



THE INSIDER

For The City of Harper Woods

Your community
resource guide for the
City of Harper Woods!
WINTER EDITION
JANUARY THROUGH
MARCH 2022

Get the most out of our community!

HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

January

*Check City's website
for time and format

January 1 – New Years Day
Siren Test 1:00pm
January 3 – City Offices Closed
January 5* – City Council Meeting
January 17 – City Offices Closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 18 – Water Bills Due
January 19* – City Council Meeting

February

*Check City's website
for time and format

February 5 – Siren Test 1:00pm
February 7* – City Council Meeting
February 14 – Winter Taxes Due
February 15 – Water Bills Due
February 21 – City Offices Closed –
President's Day
February 23* – City Council Meeting

March

*Check City's website
for time and format

March 5 – Siren Test 1:00pm
March 7* – City Council Meeting
March 13 – Daylight Savings -
Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
March 14* – Board of Review
March 15 – Water Bills Due
March 20 – 1st Day of Spring
March 21* – City Council Meeting
March 28* – Board of Review

Congratulations Mayor Kindle!



The citizens of Harper Woods were delighted to hear of your victory on the November 2nd election and extend a warm welcome to you as our newly elected Mayor. We are confident that your influence will continue to encourage our proud city tradition of involvement, inclusiveness, and continued business worthy projects throughout Harper Woods.

You ran a good, clean campaign against a formidable opponent and the public has seen the work you have done and continue to do on behalf of this community. Often those who work this hard are not often noticed nor do we hear about it. Most residents were appalled by the problematic content and behaviors that were ever present using social media platforms, but they were not fooled!

I can't help admiring your skill, both on the campaign trail and in city government. You really seem to enjoy your work without getting frustrated when things don't go your way. That is the hallmark of a true leader!

This victory clearly acknowledges your outstanding service to the community as well as the city residents sincere trust in you!

Congratulations Mayor Kindle on a much-deserved elected term!

Sincerely,

Acting City Manager

Look for your
HARPER WOODS 2022 PULL OUT WALL CALENDAR
In this Edition of *The Insider*



The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Vivian M. Sawicki

City Council

Cheryl A. Costantino

Tom Jenny

Veronica Paiz

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

John Szymanski - Acting City Manager

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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Employee in the Spotlight



Emily Hill

Emily Hill has been with the Harper Woods Public Library for seven years. She started out as a library page, sorting and shelving books. After five years of hard work, Emily was promoted to library circulation assistant. There, she helps patrons every day by checking out their books and other items, answering phones, getting items ready to be checked out, and directing patrons to librarians or other staff for more help.

When asked what her favorite part of working at the library is, Emily said, "Having new books to read!" Library Director Kristen Valyi-Hax expressed, "Emily is an enthusiastic reader! That means that she always has a recommendation for someone looking for something new." Her hobbies include reading, watching movies, traveling (especially to her family's cottage), and spending time with her dog, Baxter.

Emily is often the first library person who people see when they walk through the door. "We love having Emily welcome our residents into the library," said Valyi-Hax. "Her cheerful, friendly demeanor means that it's always a pleasant experience." Please visit the library soon to say "Hi!"



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

We will be awaiting further instructions from The CDC, Governor Whitmer and our State leaders on how to proceed.

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

Neighbor in the News - Mike Cadotte

Mike Cadotte has fond memories of growing up in Harper Woods. A resident since 1973, he remembers riding his bike throughout the city as well as hanging out at the open-air Eastland Center because "it was the place to be." Over the years, Cadotte became a regular at City Council meetings voicing his concerns and asking questions especially when it came to city finances and taxes. His career in electrical engineering facilitated an accompanying career in mathematics to which he still teaches currently at Macomb Community College.

Recently, Mike Cadotte was asked by city administrators to be a representative on the Harper Woods Board of Review. City Assessor, Holly Cozza further explained, "The Board of Review consists of resident taxpayers of the City to hear appeals from residents regarding their property assessment. This is a trained position to understand the property tax laws and be able to have a fair and objective view on behalf of the residents. Every two years the members are appointed by Council."

