

THE INSIDER

For The City of Harper Woods

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!
WINTER EDITION
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2021

Get the most out of our community!

CITY CALENDAR

January

*Check City's website for time and format

January 1 – City Offices Closed – New Years Day

January 1 – Rubbish Delay

January 2 – Siren Test 1:00pm

January 4 – *City Council Meeting

January 14 – Water Bills Due

January 18 – City Offices Closed – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20 – *City Council Meeting

February

*Check City's website for time and format

February 1 – *City Council Meeting

February 6 – Siren Test 1:00pm

February 15 – City Offices Closed – President's Day

February 16 – Winter Taxes Due – Water Bills Due

February 17 – *City Council Meeting

March

*Check City's website for time and format

March 1 – *City Council Meeting

March 6 – Siren Test 1:00pm

March 8 – Board of Review

March 14 – Daylight Savings Time – Set clocks ahead 1 hour

March 15 – *City Council Meeting – Water Bills Due

March 22 – Board of Review

New Year, New Outlook

As we begin 2021, there are many things we are grateful for, including our unwavering optimism for what lies ahead. This will be a year of community healing, togetherness and constructive energy that truly makes Harper Woods a remarkable place to live and explore with our friends and neighbors.

Life presents challenges that can make things seem difficult at certain times. With strong faith and resilience, we can overcome any obstacle with grace and perseverance as we grow both mentally and spiritually. Harper Woods has shown us this many times throughout its storied past.

In this special edition, we have inserted the Harper Woods 2021 Wall Calendar for you to keep track of important dates throughout the year. Please visit the City website at www.harperwoodscity.org for information on meeting and event times.



Thank you, Mr. Poynter

Mayor Valerie Kindle along with the Harper Woods City Council, administrators, residents, and employees would like to recognize Mr. Poynter for his dedication to service and significant contributions to our city's well-being.

City Clerk Leslie Frank added, "Throughout all the years that I have known Ken, I have always found him to be sincere in all matters whether work related or personal. He is honest, friendly, and inclusive of all people, resident, or otherwise. During tough economic times in the City, he remained positive and was quick to remind us all that working together as a team was the only way forward. I have learned many things from him over the years and have always had the utmost respect for him. I wish him and Margrit nothing but happiness and peace with their next adventure."

Longtime resident and Planning Board Commissioner Serafin Buscemi who has known Poynter for over 30 years said "he's forthright, caring and always a calming influence in different situations. Whatever he decides to do in the future, hopefully will be very fulfilling. I wish him and Margrit the best of everything!"

Community Economic and Development Director Ty Hinton who has worked with Poynter on several community projects expressed that, "Ken Poynter and his wife worked tirelessly to help organize the Harper Woods Development Coalition. They were there from the beginning helping to create the Harper Woods "Neighborhoods Improvement Plan", which was published for public consumption in the spring of 2017. He was devoted to bringing residents of Harper Woods together to achieve a common goal, which was the improvement of the City's "living environment."

Thank you, Ken Poynter, for 23 years of service as mayor to the City of Harper Woods!



Election Brings
New Judge to
32A District Court
- Page 8

New City
Council Member
Appointed
- Page 16

Observance of
Black History Month
- Page 18/19

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

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

Copyright 2020. City of Harper Woods and Drive Creative Services LLC. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher. Printed in the United States of America. This publication is a community service and the City of Harper Woods and Drive Creative Services LLC do not make any warranty of any kind with regard to the services or products of the advertisers herein. The City of Harper Woods and Drive Creative Services LLC do not assume any responsibility or liability for any of the content within this publication and for any errors or omissions to such content and reserve the right to not publish any material. The costs of the publication are offset by the advertisers. Drive Creative Services LLC is in control of the advertising content of this publication.

Employee in the Spotlight

Carrie Petrocelli

- In early 2019, Carrie Petrocelli joined the Harper Woods 32A District Court as a Deputy Court Clerk. Carrie then became the Director of Probation by year end. She oversees all Court Probation activities and coordinates the Mental Health Court.

Carrie was selected to be in the spotlight because she is passionate for helping others and really cares about her client's well-being. Court Administrator Rachelle Matouk said, "Her character, integrity, and work ethic makes Carrie a valuable member of our team."

Judge Daniel Palmer further recognized Carrie stating, "How fortunate 32A District Court is to have someone with the talents for and dedication to her position as Director of Probation. She cares deeply about the probationers that she supervises and works tirelessly to set clear and reasonable expectations for them. Carrie's prior experience as a grant writer has served the Court and the city of Harper Woods well. She has been instrumental in obtaining annual Mental Health Court grants in excess of \$50,000 and recently wrote a successful COVID-19 grant that resulted in reimbursement of almost \$10,000 in COVID-19 related court expenditures. Also, prior to being elevated to the Probation Director position, Carrie served as a probation volunteer for 32A District Court, while also working as a part-time Deputy Court Clerk here. I am thankful to Carrie for her service to our court and community."

Petrocelli said, "I truly love my job. There is a great energy in Harper Woods. My colleagues and the citizens I serve inspire me to be better every day. I find great satisfaction in providing guidance, support, and resources to my probation clients. I like to think they learn a little something from me and I can honestly say I have learned a lot from them as well. Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." These words are an inspiration to me every day and I am honored that my service is directed to this wonderful community. I want to thank Judge Palmer for entrusting me with the responsibilities of the Probation Department at the 32A District Court"

"Thank you to the City of Harper Woods for this recognition. It was unexpected and humbling. I am thrilled to be part of our dynamic team here!" she added.



Neighbor in the News:

Shonda Peterson arrived in Harper Woods four years ago with a neighborhood purpose: To nourish people in our community by providing food to those in need to as many she could. She initially started out of her garage distributing groceries in the neighborhood from the contacts she met through the school's and the "Eating Gives" program. Shonda said, "Food has a way to bring people together! We are filling bellies and changing people's lives. It does not matter what community it is, there are always hungry people in our neighborhoods."

Shonda now has teamed up with Harper Woods Mayor Valerie Kindle to offer a food program to locals- Harper Woods Helping Hands. Each week Peterson along with volunteers collect food for people to distribute in our area. On Thursdays and Fridays with food donations primarily from Trader Joe's, Mayor Kindle and Peterson are at the Neighborhood Economic Development Center on Kelly Road to give people of the community fresh and healthy foods.

Mayor Kindle expressed, "Harper Woods is fortunate to have Shonda. She is constantly looking for ways to assist

the Harper Woods community."

Shonda Peterson is naturally a people person. She loves meeting people in the community and learning about ways she can help those experiencing hardships. Peterson is also involved with "Wellness for Veterans" to aide our veterans with support services. In addition to all her volunteering efforts, she works full-time in the health care field, is a mom to four children, a dog, and four birds. She also became a new wife in November 2020.

Peterson is excited about the response to the program and says, "Bright things ahead are on the horizon for Harper Woods Helping Hands." Thank you, Shonda!

For more information about the program contact: harperwoodshelpinghands@gmail.com or look for Harper Woods Helping Hands on social media.



Featured Business/Organization: 7 to 7 Cleaners



Owner, Washington Youson

The 7 to 7 Cleaners new owner Washington Youson opened his doors on January 21st of this year, just when the COVID-19 pandemic began. During most of March and April, the cleaners was closed, but allowed four hours for customers to pick up the clothes for funerals, etc. Mr. Youson lives only seven minutes away from his enterprise in Detroit. Their business motto is "We are Committed to High Quality Service, Affordability, and Giving Back to the Community We Serve!"

His inspiration for that motto came from the first owners, Mr. Kim and his wife, of whom he said, "Gave the community quality services over 30 years ago." When he was a young man, he would come to this cleaners, because of its quality service. When he bought the cleaners, he went down on prices. Youson added, "Dry Cleaning in many ways is a community necessity, but you don't want to break the bank."

