

THE INSIDER

For The City of Harper Woods

Your community
resource guide for the
City of Harper Woods!
SPRING EDITION
APRIL THROUGH
JUNE 2021

Get the most out of our community!

HARPER WOODS CALENDAR

April

**Check City's website
for time and format*

April 2 – City Offices Closed –
Good Friday

April 3 – Siren Test 1pm

April 4 – Easter Sunday

April 5 – *City Council Meeting – 5pm

April 5/April 9 – Yard Waste/Compost
Pick-Up Begins

April 15 – Water Bills Due

April 19 – *City Council Meeting – 5pm

May

**Check City's website
for time and format*

May 1 – Siren Test 1pm

May 3 – *City Council Meeting – 5pm

May 9 – Mother's Day

May 15 – Armed Forces Day

May 15 – Spring Perennial Plant
Exchange – Salter Park
– 10am-12pm

May 17 – *City Council Meeting – 5pm

May 17 – Water Bills Due

May 31 – City Offices Closed –
Memorial Day

May 31 – Memorial Day Ceremony –
Johnston Park – 10:15am

May 31/June 4 – Rubbish Delay 1 day

June

**Check City's website
for time and format*

June 5 – Siren Test – 1pm

June 14 – *City Council Meeting – 5pm

June 14 – Flag Day

June 15 – Water Bills Due

June 20 – Father's Day

June 21 – Summer Begins

June 23 – 'Books Come
Alive' event -
Salter Park -
11am

Mayor Kindle In and Around our Community....

We are so proud of Mayor Valerie Kindle for her ongoing efforts to continually grow and support the City of Harper Woods. Since her time in assuming the role of Mayor, she has served our community honorably and keeps her focus on the spirit of togetherness. She is committed to several activities within the City's scope with lasting involvements in the Harper Woods Lions Club, the Grosse Pointes - Harper Woods NAACP, the Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters, and currently serving as the Vice-President of the Michigan Women in Municipal Government.

In addition to her participating on-site and virtually in civic duties, Mayor Kindle co-founded the Harper Woods Helping Hands program that weekly provides food and essentials to residents. She's also enriched vital relationships with the Harper Woods School District, neighboring cities, and Wayne County representatives that foster collaborative efforts for public education, health and wellness, and the safety of all Harper Woods residents.

As a citizen, Valerie Kindle has exemplified the true meaning of public service and displays its value within a community. Kindle conveyed, "I enjoy serving my community and understood its importance. Never doubt the difference you can make in someone's life... It's huge! Your actions inspire someone to dream more, learn more, and do more."

Since most of our City events surrounding clean-up actions are cancelled for this season, please show your support and involvement as a resident by helping the effort to keep our City clean and harmonious this spring. We especially need you to keep properties, roads, and walkways free of litter. Many of you have neighbors that are seniors and need your assistance in maintaining their properties. Ask them and follow Mayor Kindle's example by being an active member in your community. **It's Time to Think Spring - Clean Up, Fix Up, Paint Up and Get Healthy in Harper Woods!**



**Water Bill App
Giveaway**

Page 15

**Follow City Council
Meetings on The City's
New YouTube Channel**

Page 15

The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Cheryl A. Costantino

City Council

Ernestine Lyons

Veronica Paiz

Vivian M. Sawicki

Ivery Toussant Jr.

Regina Williams

Acting City Manager

John Szymanski

City Clerk

Leslie M. Frank

The City Council welcomes resident comments on areas of concern or praise. Residents are welcome to attend a council meeting to comment in person, or they can write a letter to the council. All letters must be signed. Mail Letters to City of Harper Woods 19617 Harper Ave., Harper Woods MI 48225.

Harper Woods Insider Advisory Board

Vivian Sawicki - Council member, City of Harper Woods

Larry Hakim - Planning Commissioner, City of Harper Woods

Ty Hinton - Economic and Community Development Director, City of Harper Woods

Joe Rheker - City Manager

Bre Wilson - Harper Woods School District

Marlin Hughes - Resident

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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Employee in the Spotlight

Laurel Lombardi

began her career with the City of Harper Woods working part-time forty-years ago for the Recreation Department and then later in the Building Department. In 2002, she progressed into the City Clerk's office full-time serving as Deputy Clerk/Department Secretary. She says that over the years she has especially loved the variety of duties in the Clerk's office including handling everything from business licenses and employee benefits, to elections and voter records and all that is in between. Lombardi expressed,

"It has always been an interesting and busy department, never the same day twice," as many folks in our community are familiar with Laurel and appreciate her cheerful disposition during hectic City activities, such as elections.

Acting City Manager John Szymanski said, "It's a good feeling, as a resident, to know there are caring, capable people like Laurel working for the City of Harper Woods. She goes above and beyond making a difference every day." Noting that Lombardi's commitment and professionalism means more than she even realizes.

As Laurel is looking forward to her upcoming retirement this year she added, "I will miss serving this community and assisting residents, and of course the interactions with all the departments and their personnel- many of which I consider friends as well as colleagues."

City Clerk Leslie Frank acknowledged Lombardi warm-heartedly, "I am proud to have known Laurel for over twenty years and have been blessed to have such a hardworking, dedicated, and tireless (especially during our elections) person by my side. She will be truly missed." **Thank you Laurel!**



Neighbor in the News:

JoAnn Kramer is one of Harper Woods most enduring and involved residents who has lived her life caring for others and lifting them with her sweet voice. When JoAnn's family moved into Harper Woods nearly seventy years ago, she specifically remembers as a child the landscape of Harper Avenue and shopping at several of the stores that once lined the road prior to the freeway construction. She told the Insider that seeing our neighborhood continue to develop over the years was inspiring and it's kept her here for so long. JoAnn expressed, "the secret to longevity is to be happy with what you have and be an active, not overpowering member in society."

Kramer is a registered nurse retiring from St. John Hospital after a forty-year career. She presently enjoys volunteering at local senior centers by checking patrons blood pressures and regularly lends a hand at various food banks in the area. "Aunt Jo" is also known for her unique voice in Harper Woods as a longstanding member of the Sweet Adeline's "Shoreline Sounds" group for forty years. JoAnn said, "While we haven't met in person for nearly a year, we are able to meet and sing over Zoom."

"Highlighting JoAnn Kramer's lifetime in Harper Woods should encourage residents to creating positive impacts and making a difference within their communities. She is a wonderful example to all young women, and this hopefully brings more awareness to the Sweet Adeline organization," said Mayor Kindle.



Featured Business/Organization: Tim Hortons is Back



Residents of Harper Woods, the City is working with Tim Hortons national headquarters and the new franchise owner to bring a brand-new Tim Hortons facility to our community. The old building will be renovated to produce a new more modern building at Vernier and Beaconsfield. As you can see from the illustrated artist exterior and interior renderings, the new building will have a smaller "footprint" on the site.

The old building will be reduced by around 3,000 sq. feet to make more available space for a patio with umbrella tables and new landscaping. Although the interior space will be smaller, the new interior will be more modern, with a great atmosphere for ordering and dining. Additionally, the new drive-through facilities will feature two lanes for placing orders, merging into one lane for payment and pick-up. This feature should reduce "wait times" in line for the morning rush-hour customers.

The City of Harper Woods together with our planning firm McKenna Associates is currently taking the new franchise owner through the required approval process, such as public hearings, zoning, site plan approval, etc. It is anticipated that renovation activities will be completed by mid-summer. The new facility plans to open by early fall.



Department of Public Safety – Police



Spring Crime Prevention Tips

As the warm weather approaches, the City of Harper Woods Police Department wants to remind you of some tips to keep yourself and your home safe during the spring and summer months.

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the backyard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- During the spring weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front and backyards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders, lawn care equipment, etc., back into a secure storage area after you use them. Don't forget to secure your bicycles and any other recreational items when not in use. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. Work offered for a price that seems too good to be true probably is.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can spot criminals and alert the police and the community to their presence. Get involved in your community, and help us keep our city happy and safe.



spring cleanup

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Time for Yardwork and Trimming!

