, informational notices are mailed. The *Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification* includes the property's state equalized value, the percent of exemption as a principal residence or qualified agricultural property, and whether there was or was not an ownership transfer.

This notice includes the dates and times of the local Board of Review meetings and the process for appealing an assessment. A property owner who makes an appeal must provide documented evidence as to why the assessment is inaccurate or incorrect. Evidence may include an appraisal, a list of sales in your neighborhood that are similar to your home, or pictures of damage or deterioration that may exist, for example.

Review the instructions included on your *Notice of Assessment*. Review the instructions and resources provided on the City website's Board of Review page. Call the City office to make your tentative appointment. Provide your name and contact information. Assessor John Megdan will contact you to review your issue and confirm the appointment time.



A new facebook presence

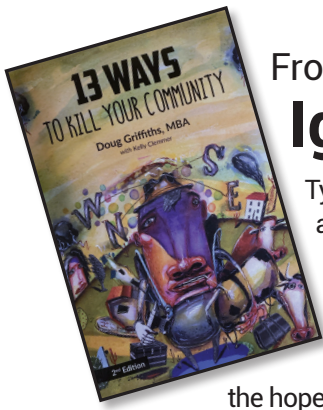
The City has built a substantial Facebook community to help keep residents informed about matters of local interest. City leaders enjoy connecting with residents in this important way.

To best meet the communication needs of residents, the City has created a new and improved Facebook page. Follow the new page at **City of Galesburg, MI**.

What makes Galesburg a Redevelopment Ready Community?

The City continues to work through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Redevelopment Ready Communities program, along with more than 300 other communities statewide. The program supports each community with tools to build a solid planning and zoning platform to ensure an efficient, predictable, and transparent development process.

"People should really check out the toolkit and resource library at www.miplace.org," said Mayor Linda Marble, who has been instrumental in engaging with this program over the past six years, "there are a lot of resources there that can help us become a more resilient community."



From 13 Ways to Kill Your Community

Ignore the Youth

Typically, anyone 35 years and younger are the most energetic individuals within your community, full of creative, innovative ideas, but not yet prejudiced by bad experiences and fruitless pursuits. Within youth lies

the hope anything is still possible if we can just dream it. They also have the energy and passion to pursue those dreams to their realization.

If you wish to eliminate any future for your community, you must be vigilant in snuffing out those hopes and dreams; the energy and passion which are naturally bound up in those visionary packages we call youth roaming your community. You must be certain that young people are not part of your councils, chambers, volunteer organizations or any committee where that energy or those ideas might find life. It is of critical importance, if you are going to kill your community, to be sure those youth do not become engaged and active participants in community life. If you are skillful, their energy and ideas will die. If you are really skillful, the persistent ones will leave town, taking all that energy and all those ideas with them, and you can rest assured the hope they embody won't rise from the grave to spoil your plans for certain failure.

To assure failure, avoid implementing any type of succession planning in your community. This is especially important in communities that depend largely on agriculture. Succession planning is not only important to farmers, though; it is also critically important to the integrity and future of communities built primarily upon agricultural economies.

There were a lot of young people passing through high school wondering what they wanted to be and what they wanted to do with their lives. Many of them had no idea that owning their own business was an option, even though if they had learned of that opportunity, they undoubtedly would have

found tremendous excitement at the prospect. Personally, I was always under the impression my options were to farm, to work in the oil patch, or to go off to university with the expectation I would never come back.

The smart ones are supposed to leave for university and won't—in fact shouldn't—be back. The ones who can't do anything else stay. Are the ones who stay in our communities less intelligent or less hard working? Of course not. How long will it be though, after years and generations of holding onto such a subconscious attitude, before it becomes a reality? Perhaps all the smart youth will leave eventually. Perhaps the ones who remain will begin to believe they aren't as smart. It doesn't matter which is the case because our attitude eventually creates our reality. Our attitude is threatening to dumb down agriculture and our small rural communities. That will become our reality if we don't turn the tide.

We don't just leave our youth with the idea there are no businesses to build or take over, or there are no new professionals needed in the community. Our youth become convinced, by our own word and deed, that the future is bleak and the only hope lies outside of town. Often we go to great lengths—deliberate or accidental—to convince them staying in the community assures them a lifetime of sweeping floors. I say "accidental" because we simply don't realize the psychological consequence of our constant negativity on impressionable youth. Communities, deliberately or accidentally, tell their youth there is no hope in their town, there is no future, and that youth are stupid if they stay. Then they lament when the youth actually do leave.

This article is one in a series outlining ways that communities damage their ability to thrive, according to author Doug Griffiths. It is presented here to help residents identify ways to revitalize the community. Griffiths' book, 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, is available at www.13ways.ca and at the Galesburg-Charleston Memorial Library.



Plug into your community

Watch the Galesburg City Council and more on Public Media Network

experience media
for you,
by you

Watch on the
Public Media Network
app available on
Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV,
& your Mobile Device
www.publicmedianet.org



Spring bulk trash dropoff

Saturday, May 13 • 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
130 Division Street

Tires, asbestos, concrete, other hazardous materials, and construction supplies will not be accepted.

• Leave yard waste in the compost area.

• Galesburg City residents only. ID required. Limited assistance may be available to help elderly or disabled residents transport bulky items to the dumpster site. Call by May 8 to make arrangements.



Questions?
Call City Hall
665-7000