His need to serve the community comes from prior public service positions he held. Previously, he worked in the U. S. Congress and the State Senate as Hanson Clark's highest-ranking staff person. He served as Clark's District Director and gave many hours serving the community in that capacity. He considers himself, his staff and the business as "stakeholders" in the Harper Woods Community. And so, we say, Welcome to Harper Woods Mr. Youson!

The 7 to 7 Cleaners is located at 19834 Kelly Road. Call 313-372-6558 for hours and more information.

The Harper Woods city offices will be closed in observance of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

SERVE ON MLK DAY AND BEYOND.

#MLKDay

Monday, January 20, 2020

Department of Public Safety – Police

Burglary Prevention Tips

Burglars don't like to make noise, they don't like to be seen and the harder you can make it for them to get into your home, the better. Ways to achieve this include:

- Alarm Systems (noise makers that summon police).
- Trimming your landscaping down to 3 feet for bushes and up 7 feet from the ground on trees (so the burglar is more likely to be seen).
- Upgraded (more expensive) deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch bolt.
- Latch plate for the deadbolt secured with 3-inch screws.
- Lock your windows and doors when you are not home.
- When you leave home, leave a loud TV or Radio on (loud enough to be heard from the front door).
- Many burglars will knock first to see if anyone is home. When someone answers the door, they will have some excuse to be there (ex. they are looking for someone else and have the wrong house, etc.). If someone unexpectedly knocks on your door, DO NOT open the door but DO let them know you are home, by speaking to them through the door. If it is even remotely suspicious, call police immediately with a good description of people and vehicles.
- Close your blinds so that burglars can't see into your residence.
- Dogs are an excellent deterrent-most burglars do not want to tangle with a dog.
- Get to know your neighbors. Concerned neighbors watch out for each other and burglars avoid those neighborhoods.
- Consider covering your garage door windows so a burglar can't see that no cars are present (meaning no one is at home).
- Keep outside home lighting on all night. The cost to operate the lights is minimal compared to the crime deterrent effect it creates.
- When leaving the house for an extended period of time, put interior lights on timers.
- Going on vacation? Make sure it doesn't look like you are on vacation! Let your neighbors know so they can watch your house and get your mail. Suggest that they park their cars in your driveway and put garbage out for you on garbage day. Make sure you arrange to have your snow shoveled or your grass cut as well. Remember you can also sign up for a vacation watch at the Harper Woods Police Department.



Using Rideshare Services Like Uber and Lyft

Wait for Your Ride Indoors

This prevents you from standing outside unnecessarily with a phone in your hand, signaling to passing motorists that you're waiting for someone to pick you up. Instead, wait until your driver is close or has arrived before going outside.

Confirm Details When the Car Arrives

Don't just look at what time your driver is coming. Pay attention to the make, model, and color of the car as well as the driver's name and photo. Make sure to match the license plate number on your screen to the one you see in real life.

Map Your Own Route During the Ride

This is especially important if you're in a different city and aren't familiar with the route. By monitoring your own GPS navigation, you'll see if the driver is leading you astray.

Don't Share Private Information With Your Driver

This includes your personal phone number. The Uber app automatically encrypts both the driver's number and the passenger's digits to protect both sides' privacy. You should never share credit card info with the driver. All Lyft and Uber fares are paid through the app, and tips can be added there, too.

Ride in the Back Seat

If you're the only passenger in the car, riding in the back seat gives both the passenger and driver more personal space. It also ensures you're able to get out on either side to avoid traffic.

Tell a Friend Where You're Going and Who You're With

Both Lyft and Uber let you quickly and easily share who your driver is, where you're going, and when you're supposed to get there. The "share status" option in the Uber app gives your friend your driver's name, photo, license plate, and location. Your friend can then track your trip and see your estimated time of arrival even if he or she doesn't have the app. The "send ETA" feature on the Lyft app is very similar. It sends a text to your friend with details about the car, the driver, and how far along you are on the route.





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.



Craigslist Rental Scams

Are you in the market for a new place to live and dealing with a realtor seems to be out of the question? Where do you turn? A lot of people think that Craigslist holds many great opportunities for low cost rental properties.

But before you begin your search or sign on the dotted line, be aware that there are many unscrupulous people using Craigslist, posing as rental agents, just to get your personal and financial information.

The number of fake rental scams on Craigslist and other online classifieds continues to grow, with new aliases appearing daily. But while the names may change, the methods are always the same. Don't believe these ads appear only on Craigslist. They could show up anywhere!

- The email addresses they use usually are from yahoo, ymail, rocketmail, fastermail, live, hotmail and gmail, and they also post ads under anonymous craigslist addresses. They frequently change their aliases.
- The deal sounds too good to be true. Scammers will often list a rental for a very low price to lure in victims. Find out how comparable listings are priced, and if the rental comes in suspiciously low, walk away.
- They will take photos from a current listing create a new listing and pass it off as their own.
- If they offer to meet you at the home and the owner is not able to show you the interior of the home or the owner doesn't have keys and advises you to change the locks that is a red flag.
- They use fake names, often stolen from Facebook profiles or networking sites. Often they assume the identities of previous victims.
- The contact number provided to the renter is usually a burner/ throw away phone and is discarded the minute the deal is done.
- Never under any circumstances, wire money at the request of any prospective "landlord" via Western Union, Money Gram or any other wire service. Even if they tell you to wire the funds to a friend or relative's name "to be safe," it's a trap!
- Never be in a rush. You can always check with your local City Offices to see who they list as the owner of the property and see if there is a certificate of occupancy for the home issued by the city.



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.

Department of Public Safety – Fire

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

The firefighter / paramedics of the Harper Woods Fire Department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy New Year. We hope the New Year brings everyone health and happiness and we can all finally leave 2020 behind. Please continue to follow State of Michigan and Federal COVID-19 guidelines and be mindful of others in social settings. Despite a steady number of COVID cases in the area, the Harper Woods Fire Department has seen an increase in non-COVID related medical runs. Remember your underlying health needs to be monitored during times of COVID-19 just as much as monitoring the signs and symptoms of COVID. Continue to see your physician if you are treated for health problems. We would like to share a couple safety tips for the season from the American Heart Association and the United States Fire Administration.



7 Winter Safety Tips from the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association offers winter weather tips to keep people safe this winter from cold weather dangers like hypothermia and heart attacks that may occur as you exert more energy while shoveling snow.

The American Heart Association says that for most people, shoveling snow may not lead to any health problems. However, the association warns that the risk of a heart attack during snow shoveling may increase for some, stating that the combination of colder temperatures and physical exertion increases the workload on the heart.

People who are outdoors in cold weather should avoid sudden exertion, like lifting a heavy shovel full of snow. Even walking through heavy, wet snow or snow drifts can strain a person's heart. It's important to know how cold weather can affect your heart, especially if you have cardiovascular disease.

To help make snow removal safer, the American Heart Association has compiled a list of practical tips:

1. Give yourself a break.
Take frequent rest breaks during shoveling so you don't overstress your heart. Pay attention to how your body feels during those breaks.
2. Be aware of the dangers of hypothermia.
Heart failure causes most deaths in hypothermia. To prevent hypothermia, dress in layers of warm clothing, which traps air between layers forming a protective insulation. Wear a hat because much of your body's heat can be lost through your head.
Many people aren't conditioned to the physical stress of outdoor activities and don't know the dangers of being outdoors in cold weather. Hypothermia means the body temperature has fallen below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. It occurs when your body can't produce enough energy to keep the internal body temperature warm enough. It can kill you. Heart failure causes most deaths in hypothermia. Symptoms include lack of coordination, mental confusion, slowed reactions, shivering and sleepiness.
3. Don't eat a heavy meal prior or soon after shoveling.
Eating a large meal can put an extra load on your heart.
4. Use a small shovel or consider a snow thrower.
The act of lifting heavy snow can raise blood pressure acutely during the lift. It is safer to lift smaller amounts more times, than to lug a few huge shovelfuls of snow. When possible, simply push the snow.