Cadotte said, "An effective way to make a positive impact in your community is to participate in the functioning of city government. You do not have to be an elective official to accomplish this." He also wanted all citizens to know that "It's never too late to become involved in your community!"

"Featuring Mike Cadotte as the "Neighbor in the News" should encourage residents to participate on the various City Boards and Commissions we have. Mike is a true "Number Cruncher", and I am thrilled he was chosen to be on the Board of Review to use his talents constructively!" said Mayor Valerie Kindle.



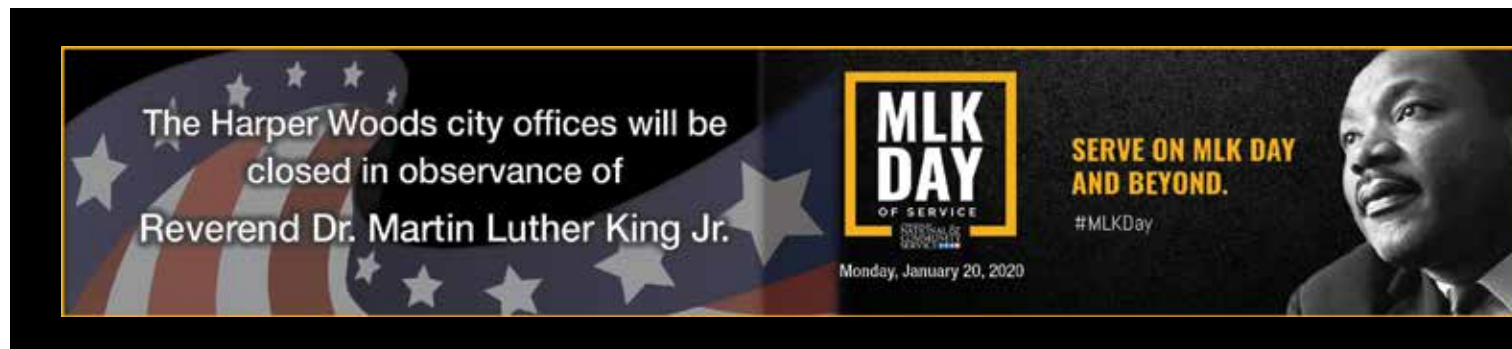
Featured Business/Organization: They Say



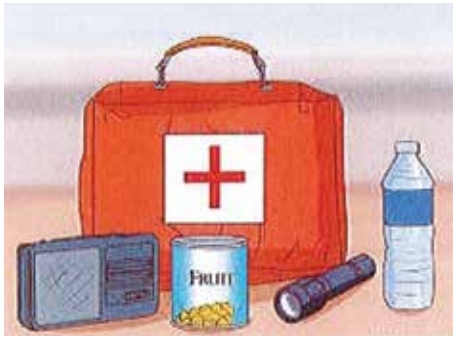
"They Say" Restaurant & Jazz Club has survived Eastland's transition to a light industrial Commerce Center. "They Say" remains a popular local spot for residents of Harper Woods, Eastpointe, Detroit, and other communities to dine, drink and watch sporting events. However, the Restaurant has experienced a lot less patronage since the beginning of COVID 19.

The restaurant's managers said that providing live performances and other entertainment will be their primary way of bringing customers back to the restaurant. In November, they were featuring live performances every Thursday evening. They will also feature the "Spoken Word" some evenings. When the "Eastland Commerce Center" has been completed, hundreds of workers will come to work there every day. Our local municipalities do not currently have enough restaurants to feed all of them at lunch time. They Say and other local restaurants will benefit greatly when the Commerce Center opens.

However, current customers continue to enjoy They Say's excellent array of dining choices, such as "They Say Wings", ribs and the best lamb chops meal you will find anywhere. The atmosphere in this restaurant continues to be appealing and enjoyable. Terry Payne, the owner, extends an invitation to all Harper Woods residents and others to come in during the holidays ahead and experience "They Say's" food, entertainment, and ambience for yourselves.



Department of Public Safety – Police



Get your vehicle ready for cold weather use before winter arrives.

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level.
- Check your tires' tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded.