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - What is it and why is it important to implement? CPTED is an approach to deterring criminal behavior by designing your residence or business to influence criminal acts prior to them occurring. CPTED is an important strategy to employ to your residence as it will, generally, make potential burglars feel less comfortable in your area and around your home. Here are some things you might want to consider while cleaning up your yards.

Residential Entry Points:

Daylight View – Stand outside of your home's primary front entry/exit areas.

- From this line of sight, what can you see?
- Ask yourself, can you be seen by neighbors or vehicles passing by? If you cannot see them, they cannot see you either. Criminals like privacy too!
- Repeat this process on each side of your home.

Night View – Now, stand outside of your home's primary front entry/exit areas at night.

- Repeat the review process as above. What can you see from your doorways?
- Is lighting present to highlight these same entry/exit points?
- Are there dark spaces that could be lighted?
- Repeat this process on each side of your home.

Street View of Property:

Walk or drive by the front of your residence from the street.

- Can you see clearly down both sides of the residence?
- Can the windows and doors be seen from the street-view?
- Does your property follow the 2'-6' rule (hedges and bushes no more than 2' high, and tree limbs trimmed to at least 6' above ground)? This reduces hiding spots for criminals.
- At dark, have tree canopies grown so large that they block any street or residential lighting sources?
- Are there places for a person to conceal themselves near your doorways?
- How well maintained is your yard? A well-manicured property displays strong ownership and presence.
- Is there any signage present to display ownership (No trespassing, alarm signage, etc.)?



TIPS FOR PURCHASING ITEMS OVER THE INTERNET (ex. Craigslist, Facebook)

1. Trust your instincts.
2. Don't go alone.
3. Insist to meet at a public place such as a local business with ample foot traffic or the City of Harper Woods Police Department.
4. Do not meet in a secluded area.
5. Do not invite strangers into your home, and do not go to theirs.
6. Be cautious when buying/selling high value items.
7. Perform the transaction during daylight hours.
8. If it sounds too good to be true, it normally is.
9. Tell a friend or family member about your intentions.
10. Take your cell phone with you.

Department of Public Safety – Fire

SPRING CLEANING? REMEMBER THESE FIRE SAFETY TIPS!

If you haven't gotten around to your spring cleaning yet, don't worry—we're not here to judge. What we are here to do is offer a gentle reminder to keep fire protection in mind when you're cleaning, organizing, and preparing for the warmer months.

We talk a lot about fire safety during the fall and winter, which makes sense given all the indoor and outdoor fires, deep-fried turkeys, space heaters, and holiday lights that tend to show up when it's cold. But now that it's warming up, there are still plenty of ways to incorporate fire protection into your spring cleaning routine. Here are a few areas to keep an eye on, recommended by us and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



- **Smoke Alarms** – First and foremost, **check your smoke alarms**. It's a task that can easily go forgotten for months, but how convenient that you should change your battery once a year and spring cleaning comes around once a year. Put it on your list of chores for the big clean to ensure that it happens every 12 months. According to the NFPA, a functioning smoke alarm in your home cuts your risk of dying in a house fire by 50 percent.
- **Chimneys** – As cozy as it was in January and February, come April and May chances are you'll be less inclined to build a fire in the living room fireplace. As easy as it is to just scoop out the ashes, close it up, and forget about it until November, go ahead and have the chimney inspected as part of your spring cleaning effort. The NFPA recommends having a chimney inspected and thoroughly cleaned at least once a year anyway, and getting it out of the way this time of year often means ridding it of buildup that would only cause more damage if it hung around until the fall. Plus, chimney technicians will be more likely to have flexible schedules in the springtime.
- **Kitchen** – Keep countertops and stovetops free of grease and clutter. Excess grease on the drip pan or stovetop can easily catch fire. Clean oil and food spills immediately after they occur and wait until the stove is cool to wipe off oil or grease spills. Keep items that can catch fire, such as oven mitts, towels or wooden utensils, away from your stovetop.
- **Electrical Cords** – Inspect the electrical cords in your home and replace worn or tattered ones. Avoid running cords under carpets or across doorways to prevent them from being damaged. Use extension cords only temporarily and plug major appliances directly into wall sockets.

- **Clothes Dryers** – The leading cause of **fires caused by home clothes dryers** is a failure to clean them. So as tempting as it may be to think, "It's fine until next time", as you're throwing in a load of towels, go ahead and scrape that lint out. And make sure to check the drum for extra lint or any items that may have fallen out of pockets, and keep the area around the dryer free from anything flammable like cardboard boxes and cleaning products.



- **Grilling** – Nothing says spring and summer quite like grilling out. We couldn't agree more. But let's not forget that grilling inherently involves fire, so there are a few things to keep in mind. Before you even turn the grill on, check the propane tank, hose and all connection points to make sure it's not prone to any leaks. Once the grill is on, turn off the tank and burners immediately if you smell gas. If you're using a charcoal grill, make sure you're using charcoal starter fluid, not any other flammable liquids. And once you're finished, let all the coals cool completely before dumping them in a metal container.
- **Stored Fluids** – How often do any of us actually organize the cabinets under our sinks, or the black holes of our outdoor storage buildings? If you're already cleaning the rest of the house might as well put that out-of-sight-out-of-mind space on your list. Make sure cleaning supplies and things like gasoline tanks are stored in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children and pets and far from electrical cords or any other heat-producing apparatus.
- **Escape Plan** – While you're at it, go ahead and make spring the time of year when you and your family or roommates go over your **escape plan in case of fire**. Ensure that everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of a fire, and especially if there are children in the house, do a couple practice run-throughs of the escape plan.



City Clerk Info

City Council Petition Filing Due by April 20, 2021

Eligible residents interested in running for Mayor or City Council must file petitions with the City Clerk by Tuesday, April 20 before 4:00 p.m. Qualifications include being a resident of the City of Harper Woods for at least two years, a registered elector of the City and not in default to the City. For more information, please call Leslie Frank at 313-343-2510 or send an email to lfrank@harperwoods.net



Primary Election - August 3, 2021

A primary election may be held on August 3 if more than three candidates run for Mayor, or if more than nine candidates run for City Council, or if there are any State, County, City or School ballot proposals. If necessary, polls will be open from 7am - 8pm.

If you are unsure of your voting status, please contact the City Clerk's office at 313-343-2510 or check out the Michigan Secretary of State website at <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/>

Board and Commission Vacancies

Beautification Commission -

The Beautification Commission was established by City Council to advise City Council of programs, projects and activities aimed at improving the beautification of the City. Presently, the Commissioner's focus on two primary activities, the Annual Perennial Plant Exchange which is held in May, and the residential Beautification Awards. Typically they meet informally several times a year.

Board of Zoning Appeals -

The Board of Zoning Appeals consists of seven members who are appointed by the Harper Woods City Council. Their primary function is to consider requests for variances of the City's Zoning Ordinance or Sign Ordinance. They meet as needed on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission -

The Planning Commission is a State mandated commission

responsible for ensuring the compliance of the City Zoning Ordinance and the development of a Master Plan. Site Plan development and re-zoning requests are the primary business items that come before the Commission.

The Commission consists of nine members and are supplemented by the assistance of a professional Planning Consultant and other experts as needed. They meet as needed on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Spring Perennial Plant Exchange

The Harper Woods Beautification Commission is sponsoring the Perennial Plant Exchange to be held Saturday, May 15 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Salter Park. Items to be exchanged include garden plants, herbs or ground cover. No trees please. For more information, please call Mitzi Giles at 313-884-0297 or the City Clerk's office at 313-343-2510 or send an email to lfrank@harperwoods.net

Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

Building Department Info

Looking to report a violation or concerns with a potential violation? Please email or call the Building Department with any and all concerns at 313-343-2526 or building@harperwoods.net



To check and see if a potential violation has turned into an enforcement you can always check online at bsaonline.com. Click Wayne County, then Harper Woods. Type in the address and look under the Building Department tab.

Spring is the perfect time to check your home and property for potential damage caused by the cold winter season.