5. Learn the heart attack warning signs and listen to your body, but remember this:
Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out (tell a doctor about your symptoms). Minutes matter! Fast action can save lives — maybe your own. Don't wait more than five minutes to call 9-1-1.
6. Don't drink alcoholic beverages before or immediately after shoveling.
Alcohol may increase a person's sensation of warmth and may cause them to underestimate the extra strain their body is under in the cold.
7. Consult a doctor.
If you have a medical condition, don't exercise on a regular basis or are middle aged or older, meet with your doctor prior to the first anticipated snowfall.

Heart Attack Warning Signs

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense — the "movie heart attack," where no one doubts what's happening. But most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

Chest discomfort:

Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

Shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort:

Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

Calling 9-1-1 is almost always the fastest way to get lifesaving treatment. Emergency medical services staff can begin treatment when they arrive — up to an hour sooner than if someone gets to the hospital by car. EMS staff is also trained to revive someone whose heart has stopped. Patients with chest pain who arrive by ambulance usually receive faster treatment at the hospital, too. It is best to call EMS for rapid transport to the emergency room. If you can't access EMS, have someone drive you to the hospital right away. If you're the one having symptoms, don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.

For more information, visit your physician or call the American Heart Association at 800-AHA-USA1 (242-8721) or visit online at heart.org.



Carbon Monoxide Safety - Did You Know?

More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental nonfire-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

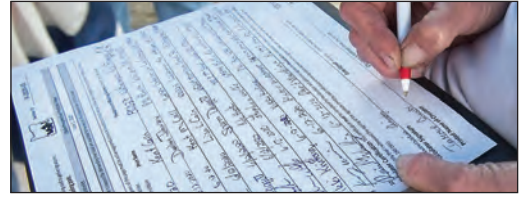
Carbon monoxide or CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal. Learn what you can do to protect your family from the dangers of CO.

- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of CO.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.

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.

Board and Commission Vacancies

The City is looking for civic minded residents to serve on one of the City's various Boards and/or Commissions. If you would like to take an active part in your community, call the City Clerk's office for more information or fill out an application, found on our website. Presently we have openings on the following: Beautification Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Brownfield Authority and Planning Commission.

Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

Building Department Info

Happy New Year from SAFEbuilt.

Welcome to 2021, a new year with hope of safer times. Property maintenance is required to keep yourself and the general public safe so please put forth the effort to;



- Clean up debris that may become hidden under snow creating slip and fall accidents such as advertisement flyers, plastic bags, leaves, etc.
- PLEASE clean out your gutters to allow water to flow away from your house foundation. Water that travels down your foundation can freeze and crack your basement walls creating costly repairs.
- Have a shovel and/or snowblower handy to clear all concrete surfaces. Ice melting agents are a smart item to have readily available as well.
- An annual furnace inspection should be performed so that you may have peace of mind that it is operating properly and not admitting carbon monoxide into your home.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Be aware of your surroundings and help out your neighbors that are elderly or have physical limitations.

Enjoy the winter months and stay safe!

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.

The new 2021 Notice of Assessments will be mailed out at the end of February, 2021.

March Board of Review Appeal Dates will be printed on your Notice and posted on the City website.

32A District Court News

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Hello Harper Woods,

I would like to thank you for electing me to be the next Judge of the 32A District Court. It is with great honor that many of you have provided this platform, and I look forward to serving this great community. I am beyond excited and ready to get to work. As we have just transitioned from the holiday season, I hope that you all had a wonderful time with your family. I would be remiss if I did not send prayers and thoughts to the many who have dealt with hardships and personal loss during 2020. As we move into the new year, I look forward to continuing to build strong community relationships that we can lean upon in both difficult and joyous times.

I would like to thank Judge Dan Palmer on his many years of service and dedication to the City of Harper Woods! I wish him nothing but the best in all of his future endeavors both personally and professionally.

The work begins now, and I embrace the challenge of moving this court and our system into the 21st century. Since the election, I have been working diligently on a 90-day plan to implement the foundation for the needed changes for the 32A District Court. "It's time for a change" has always been about making the judicial system here in Harper Woods work best for its community. In order to do this, the needed bridge between the community and the court must be established. Thank you for giving me the responsibility of leading these efforts and giving me the ability to accomplish the goals set when my campaign was launched.

As communities around the world continue to deal with the Covid-19 crisis, let's all do our best to help keep everyone safe. I thank you all for your time and look forward to serving you!

Stay safe,

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman

Hello, from former 32A District Court Judge Daniel Palmer

During my 6 years as Chief Judge of 32A District Court improving access to justice for all has been one of my highest priorities. To help accomplish this I have taken many concrete and affirmative steps. I led the court's aggressive implementation of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission standards which have provided better representation to indigent criminal defendants.

I've also created Harper Woods first specialty court, a mental health court which addresses the psychological needs and provides other support for defendants who are in the criminal justice system due to their mental health issues. I also created a truancy diversion court that addresses student issues of poor attendance, disciplinary problems and poor academic performance before they lead to failure in school and potential criminal justice contacts.

Having recognized early in my tenure, the pervasiveness of drug abuse related crime I organized a community Opioid Town Hall where representatives of Families Against Narcotics and various stakeholders shared with the Harper Woods community ways in which to address this problem.

Under my leadership the court has adopted the use of Zoom technology to service court users without having them risk exposure to Covid-19. The court has also made many changes to its physical layout to protect both the public and its employees.

Most recently I was able to fulfill a years in the making effort to secure court appointed counsel for tenants in landlord/tenant cases, so that they may assert rights that are theirs under Michigan law.

I congratulate my successor, Judge Rebekah R. Coleman on her election. She worked very hard to be elected and ran a smart campaign. I hope that she continues the programs that I started and add her own. I believe that she will find the position of Judge of 32A District Court an excellent opportunity to serve our great community. Finally, I thank the residents for allowing me to serve as their judge. Harper Woods has been very good to my family and I want to say thank you,

Judge Daniel Palmer



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 refer to your current water bill for details and how to register at harperwoods.cityinsight.com. 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!



How are **YOUR** parents doing?

DAAA
Detroit Area Agency on Aging
The Senior Solution

[Learn More Here](#)

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.



Library News & Events



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

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director

From the Director



Happy New Year! I know that many of us are certainly breathing a sigh of relief to say goodbye to 2020! As we

welcome 2021, keep in mind that all of us at the library are here to assist the residents of Harper Woods as you kick off your new year. No matter what your 2021 resolutions may be, we can help you find what you need.

Digital Resources

While we are still working and learning from home, remember to check out some of the resources that are available to our residents. All you need is to go to our website (www.harperwoodslibrary.org) and look for the links. You can get started with your library card number and PIN. Contact the library at 313-343-2575 for assistance!

Tutor.com - Students can get help with any type of academic question: science, math, English, social studies, and writing. Tutors work with students from kindergarten through grade 12 -- even up to introductory college work. After clicking on the link at the library's website, you can connect to a live tutor online between 12pm - 11pm. Many other features (even resume writing assistance!) are available 24-7. All you need is your library card and PIN to connect.



Creativebug - Try out our arts and craft online source. After you click on the link at the library's website, all you need is your Harper Woods library card and PIN to access hundreds of videos for fun ideas in crafts, like paper, sewing, knitting, food decorating, jewelry, and much more!

Ancestry Library Edition - As of the date this was written, Ancestry.com is making their genealogy website available for library users at home (normally, we can only use it in the library). Ask a librarian for help on how to use this great product!

Family Programming

Community Cares Valentines - Pick-Up Materials February 1-12 (Opening Stages Permitting)

Some of our most at-risk neighbors are stuck at home, and would love some love from the outside world! Pick



up supplies to make a Valentine for someone in your community and return them to the library so we can send them out to those in need. Every card will get you a treat and an entry into a prize drawing!