The kit should include:

- o Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries;
- o Items to stay warm, such as extra hats, coats, mittens, blankets, or sleeping bags;
- o Food and water;
- o Booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction);
- o Compass and maps;
- o Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries;
- o First-aid kit; and
- o Plastic bags (for sanitation).



Residents are reminded to take into consideration our many residents who use our sidewalks during the winter months. The removal of snow and ice makes it safer for those

who transverse our sidewalks without the fear of a slip and fall accident.

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)



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.



Online Citizen Crime Reporting System

With the upcoming weather changes, Harper Woods Police Department would like to remind residents of our online reporting system. The Online Citizens Police Reporting System allows citizens to file police reports for specified offenses over the internet thereby truncating the reporting process and providing more unassigned time for officers to engage in crime suppression activities.



Hoarding and Fire: Reducing the Risk

Do you have a person in your life who may be a hoarder? Hoarding is a condition where a person has persistent difficulty discarding personal possessions. The large amount of possessions fill the home and prevent the normal use of the space. Living space becomes cluttered. It may be unusable. Hoarding brings distress and emotional health concerns.

Why Hoarding Increases Fire Risks

- Cooking is unsafe if flammable items are close to the stove or oven.
- Heating units may be too close to things that can burn. They might also be placed on unstable surfaces. If a heater tips over into a pile, it can cause a fire.
- Electrical wiring may be old or worn from the weight of piles. Pests could chew on wires. Damaged wires can start fires.
- Open flames from smoking materials or candles in a home with excess clutter are very dangerous.
- Blocked pathways and exits may hinder escape from a fire.

How Hoarding Impacts First Responders

- Hoarding puts first responders in harm's way.
- Firefighters cannot move swiftly through a home filled with clutter.
- Responders can be trapped in a home when exits are blocked. They can be injured by objects falling from piles.
- The weight of the stored items, especially if water added to put out a fire, can lead to building collapse.
- Fighting fires is very risky in a hoarding home. It is hard to enter the home to provide medical care. The clutter impedes the search and rescue of people and pets.

How Can You Help Reduce the Risk of Fire Injury?

- ✓ When talking to a person who hoards, focus on safety rather than the clutter. Be empathetic. Match the person's language. If they call it hoarding, then you can call it hoarding.
- ✓ Help the residents make a home safety and escape plan. Stress the importance of clear pathways and exits. Practice the plan often. Exit routes may change as new items are brought into the home.
- ✓ Install working smoke alarms in the home. Test them at least once a month.
- ✓ Reach out to community resources. Talk to members of the fire department to alert them of your concerns. They may be able to connect you with members of a hoarding task force for additional help.

City Clerk Info

Newly Elected

Congratulations to our newly elected Mayor and City Council members.

Harper Woods had a little less than 18% turnout and the voters have elected the following:



Mayor

Valerie Kindle - term expires in November 2023

Council

Vivian M. Sawicki - term expires November 2025

Ivery Toussant, Jr. - term expires November 2025

Tom Jenny - term expires November 2025

Councilmember Sawicki received the highest number of votes, and she will be Mayor Pro tem, serving in this capacity until the next Harper Woods election in 2023.

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: Board of Review, Brownfield Authority, Board of Zoning Appeals, Local Officers Compensation Commission and Planning Commission.

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

32A District Court News

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Greetings Harper Woods,

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and enjoyable holiday season! I am happy to announce that we have recently graduated two (2) people from our Community Treatment Court program. Our graduates were able to gain necessary tools from the program that will benefit them as they begin their new journeys in life.

I am also happy to announce that the Court has just received a grant for a drug treatment program. We are in the developmental stages of this program, but we are looking forward to helping people who struggle with drug addictions get the help and treatment that is needed in order to live a productive life. We want to make sure that each client served will have an experience that allows them to reflect on prior behaviors and the negative affects it caused in order to help create a plan that allows for wise decision making and positive outcomes in the future. Look for updates on the progression of our program in the near future.

The Court is developing a Community Service program that allows for individuals to have alternative resolutions. This program is designed to help ease some financial burdens associated with misdemeanor/traffic offenses and also help to beautify the City in which these offenses occurred. Community Service is also a way for individuals to be accountable for the actions that were taken. It should not be viewed as a punishment but as a way for the individual to show their strengths and capacity to accept responsibility for bad acts, benefitting both the individual and the city.