1. Pick up all of the debris that has been hidden under the snow during the winter months.
2. Prepare your lawn equipment to cut and maintain your property or contact a contractor to do so for you.
3. Remove wild elm trees that grow along side your house, garage or in the fence lines before they become larger and harder to maintain.
4. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are cleaned out and dispersing water away from your foundation.
5. Inspect your concrete for dangerous trip hazards and repair or replace.
6. Deteriorated fencing/structures need to be repaired and painted or removed.
7. Garbage receptacles must be kept behind the house and out of sight from the front view of the property. They should be set to the curb no sooner than the evening prior to your scheduled pick-up date, and returned to the rear yard the same day after pick up.
8. Always make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries.
9. Notify the Building Dept. of any and all blight so we all can enjoy the beauty that Harper Woods has to offer us all.

Assessing Department Info

The Assessor is available on Wednesday's during normal business hours 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You can contact the Assessor at 313-343-2527 or by e-mail assessing@harperwoods.net. All assessment information is available online through the city's website: www.harperwoodscity.org. For a better understanding of your assessment and taxes, please go to the City website, click on Departments; Assessor; and review the Frequently Asked Questions page.

As a reminder, whenever there is a change in ownership on a property, you must file a Property Transfer Affidavit (PTA) within 45 days to the Assessor's Office. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the name and mailing address is correct on their property. You can find the PTA on the City website under the Assessing Department.

The State of Michigan has adopted new mandatory Poverty guidelines for requesting a reduction in taxes based on household income. You can obtain a copy of the new application and guidelines at the Assessor's Office or on the City website under the Assessor's Department. All applications must be received prior to the last session of the Board of Review. Please contact the Assessor's Office for these dates.

32A District Court News

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Greetings Neighbors,

I am excited /delighted to have served our great city for a little over a month now. We have some new and exciting changes coming in the near future. Updates will be provided to you as we make progress towards reaching various goals for the Court. I want to thank my wonderful staff for making this transitional period with the Court go as smoothly as possible. You all have been great and a joy to work with on a daily basis. I would also like to welcome three new members to the staff, Tamie Rice, Rosa McLean and Michael Jones. I am delighted to have new members of "Team Court" and look forward to the positive force they are bringing to the 32A Family.

Currently the Court is in Phase 2, which only allows for limited access to the public. We can allow a maximum of twenty (20) people, including staff, in the courtroom at a time. I am asking that you contact the Court by phone or Zoom when you have business to conduct. This will enable us to serve you effectively, efficiently and most importantly, safely.

I want to encourage everyone to continue to stay safe and serious about the pandemic. As the numbers continue to rise in our country, let's make sure we do our part to keep not only ourselves safe but our fellow neighbors safe as well.

To the **youth** of Harper Woods, many of you are still in remote learning. Please remember this is a new experience for not only you, but for your parents as well. Remember to be kind and try to make this experience as enjoyable as possible until you are able to return to school buildings.

In Service to The Community,
Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Resident Sign Up any one of these ways

- 1 Text Zip Code to 888777
- 2 Sign up at www.nixle.com
- 3 Download Nixle Mobile App

Nixle keeps you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety department and schools.



The City of Harper Woods encourages all of our residents to join Nixle. This is a community messaging system run in partnership with our local government. Participating members will receive real-time messages regarding important topics such as crime alerts, traffic safety issues, important dates, and community events. The program is safe, and registration is easy and is provided at no cost. Messages are received by email or through the web depending on your custom settings. Stay informed by signing up now at www.nixle.com.

Treasurer Info

Public Notice – City of Harper Woods **Applications for Deferment 2021 Taxes**

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2021 tax deferments starting July 1 for the Summer and December 1 for the Winter tax bills. To qualify, a household income cannot exceed \$40,000. The applicant must also be 62 years of age or older, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, veteran, widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. The deferment applications can be obtained at the Treasurer's Office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Assessing, Tax and Utility Billing **Information Online**



The City's website www.harperwoodscity.org provides a link for: assessing/property information including photos, sketches, assessed values and taxable values as well as tax amounts due and payment history. We

now have water billing information on the same website. Once you are online, go to bsaonline.com, and it will take you to the Access My Gov website to view and pay all City invoices and view property information. There is no charge to view this information however, there is a fee to pay invoices with a credit card; 2.95% of the amount you are paying.

Delinquent Tax Information Online

www.waynecounty.com/treasurer is the website address for delinquent taxes. Searching for delinquent real tax information can be done by entering the parcel ID, street number, and street name.

Property Transfer Affidavit

The "Property Transfer Affidavit" must be filed whenever real estate is transferred. The new owner must file the affidavit with the City Treasurer's Office within 45 days of the transfer.

Electronic Debit Transactions

When a check is provided as payment, it is an authorization for the City to use the information from your check to make a one time electronic funds transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction. When the City uses the information from your check to make an electronic funds transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day your payment is received, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.



Water/Sewer Rates

As of May, 2020

Fixed Water Charge:	\$9.69/month
Fixed Sewer Charge:	\$17.08/month
Debt Service Charge:	\$2.50/month
Refuse User Fee:	\$4.16/month
Water Usage Fee:	\$65.13 per thousand cubic feet



Water Bill Delivery

Bills are mailed on the 20th of each month. Payment by 5:00pm on the due date is the resident's responsibility. Failure to receive the bill does not excuse late charges. If you do not receive your monthly billing, contact the Treasurer's Office at 313-343-2522 for the balance due. Please return your water bill with your payment.

Current Fees Effective January 4, 2018

Water Disconnect Fee for Non-Payment:	\$70.00
Final Water Bill Fee:	\$20.00
Unauthorized Turn On of Water:	\$200.00
Water Appointment No Show:	\$50.00

Automatic Payment-Water Bills

Your water bill can be automatically deducted from your savings or checking account. Contact the City Treasurer's office for the enrollment form. For further information, please call 313-343-2500.

Pay Water Bills Online – NO FEES!

Free Mobile Water App Available!
Please login to harperwoods.cityinsight.com and register for free!
See website for new features!



Automatic Payment-Tax Bills

Your tax bill can be automatically deducted from your savings or checking account. The enrollment form will be mailed with the tax bill. For further information, please call 313-343-2500.

Pay Property Taxes by Credit Card Online

Mastercard, VISA, American Express, and Discover
Internet Payment: Go to City website
www.harperwoodscity.org
Select: Water & Tax Billing
Pay Your Taxes Online

The resident will be charged a 2.95% convenience fee. Convenience fees are assessed by the Credit Card Company and subject to change.



Senior Resources

Help for Seniors and Family Caregivers

Let the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) help you.

Whether you need assistance for yourself, an aging parent or an older friend, one phone call directs you to helpful resources for family caregivers, as well as information or referrals related to healthy aging, home-delivered meals, household chores, or long-term care planning.

Call 313-446-4444.

You'll find out why DAAA is called The Senior Solution!



The Helm at The Boll Life Center

The Helm is an essential resource for adults ages 60 & up in Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. At The Helm you can participate in classes and activities to stay healthy and safe, expand your knowledge and enjoy fun and friendship. We also provide support services and information to help older adults continue living independently including chores assistance, caregiver programs, income tax preparation, Medicare counseling, medical equipment loan closet, Meals on Wheels and more. Contact The Helm at The Boll Life Center at (313) 882-9600.



PAATS News

Do you know about PAATS?

Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Service (PAATS) provides transportation to persons age 60 or older and disabled residents of Harper Woods and the five Grosse Pointes. You MUST call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a ride.

Service Area – The service area takes residents to all locations in an area bound by the following: 11 Mile Rd., Gratiot Ave., Alter, Jefferson. We also go to several site specific locations including: Henry Ford Hospital, DMC, New Center, V.A., and others. Call for more details.

The following fares are per one-way trip.

Fares: Within Harper Woods & the Grosse Pointes	\$3.00
Outside of the City limits of Harper Woods and the 5 Grosse Pointes	\$4.00
Site Specific Locations	\$5.00

Call the PAATS office for more information at 313-343-2580.

Special Trips

We also provide transportation to special trips arranged by The War Memorial. Trips include plays, tours, shopping, great lunches at area restaurants, and many more. Call The War Memorial at 313-881-7511 for more information.