Mo Willems' March Madness - Mondays at 2:00 PM

Every Monday in March, we'll read a story about one of Mo Willems' beloved characters and have a matching character craft available for pick up throughout the week! Watch the story and craft instructions on YouTube whenever you have time, and come back the next week for another character! At the end of the month, we'll vote for our favorite character! Votes will go toward a drawing for an a-MO-zing prize.

Distance Programming

Take-Home Crafts - Stop by the library to pick up some crafts to do at home, or ask that we leave one for Curbside Pick-Up.



Story Times - The Children's Librarian will upload intermittent Story Times to our YouTube channel, so make sure to subscribe! Regular in-person Story Time will not resume until further notice.

Ongoing Programs for Adults

Read Something Different ZOOM Book Club (call or email the library for date & time; also for study guide containing book summary, discussion questions, author biography).

- January: *I've Got Your Number*, by Sophie Kinsella
- February: *We Were the Lucky Ones*, by Georgia Hunter
- March: *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*, by Gabrielle Zevin

Come to the library for **Take and Make craft kits!**

- January: Stress Ball
- February: Valentine Card
- March: St. Patrick's Day Luminary

Check the library's website for **Zoom cooking demonstrations** beginning in January 2021!



Check the library's website for hours and closure dates.

Visit www.harperwoodslibrary.org
or call the library at 313-343-2575

Department of Public Works

Refuse Collection Guidelines

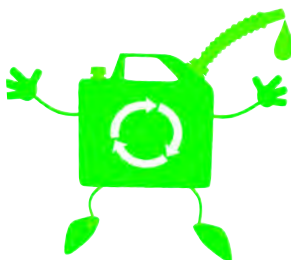
- ✓ The maximum weight of any one item is 40 pounds. Thirty to thirty-five gallon cans or bags are recommended. Oversize containers will not be collected.
- ✓ Please do not dispose of liquids in refuse.
- ✓ Paint must be dried out and placed on the boulevard with lids removed for pick-up.
- ✓ Cardboard, 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 contact the DPW for further information 313-343-2570.



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



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.

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

Snow and Ice Emergencies

Our Public Works Department is responsible for keeping streets clear throughout the winter season whenever there is snow or ice. During a major winter storm, please check to see if Harper Woods has declared a snow emergency by looking at the City's Informational sign, watching your local television news, or listening to the radio.



When a Snow or Ice Emergency is declared, all vehicles **must** be removed from the street or they may be towed at the owner's expense. If you live on a corner lot, please be aware that you are responsible for the clearing of the corner cross walk areas. During a salting or plowing event, we typically begin treating the major streets such as Harper, Beaconsfield, 8 Mile, the east section on Vernier, Canton and Peerless. Depending on the time of day, we will focus on the areas around schools.

Please be a good neighbor and do not pile snow against your neighbor's house or cover basement windows, furnace or dryer vents.

Ordinance Penalty

Sec. 23-4. - Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks by owners of abutting property. The occupant or owner of any premises shall keep the sidewalks in front of, or adjacent to such premises cleared, so far as is practicable and reasonable, from snow and ice to facilitate pedestrian use. Where there are no sidewalks, the occupant or owner as aforementioned, is required to clear a path free from snow and ice where a sidewalk would otherwise be, to facilitate pedestrian use. Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated it shall be cleared within thirty-six (36) hours after it has fallen or accumulated.

(Code 1962, § 7-119; Ord. No. 2014-01, § 1, 7-14-2014; Ord. No. 2016-02, § 1, 3-7-2016)

Sec. 23-4a. - Penalty; enforcement.

(a) Any person who is found to have violated this section shall be deemed responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by section 113(1) of the Revised Judicature Act (MCL 600.113 (1)) and punished by a civil fine as provided herein plus costs and expenses.

(1) For first offense, a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be assessed.

(2) For a second offense, a fine of seventy-five (\$75.00) shall be assessed.

(3) For third offense and all subsequent offenses, a fine of one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) shall be assessed.

We truly regret plowing snow into driveways and covering crosswalks. We know what a difficult task removing this snow can be. Our objective is to keep the streets safe for travel and access for emergency vehicles. **Please refrain from blowing or pushing snow onto cleared streets.** It can cause additional icing and hazardous situations. Please watch the forecast. When snow is predicted, it would be appreciated if vehicles were removed from the street to allow for a safer cleaner job. There need not be a snow emergency to remove your vehicle from the street.

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





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.

Community & Business Progress

Bright Creations Grand Opening

On Saturday, November 7th, a new business in Harper Woods, Bright Creations held a Grand Opening event at Eastland Mall Store #114. This unique gift shop features hand poured scented soy candles and custom décor from owners Beverly Bright and husband Marvin Hicks. Mayor Valerie Kindle attended the Grand Opening and participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony. For more information on Bright Creations, visit their website at brightcreationscandles.com.

Welcome to our Harper Woods Community!



Meet our newest Council Member!

*Congratulations to **Mr. Ivery Toussant, Jr.** on his recent appointment as Council Member to the Harper Woods City Council. We wish you every success in your new duties!*



City Hall Boiler Replacement

It is not uncommon for a city building manager to wait until a boiler completely breaks down before replacing the unit. To make things worse, these types of failures happen when there is a real need for heat. Fortunately for Harper Woods, Bill Snyder the City's DPW Superintendent looked at the age, energy expenditures, and frequency of failures our prior boiler was experiencing and decided to do something about it. He spoke to our Acting City Manager, John Szymanski and found funds in the city's Capital Improvement Fund to replace the City's 50+ year old boiler. The City will now realize reduced energy costs and a more comfortable City Hall. **Thanks Bill!**



UM-Dearborn's iLabs' eCities research recognizes Harper Woods for supporting business in their community

Harper Woods, November 17, 2020 – The City of Harper Woods has been recognized for its successes and efforts in contributing to Michigan's entrepreneurial growth and economic development in the **annual eCities study** conducted by researchers at iLabs, University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for Innovation Research. Harper Woods was honored as a four-star community along with 94 other communities across the state.

Mayor Valerie Kindle responded, "Our City is most grateful for this recognition. In spite of the difficult times we have experienced in recent months, Harper Woods continues to strive toward a better quality of life for all of our residents. This recognition from eCities is timely and most welcomed."

As a part of the City's infrastructure improvements, Beaconsfield will be repaved next spring. In addition, a new roof and boiler are being installed at City Hall and in the future new windows will be installed when weather permits.

The **2020 eCities study** analyzed publicly available data from

277 communities from 54 counties in Michigan. Researchers focused on the five-year changes in property values, community assets, and tax rates, which can demonstrate the growth, investments, and cost of doing business within the community. For example, over the five-year period of 2015-2019, these communities increased their capital assets by an average of 2.4 percent per year by investments such as library equipment, building, water, and sewage improvements, and street renovations, while property tax rates increased by less than 1 percent on average per year.

Although accounting for less than 20 percent of the State's cities and townships, the 277 communities analyzed are home to 70 percent of Michigan's population and 87 percent of the state's commercial property. "Each year, the eCities project aims to highlight the successes and continued commitment of cities and townships to grow business and support entrepreneurship within their communities," said Kari Kowalski, iLabs project manager.



FULFILL THE DREAM



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED TO
ESTABLISH A HIRING LIST



APPLY TODAY

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY
DEPARTMENT THAT INCLUDES YOU

Join the force. Make a difference 313-343-2530
Download Application Form @ www.harperwoodscity.org

"Of the community, for the community."

In Observance of Black History Month



A Message from City Manager Joe Rheker in Observance of Black History Month

In May of last year, I was recalled to active duty in the Navy to lead my reserve unit *Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center* in direct support of OPERATION DOD RESPONSE TO COVID-19. Stationed in Gulfport, MS and as the Commanding Officer, I'm responsible for 42 staff Sailors whose mission is to prepare reserve Sailors for service on extended periods of active duty.