Meet The Staff Corner



I would like to introduce the Harper Woods Community to Court Clerk Michael Jones, affectionately known as "M.J.". M.J. has been a proud Harper Woods resident for 18 years, where she resides with her two children. Before joining the 32A family, she spent 25 years in the dental profession. She is extremely honored and proud to work for the Court in the city that she loves. She has enjoyed meeting new people and helping others at the Court, even if it is just providing a listening ear. On her days off she enjoys traveling with her teenaged daughter and her best friend. She also enjoys organizing household furniture and curling up in her favorite blanket and watching a scary movie.

Careers

*We're Hiring: Part-Time Deputy Court Clerk . Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions, establish priorities and work independently. Must also possess the ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with co-workers and the public. Must be able to deal effectively with the public in handling and meeting deadlines. Ability to maintain confidential information. To Apply: Submit cover letter, resume and application to:

Rachelle Matouk
Court Administrator
32A District Court
19617 Harper Ave.
Harper Woods, MI 48225
rmatouk@32adc.net

Application is available at the 32A District Court or
<http://www.harperwoodscity.org/employment-opportunities>.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Please continue to stay safe and follow COVID 19 protocols.

I am delighted to continue to serve our great city,
Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Resident Sign Up any one of these ways

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

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



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

Treasurer Info

Public Notice – City of Harper Woods

Applications for Deferment 2022 Taxes

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2022 tax deferments starting July 1 for the Summer and December 1 for the Winter tax bills. To qualify, a household income cannot exceed \$40,000. The applicant must also be 62 years of age or older, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, veteran, widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. The deferment applications can be obtained at the Treasurer's Office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Assessing, Tax and Utility Billing Information Online



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

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

Delinquent Tax Information Online

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

Property Transfer Affidavit

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

Electronic Debit Transactions

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



Water/Sewer Rates

As of May, 2020

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



Water Bill Delivery

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

Current Fees Effective January 4, 2018

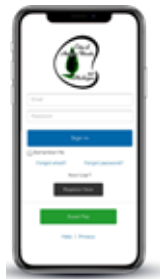
Water Disconnect Fee for Non-Payment:	\$70.00
Final Water Bill Fee:	\$20.00
Unauthorized Turn On of Water:	\$200.00
Water Appointment No Show:	\$50.00

Automatic Payment-Water Bills

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

Pay Water Bills Online – NO FEES!

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



Automatic Payment-Tax Bills

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

Pay Property Taxes by Credit Card Online

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

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



Senior Resources

Help for Seniors and Family Caregivers

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

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

Call 313-446-4444.

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



**How are
YOUR
parents
doing?**

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.



**Extending free rides for
all Harper Woods residents
through April 1, 2022!**



Department of Public Works

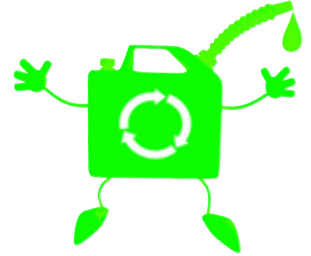
Refuse Collection Guidelines

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



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

Please check waynecounty.com for information on various drop off days. Waste oil/antifreeze is no longer accepted at the D.P.W. for drop off. Please take waste oil to your nearest O'Reilly's Auto Parts for disposal. Please contact the DPW for further information 313-343-2570.



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



Sidewalk Maintenance

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



Trash Delay Reminder!



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

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

Maintaining Sewer Lines

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

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



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

Rodent Control

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

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

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

Downspouts, Surface Drainage, Etc.

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

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

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



Department of Public Works



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

In 2019, the City of Harper Woods increased the number of water sampling locations to 30 residential homes. 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.

Due to our favorable results in 2020, The State has placed the City of Harper Woods on a "reduced monitoring schedule."

In 2021 the City asked 30 residential locations to participate in 1 round of sampling between June and September.

The State will notify us of the 2022 testing requirements in early 2022.