Department of Public Works

Refuse Collection Guidelines

- ✓ The maximum weight of any one item is 40 pounds. Thirty to thirty-five gallon cans or bags are recommended. Oversize containers will not be collected.
- ✓ Please do not dispose of liquids in refuse.
- ✓ Paint must be dried out and placed on the boulevard with lids removed for pick-up.
- ✓ Cardboard, scrap wood, and lumber must be bundled securely with heavy binding material. Please remove all nails. Bundles should not exceed five feet in length and should not weigh more than 40 pounds.
- ✓ Carpet, carpet padding, and bundled brush will also be collected according to the same size and weight limits.
- ✓ Window or plate glass is not recyclable and will only be collected if it is broken into pieces and placed in a secure container marked GLASS.
- ✓ Encapsulated mattresses, encapsulated box springs, appliances, TV's and furniture will also be collected on regularly scheduled refuse collection days.
- ✓ Building materials such as wood with nails, dirt, cement, and sod can be collected as a special pick-up by the Public Works Department by calling 313-343-2570.
- ✓ *(Bulk waste exceeds size limits)* includes the following: Move outs, evictions and large set outs. Contact the Department of Public Works for a special pick up.
- ✓ Loose debris will not be cleaned up by the trash contractor. All trash must be contained in bags.
- ✓ **Do not place trash bags/cans in the street, this creates a traffic hazard. All cans/bags should be placed on the boulevard.**



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

Please check waynecounty.com for information on various drop off days. Waste oil/antifreeze is no longer accepted at the D.P.W. for drop off. Please take waste oil

to your nearest O'Reilly's Auto Parts for disposal. Please contact the DPW for further information 313-343-2570.

Trash Delay Reminder!

A delayed trash day will **ONLY** occur when the holiday falls during a weekday. If the holiday falls on the weekend, your trash pick-up day will remain on your normal day.

***When in doubt, put it out.**



MISS DIG – If you notice colored flags in your yard or along the roadway, it is an indication that someone is planning to perform underground construction in that area. The following utility companies are represented by colored flags as indicated:

- Blue – Water ● Green – Sanitary Sewer/Storm Water
- Orange – Telephone/Cable/TV ● Pink – Survey
- Red – Electric ● Yellow – Gas or Oil



Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection begins the week of **April 5th** and ends the week of **November 27th** on our trash collection day. Please place your yard waste in brown biodegradable lawn bags or rubbish cans no larger than 35 gallons and labeled **YARD WASTE/COMPOST**. Yard waste will **ONLY** be collected from the beginning of April through the month of November.

Please check your City calendar for specific dates. Curbside leaf collection will run from **October 18th - November 19th**. For more information go to www.harperwoodscity.org or call 313-343-2570.

Grass Cutting Violations #89-9 Sec. 16-42 (b)

Residents, please note that according to the City ordinances, any grass over 5" is in violation. This also includes flower beds. When a GREEN TAG is placed on your door, you will have 48 hours to take corrective action. If your grass is not cut within that time, the City will hire a private contractor to cut your grass/weeds and the owner will receive an invoice to reimburse the City for such costs. If the owner fails to pay, the City Assessor shall add these charges to the tax rolls for this property. If you have any questions, please call 313-343-2570 upon receipt of warning or notice.

Sidewalk Maintenance

A friendly reminder to all homeowners and business owners that they are responsible for maintaining and correcting any sidewalk or driveway approach defects. However, before any repairs are made, a permit from the Building Department must be obtained. For more information, please call 313-343-2526.



Maintaining Sewer Lines

Below are a few tips to help maintain your sewer lines!

- ◆ Decrease your chances of home sewer issues by making an effort not to flush any paper products other than rolled toilet paper.
- ◆ Limit the use of your garbage disposal to small scraps that fall through the strainer. DO NOT use your disposal as a food processor.
- ◆ Do not pour cooking grease or cooking oil down your sink. This causes blockages as it hardens and can restrict flow.
- ◆ Living in a community with large, mature trees has its benefits, however, wandering roots can be problematic for sewer lines. To prevent possible sewage back ups, it is recommended that homeowners, with or without trees in their area, perform annual sewer line maintenance. This could include routine line cabling, root cutting and chemical treatments.
- ◆ The sanitary sewer line from the home to the City main is the responsibility of the homeowner. We suggest you get several quotes and references before having any work performed.
- ◆ Sewer line excavation and repair is a permissible event. The permit and inspection can be secured by contacting the Building Department at 313-343-2526.



Don't forget – the only paper product that should be flushed is toilet paper! All others belong in the trash – grease too!

Rodent Control

The following check list will help eliminate rodents from breeding in your area.

- ◆ Keep your yard free of trash.
- ◆ Use trash cans with tight fitting lids.
- ◆ Keep your yard free of high weeds, brush/branch piles and building materials.
- ◆ Make sure debris does not collect under wooden decks and porches or along side garage. Pick up fallen fruit and vegetables from gardens daily.
- ◆ Clean up dog feces and leftover uneaten food daily.
- ◆ Firewood must be stored a minimum of eighteen inches above ground.
- ◆ If you compost, turn pile daily. Food scraps should not be put in compost piles. This will only invite rats.
- ◆ Feeding the birds and squirrels on a regular basis can cause rodent problems.
- ◆ Lastly, rat bait (poison) can be purchased at your local store. **EXTREME CAUTION** should be exercised when using these products. Always follow manufacturers instructions. These products **MUST** be kept away from children and pets.

Professional exterminators can be hired to address this situation, if need be. Please contact our department if we can provide additional information.

Downspouts, Surface Drainage, Etc.

The City requires that downspouts be disconnected from the drain tile or weeping that surrounds your home. Failure to do so is a violation of City Ordinance# Sec. 27-54. Downspouts, surface drainage, etc. and can significantly contribute to a flooded basement.

Gutters should be kept clean of debris.

Downspouts should have elbows, splash blocks and extensions to direct storm water away from the foundation of your home. Additionally, the grade (slope) of dirt around your home should be pitched to direct storm water /melting snow away from the foundation of your home. Driveways or other solid materials should also be pitched to direct water away from the foundation of your home. Failure to take these corrective actions can significantly increase the likelihood of a flooded basement.

Just a reminder Be a good neighbor and **DO NOT** direct storm water on to your neighbors' property.



Department of Public Works



The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act has changed to better protect your health. New water sampling rules have been added to better detect possible lead in your drinking water. These changes require communities with lead service lines to do more sampling. The new sampling method is expected to result in higher lead results, not because the water source or quality for residents has changed, but because the act has more stringent sampling procedures and analysis.

To remain in compliance with these changes, in 2019, the City of Harper Woods increased the number of water samples taken from residential homes. Residents participated in water sampling at 30 locations. This is known as lead and copper monitoring. The criteria was to sample water from homes known to have or suspected to have lead water service lines. These samples were then analyzed by the Great Lakes Water testing lab. The results were forwarded to the participants.

Of the 30 locations sampled, 4 yielded results in exceedance of the action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion). All copper results were in the acceptable range. **This exceedance is not a health based standard nor a violation of The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act**, but rather an indicator that triggers additional action on the City and water supplier's part. To date, the City has made a public service announcement through media outlets. Additionally, the City will provide public education material to every water customer in Harper Woods. As in the past, important information will also be included in the Annual Consumer's Confidence Water Quality Report.

In 2020 we increased our sampling location sites from 30 to 60. We will sample 60 sites twice in 2020. Samples will be analyzed, and the results forwarded to the participants while continuing to drive public education.

If you have questions, concerns, need information on, or can provide us with information on the service line material in your home or business, please contact the Public Works Department, Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 3:00pm.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the City's website at www.harperwoodscity.org, the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, the EGLE website at www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.



Please be advised that all programs, activities, dates, times and locations are subject to change and/or cancellation.

We will be awaiting further instructions from

The CDC, Governor Whitmer and our State leaders on how to proceed.

Please call our office at 313-343-2500 or visit our website at www.harperwoodscity.org for more information.

Contact Information by Department

Assessor

313-343-2527

SAFEbuilt Building Department

313-343-2526

City Manager

313-343-2505

Economic and Community Development

313-343-2501

Elections

313-343-2510

Finance Director

313-343-2518

Fire Department

313-343-2550

SAFEbuilt Housing Inspection

313-343-2526

Library

313-343-2575

PAATS

313-882-9600

Parks and Recreation

313-343-2560

Public Safety Department

313-343-2530

Public Works

313-343-2570

Treasurer Tax & Water Billing Information

313-343-2500



Community & Business Progress

Kelly Road HAWK Signal Project Update



The HAWK Pedestrian Crossing Signal project that began last year is nearing completion. The new pedestrian signal is located on Kelly between Eastwood and Huntington. It is a **“High Intensity Activated Crosswalk Beacon”** that is designed to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing from 20010 Kelly to the Detroit side at Cushing. This development was provided under contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation, (MDOT) and the City of Harper Woods. The project is approximately 95% complete. We are awaiting DTE to finish some additional electrical work. Signage and pavement markings will be installed and applied when weather is favorable.

Public Safety - Ownership of Dogs

RABIES VACCINATIONS

Any dog 6 months or older is required to have a certificate of rabies vaccination given by a licensed veterinarian. Rabies vaccinations can be given as early as 4 months of age and initially are good for one year. Upon re-vaccination, it is good for 3 years. This is the only vaccination that is required by state and federal law, and in all cities in Michigan.

DOG LICENSES

A dog license, acquired annually, is required in all counties in Michigan for the city in which the dog resides. Licenses can be obtained at the Harper Woods Police Department with presentation of the rabies certificate for a nominal fee of \$10. The license is good each year until December 31st. A dog license can serve as identification for your dog as it is registered with the city and if found, the dog can be promptly returned.

DOG AT LARGE

It is a violation of city ordinance to allow your dog to roam freely or be off leash outside of your backyard. Dog owners who do not have fully fenced and secure backyards should keep their dogs on a leash or tie-out line when outdoors to prevent escapes. Dogs roaming freely, or “at large”, may be in violation and issued citations.



Dogs found “at large” and without identification are taken to the Animal Shelter where they are kept until reunited with their owner. State law requires that the dog must have a current rabies vaccination and dog license PRIOR to release. Boarding fees incurred are \$15 per day.

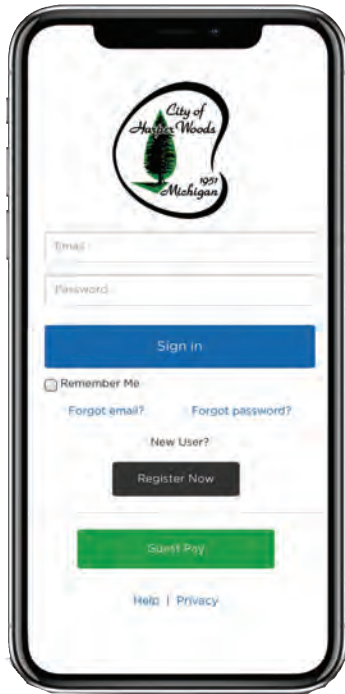
PET OWNERSHIP

The City of Harper Woods allows 3 pets per household (cats and dogs), any combination.

BITE QUARANTINE CASES

Dogs involved in bite cases, either with a human or another dog, are required to be quarantined at the Animal Shelter or the dog’s Veterinary Hospital for 10 days. This is to protect all parties concerned, and to assure the human bite victim does not need to undergo rabies inoculations. The owner of the dog is responsible for the costs associated with quarantine.

Register to Pay Your Water Bill Online and Receive a Free Gift!



Since 2019, The City of Harper Woods has offered an online Water Payment App to pay utility bills **free of charge**. Since the pandemic, the City's registrations have increased tremendously. We would encourage residents who have not registered to visit www.harperwoods.cityinsight.com and create an account to keep up with City updates.

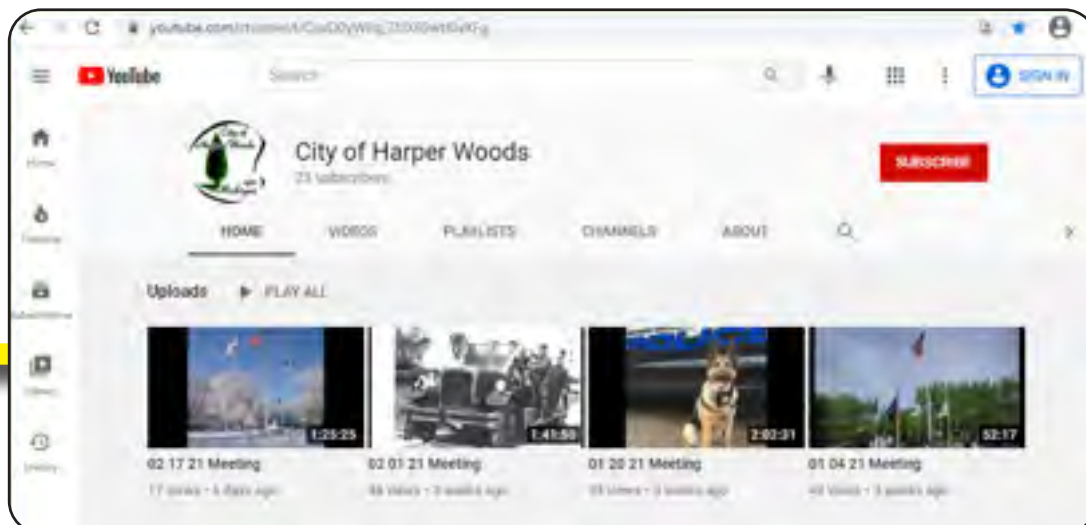
Register at City Hall after April 1 and receive a promotional Bluetooth portable speaker as a thank you!

** While supplies last.*



YouTube Channel for City Council Meetings

Mayor Kindle announced at the February 1st, 2021 City Council meeting that the City of Harper Woods has created its own YouTube channel for residents to view meetings and keep informed of new and past city activities. The channel can be accessed by going to the City website at www.harperwoodscity.org and clicking on the access link from the homepage. Harper Woods is now live worldwide!



2021 Summer Recreation Program

Important Notice

Please be advised that all programs, activities, dates, times and locations are subject to change and/or cancellation. We will be awaiting further instructions from The CDC, Governor Whitmer and our State leaders on how to proceed. Please call our office at 313-343-2560 with any further questions.

Arts & Crafts

One of our most popular programs! Arts & Crafts is a fun, supervised place to be. Need a few hours in the morning to yourself? Then our Arts & Crafts program is for your child! Children ages 3-10 years old will enjoy participating in games, safety lessons, theme days, and craft making. We offer one six-week session for this program. This program is held at Harper Woods High School. Children must be potty trained. Register early, this program fills up quickly!

Dates: June 22-August 5 *No class July 6th or 8th

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Times: Age 3-5 years old 9:00am-11:00am

Age 6-10 years old 11:30am-1:30pm

Fee: \$55 per child, includes daily snack and materials.

Tumbling

This exciting class will be held on Monday evenings at the Harper Woods High School.



Participants develop hand/eye coordination, balance, strength and flexibility through tumbling and obstacle courses. This class will be taught by Lisa Biggs and will run for one 6 week session.

Dates: June 21-August 2 *No class July 5th

Day: Mondays

Times: Ages 4-6 5:30-6:30pm

Ages 7 & up 6:30-7:30pm

Fee: \$60.00

Kids Tennis

Whether you are a beginner or more advanced, you will have a great time in this class.

This class is held at Johnston Park.

Session I: **Mini Session May 1-May 22

Saturdays 11am-12pm **Fee: \$32****
(Ages 6-Highschool)

Session II: June 22-July 15

Session III: July 20-August 12

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Fee: \$40.00 per 4 week session

Times: Ages 6-8 9:00am-10:00am

Ages 9-High School Age 10:00am-11:00am



Adult Tennis

We now offer tennis lessons for adults too! This class is held at Johnston Park.

Great for beginner or advanced.

Session I: **Mini Session May 1-May 22

Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am

Fee: \$40

Session II: June 19-July 17 * No class July 3rd

Saturdays 10:00am-11:00am

Fee: \$40

Walking Club

Join us at Salter Park to get healthy and socialize with your neighbors. Pre-registration is not needed and there is no cost. Get your heart rate up by walking the Salter trail.



Days: Saturdays *See dates below*

Time: 9:00am-10:00am

Dates: April 3 & 17

July 10 & 24

May 1 & 15 & 29

August 7 & 21

June 12 & 26

Books Come Alive

"Books Come Alive" in the Park, with Judy Sima, Storyteller, Author, and Teaching Artist.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

11AM at Salter Park Shelter 2

Ages 4 and up.



Memorial Day Ceremony



The City of Harper Woods Memorial Day Service and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 31st at the Veteran's Memorial, located at Johnston Park, beginning at 10:15am. The Veterans organizations and service organizations within Harper Woods participate in this program. All are welcome to attend in honor of those who have fought for our country. Memorial wreaths are placed at the Memorial Flame in their memory. A continental breakfast is served immediately following the service.

Fitness Firm Aerobics

Fitness Firm offers low impact dance aerobics, incorporating kick box, yoga, free weights, Zumba, toning, flexibility and stretching. Fitness Firm classes are held at The First English Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall, located at 800 Vernier in Grosse Pointe Woods.

Days: Mondays & Wednesdays **Time:** 9:30-10:30am

Tuesdays & Thursdays **Time:** 4:00-5:00pm

If you have questions, please contact Judy Sheehy at 313-886-7534 or vitaftjsheehy@comcast.net.

Swimming Lessons

Spending time at the beach, up north, or wherever there is water can be hazardous for a non-swimmer. Our lessons teach children to be independent and safe in the water. Our certified instructors will teach your child all of the tools they need to become a good swimmer, and they have fun too!! The children's lessons are offered for **Harper Woods residents only**. The classes are held at the Harper Woods High School pool, and are available for one eight week session. *Register early, classes fill up fast.



Schedule We offer Monday **OR** Tuesday classes.

Monday Classes June 21-August 16 ***No Class July 5th***

Open Swim (see below)	4:00-4:45pm		
Lap Swim (see below)	4:00-4:45pm		
Aquaducks	5:00-5:30pm	Level 1	5:30-6:00pm
Level 2	6:00-6:30pm	Level 3	6:30-7:15pm
Level 4, 5, 6	7:15-8:00pm		

Swim Fees:

30 minute classes: \$60 for 1 child, \$30 each additional

45 minute classes: \$70 for 1 child, \$35 each additional

Tuesday Classes June 22-August 17 ***No Class July 6th***

Level 1	5:00-5:30pm	Level 2	5:30-6:00pm
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Swim Fees:

30 minute classes: \$60 for 1 child, \$30 each additional

45 minute classes: \$70 for 1 child, \$35 each additional

Beginning Adult Swim Lessons

Adults, now you can learn how to swim and be confident in the water. We offer an eight week session at the Harper Woods High School Pool. Ages 18 & Up.

Dates: June 22-August 17 ***No Class July 6th***

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 6:15-7:00pm **Cost:** \$70 for 8 weeks

Water Aerobics

Water aerobics is a great low impact workout. We offer an eight week session at the Harper Woods High School Pool.

Dates: June 22-August 17 ***No Class July 6th***

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 7:00-8:00pm **Cost:** \$64 for 8 weeks

Summer Dance

Come join the fun and dance as we start our 38th year of the program! There is no residency requirement. Classes will be held (tentative) on the stage in the Harper Woods High School Auditorium. We require at least one adult to stay with their child and watch each class and a maximum of two family members total. Please note dance families will be spaced apart in the auditorium. Masks (covering your face and nose) must be worn by all staff, students, parents, etc. All summer dance students are invited to participate in a special class (FREE) that will meet one-time only. Princess and Prince class for ages 2-7 and Dance Drills and Skills for ages 8 and up. Date to be determined. Pre-registration is required for all classes. There will be no on-site registrations available. You can register in person at the recreation office or mail your form with a check or money order to the recreation office. Another option is to place your registration and payment (NO CASH) into the drop box located in the lobby of the Harper Woods City Hall that is open 24 hours. Please call the dance program director (Nonny Sperry) at (313) 885-3714 or the recreation office for more details or updates. We strongly suggest you contact Nonny or the recreation office for updates if you plan on mailing in or using the drop box.



Very Important-Please understand that times, locations, or guidelines might change. Thanks for your patience and cooperation. For example, there is a chance that classes might be held at Salter Park instead of the stage area.

Dates: June 21-August 3 ***No Class July 5th***

Monday Classes

Instructors: Miss Mikayla Schiller, Miss Caitlin Skerske and Miss Nonny Sperry

4:00-4:30pm	Creative Movement & Ballet, ages 3-5
4:30-5:00pm	Hip Hop, ages 6-8
5:00-5:30pm	Ballet, ages 6-8
5:30-6:00pm	Babes in Danceland, ages 2-3 (with an adult)
6:00-6:30pm	Junior Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 3-5
6:30-7:00pm	Ballet, ages 9-12
7:00-7:30pm	Hip Hop, ages 9-12
7:30-8:00pm	Lyrical, ages 8-11
8:00-8:30pm	Lyrical, ages 12 and up
8:30-9:00pm	Teen Jazz

Dance Tuition

\$42 (includes 6 lessons) *Plus \$5 registration fee per family. Family Plan- 2 classes or more. *Applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in 2 or more classes.*

Family Plan Discount:

\$10 off for 2 • \$15 off for 3 • \$20 off 4 or more

**Watch for more information on a new
Baseball Program!!**

OPEN SWIM & Adult Lap Swim on Mondays!

4:00pm-4:45pm

Open Swim Fee: \$2 per person Adult Lap Swim Fee: \$5 per person

Residents ONLY

You must stop in at the HW Recreation Department to get a Swim Pass prior to open swim.



Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

The Recreation Department has three parks for community use, each with children's playground equipment and picnic sites. Picnic reservations will be taken from May through Labor Day. Only one picnic allowed per household per year. No moon bounces, trains, charcoal grills, bands or DJ's allowed for picnics. Reserve at least one month in advance, minimum of two weeks in advance. Refunds for cancellations are only given if you cancel at least 4 weeks before your scheduled picnic date.

****There are no dogs allowed in Johnston or Danbury Parks.****



Park Fees *(Fees are subject to change)

There is a fee for picnic reservations. A shelter at Johnston or Salter Park is \$75. The Pavilion at Salter is \$100. The fee is due at the time of reservation.

Financial Assistance Program

The City of Harper Woods believes in providing recreation opportunities to all residents regardless of economic circumstances. For a confidential inquiry, please contact the Recreation Director at 313-343-2560.

Recreation Refund Policy

1. Requests must be submitted in writing to the Recreation Department within the first 2 weeks of the program.
2. No refunds will be given after the second week of class, except under special circumstances, i.e. medical reasons.
3. Refunds will be given in check form through City Hall for amounts over \$10.00 or as credit for future recreation registration fees for amounts of \$10.00 or less.

To Register:

Register at the Recreation Office or mail in the registration form with payment. Phone reservations not accepted.

Make checks payable to: **City of Harper Woods**

**The Recreation Department is located near the front of Johnston Park
Office hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday**

**The mailing address is: City of Harper Woods Parks & Recreation
20221 Beaconsfield, Harper Woods, MI 48225**

313-343-2560

Harper Woods Recreation Department

Participant Name _____

Age _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Birthdate _____

The undersigned recognizes that injuries sometimes occur in connection with athletic activities, and hereby exonerates the City of Harper Woods Recreation Department, its employees and volunteers for any liabilities in connection therewith. The City of Harper Woods is not liable for any accidents or injuries to participants or spectators.

Activity _____ Days/Times _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant _____

Library News & Events



"Check out what we've got planned for you!"

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director



From the Director

It's time for spring again! As I write this in February, we just had our biggest snowstorm of the year, so I'm definitely looking forward to daffodils, warmer weather, and walks outside without gloves on.

Our annual Summer Reading Program will be kicking on June 14. This year's theme is "Tails and Tales." We will have lots of animal-related fun for our patrons this year. Come on in and check out what we have!

Family Programming

Summer Reading

Kick-Off – Monday, June 14 @ 4:30 p.m.

Join us at Salter Park to learn about this year's *Tails and Tales* Summer Reading Program!

We'll have stories, games, and an outdoor craft!

Paw-rty – Wednesday, June 23 @ 3:00 p.m.

Have you been seeing all those cool crafts you can do with your dog, but you're afraid to make a mess? Bring your furry friend to the library (especially adventurous cats also welcome) and we'll do a series of paw-print crafts on our lawn. **Please, make sure all dogs are leashed!**



Programming for Little Ones

Teddy Bear Tea – Friday, May 7 @ 11:30 a.m.

Make sure to pick up your take-home tea party starting Monday, May 3, then join us on Zoom with your favorite furry friend! We'll read a story and do a craft you can give mom (or grandma) for Mother's Day! Please be sure to register, either by calling or emailing us at hwl@libcoop.net, so that we can get you a Zoom link and put together your party bag!

Big Red Barn Raising – Monday, June 28 @ 3:00 p.m.

Inspired by the Margaret Wise Brown classic, we will be holding an outdoor barn-raising, featuring sensory activities for little ones and a petting zoo with some of our favorite farm animals!

Shake a Tail Feather Story Time – Friday, June 18 - July 23 @ 11:30 a.m.

No meeting on July 2 because of 4th of July Weekend. Join us for stories, songs, and crafts about your favorite animals. Story Time will be outdoors, weather-permitting, or on Facebook Live, and take-home crafts will be available for pick-up that week.

Distance Programming

Spring into Spring Take-Home Crafts – During the months of April and May, make sure to check in for bi-weekly crafts. We're ready for spring, and we have lots of ideas blossoming for new Take and Makes.

Tails-to-Go Take-Home Crafts – Each week during the Summer Reading Program, we will have at least one new craft available. Stop by the library to pick up some crafts to do at home, or ask that we leave one for Curbside Pick-Up.

Ongoing Programs for Adults

ZOOM Book Club: 4th Wednesday of the month, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m

Contact the library (313-343-2575 or hwl@libcoop.net) to join. A study guide containing book summary, discussion questions, and author biography is available upon request.

April 28: *The Gown: a Novel of the Royal Wedding* by Jennifer Robson

May 26: *Finding Dorothy* by Elizabeth Letts

June 23: *The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers* by Bridgett M. Davis

Take and Make Craft Kits!

April: (1) Spring Wreath (2) Pansies & Violas Planting Kit

May: Mother's Day Card Kit

June: Father's Day Bottle Cap Photo Frame

Adult Summer Reading Program: June 14 – July 23 – Sign up on our website (www.harperwoodslibrary.org), or talk to the librarian at the Reference Desk.

Open to adults 18 years and older. Read or listen to at least 3 books to be eligible for gift cards & prizes at our *End of Summer Reading Celebration* during the week of July 26



Check the library's website for hours and closure dates.
Visit www.harperwoodslibrary.org
or call the library at 313-343-2575

the Community Resource Guide

Harper Woods Edition



Highlighted in this Edition:

**Health and Fitness • How to Help Children Cope with Isolation • Supporting Local Businesses
Chefs Corner • Harper Woods Real Estate Trends • Business Directory • Education • And more**

The Community Resource Guide is a quarterly, seasonal publication providing all Harper Woods residents and businesses an opportunity to share local stories, upcoming events and business services within our community.

If you or someone you know have an event to promote, a story to share or an idea for the upcoming Summer Edition (July thru September) email us at info@drivecreativeservices.com. (All information provided would be considered without guarantee it will be published)

Deadline to provide information is Friday, May 14.



To promote your business in this quarterly publication, please contact
Drive Creative Services at (586) 275-0030 • email: info@drivecreativeservices.com

Today's Health & Fitness



Ken Welch, Owner
Pointe Fitness
& Training

How did I start out the New Year? January 2, 2021, I had a heart attack. You're surprised to hear that. I was surprised it happened.

On that Saturday morning after training several clients, I worked out myself. I felt unusually tired that morning, so I had an extra cup of coffee. My workout was below average but chocked it up to a conditioning drop-off since I was getting older. I needed to up my game. It had been like this for a couple weeks.

As I was driving home, I started to get a cramp beneath my sternum. As I got closer to my house the pain increased and crept up into my neck. I couldn't figure out what movement I had done in my workout that would cause that much discomfort, that quick. I remembered reading that heart attack symptoms are not all the same and that one of the symptoms was chest and neck pain together. To be on the safe side I turned toward Beaumont's ER.

I was only a few steps in the door when the nursing staff immediately rushed me into an EKG, then to the stent lab, (two stents), critical care and after being transferred to my bed; chest

compressions. My heart decided to take a break after all it had been through. Thanks to the great staff of all the units and the excellent care provided by them, I'm here today writing this article. I'm now in Cardiac rehab and have been getting better each week. I'm thankful I was in decent shape to begin with.

Here's the point: You can be in really good shape and still have a lifetime of habits and genetics catch up with you. People in good shape are as much at risk as anyone. Parts eventually wear out and family history can't be outrun, regardless of your exercise routine.

Pay attention to things like swollen feet at the end of the day, unusual fatigue, a decrease in recovery time where there shouldn't be, if you think you have reflux or indigestion, have bouts of lightheadedness or brief dizziness; don't blow it off. Be insistent, get checked. Pay attention to your body and don't procrastinate.

If you suspect something, investigate it. You're not being a hypochondriac, you're being smart. Trust me on this.



*The Detroit Area Agency on Aging
provides a variety of In-Home Care Services
to older persons, adults with disabilities
and family caregivers.*

AVAILABLE SERVICE OPTIONS:

- Adult Day Services
- Care Management Services—60+Medically Eligible
- Caregiver Education, Training and Support
- Community Outreach
- Congregate Meals
- Disease Self-Management Classes
- Information & Assistance
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group
- Health & Wellness Classes
- Holiday Meals on Wheels
- Home Delivered Meals—60+Homebound
- Long Term Care Ombudsman—Nursing Home Rights
- Medicare, Medicaid Assistance Program
- MI Choice Waiver Services for Adults
(Income Requirement/18+Disabled or 65+Medically Eligible)
- Senior Employment Program
(55+Income Requirement)
- Transition from Nursing Homes to the Community



Serving Detroit, Hamtramck,
Harper Woods, Highland Park
and the five Grosse Pointes



Call for eligibility requirements
(313) 446-4444
detroit seniorsolution.org



“I’m worried about how my kids are dealing with our current situation — being isolated from their friends, school, and activities. How can I make sure they are coping and will be able to move on in a healthy way when life returns to normal?”

The way life has been upended and the uncertainty of it all can disrupt efforts and progress parents and teachers have made to help foster resiliency in our children. While many/most of us are feeling unsure and unsettled, there are things we can focus on that will help.

During World War II, a mental health study reported on the differences between children who had stayed with their parents during the bombing of London compared to children who had been sent to safety outside London.

The findings were surprising. Despite the physical dangers, the children who stayed with parents displayed significantly less anxiety, depression and mood disorders than those who stayed with relatives and friends in a safer environment.

Resilience can only be built through exposure to and navigation of challenges that cause us to adapt — always with the help of others.

With children, despite today’s scary and unpredictable environment, the most important thing is to meet them where they are, giving them a voice to express their fears and concerns without judgment. As they feel emotionally safe to express themselves, they experience a connection to their parents and

siblings that enhances their sense of identity within the larger family entity. Over time, this can lead to a culture of family resilience.

The idea of emotional safety supersedes the idea of physical safety in conferring resilience to children. As they feel emotionally safe, children can begin to model their response to challenging environments in attunement with their families.

One helpful tool comes from PositivePsychology.com and Professor Helen McGrath’s Bounce Back! Program. Bounce Back! is an acronym for some of the foundational principles of resilience:

- B — Bad times don’t last and things get better.
- O — Other people can only help if you share with them.
- U — Unhelpful thinking only makes you feel worse.
- N — Nobody is perfect — not you, not your friends, not your family, not anybody!
- C — Concentrate on the good things in life, no matter how small.
- E — Everybody suffers, everybody feels pain and experiences setbacks; they are a normal part of life.
- B — Blame fairly — negative events often are a combination of things you did, things others did and plain bad luck.
- A — Accept what you can’t change and try to change what you can.
- C — Catastrophizing makes things worse; don’t fall prey to believing the worst interpretation.
- K — Keep things in perspective. Even the worst moment is but one moment in life.

Frank Wilberding is a clinical social worker and certified Hazelden-trained addiction counselor in Grosse Pointe Park. He is a member of The Family Center’s Association of Professionals and serves on the board of directors. Wilberding can be reached at (312) 443-2112 or fdwilberding@gmail.com.

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and preventative education to empower families to successfully navigate life’s social, emotional and physical challenges. The Family Center is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit familycenterweb.org.

How Can the Grosse Pointe Chamber help your business?

If you think of a community as a puzzle, everyone; businesses, and organizations are a piece of that puzzle. Each piece has its own shape, size, purpose and needs.

The Chamber helps to facilitate putting that puzzle together! So, we all can see the bigger picture of the community, as well as see the gaps that need to be filled. “The better the chamber knows its pieces, the better we can connect them!”

How Can the Grosse Pointe Chamber help your business?

Together we will continue to create awareness and find ways to promote everything our area has to offer its residents and guests throughout the year. Our goal is to promote our exceptional community and professional business services.

With your support, we will be even stronger and through active communication and participation, we can help your business.

We look forward to having you as an integral piece of the puzzle!





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Students helped prepare a scumptiumpus serving of Black Eyed Pea Cassoulet.



The event was held in a covid compliant environment.

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CHEF'S CORNER



Zucchini Pasta

INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds of zucchini spiralized
3 tbs EVOO
4 cloves of garlic minced
1 pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
1 pint cherry tomatoes
1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
1 cup fresh basil leaves
1 teaspoon cornstarch
2 teaspoons cold water
Pink Sea salt
Spiralizer
Non stick wok pan
Tongs

DIRECTIONS:

1. Spiralize your zucchini and cut them down to noodle size.
2. In a wok pan add oil and stir-fry garlic with noodles.
3. Add tomatoes, spices and herbs.
4. Finish with cheese and remove zucchini pasta from pan. Reserve liquid in pan.
5. Reduce remaining liquid. Once thickened pour over zucchini pasta and serve.
6. Garnish with more cheese, fresh basil and tomato.

SIDE NOTE: you can stir-fry chicken, shrimp or beef to add to this dish.

It's a New Day in America

2021 starts off as a new America with a crisp cold chill in the air until spring, with new beginnings and weather to storm. There are new things to focus on and different protocols to follow. Now that a mask is a part of our wardrobe, we must stay covered and ready to fight coronavirus. Eating just for nourishment is not enough these days. I think it's time to eat for defense. Consuming foods high in iron and zinc with taking vitamins A-D are a great way to start off the year.

As I'm still planning and working on my healthy lifestyle, I recently purchased a 30 day vitamin supply that includes several nourishing supplements in one pack. This can be found in your local vitamin shop or pharmacy.

With better nutrients supplied to my body I feel a new diet plan coming to mind, the bone broth diet. I have done many juice cleanses, but this one seems to be very interesting. It's your standard chicken, beef or fish broth; however, it's loaded with spices, ginger root and garlic, including fresh herbs and citrus peels, not to mention salt. This broth is luxurious because of its generous donation of collagen, gelatin and protein, plumping my face and cushioning my joints. This bone broth has amino acids and anti-inflammatory agents that help boost my immune system. It's recommended that this diet is followed for only 3 days out of the week, along with proper hydration and unsweetened green tea.

The other 3 days can be covered by my favorite vegetarian recipe Zucchini pasta. This gluten and guilt free recipe takes about 20 min to prepare and can be made with various sauces to change the dish. Here are my recipes for Bone Broth and Zucchini pasta.

Over the next few weeks and months I want to take the time to focus on my health, which is something everyone should try to do. I think with today's health concerns and changes to the world we should all try to be a bit more gentle to ourselves and kind to our neighbors. Thank you for taking the time to read this article.

Sincerely,
-Chef Patricia Lyons



Bone Broth

INGREDIENTS:

2 carrots chopped
2 celery stalks
1 medium onion chopped medium
2 garlic cloves
3.5 lb beef or chicken bones or combination of both
Kosher salt
Peppercorn
Turmeric
Ginger
Lemon grass
Oregano/Thyme/Rosemary
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
Water
Slow cooker
Mason jars or soup mugs

DIRECTIONS:

1. Put the bones in your slow cooker. Add water $\frac{3}{4}$ full
2. Add chopped vegetables and garlic.
3. Season with 1 tsp salt
4. 2 tablespoons of apple cider vinegar
5. Turn on low for 18-72 hours.
6. Strain the broth and cool.

SIDE NOTE: Broth will usually have a layer of fat on top and this will gelatinize when thoroughly cool. Remove this for desired clarity. You should have 6 hot cups of broth each day you're on the diet plan. Drink as if you would drink your hot tea in the morning, noon and night.

\$109,149

AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▼ **2.4%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **7.8%**
FROM Q4 2019

79
NUMBER
OF SALES

▲ **5.3%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **17.9%**
FROM Q4 2019

46
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▼ **38.7%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **7.0%**
FROM Q4 2019

41
AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▼ **4.7%**
AVERAGE PRIOR QUARTER

▼ **51.2%**
AVERAGE Q4 2019

64.2%
ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▲ **10.5%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **141.6%**
FROM Q4 2019

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q4 2020) OVER QUARTER (Q3 2020)

▼ **4.6%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ **2.5%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ **5.3%**
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (Q4 2020 vs. Q4 2019)

▼ **53.2%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ **20.3%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ **17.9%**
TOTAL CLOSED

The market in Harper Woods remains strong with continued low sales the result of low inventory. This trend does appear to be reversing as the year over year figures suggest. Please note that with small amounts of data, average sale price is likely to fluctuate noticeably and is a less reliable indicator than Days on Market.

Stats and Trends provided by the Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® All information deemed reliable but not guaranteed and should be independently verified. Information was derived from a variety of sources including but not limited to Realcomp II Ltd. and the Great Lakes Repository®.

¹The Absorption Rate is the rate of home sales taken by dividing the number of sales by the inventory. Above 18.3% is considered a seller's market.

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UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Average Sale Price – Good news!: While down slightly from the previous quarter, year over year shows 2020 was better than 2019. The increase year over year remains low enough that it will unlikely push buyers out of the market as interest rates are lower than last year which increases affordability. These low rates, by the way, are expected to carry through all of 2021 and into 2022.

Number of sales – Better than expected: This is actually unbelievable news. Typically, as inventory decreases like you see above, sales are constrained. That more homes have sold than last quarter, or last year, is incredible considering the drop we have seen in inventory. It also, however, indicates that home buying is more competitive than at any time in the recent past.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good News!: Of the almost 80 homes sold in the fourth Quarter, 8 had been on the market for more than 100 days and 2 for an average of one year each. These outliers in the data skewed the average Days on Market from 27 days to an average of 75. It is likely that the sale of homes which have been for sale for a long time will continue as buyers literally suck everything for sale off the market. Until those homes are all sold the Days on Market is likely to fluctuate, and as a result, not be a serious indicator of market strength or weakness.

Inventory – Not Good News!: When you sell more than 100% of the homes on the market it means the inventory, already low, is becoming even more depleted. This is good for owners in that it keeps prices steady, if not going up, but it also means if they want to move finding another home is not going to be easy.

Absorption Rate – It Depends!: For sellers it means a newly listed home will likely sell and sell quickly. When it is this high, it also means buyers may be scared out of buying. This trend is a continuation of what we have seen all year.

Absorption Rate is sales divided by inventory. When the number is above 18.3% it is considered a seller's market (which distresses buyers and discourages potential buyers); below 15.4% and it is considered a buyer's market (discourages sellers and potential sellers)

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