Shortly after my departure in May the unfortunate George Floyd incident occurred which provoked long overdue social justice demand. Our nation was and has been in distress. I recall some of my staff having to change travel plans to avoid areas of unrest as they made their way to Gulfport, MS in response to our Navy and our Nation's call.

In July and in response to the unrest and the obvious need to recognize the stains of history, the Secretary of the United States Navy provided all Sailors and Marines the following message that I'd like to share.

Shipmates, nothing in my career could bring me more pride than to be back with you as part of Our Navy-Marine Corps Team. In my first month as Your Secretary, it's been my honor to exchange elbow greetings with many of you. I've met with Marines in the field and Sailors at sea. I've seen the urgency of dedicated service each of you bring to your mission and the strength you bring to Our Team. I am

inspired by the work you do every day to keep our country safe. And I am, most especially, proud of each one of you as you exhibit Service Above Self!

As you stand watch around the world, I know your thoughts turn to events at home. From the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to the continuing struggle for racial equality, our Nation is confronting many complex challenges. Our naval force is unfortunately not immune from these challenges, and we should not turn away from the hard questions.

During my recent visit to Naval Air Station Oceana, Our Shipmate Aviation Machinist's Mate Airman Josiah Crosby asked me about racial disparities in the force. I applauded his courage and initiative in bringing up this important topic to address something that has plagued our nation since its birth. Thank you, Josiah! We need to talk about equality and justice if we are going to create the One Team approach we strive to attain. And we must act on those hard conversations, throughout the ranks and across the force, right up to the desk of the Secretary of the Navy.

All of us serve in the wake of courageous African American Sailors and Marines like Master Chief Petty Officer Carl Brashear, the Montfort Point Marines, and Vice Adm. Samuel Gravely, Jr. They inspire us in our service and our determination to expand opportunity and equality

throughout our force as they remind us that their actions in serving others was based on the right "ism" — Patriotism!

We must also however, bear the legacy of those who stood in their way. Segregation and injustice didn't happen by accident. It was a reflection of society. Thankfully, African American Sailors like John Lawson, Medal of Honor recipient, proudly served in the Navy during the Civil and Spanish American Wars. Many of his African American Shipmates made the ultimate sacrifice during these same wars. Sadly even in the aftermath of such courageous action, it took conscious decisions, many from the very office I now hold, to deny them that same opportunity in the Navy and Marine Corps during World Wars I and II. It also took conscious decisions and behaviors at every level to begin to change that culture of oppression, harassment and inequality. I am reminded of the first African-American Naval Aviator, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, who was shot down in Korea and the actions of his Caucasian squadron mate, LTJG Thomas J. Hudner, who purposely crashed his plane next to Ensign Brown in an attempt to save his life.

So it takes conscious decisions like LTJG Hudner's to make it right. We must never forget that equal treatment, equal justice, and equal opportunity require continuous, determined effort. Alongside Adm. Gilday and Gen. Berger, I am committed to confronting inequities in our command environment and military justice

system. I am determined to ensure a command environment that encourages the hard questions, and stands ready to work alongside you to find the right answers.

"United" is, and always will be, the most important word in "United States Navy and Marine Corps." So talk to your Shipmates. Speak up to your leadership. Listen to your subordinates and get this issue out in the light. Work together to identify root causes and build lasting solutions. Learn from one another and help us all unite and move forward as One Navy-Marine Corps Team. Full Speed Ahead!

- Kenneth J. Braithwaite

77th Secretary of the Navy

This message motivated me and I wanted to find ways to bring greater awareness, unity and healing to any and every level of society I could, though I wasn't sure how. Around the same time, in a small neighborhood library, a sailor of mine discovered a book, *"The Man Called Brown Condor."* It's the story about John C. Robinson, a local man to Gulfport, MS (where I'm stationed) who broke through racial barriers during the golden age of aviation to fight fascists in Ethiopia during the early years leading up to WWII. Simultaneously, he brought aviation to what is now known as Tuskegee University. There would have been no Tuskegee Airman without John C. Robinson. I was amazed by his story and disappointed that stories such as his haven't been part of our nation's celebrated history.

While I read the book it came to my attention that a grass roots effort was underway to honor him with the establishment of a local museum. My staff and I introduced ourselves and began to volunteer to assist this effort.



Not yet open and fearing storm damage, my unit assisted in boarding up the museum in preparation for Hurricane Sally in mid-September of last year.

On October 3rd the museum opened and continues to operate and improve to this day. My unit staff and I remain involved and assist at the museum when mission operations allow.



I wanted to reach back to Harper Woods to share my recent experiences and to demonstrate the efforts of our institutions to change, make right, heal, and celebrate the contributions of black Americans. We are doing it at the national level in the Navy and Marine Corps through the Secretary of Navy's message shared above. Please do not interpret "unity" as a trivialization of the fact that seemingly the nation is more polarized than ever and there is still much work to do. Unity does not necessarily mean togetherness nor does it mean getting along with everyone. My hope is that it can mean the sincere efforts of all for greater respect, civility and empathy. My shipmates and I are doing it here in Gulfport, MS through our support and celebration of Colonel John C. Robinson and the Mississippi Aviation Heritage Museum. Additionally, we foster a command culture that aims to achieve the message of the Secretary of the Navy and we are doing it through candid conversations where we get to know one another better and grow greater trust.

Locally I know City Council, Interim City Manager John Szymanski, and Director of Public Safety Vince Smith are working hard to be more reflective of the community and build on the public's trust. Their collective efforts to pass the *Transformative and Restorative Justice Resolution*, cultural sensitivity training and hosting of the Juneteenth healing workshop/discussion on bias are examples of their efforts to maintain trust and improve a harmonious Harper Woods. Trust is the key and it doesn't happen in one conversation or one meeting; it happens over time and through sincere effort.

I look forward to my return later this spring and I hope that you consider visiting the Harper Woods public library where you can check out the book, *"The Man Called the Brown Condor."* It's a story I'm confident you will enjoy. It's a story I believe that can motivate us all to do more, to be a more perfect union. Please read it; our conversations about it will only make our Harper Woods community stronger!



Commander Joe Rheker with his staff of "Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center" at Naval Construction Battalion Center - Gulfport, Mississippi.

2021 Winter Recreation Program

Kids Swim Lessons

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 lessons are offered at the Harper Woods High School pool, and are available for 6 week sessions.

Classes run on Mondays only.

*Please register early, classes fill up fast.

Winter Session I: Jan. 11-Feb. 22 (No Class 1/18)

Spring Session: March 8-April 19 (No class 3/29)

Monday Classes

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:

Aquaducks, Level 1 or Level 2: \$50 for one child, \$25 for each additional child

Level 3, Level 4, Level 5, or Level 6: \$60 for one child, \$30 for each additional child



Adult Swim Lessons

Adults, now you can learn how to swim and be confident in the water. We offer 6 week sessions at the Harper Woods High School Pool.

Winter Session I: Jan. 12-Feb. 16

Spring Session: March 2-April 15 (No class 3/30)

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 5:30-6:15pm **Fee:** \$55.00



Water Aerobics

Water aerobics is a great low impact workout. We offer 6 week sessions at the Harper Woods High School Pool.

Winter Session I: Jan. 12-Feb. 16

Spring Session: March 2-April 13 (No class 3/30)

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 6:30-7:30pm **Fee:** \$50.00



OPEN SWIM on Tuesdays!

4pm-4:45pm \$2 per person

Residents ONLY

**You must stop in at the HW
Recreation Department
to get a**

**Swim Pass
prior to open swim.**

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.

Martial Arts



This new, exciting class is perfect for anyone who wants to learn Martial Arts. We will be offering 6 week sessions for ages 7 through adult. This class is held in the gym at Beacon Elementary.