Please be on the look out for the red **"testing required"** door tags and call to schedule delivery of sample bottles as soon as possible.

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.

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.

Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

Building Department Info

Happy New Year from SAFEbuilt.

Welcome to 2022, 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 visit the website click on the Department of Assessing.

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

The State of Michigan has adopted new mandatory poverty guidelines for a reduction in taxes based on household income. You can obtain an application from the Assessor's Office or from the City website under the Assessing Department.

The 2022 Notice of Assessments will be mailed out at the end of February. The Board of Review will be meeting on March 14 and March 28, 2022, to hear valuation appeals of your property, review Disabled Veteran Exemptions and Poverty Applications. All appeals are by appointment or in writing. Information regarding the Board of Review is available on the City's website under the Assessing Department. Additional information will be provided once the 2022 assessments are made available to the public.

Community & Business Progress

Harper Woods Pursues Redevelopment Ready Community Status



Building on the momentum of the Eastland site, the City, under the leadership of Economic and Community Development Director Ty Hinton is continuing to seek reinvestment and growth in the community. Harper Woods is working towards becoming aligned with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's "Redevelopment Ready Community" (RRC) Best Practices. Over the past few months, the City has had the help of Stephen Lindley, a recently graduated master's student from the Wayne State University Urban Planning program, to work towards becoming a certified RRC.

The certification according to the RRC states that, "to be vibrant and competitive, Michigan communities must be ready for development. This involves planning for new investment and reinvestment, identifying assets and opportunities, and focusing limited resources."

The City is seeking to place emphasis on Kelly Road and the Poupard Elementary site, and Ty and Stephen have been busy working behind-the-scenes on administrative and organizational efforts to aid in the redevelopment of areas like this in our community.

Thanks for all your help Stephen!

House Bill 4281 Becomes Law & Amends PA 33

Governor Whitmer has signed into legislation, House Bill 4281 that would amend 1951 PA 33 which addresses the funding of police and fire protection services by townships, villages, and certain "qualified" cities whose population threshold is below 15,500 residents.

The City of Harper Woods, currently, has 15,492 residents. Thank you, Governor Whitmer, State Representative Tanisha Yancy and State Senator Adam Hollier and the Michigan Municipal League for moving this bill so quickly into law. A special thanks to Mayor Valerie Kindle, Acting City Manager-John Szymanski, Director of Public Safety – Vince Smith and Acting Finance Director – Maria Nawrocki for testifying to the State House Finance committee on behalf of Harper Woods.

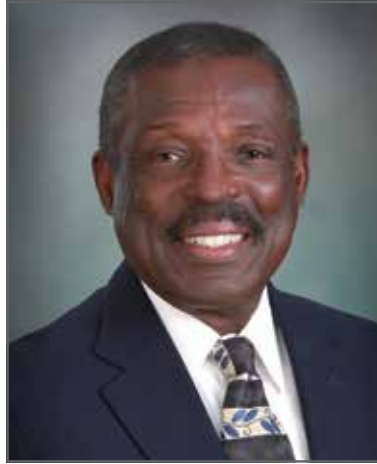
Our city can continue to enjoy the elevated level of police and fire services we have always been accustomed to in the past.

A hiring poster for the Harper Woods Department of Public Safety. The poster features a red and blue color scheme with stars. It includes the text "HARPER WOODS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS NOW HIRING". Below this, there is a list of benefits: Starting Salary, Salary range effective January 1, 2022, Full salary is achieved by the end of the 18 months of employment, Starting salary will be based on the following: < 0-2 years of experience starting salary \$55,647.43, 3-4 years of experience starting salary \$57,199.06, 5 years of experience starting salary \$60,827.26, Top down pay is \$60,221.05, Signing bonus of \$3000 if MCLES-Certified and 1 or Firefighter I/II, \$2500 Annual Public Safety Officer Bonus once or if Firefighter I/II certified, 13-hour shifts, Paid Holidays/Vacation/Sick Leave, Tuition Reimbursement, MEWS Defined Benefit Pension, Medical/Dental/Disability Insurance, Annual Clothing Allowance. The poster also features a police car and a police dog. At the bottom, it says "TO LEARN MORE VISIT HARPERWOODSCITY.ORG".