Winter Session I: Jan. 12-Feb. 18

Spring Session: March 2-April 15 (No class 3/30 or 4/1)

Day: Tues & Thurs **Time:** 6-7 pm

Fee: \$60.00 per person

Tumbling

This exciting class will be held on Saturdays at the Harper Woods High School on the second floor. 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 6 week sessions.



Winter Session I: Jan. 16-Feb. 20

Spring Session: March 6-April 17 (No class 4/3)

Day: Saturdays

Fee: \$60.00

Times: Ages 4-6 (co-ed) 10am-11am
Ages 7-10 (co-ed) 11am-12pm
Ages 11 & up 12pm- 1pm

Yoga

In today's society, it is easy to become overworked and under-rested. Yoga is an excellent way to shape up your body and mind. Yoga relaxes the mind and body while helping develop concentration, awareness and balance. This class is held on Mondays at Tyrone Elementary for 6 week sessions.



Dates: Winter Session I: Jan. 11-Feb. 26 (No Class 11/18)

Spring Session: March 8-April 19 (No Class 3/29)

Day: Monday **Time:** 6:30pm-7:30pm

Fee: \$48 per session or \$10 drop in fee per class



Harper Woods Walking Club!!

Join on Saturday mornings us at Salter Memorial Park for walking, 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. The restrooms will be open for walkers during the walks. Please call the recreation department at 313-343-2560 for more information. Sponsored by Advantage Living Center.

Days: Every third Saturday of the month

Time: 9am-10am

Fee: Free

Firm Fitness Aerobics

Fitness Firm offers low impact dance aerobics, incorporating kickbox, 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. Registration for this class is done with the instructor, on-site at your first class. If you have questions, please contact Judy Sheehy at 313-886-7534 or vitaftjsheehy@comcast.net.

Pinochle and Cards

Feeling Lucky? You can tempt the luck of the draw every Thursday, at the Harper Woods Library. Pinochle and other card games are played from 1:00-4:00pm. All are welcome.



The Helm at the Boll Life Center

This organization provides assistance with many needs for older adults ages 60 & up in Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. If you need some help or have a question, please contact the Helm at the Boll Life Center at 313-882-9600 for information on available services.

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, port-a-potties, charcoal grills, bands or DJ's allowed for picnics. Reserve at least three weeks in advance, minimum of two weeks in advance. Refunds for cancellations are only given if you cancel at least three 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 two 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 _____

the Community Resource Guide

Harper Woods Edition



Highlighted in this Edition:

**The Family Center • Health and Fitness • Chefs Corner • Business Directory • Foot Care
Harper Woods Real Estate Trend • 5 Ways to Help Support Small Businesses 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 with all the residents in and around our community.

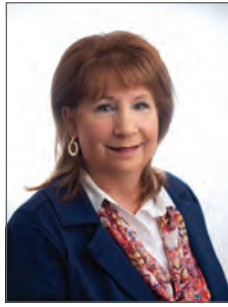
If you or someone you know have an event to promote, a story to share or an idea for the upcoming Spring Edition (April thru June) email us at info@drivecreativeservices.com.

(All information provided would be considered without guarantee it will be published)

Deadline to provide information is Friday, February 12.



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



"Cultivating Resilience in the Midst of Uncertainty"

The Family Center's mission to provide resources and preventative education that empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional, and physical challenges has never been more important. This year we are responding to the global health crisis with programs and resources that help families build **resiliency**. You may have heard this word tossed around quite a bit lately, but maybe you aren't exactly sure what it means.

Psychologists define resilience as the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, or significant sources of stress - such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems, or workplace and financial stressors.

Resiliency is something we could all use more of right now!

Visit our website at FamilyCenterWeb.org to check out new programs and resources to help you cope with the realities of today's world, and to acquire tools that will increase your ability to deal with life's stresses in the future. Our virtual content features discussions about adolescent brain development, the effects of isolation on kids, conducting a successful job search remotely, how to support your child's academics and so much more. Helpful articles by our Association of Professionals about mental health, suicide prevention, special needs, and substance abuse are also just a click away. For up to the minute information, friend us on Facebook!

The Family Center is proud to celebrate 20 years of providing credible, reliable and essential information to families in Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe. By drawing on local professionals and resources we can address the unique needs of our community and have become a trustworthy first source when families are looking for somewhere to turn. If you would like to get involved, please visit FamilyCenterWeb.org to sign up for our newsletters, volunteer, join the Association of Professionals, or donate to support our mission.

The Family Center is a non-profit 501 (c)3 organization that receives no state or federal funding. We provide programs and resources that build strong families and help parents raise children who will become competent, caring, and responsible community members. Find out more at FamilyCenterWeb.org.

POINTE FITNESS



EST. 1995

Now Taking New Members
interested in membership and information please
email: gymdogmoe@aol.com

20,000 SQ. FT. PRIVATELY OWNED MEMBER'S ONLY, GYM
SOCIAL DISTANCING? NO PROBLEM!

(313) 417-9666

WWW.POINTEFITNESSANDTRAINING.COM

PERFECTION

by the slice

Serving Perfect Pizza Since 1946.

Cloverleaf
THE ORIGINAL MOTOR CITY SQUARE
PIZZA
Pizza You Love

The Original Motor City Square!

1 Large 3 Topping Pizza

\$12⁹⁹

ONLY

Order Online: cloverleaf-pizza.com (Use promo code: ONLINE)
Plus tax. Delivery extra. Limited time only. Prices subject to change without notice. Valid at St. Clair Shores location only. HW

Serving
Harper Woods,
St. Clair Shores,
Eastpointe and
Grosse Pointe Woods

Monday - Thursday 11am-10pm • Friday-Saturday 11am-11pm • Sunday Noon-9pm
21728 Harper Rd. (Harper & Sunnyside) • St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
586-519-9100 • www.cloverleaf-pizza.com

Today's Health & Fitness

Wear the mask, it's not a big deal.

It simply makes sense in the same way you cover a sneeze or cough to be polite. In this year of the virus, it's another way to be considerate to those around you.

Experts across the medical spectrum have told us it's the way to help contain and stop the spread. Still, the controversy exists. Information and opinions, true and false, are so easily accessed these days via social media and the internet, it's hard for people to know what to do. It's worse when even some doctors and government officials can't agree.

Whatever your position, it seems you can find a study to support it. Sometimes it does come down to who's the loudest with their message.

At our gym it's a no brainer; social distance-wear the mask. Yes, even when you're working out. It's not that bad. The secret is finding the right mask.

The one I wear in the gym is made by Allett. Polypropylene and

cotton; it doesn't collapse around your nose when you breathe heavy. It's reinforced over the bridge of the nose for a snug fit and has a chin pocket so it keeps the mask secure when you talk or breathe hard. It's an excellent mask to workout in.

Another one I wear for quick trips like going into a store or an appointment is made by TNG, very light weight, comfortable and easy to use.

The Space Mask seen advertised on the internet is also a good mask. It has an inside sleeve for interchangeable filters.

Over the years I've picked up gum off the floor that people accidentally spit out when running on a treadmill and wiped "spray" off our mirrors from heavy lifters. It's easy to see how containment is important.

If wearing a mask can keep people safe and keep our gym open, why not?



Ken Welch, Owner
Pointe Fitness
& Training



*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



Local resident serves up healthy choices

Harper Woods resident, Marlin Hughes has been serving up a delicious healthy eating at The Detroit Pepper Company since he opened the carry out business in 2019.

A few years ago, Marlin wanted to provide healthier eating choices for himself, his wife and their now 22 year old autistic son, Marlin. He decided that since he was going to begin healthier eating habits with his family, why not provide healthy dining choices for the community as well.

Since opening, Marlin said he really enjoys meeting new people and thinking of additional ways to develop services to expand his business. He currently is looking into purchasing a food truck to better help serve any customer.

The Detroit Pepper Company serves up meat and vegan stuffed peppers, grainbowls, burgers, salads, smoothies and other delicious items from their menu.

To place your carry out order or have them cater your next event please call 313-469-7640 or visit them online @ thedetroitpeppercompany.com

The Detroit Pepper Company is located in East English Village at 17180 E. Warren Avenue. Detroit, MI 48224



PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS

with *Proven Technologies*,
So You Can **GROW IT WORRY-FREE**

- ✓ Security and Disaster Recovery
- ✓ Cloud-based Solutions
- ✓ Managed IT Services
- ✓ Professional IT Services
- ✓ Project Management
- ✓ Device Optimization

SIMPLIFIED
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
YOUR TECHNOLOGY SIMPLIFIED
810.990.4479
tobrien@team-sbs.com
www.team-sbs.com

LIMITED TIME OFFER

GRAND KITCHEN Event

Create the kitchen of your dreams and save.

Purchase a qualifying Sub-Zero and Wolf appliance package and receive three additional years of protection or a \$1,000 rebate. For details visit HurstAppliance.com.

WOLF SUB-ZERO COVE

Serving Residents of Harper Woods for 30 Years!

HURST APPLIANCE

Home of the Built-Ins

24524 Harper Avenue · St. Clair Shores
(586) 778-8670

Hours:
Mon. - Fr. 10am - 5pm
Sat. 9am - 1pm

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

10 MILE
HARPER HURST APPLIANCE
9 MILE

www.hurstappliance.com

CHEF'S CORNER



Confit Duck Legs

INGREDIENTS:

6 duck legs
1 large head of garlic cut in half
¼ cup kosher salt
1 tbs chopped fresh thyme
2 shallots baby red onion
2 bay leaves
4 whole cloves
Turkey roasting pan
35 ounces of duck fat

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat your oven to 190 to 210 degrees. In a large bowl mix spices and marinate for 24 hours. In a large turkey roasting pan arrange duck legs and pour warm liquified duck fat over the legs. The duck should be completely submerged under the fat buy 1 inch. Add garlic heads. Place in oven uncovered. Cook for 2-3 hours.

With a slotted spoon remove the duck legs and place in a bowl. With a fine mesh strainer, strain hot duck fat into large plastic container. Allow to cool. Use paper towel to dry the fat from the duck skin. Using a non-stick pan. Sear the duck skin with the duck fat until brown and crispy.

Lobster Mac & Cheese

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb of cooked pasta
5 cups of shredded white cheese
1 tsp olive oil
2 tsp minced garlic
½ cup of flour
2 ½ c heavy cream
2 ½ c whole milk
2 tsp onion powder
2 tsp garlic powder
1 tsp cayenne powder
2 large eggs

DIRECTIONS:

In a large sauce pan add oil and garlic on medium heat whisk in flour. Add cream and milk. Whisk in spices and shredded cheese. Once cheese melts down. Turn off flame and add eggs. Mix pasta and raw lobster. Taste, season and adjust. Pour into nonstick roasting pan. Sprinkle with bread crumbs and cheese. Bake for 30 min. rest for 10 min. serve.

Green Bearrole

INGREDIENTS:

2 pounds of cleaned, picked, and roasted green beans
1 tbs kosher salt
2 tbs olive oil
1 pound of sautéed diced mushrooms
6 tbs of unsalted butter
2 tsp powdered thyme
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1¼ cups whole milk
1 cup heavy cream
4 garlic cloves, finely grated
½ cup grated Parmesan
Freshly ground black pepper
¾ cup French's fried onions

DIRECTIONS:

Arrange green beans and mushrooms in a large baking dish, set aside.

In a large sauce pan heat oil over medium heat. Whisk in flour and deglaze with milk. Add spices and parmesan cheese. When sauce has thickened to coat the back of your spoon. It is ready.

Add green beans and mushrooms. Simmer for 15 min. Top each serving with the fried onions.

Holiday Season

With the holiday season in full swing, I find myself in full preparation mode for special dinners. With Christmas dinner being around the corner I tell myself to keep it simple. Once I have a menu planned I don't change it 2 weeks before the dinner. This way I don't become a slave to the dinner I become the orchestrator. Now that my private supper club Amuse Bouche is open, I've created simple ways to entertain smaller groups of guests in order to adhere to Covid-19 restrictions.

Instead of the usual lavish spread, I want my guests to have something they can enjoy in the comforts of their home. Hot cocoa, chocolate chip cookie dough, pumpkin butter or carry out cocktails. All these things can be placed in mason jars and delivered through curbside pickup. Even though we may not have dinner with everyone we want, at least we can enjoy some luxuries with cooking for fewer people. This Thanksgiving dinner I will prepare; Duck Confit, Lobster macaroni and cheese and Green bearrole.

Duck can be purchased from the Grosse Pointe neighborhood Village market. Their duck legs are fresh for \$16.00 a pound. You will want to French and clean the duck legs before marinating for 24 hours. Also you will need to purchase 35 oz. of rendered duck fat.

Lobster tails can be purchased at our local Kroger. Clean and remove the lobster meat from the shell. Dice the lobster into medium chunks. Season with salt and pepper.

The Green Bearrole is quick version of the traditional green bean casserole. This time we will roast the beans ahead of time and simmer this on the stove top the day of service.

When all items are cooked; I hold them warm. When guests are ready I prepare each plate. A small heaping of each dish arranged under the duck leg. You can top your dish with cranberry sauce. I hope this recipe inspires you to cook exciting food for your friends and your family throughout the holiday season. Thank you for reading this article. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge anyone who has lost a loved one this year. Life is precious and may we all learn to be kind to one another.

Sincerely,
-Chef Patricia Lyons

Place Your Carryout Order Today at

THE DETROIT PEPPER COMPANY

Vegan
CHEESE & MEAT OPTIONS

FULL MENU ONLINE • DAILY SPECIALS!

17180 E Warren Ave, Detroit, MI 48225 **313.469.7640**

(Between Mack & Cadieux)

www.thedetroitpeppercompany.com

Proudly supporting the growth and development of our community since 2014

- Building Department Services
- Fire Prevention Services
- Code Compliance
- Plan Review
- Rental Inspections

SAFEbuilt. SAFEbuilt.com | 313.343.2526

\$111,824

AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▲ 8.0%
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 20.9%
FROM Q3 2019

75
NUMBER
OF SALES

▲ 70.5%
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 13.6%
FROM Q3 2019

43
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▲ 33.9%
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 92.3%
FROM Q3 2019

43
AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▼ 17.3%
AVERAGE PRIOR QUARTER

▼ 45.6%
AVERAGE Q3 2019

58.1%
ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▲ 106.1%
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 108.8%
FROM Q3 2019

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q3 2020) OVER QUARTER (Q2 2020)

▼ 17.3%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 59.5%
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ 70.5%
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (Q3 2020 vs. Q3 2019)

▼ 45.6%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ 20.0%
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ 13.6%
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.

Website: www.GPBR.com
Phone: 313-882-8000
Fax: 313-882-6062
Email: members@gpbr.com
Address: 710 Notre Dame, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Average Sale Price – Good news!: Increase is well above the Average of under 5% but not outrageously high that it keeps buyers out of the market. These increases also have likely pushed values up high enough that few if any homeowners owe more than they can sell the house for. This creates opportunity for those looking to retire, or move to warmer weather. For buyers however, it is a clear signal that the best time to buy is as soon as you can. With rates at these historic lows, it will never be less expensive to buy a home than it is today.

Number of sales – Better than expected: This is actually unbelievable news. Typically, as inventory decreases like you see below, 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 those looking to buy need to be smart in, act quickly, and offer a good price if they want to be a new homeowner.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good News!: Days on market has gone up which would normally be bad news and this indicates red. However, the reason this indicator is up and not down is that some homes which have been on the market “forever” are selling driving that number up. In a more balanced market, homes on the market for a long time just don’t sell.

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 from the home they are in, finding another 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. How this plays out in the long run only time will tell.

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).

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®.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

APPLIANCE SALES

Hurst Appliance
24524 Harper
St. Clair Shores
586-778-8670
www.hurstappliance.com

DINING

Cloverleaf Pizza
21728 Harper
St. Clair Shores
586-519-9100
www.cloverleaf-pizza.com

DRY CLEANING

7 to 7 Cleaners
19834 Kelly Rd.
Harper Woods
313-372-6558

FITNESS

Pointe Fitness
19556 Harper Avenue
Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 417-9668
pointefitnessandtraining.com

HEATING & COOLING

Mr. Furnace
20220 Stephens
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 777-6666
MrFurnace.com

HEATING & COOLING

Priebe Mechanical
31125 Kendall
Fraser, MI 48026
(586) 293-6883
PriebeMechanical.com

INSURANCE

Nations Insurance Agency
19254 Kelly Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 521-3500

ORTHOPEDICS/ FOOTCARE

Foot Solutions
21213 Harper Avenue
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080
(586) 552-3668
footsolutions.com

PLUMBING

Go-To Pro Plumbing
Serving Harper Woods
and the surrounding area
(586) 250-2881

SENIOR RESOURCES

Detroit Area Agency on Aging
1333 Brewery Park Blvd. Suite #200
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 446-4444 Ext. 5225
detroitseniorsolution.org

To advertise in this
QUARTERLY BUSINESS DIRECTORY *Contact us today!*
Email info@drivecreativeservices.com
or call **586-275-0030**



Cross of Glory
16661 State Fair
Detroit, MI
313-839-5787
September - May
Sunday Worship 10:45am
Sunday School 9:15am
June - August
Sunday Worship 10am

When Your Pipes Won't Flow,
Call the Pro.

GO-TO PRO PLUMBING

586-250-2881

Residential or Commercial Serving Southeast Michigan



Your Comfort is Our Goal
Heating • Cooling • Humidifiers
Air Cleaners • Rheem Air Conditioners
Offering Generators
CALL TODAY FOR FREE QUOTE
586-293-6883
PriebeMechanical.com
Wm. PRIEBE mechanical
since 1989 Heating & Cooling

FEET HURT?
We Can Help!

FOOT SOLUTIONS
We make you feel good

Custom Insoles • Comfort Shoes • Footcare Products

21213 Harper Avenue • At 8 Mile, Next to Walgreens
586.552.3668 • footsolutions.com • T - F 10-6, Sat. 10-4

Celebrating 15 Years!

How To Buy Walking Shoes



Congratulations! You've decided to get out and walk your way to a healthier lifestyle. But before you get started, you'll need good shoes to make your walking program more enjoyable. It's easy to get into a proper pair of shoes, here's how:

Get Measured. Our feet change with age, weight gain/loss and trauma. In fact, 7 out of 10 of us wear the wrong size shoe! Most people have different size feet. Fit the shoes to the larger foot. Forget about the size marked on the box. All shoes are made differently; go with what fits.

Get Fitted. Walking shoes should fit with an index finger width between the longest toe and the front of the shoe. You should be able to wiggle your toes. Some heel slip is healthy but the heel should not move in and out of the shoe. Shoes that are too tight, shallow or short can cause a number of issues like corns, blisters, bursa, numbness and pain.

What's Your Function? Do you have a flat, medium or high arch? Is your foot flexible or rigid? Do you pronate (roll in) or supinate (roll out) when you walk? Do you need cushion, motion control or more stability? It's important to match the shoe to your foot function. A professional shoe fitter or pedorthist can help guide you.

Check the Wear. Examine your shoes regularly, especially if you have diabetes or neuropathy. Make sure the outsole is not worn

through. Shake out your shoes before putting them on to remove any foreign objects. Excessively worn shoes can contribute to knee, hip and back pain!

Time to Replace. A shoe's midsole is designed to last 350 to 500 miles. If you walk 10 miles a week, the shoes will last up to one year. Most people will begin to feel the effects of a broken down shoe within a year.

Sock It To Me! Cotton socks are NOT best for your activity because they hold moisture against your foot. Your feet have 250,000 sweat glands and release up to ½ pint of moisture a day. That wet environment is prime for bacteria and fungus. The best socks are made of synthetic fibers that wick moisture away from your feet. Remember, cotton is rotten when it comes to your feet!

Diabetic? Seek out a certified pedorthist (C.PED) or podiatrist (DPM) to assist you in proper shoe selection. Type II Diabetes is the leading cause of foot amputations! Don't risk your feet to ulceration from a poorly fitted shoe.

Get Up and Go! Consult with your family doctor before starting a new exercise program. Make sure you stretch before your activity and warm up properly to help reduce the chance of injury. Drink water before and after your activity. Wishing you health and happiness in the new year!



Joe Dyament, C.Ped,
is owner of
Foot Solutions in
St. Clair Shores

5 Ways Small Businesses Can Help Drive Business in 2021

1. Update Your Google My Business Listing.

Many small businesses rely heavily on drive-by traffic and word of mouth referrals. With people being more purposeful about their shopping trips, it is even more important to show up in as many Google searches with an accurate and professional listing. **Google My Business is a free set of tools provided by Google.**

2. Make Contactless Service as Easy as Possible

Review your entire customer journey – from pulling up to the store through exiting the store – to look for new ways to make the process easier. While many stores have shifted to offering curbside pickup or delivery, look at your registration and payment process.

3. Regularly Re-Evaluate Customers' Changing Needs

Your customers' needs are constantly evolving. As the seasons change, your customers are apt to need different products or services than they did previously. Think of ways to package products together to make your customers' lives less stressful, such as dinner kits and craft supplies in custom kits.

4. Increase Social Media Outreach and Presence

People are socializing less in person and turning to social media for interaction and information. Keep your social media channels active with regular, informative posts.

5. Stay Connected with Customers

The cornerstone of small businesses is the close relationship with customers. Make an extra effort to spend time with your customers. Make time to reach out by phone to loyal customers to check-in. People will remember the personal touch.



Jennifer Palms
Boettcher,
IOM President



Regan Stolarski,
Director of
Administration



We Service All Makes & Models
FURNACES • BOILERS • AC

Mr. Furnace
Over 30 Years Experience
586-777-6666

Sales - Service - Installation - Residential/Commercial
general@ascontrera.com • mrfurnace.com
20220 Stephens • St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080

CUT YOUR GAS BILLS UP TO 50%
With A New Hi-Efficiency Furnace!
a division of A.S. Contrera HVAC



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Career and Technical Education Mission

Preparing and supporting High School students for a smooth transition into high-skill, high-wage, and/or high-demand careers and appropriate postsecondary education.



"THE WORLD OF HARPER WOODS"

Radio & TV Program
Harper Woods College and Career Institute

**THE LAUNCH OF
WHWR THE WOODS POWER 105.COM
RADIO STATION**



FOR ENROLLMENT INFORMATION CALL: **(313) 220-6177**
CENTRAL OFFICE: **(586) 209-2400**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@HARPERWOODSSCHOOLS





Drive Creative Services
31022 Mocer Circle, Warren, MI 48088

PRSRT
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DEARBORN, MI
PERMIT NO. 11

the Community Resource Guide of **M I C H I G A N**

Connecting Michigan One Community at a Time

Helping Residents, Consumers and Local Michigan Businesses **COME TOGETHER DIGITALLY.**

Find What You Need – Where You Need It

*Our mission is to help you find a local service provider,
retailer, organization or event **ALL IN ONE PLACE!***

crgmichigan.com

FEATURING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S:

**Businesses • Organizations • Services • Local Events & Information
Local Estate & Garage Sales • Career Opportunities • And Much More**

START CONNECTING TODAY!

586.275.0030 | CRGmi@drivecreativeservices.com