Meet Your Elected Officials



Mayor Pro Tem Vivian Sawicki



Ivery Toussant, Jr.



Tom Jenny

Congratulations to Vivian Sawicki, Ivery Toussant, Jr., and Tom Jenny on their elections to the Harper Woods City Council.

We wish you all every success in your duties!

2021 Harper Woods Beautification Award Winners

At the November 15, 2021 City Council Meeting, the Harper Woods Beautification Commission distributed this year's awards to the following recipients: Nicholas Derra, John & Dawn Drozd, Don & Kashandra Miesik, Kathy & Jerry McCartney, Donald & Sarah Rypkowski, Laura Sangster, Tammy Woodbury, and the Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society.

Congratulations to the recipients and "Thank You All" for keeping Harper Woods beautiful!



Tree Lighting Ceremony Returns in Harper Woods

After a two year absence, the Harper Woods Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony presented by City dignitaries made its return this past November 17th. The event attracted residents to participate in the festive tradition of "lighting the tree" and city holiday lights. Bob Gray played a medley of holiday favorites for the audience to sign along. Thanks to Paxton and Preston Hudson and mom Porsia Green for their merrymaking act in "flipping the switch" this year!

A special "Thank You" to Wendy's restaurant and the Harper Woods-Grosse Pointe Lions Club for their support and generous donations of refreshments for the event.



Library News & Events



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

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director

From the Director

The beginning of the year is an exciting time, filled with hope and promise. What are you trying to accomplish in 2022? Your local library has many resources for you.



Did you get a new tablet or e-reader? Thanks to our subscription to Overdrive.com, you have access (through the Libby app) to check out electronic books and audiobooks for all ages. Did you get a new Instant Pot or slow cooker? We've got all kinds of cookbooks to help you find new recipes.

We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Ongoing Events for Children and Parents

Storytime Online! Watch former teachers, theater actresses, and community members read aloud stories that are fun and interactive! Geared towards ages 2-6, but everyone is welcome! You can find our videos on our Harper Woods Public Library YouTube channel and our Facebook.



Take and Make Kits! Come into the library and pick up Take and Make Kits for at-home crafts, science experiments, art projects, interactive activities and more! Stay updated about Take and Make Kits on our Facebook, Instagram, and website.

Ongoing Programs for Adults

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

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

Understanding Grief Zoom Seminar:
Monday February 28
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Sponsored by GrieveWell in Ann Arbor, MI: grievewell.com. Contact the library for your Zoom invitation.



Great Michigan Read Zoom:
Wednesday, March 9

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

"One title, one state, and thousands engaged in literary discussion."

Engage in a discussion of **The Women of the Copper County**, by Mary Doria Russell. Contact the library for your Zoom invitation.

Current Library Hours:

Monday – Wednesday (11am – 7pm) • Thursday – Friday (11am – 5pm)

Check the library's website for holiday closure dates.

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

2022 Winter Recreation Program



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.

Swimming Lessons

Spending time at the beach, up north, or wherever there is water can be hazardous for a non-swimmer. Our lessons teach children to be independent and safe in the water. Our certified instructors will teach your child all the tools they need to become a good swimmer, and they have fun too!! The children's lessons are offered for **Harper Woods residents only**. The classes are held at the Harper Woods High School pool *Register early, classes fill up fast. We offer Monday **OR** Tuesday classes for 6 week sessions.



Swim Fees For Winter Session - 6 weeks

30 minute classes: Aquaducks, Level 1, Level 2
\$50 for 1 child, \$25 each additional child in same household

45 minute classes: Level 3, 4, 5, 6
\$60 for 1 child, \$30 each additional child in same household

2022 Winter Recreation Program

Monday Dates

Winter Session 1:

January 10-February 28

No class January 17 & February 21

Winter Session 2:

March 7-April 18

No class March 28

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



Tuesday Dates

Winter Session 1:

January 11-February 28

No class January 18 & February 22

Winter Session 2:

March 8-April 19

No class March 29

Tuesday Classes:

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



Adult Swim Lessons

It's never too late to learn how to swim and feel comfortable in and around water. These classes are held at the

Harper Woods High school pool and are for age 18 & up.

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 6:15-7:00pm

Fee: \$55 per 6 week session

Dates:

Winter Session 1:

January 11-February 28

No class January 18 & February 22

Winter Session 2:

March 8-April 19

No class March 29



Water Aerobics

Water aerobics is a great low impact workout. These classes are offered at the Harper Woods High School Pool.

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 7:00-8:00pm

Fee: \$60 per 6 week session

Dates:

Winter Session 1:

January 11-February 28

No class January 18 & February 22

Winter Session 2:

March 8-April 19

No class March 29

Fitness Firm Aerobics

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

Dates: Mondays & Wednesdays **Time:** 9:30-10:30am
Tuesdays & Thursdays **Time:** 4:00-5:00pm

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

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.

Dance

Come join the fun and dance, as we start our 38th year of the dance program! There is no residency requirement. All classes are held at the Harper Woods High School on Beaconsfield near Johnston Park. The classes are held on stage area in the auditorium.

We require at least one adult to stay with their child and watch each class and a maximum of two family members total. Please note dance families will be spaced apart in the auditorium. Masks (covering your face and nose) must be worn by all staff, students, parents, etc. Students have the opportunity to perform in the annual Recital. It will be held in late April (end of the session) and there is no charge to attend the Recital. There are ballet bars. We suggest you arrive ten minutes prior to your child's class time if you choose this option. Please call dance program director Nonny Sperry with questions at (313) 885-3714.



REGULAR SEASON DANCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2021-2022

DANCE STAFF: Mary Salada, Mikayla Schiller, Caitlin Skerske, Nonny Sperry

Dance Program Director: Nonny Sperry (313) 885-3714

Begins Tuesday, September 28 and ending with tentative rehearsal - 25 dance lessons***

Tuesdays

5:00-5:30pm	Creative Movement/Ballet, ages 3-5
5:30-6:00pm	Tiny Tappers, ages 3-5
6:00-6:30pm	Lyrical, ages 7-10
6:30-7:00pm	Hip Hop, ages 7-9
7:00-7:30pm	Hip Hop, ages 10 & up
7:30-8:00pm	Teen Lyrical
8:00-8:30pm	Teen Jazz

Wednesdays

5:00-5:30pm	Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 4-6
5:30-6:00pm	Ballet, ages 6-8
6:00-6:30pm	Tap, ages 7-10

Dance Tuition

\$150.00 per class *plus \$10 family registration fee and typically includes 25 dance lessons. Tuition can be paid in 2 installments with **HALF DUE** at the time of enrollment. There will be an additional \$10 installment fee for the payment plan.

Family Plan Discount:

This discount applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in two or more classes.

2-5 classes: 10% off the total

6 or more classes: 20% off the total

Recital Costumes

Please be aware that you will not be purchasing a costume for the 2022 Dance recital. Students will be putting together their own costumes or buying accessories at minimal cost.

LOOK FOR INFORMATION COMING SOON ABOUT SPRING BASEBALL

Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

The Recreation Department has three parks for community use, each with children's playground equipment and picnic sites. Picnic reservations will be taken from May through Labor Day. Only one picnic allowed per household per year. No moon bounces, trains, charcoal grills, confetti, port-a-potty's, bands or DJ's allowed for picnics. Reserve at least 3 weeks in advance. Refunds for cancellations are only given if you cancel at least 3 weeks before your scheduled picnic date.

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

****Dogs are allowed at Salter Park on a leash, not allowed under shelter or playscape. Please see Harperwoodscity.org for a complete list of Park and Picnic rules.**



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 Harper Woods residents regardless of economic circumstances. For a confidential inquiry, please contact the Recreation Director at 313-343-2560.

Recreation Refund Policy

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

To Register:

Register at the Recreation Office or mail in the registration form with payment. Phone reservations not accepted. Make checks payable to: **City of Harper Woods**

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

**The mailing address is: City of Harper Woods Parks & Recreation
20221 Beaconsfield, Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-343-2560**

Harper Woods Recreation Department

Participant Name _____

Age _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Birthdate _____

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

Activity _____ Days/Times _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant _____