

THE INSIDER

For The City of Harper Woods

Your community
resource guide for the
City of Harper Woods!
SUMMER EDITION
JULY THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 2021

Get the most out of our community!

HARPER WOODS CALENDAR

July

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

July 3 – Siren Test - 1pm

July 4 – Independence Day

July 5 – City Offices Closed

July 12 – *City Council Meeting

July 14 – Stuffed Animal Sleepover -
HW Library – 5:30pm

July 15 – Water Bills Due

July 21 – Books Come Alive
Salter Park – 11am



August

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

August 7 – Siren Test - 1pm

August 9 – *City Council Meeting

August 16 – Water Bills Due



September

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

September 4 - Siren Test – 1pm

September 6 – City Offices Closed
Labor Day

September 8 – *City Council Meeting

September 14 – Summer Taxes Due

September 15 – Water Bills Due

September 20 – *City Council Meeting

September 23 – Autumn Begins



A Message from the Mayor...

Planning for a Strong Rebound in Harper Woods

I am sure you have all had exposure to such topics as, post-pandemic workforces, understanding the evolving community needs of our City and of course, economic development.

It all starts with the people- I mean our two different groups: our residents/ businesses and public service staff of the City. The pandemic has amplified the urgency to understand and meet a variety of needs in Harper Woods.

In 2021, some major opportunities exist for Harper Woods. We are on the cusp of a great developmental project in the repurposing of Eastland Mall.

Tens of millions of dollars will be spent in revitalizing this parcel of real estate. This effort will spur good paying blue collar, white collar, new collar jobs for our residents and shore up a sagging commercial sector throughout the City.

Redevelopment Ready Community- I have been working with the State of Michigan, City Council and City Administration to get our community State certified to target specific areas for reinvestment. It is starting to get noticed and it's starting to pay off.

In addition to Eastland, the City is actively engaging in talks with the Grosse Pointe Public School System to plan and redevelop the Poupard School Building and surrounding areas into a unique upscale housing development as unique and quaint as the Dansbury Lane neighborhood in Harper Woods.

Senior Citizen Vaccinations- This population in our community was a priority in the early vaccination rollout. Many of our seniors faced obstacles in accessing systems that were over reliant on technology or other communication efforts. Local governments, such as ours, made great strides in ensuring that our most vulnerable residents did not fall between the cracks.

We are one City; one humankind and we all will move forward together!

Valerie G. Kandle



**Speaker
Giveaway!**
Details on Page 15

**Take
the Survey!**
Details on Page 15

The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Cheryl A. Costantino

City Council

Ernestine Lyons

Veronica Paiz

Vivian M. Sawicki

Ivery Toussant Jr.

Regina Williams

Acting City Manager

John Szymanski

City Clerk

Leslie M. Frank

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

Harper Woods Insider Advisory Board

Vivian Sawicki - Council member, City of Harper Woods

Larry Hakim - Planning Commissioner, City of Harper Woods

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

Joe Rheker - City Manager

Bre Wilson - Harper Woods School District

Marlin Hughes - Resident

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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Employee in the Spotlight

Marva Myles began her career with the City of Harper Woods in 2000 as a civilian aide with the Police Department. During her time with the City, Marva displayed a deep commitment to the City and demonstrated a strong work ethic which resulted in her being assigned as Administrative Assistant to the Director of Public Safety in 2018.

Marva possesses a variety of skills. In addition to her administrative duties, she serves as a 911 dispatcher when needed. As a former resident of Harper Woods, she recognizes the needs of residents and assists citizens daily at the Police front desk or through phone calls. Marva gets residents the answers they need. She has also been instrumental in identifying and eliminating unnecessary costs to the City during her time as an administrative assistant.

Detective Sergeant Ruthenberg stated, "Marva goes above and beyond in her duties and is available to assist in any way needed." Director Smith said, "Marva is a key cog in the operation of the Police Department and vital to the Director's Office." Smith recognized Marva and added the Joseph Addison quote: "No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another..." Marva has proven to be a valued confidant and a person to lean on for honest unbiased feedback. Due to her exemplary service to the City, I introduce Marva Myles as the Employee in the Spotlight!"



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:

Neil Patterson has guided the charge for development activities in Harper Woods for 52 years. Since 1969, Mr. Patterson has served on the Harper Woods Planning Commission throughout various roles including Chair. He told the Insider that his interest in volunteering his time was sparked as a young man by wanting to be involved in the City. He believes in the commissions importance and relation to setting standards for community development. Neil said, "Once I got on board, I never left!"

Patterson grew up in Harper Woods, then later returned to purchase his home in 1965 after serving in the United States Navy where he and his wife raised three children. He is now a proud grandfather, and great-grand father. Neil is a retired insurance agent that also worked at St. John Hospital for several years thereafter. He also found time to volunteer with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in which he is presently active and still enjoys being out on the water as a member of the crew.

Planning Commission Chairperson Greg Vargo expressed, "Neil is known on the commission for his character, he's forthcoming and very personable. He was the first person that welcomed me into the group. He showed me the ropes and has always offered his support even to this day. He's that type of guy!"

Mayor Valerie Kindle said, "Neil is **Volunteer Extraordinaire** in Harper Woods!" and echoed Vargo's comments by adding, "He was giving of information and welcomed me with open arms when I first came on the commission. Harper Woods is so fortunate to have someone like Neil as a resident who has given so many years of service to our community."

Thank you, Mr. Patterson for your 52 years of service to the City of Harper Woods!



Featured Business/Organization: Exway Electric Supply Co.



Exway Electric Supply Co. is one of Harper Woods' most successful businesses. The company started as a small electrical supply store for local contractors in 1961. It was established by John L. Joseph Sr., an electrical contractor, and his wife, Marguerite. At that time, the business was called "The Expressway" later to be shortened to Exway Electric. Now, there is a third generation of Josephs managing the business. They are led by Jeffrey Joseph, their President, and his cousin Lisa Joseph Ruggirello, their Vice President.



During a recent interview, when asked "What is the secret of their success?" Jeffrey Joseph replied, "we reach customers through a combination of retail (in store) sales to the general public, selling supplies to electrical contractors, and internet marketing." They pride themselves on excellent attentive customer service plus competitive pricing. That combination has created a loyal following of customers from Harper Woods, the Grosse Pointes, and other nearby communities. Their lighting showroom was opened in 1972 and features a variety of lamp styles and lighting solutions. Exway Electric also specializes in locating items that are hard to find on the open market. Additionally, each of their sales associates has over 20 years of experience in the electrical lighting industry.

Stop by Exway Electric Supply Co. at 20234 Harper Ave or visit their website at exwayelectricssupply.com or call 313-884-8994 for more information.

Department of Public Safety – Police



Keep Pedestrian Safety in Mind This Summer with These Driving Tips

- Watch for pedestrians constantly. You should be looking 15 seconds ahead of your vehicle (about 650 feet, or one and a half city blocks), and scanning sidewalk to sidewalk.
- If children are playing near or on the street, use extreme caution. Reduce speed and be prepared to stop quickly. Children are unpredictable and may dart in front of a vehicle unexpectedly.
- Use caution when driving near older adults who may not see or hear a vehicle approaching.
- Don't count on pedestrians to obey traffic signals. Even if a signal says "Don't Walk," don't expect all pedestrians to stop. Use caution before proceeding.
- Double check for walkers and bike riders in your rearview mirror before reversing.
- Use caution when approaching and traveling through intersections. Intersections are one of the most dangerous places for you and your vehicle to be. Always look left, right, and left again before proceeding through the intersection.
- When making a turn at an intersection, use the "Rock and Roll" method of seeing around windshield posts or other distractions.
- Expect the unexpected from bicyclists. Children and inexperienced riders can be unpredictable while riding, so give them the appropriate right-of-way space in traffic.
- Check for bicycle riders before opening vehicle doors. You never know when a bicyclist may be next to the door.
- Allow bicyclists adequate room when passing. Speed should be reduced, and at least three feet of passing space should be given. Look completely over your shoulder for the rider when moving back into your lane.
- Be on the lookout for reflective materials at night. This is the easiest way to identify pedestrians on the road when it is dark.

Pedestrian safety is as important as member safety. Stay alert while driving this season and always be prepared to stop for pedestrians. Happy driving, happy summer!



Theft is a crime of opportunity. During the summer months would-be thieves are on the look-out for items which can be easily taken in moments. Unlocked doors, open windows, and open garage doors all provide a temptation to steal valuables — bikes, packages, cell phones, purses — left in plain view. Blooming trees and overgrown shrubs can provide would-be burglars with places to hide.

Here are a few tips to make your summer a safe one:

- Install lighting, such as motion lights or dusk to dawn detector lights, on your home's exterior.
- Trim shrubbery around your home to eliminate hiding places.
- Your address should be clearly visible from the street for emergency and identification purposes.
- Close and lock your garage door when you are not nearby. Place valuables stored in the garage in a locking device not visible from the street when the garage door is open.
- Do not leave bikes unattended. Lock your bikes, even if you are going to be away for only a few moments.
- If you sleep on the second floor of your home, keep all first floor doors and windows closed and locked.
- Be aware of your surroundings and those around you when you walk, jog, or bike.
- Stop all deliveries of mail and newspapers when on vacation.
- Don't discuss your vacation plans — at the grocery store, gym, etc. — as you never know who might be listening.
- Use timers to light your home inside and outside.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up flyers or other publications that might be left while you are away.

Don't make it easy for a burglar to make you a victim!!

Bike Theft Prevention

- Most bikes are stolen while left unlocked. If you're not riding it, **LOCK IT UP!**

Bike Safety Tips

- Obey the rules of the road.
- Always wear a helmet.
- Wear bright-colored or reflective clothing while riding.
- Always ride with traffic – never against it.
- Parents should be aware of where their children are going.



Department of Public Safety – Fire

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE HARPER WOODS FIRE DEPARTMENT



**Swim
with a
Buddy!**

Never swim alone. Swimming with someone can decrease your chances of injury or drowning.

- **Jump in feet first!**
Standard backyard swimming pools are typically not deep enough for safe diving. Always enter feet first to avoid spinal injury.
- **Always supervise children!**
Never leave children of any age unattended. Especially at social gatherings have a designated adult overseeing swimmers.
- **Use proper floatation!**
Children or adults who are not strong swimmers should always wear personal floatation devices when in or around water.
- **Take breaks often!**
Fatigue can set in quickly especially in children. Make sure to get out of the water for 10-15 minutes and rest every hour.
- **Don't drink and swim!**
Alcohol is the #1 cause of drowning in males. Alcohol can impair your judgement & put you at high risk for water related injury.



**Tame
the
Flame!**

From firing up the grill to lighting off fireworks, many of our favorite summertime activities involve fire. Follow these guidelines & enjoy the soft glow of the campfire safely.

- **Adults Only!**
It is not safe for children to handle fire of any kind. Be prepared!
- **Be prepared!**
Have a bucket of water, running hose, or a fire extinguisher nearby to put out an unruly fire quickly.
- **Don't let kids handle fire tools!**
Serious burns can happen away from the flame itself. Never let kids handle grilling tools, fire pokers, or firework debris.
- **Watch the flames!**
Never leave a fire unattended, even if in an enclosed pit.
- **Secure a safe spot!**
Look around & above for trees, overhangs & structures. Keep at least a 8-10 foot perimeter around your grill & 25 feet around fire pit areas.
- **Extinguish properly!**
Dwindling fires can easily get picked up by the wind & ignite nearby structures. Don't let a fire die out on it's own, douse it with water to eliminate fire hazards.

Fireworks Safety

Leave it to the professionals. The best way to keep your family safe is to go see a professional show.

You should NEVER:

- Allow kids to handle fireworks.
- Light fireworks near face / clothing / hair.
- Hold / light fireworks in your hand.
- Use old fireworks from past years.
- Make your own fireworks.
- Re-light "duds" or fireworks that don't go off on the first attempt.
- Point fireworks at people, pets, or structures.



City Clerk Info

Primary Election

Harper Woods will not be holding a Primary election in August as the conditions to hold one have not been met. More than 3 candidates would have to run for Mayor or more than 9 candidates would have to run for City Council.

The next City General Election will be held on November 2, 2021. A list of City candidate names as they will appear on the ballot is provided below.

Mayor - (One 2-Year Term)

Valerie Kindle
Ernestine Lyons

City Council - (Three 4-Year Terms)

Frankie Brooks	Michael W. Jarvis
David M. Calus	Tom Jenny
Jasmyn Colemon	Vivian M. Sawicki
Gerald L. Ervin	Ivery Toussant, Jr.

If you are unsure of your registration status or need additional information, please email lf Frank@harperwoods.net or call 313-343-2510.

Voters in the Grosse Pointe School District

With the closure of Poupard Elementary school, a new polling location will be needed for all voters in Precinct 5 and 6 in the Grosse Pointe School District. New voters cards will be mailed to you by the end of summer indicating your new precinct in which to vote.

Summer is Here...



With Summer comes back yard parties, late night barbeques with friends, windows open, loud music from cars and radios, etc. Please be mindful of your neighbors and the Noise Ordinance which requires all noise to cease, particularly between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Chapter 15 of the Code of Ordinances,

It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person to make, create or continue or cause to be made, created or continued, any loud, unnecessary, unnatural or unusual noise which annoys, disturbs, injures, endangers or impairs the health, comfort, safety, peace and quiet, welfare and enjoyment of the residents of the neighborhood in which the noise originates. The playing, use of operation, or the permitting to be played, used or operated of any radio, phonograph, loudspeaker, television or musical instrument, particularly between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., in such manner as to cause unnecessary or objectionable noise penetrating more than a reasonable distance from the room, building, structure, place or vehicle from which the noise emanates, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation...

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 (MCL600.113(1)) and punished by a civil fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus costs and all other remedies permitted. Each incident of a noise violation shall be considered a separate violation.

Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

Building Department Info

The Building Department would like to wish all residents and business owners a safe and happy summer. The Building Department handles multiple complaints on a daily basis. The majority of these complaints are regarding grass and yard maintenance, as well as trash and rodent issues. We all wish to live in a better environment and by taking the time to maintain our properties this objective can be obtained. Our Department is asking all to be aware of your surroundings, communicate with your neighbors and to always help your neighbors out when you can. It is only by acting as a team that a community can change for the better. With all residents and business owners taking the time to properly maintain their properties and help out one another, we can all make this an achievable goal. We all need to participate in the success of Harper Woods.

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

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



Assessing Department Info

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

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

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

32A District Court News

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Greetings Harper Woods,

It is with great excitement that I announce that we have recently graduated five (5) people from our Community Treatment Court program. Each of the graduates indicated that they have greatly benefitted from the program and have developed multiple coping tools that they can and will use in the future.

My staff and I have been rigorously developing tools for each stage of the Community Treatment Court so that we can continue to address the needs of all the participants. These changes we are developing will help program participants gain more stability and have an improved ability to lead productive and healthier lives. With "Purpose", "Vision" and "Goals" being the emphasis of these changes, we can develop realistic goals and the steps that are needed for the participants to achieve the set goals.

We want this amazing program to not just be about completing assignments and ultimately not having a criminal conviction, but we want it to be an overall positive experience. We want this to be an opportunity where the Court connects individuals with needed services that will help them improve their lives and to completely steer clear of the criminal justice system. Members of our probation department are determined to continue to advance the quality of services provided through the Court through a mix of intensive case management and personal abilities. We look forward to updating the community on the progress of these changes in the coming months.

Currently the Court is still in Phase 2, which only allows for limited access to the public. We can allow a maximum of twenty (20) people, including staff, in the courtroom at a time. We have drafted the plan to enter Phase 3, which will allow us to start jury trials, but we are waiting on a 65% rating of vaccinations in Wayne County before we can enter this next phase. The Court will not be open fully to the public until we are approved to enter Phase 4 by the Michigan Supreme Court. I am continuing to ask that you contact the Court by phone or Zoom when you have business to conduct. This will enable us to serve you effectively, efficiently and most importantly, safely.

I want to congratulate the class of 2021!! This has not been an ideal year to complete your senior year of high school, but you all did it! I wish you all many blessings and much success as you all enter this next phase of life, whether it be college, the military, the workforce, etc. There are many paths that can be taken when on the path towards success. Be patient and find your path but do not be afraid of change if the first path taken is not giving you your desired results.

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 2021 Taxes**

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

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



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

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

Delinquent Tax Information Online

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

Property Transfer Affidavit

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

Electronic Debit Transactions

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



Water/Sewer Rates

As of May, 2020

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



Water Bill Delivery

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

Current Fees Effective January 4, 2018

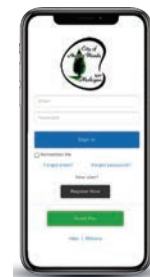
Water Disconnect Fee for Non-Payment:	\$70.00
Final Water Bill Fee:	\$20.00
Unauthorized Turn On of Water:	\$200.00
Water Appointment No Show:	\$50.00

Automatic Payment-Water Bills

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

Pay Water Bills Online – NO FEES!

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



Automatic Payment-Tax Bills

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

Pay Property Taxes by Credit Card Online

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

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



Senior Resources

Help for Seniors and Family Caregivers

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

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

Call 313-446-4444.

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



**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.

THE
HELM
AT THE BOLL LIFE CENTER

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.

WM
THE WAR MEMORIAL

THE
HELM
AT THE BOLL LIFE CENTER



Department of Public Works

Refuse Collection Guidelines

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



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

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

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

Trash Delay Reminder!

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

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



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

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



Yard Waste Collection

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

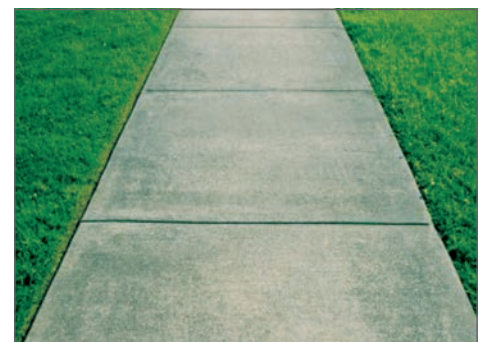
Please check your City calendar for specific dates. Curbside leaf collection will run from **October 18th - November 19th**. For more information go to www.harperwoodscity.org or call 313-343-2570.

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

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

Sidewalk Maintenance

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



Maintaining Sewer Lines

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

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



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

Rodent Control

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

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

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

Downspouts, Surface Drainage, Etc.

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

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



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

Department of Public Works



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

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.

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

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 will ask 30 residential locations to participate in 1 round of sampling between June and September.

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.

Rain... rain go away



The heavy rains we have experienced are considered significant wet weather. This has resulted in standing water in many residential yards, parks and school play fields.

If you are fortunate enough to have a yard drain, you may have had relief from yard flooding. If not, prolonged standing water can be problematic. With warmer temperatures on the way, standing / stagnant water can become a breeding area for mosquitoes or other aquatic life. It is important to eliminate standing water. A sump pump and garden hose may be the most economical way to eliminate standing water in yards.

Extreme care and ALL safety precautions should be taken when using a sump pump. Electricity and water can be a dangerous or deadly combination. A professional may need to be contacted for assistance with this. Most plumbing contractors are familiar with sump pumps and how to use them safely. It is a violation of City

Ordinance to discharge water on to your neighbor's property.

The installation of yard drains and fill dirt may provide a more permanent, long term solution. It is also a violation to displace water by adding fill dirt when it will displace water and flood your neighbor. A reputable landscape company could advise on fill and grading low spots. Our Building Department should be contacted to advise on grading issues.

Wet, soggy ground and significant rainfall can contribute to wet basements or crawl spaces. This would be a good time to inspect the grading around the foundation around your home. Concrete landscape materials, sod, and dirt should all be pitched or sloped away from your home. Gutters should be kept clean and there should be downspouts, elbows, splash blocks and extensions on you gutters to direct water away from your home. This may prevent excess water intrusion into a crawl space or basement.

The foundation of homes and buildings are surrounded by drain (weeping) tile. This is typically installed on the outside of the basement, just below the level of the basement floor, when the home is built. It is designed to take in storm water that soaks / perks into the ground surrounding the home. It is NOT designed to be the main conduit for storm water. It is important to know that this storm line connects or ties into the sanitary line that takes waste water away from your home. This is evident by the 2 clean out caps in the basement located by an exterior wall.

When the drain tile around your home is overwhelmed with water it can significantly contribute to water backing up through floor drains. Again, this is why it is important to make sure you have sufficient grading, clean gutters and downspouts with extensions to direct storm water away from the foundation of your home. The slightest blockage or restriction in your sewer line in addition to the storm water can contribute to sewage backups. Sewer lines should be maintained annually by cleaning, root cutting by an experienced contractor.

Most reputable plumbing contractors offer a warranty and provide a camera inspection to identify developing problems.

All sewer repairs or plumbing work is a permissible event. Permits and inspections can be secured by contacting our Building Department @ (313) 343-2526.

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



Library News & Events



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

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director



From the Director



Summertime is such a magical time! Whether your idea of the perfect summer day is hanging out at the beach, spending time in your garden, or staying inside to enjoy the gift of air conditioning (okay,

maybe that's just me!), we've got your perfect summer read!

Don't forget to take advantage of the fun activities that we are doing with our Annual Summer Reading Program, Tails and Tales! We have fun plans and prizes for all ages.

Have you taken advantage of the Michigan Activity Pass? With your library card, you can visit all kinds of places throughout the state at reduced prices or even for free! You can visit MetroParks, State Parks, museums, and historic homes, among many other places. Just make sure your library card is updated and visit the library's website at www.harperwoodslibrary.org for more information!

Family Programming

Stuffed Animal Sleepover – Wednesday, July 14 @ 5:30 p.m.

Come to the library with a favorite stuffie, and we'll have a special cuddly story time where you can make a sleeping bag for your buddy with a parent's help. You can also sign a permission slip for your stuffie to stay with us overnight, and we'll take pictures of all the animals-only activities they get up to in the library!

Ice Cream Social – Wednesday, July 28 @ 5:30 p.m.

Participants in summer reading will be able to swing by the library for novelty ice cream and giveaways! Be sure to sign up for summer reading to be eligible!



Programming for Little Ones

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

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

Distance Programming

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

Story Walk® – What is a Story Walk?

The pages of the story are posted on signs outside, and you can walk by and read the whole book! Our Story Walk is located on the north side of the building, starting at the USPS mailbox. Don't forget to come inside for some fun giveaways when you're done reading!



• **Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?** by Eric Carle
(June 11 – August 1, 2021)

• **Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus** by Mo Willems
(September 1 – October 8, 2021)

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.

July 28: *Before We Were Yours*, by Lisa Wingate

Aug. 25: *My Life As a Rat*, by Joyce Carol Oates

Sept. 22: *The Giver of Stars*, by Jojo Moyes

Take and Make Craft Kits!

July: Independence Day Wreath

August: Picket Fence Ornament; How to Make Pressed Flowers

September: Fall Mini Wreaths

Call the library for a current list of Zoom programs – financial, self-help, cooking, and more!

Adult Summer Reading Program: June 14 – July 23

Sign up on our website (www.harperwoodslibrary.org), or talk to the librarian at the Reference Desk.

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

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

Community & Business Progress

We are Requesting Your Feedback to Help with City Improvements!



COMMUNITY SURVEY



ON PUBLIC SAFETY



AND LAW ENFORCEMENT



The City of Harper Woods values our residents feedback.

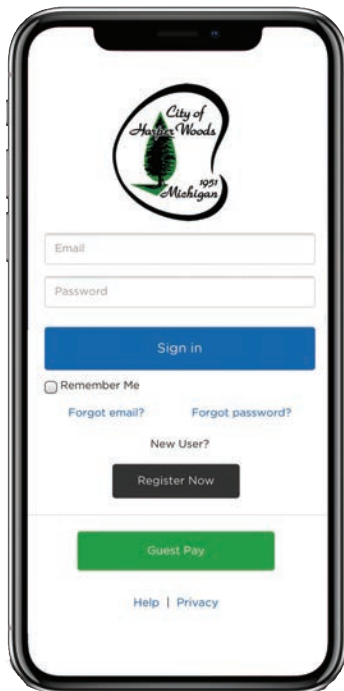
Please complete the online Community Survey on Public Safety and Law Enforcement to help provide cost effective ways of achieving our community goals.

Go to the City's website homepage at www.harperwoodscity.org and click on the access link to take the survey starting July 1st through September 1st.



We appreciate your participation!

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



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

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

** While supplies last.*



2021 Late Summer & Fall Recreation Program

Important Notice

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

Tumbling

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

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

Dates:

Fall Session 1: September 11-October 16

Fall Session 2: October 23-December 4

***No class November 27th**

Day: Mondays

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

Ages 7 & up 6:30-7:30pm **Fee:** \$60.00



Kids Tennis

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

This class is held at Johnston Park.

Dates:

Summer Session: July 20-August 12

Fall Session: September 11-October 9

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Fee: \$40.00 per 4 week session

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

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



Walking Club

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



Days: Saturdays

Time: 9:00am-10:00am

Dates: July 10 & 24 August 7 & 21

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.

Swimming Lessons

Spending time at the beach, up north, or wherever there is water can be hazardous for a non-swimmer. Our lessons teach children to be independent and safe in the water. Our

certified instructors will teach your child all of the tools they need to become a good swimmer, and they have fun too!! The children's lessons are offered for **Harper Woods residents only**. The classes are held at the Harper Woods High School pool *Register early, classes fill up fast. We offer Monday **OR** Tuesday classes.



Monday Classes

Fall Session 1: September 13-October 18 (6 week session)

Fall Session 2: October 25-November 29 (6 week session)

Class Times:

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 Classes

Fall Session 1: September 14-October 19 (6 week session)

Fall Session 2: October 26-November 30 (6 week session)

Class Times:

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

Swim Fees For Summer Session - 8 weeks

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

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

Swim Fees For Fall Session - 6 weeks

30 minute classes: \$50 for 1 child, \$25 each additional

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

Beginning Adult Swim Lessons

Adults, now you can learn how to swim and be confident in the water. These classes are offered at the Harper Woods High School Pool. Ages 18 & Up.

Dates:

Fall Session 1: September 14-October 19 (6 week session)

Fall Session 2: October 26-November 30 (6 week session)

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

Fee: \$70 for Summer Session - 8 weeks

\$55 for Fall Session - 6 weeks

Water Aerobics

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

Dates:

Fall Session 1: September 14-October 19 (6 week session)

Fall Session 2: October 26-November 30 (6 week session)

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

Fee: \$64 for Summer Session - 8 weeks

\$60 for Fall Session - 6 weeks



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

Fitness Firm Aerobics

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

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

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

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

Books Come Alive

"Books Come Alive" in the Park, with
Judy Sima,
Storyteller, Author, and Teaching Artist.
Wednesday, July 21, 2021
11AM at Salter Park Shelter 2
Ages 4 and up.



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 barres. 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.

**Celebrating
38 Years**

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 4-6
6:00-6:30pm Lyrical, ages 7-10
6:30-7:00pm Hip Hop, ages 7-10
7:00-7:30pm Hip Hop, ages 11 & up
7:30-8:00pm Hawaiian and Tahitian, children and adults

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
6:30-7:00pm Ballet, ages 9-12
7:00-7:30pm Tap, ages 11 & up
7:30-8:00pm Lyrical, ages 11 & up
8:00-8:30pm Teen Jazz
8:30-9:00pm Teen Ballet



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.

Participating Partner



38110 Executive Dr. Suite 200, Westland, MI 48185 • Phone: 734-331-3980

Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

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

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



Park Fees *(Fees are subject to change)

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

Financial Assistance Program

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

Recreation Refund Policy

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

To Register:

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

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

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

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

313-343-2560

Harper Woods Recreation Department

Participant Name _____

Age _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Birthdate _____

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

Activity _____ Days/Times _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant _____

the Community Resource Guide

Harper Woods Edition



Highlighted in this Edition:

**Fitness • Time to Reset our Health • Family Behavior Solutions • Chefs Corner
Harper Woods Real Estate Trends • Business Directory • Education • And more**

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

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

Deadline to provide information is Friday, August 13.



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

The Family Center

STRONG FAMILIES  VIBRANT COMMUNITY



Do You Feel Like You Fight the Same Battles With Your Kids or Spouse Over and Over Again?

Think of a dynamic in your home that includes the words, "always" or "never." This could be a parent saying to their child, "I am always picking up after

you. You never do chores without me asking!" or one partner to another, "I am always taking care of you. You never put my needs first!" If you have experienced this scenario or one similar, it could be a hint that a problem sequence is in effect. It is that behavioral hamster wheel that we want to get off, but don't quite know how.

As humans, we tend to gravitate towards homeostasis, balance, and structure. It is easier to reach this state when our lives feel concise, predictable, and unchanging. However, relationships are rarely cemented in one place. Humans are meant to evolve, and their relationships along with them. Because of the constant presence of change, achieving and maintaining homeostasis can be fleeting.

So, when you have a changing relationship looking for stability, we begin to repeat behavioral patterns. This practice helps us stay grounded and secure. But, when we are not flexible and adaptable, we get stuck and problem sequences occur.

These dynamics typically form because, at one time, they worked for the relationship. Whether it was because of age, gender roles, behaviors we witnessed growing up, or overall lifestyle, these

patterns were adapted to aid in the positivity of the relationship. Referencing the previous example, a parent "always picking up after their child" occurred when the child was too young and unable to pick up after themselves. This dynamic becomes problematic when expectations are not re-evaluated when that the child gets older and more capable. The pattern of behavior needs to change to match the child's abilities. When these dynamics are not revisited can have an expiration date. When we continue to engage in problem sequences they result in feelings of resentment, burnout, and invalidation. It is important to check in with yourself and your partner/family members if these dynamics are still effective, asserting autonomy, and creating balance.

How to change the problem sequence:

- 1) Recognize and name the problem sequence: In a nonreactive moment, notice the pattern of behavior and discuss it openly and honestly with the other family member(s) involved.
- 2) State expectations with accountability and compassion: Decide together what is going to be the new pattern of behavior. Set clear, realistic expectations matched with support and understanding.
- 3) Regulate your reactivity: It is important to be aware of the way we are talking to ourselves and others in this moment. Doing things differently can kick up feelings of being uncomfortable or "wrong." Typically, that feeling is a product of change happening. Moments like these will widen our distress tolerance, as well as positively affirm we can change a long-standing dynamic.
- 4) Acknowledge the change and celebrate: Just like we want to recognize problem sequences, we want to reflect on positive sequences too. Share how this change in dynamic made you feel, what you noticed from your family member, and how to encourage each other as you work to create positive change.

Ellen Miller, founder of Starting Pointe Therapy, provides mental health services to individuals, couples and families in our community and is a member of The Family Center's Association of Professionals.

The Family Center is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and preventative education to empower families to successfully navigate life's social, emotional and physical challenges. The Family Center is completely supported by community donations. To learn more, visit familycenterweb.org and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheFamilyResourceCenter/>.



GP Chamber Chat: The Chamber's New Podcast Program



The Chamber's new Chamber Chat Podcast program is to help showcase all of the incredible businesses within the area with a more personal touch. As a Chamber made up of mainly small businesses, we know how important it is, to have and create content that businesses can promote and share digitally about what they're doing.

Bringing you a behind the scenes look at chamber businesses that are helping shape our community.

We invite you to listen & tune in often!



Jennifer Palms Boettcher,
IOM President



Regan Stolarski,
Director of Administration



Rachele Wright,
Social Media & Membership Director

Today's Health & Fitness



Ken Welch, Owner
Pointe Fitness
& Training

Live and Learn

Last issue I told you about the importance of getting checked out if you experience any symptoms of heart trouble. So, what happens after you have a serious heart attack?

You embrace cardiac rehab, take your meds and discover a new way of eating.

It wasn't just a pledge to eat healthier. On my wife's insistence, she said, "we're going **plant-based**."

We were introduced to Preventive Cardiologist, Dr. Joel Kahn. In the appointment he talked to us about the benefits of not eating meat, chicken, fish or dairy. His evidence was pretty compelling. I thought I was eating healthy before my cardiac event but I was wrong. The more he explained the more of an advantage I understood plant-based could be.

As an introduction to this new dietary lifestyle, he suggested two films. **Forks Over Knives** and **Game Changers**, a movie produced by James Cameron and available on Netflix.

Each one makes the same point but with a different approach. Both films made me think.

Forks Over Knives features **Dr. Caldwell B. Esselstyn** and his own discovery and research into how plant-based diets can save your life. It's informative and entertaining and makes a strong case for why a plant-based diet makes sense. For the past 10 years at **Cleveland Clinic**, over 1,000 patients have participated in Dr. Esselstyn's program of plant-based nutrition.

Game Changers features how athletes like UFC fighters, professional ball players, elite endurance athletes, body builders and even Arnold Schwarzenegger have dynamically improved the quality of their life, health and performance by switching to a plant-based diet. Skeptics became believers.

I've been vegan now for the last four months. I'm lighter, recovering quicker and feeling stronger each week. It's all better than I expected. I've learned the plant-based way is good for the environment, animal welfare, promotes longevity and a more youthful lifestyle.

Plant-based is a growing trend and now I know why.



*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
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Macomb Pharmacy and Wellness

Your Friendly Neighborhood Pharmacy

Macomb Pharmacy and Wellness is run by Anula T, a licensed pharmacist in the state of Michigan with over 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Anula worked 13 years as a lead pharmacist for Walgreens, which is one of the major chain drug stores in the United States. Walgreens gave her the opportunity to acquire superb knowledge and skills in areas such as management, leadership, insurance protocols, quality control and regulatory compliance, communication with patients and physicians, and allowed her to broaden her knowledge of pharmaceuticals and their applications.

Wanting to explore other opportunities in her field, she decided to leave Walgreens in 2020. The primary goal of Anula has always been to improve the quality of health of her patients through personalized and friendly care. With this in mind, she created a new kind of personalized community pharmacy; a pharmacy where individuals are treated with dignity and respect, and where their health and well-being comes first. Prevention and early diagnosis can be achieved through increased understanding of one's condition and this she offers always.

At Macomb Pharmacy and Wellness, our customers will find services such as one-to-one counseling, free delivery of their medications, light grocery shopping, lowest prices on brand

and generic prescriptions, free flavoring on medications, full line of HIV and ADHD medications in stock, and walk-in immunizations during business hours. All this is available within a pleasant, comfortable, professional and extremely clean, friendly ambience. Macomb Pharmacy and Wellness is 100% focused on creating wellness and providing personalized care.

We are currently offering a lottery program for all new customers. When you transfer your prescription to Macomb Pharmacy, you will be entered to win between \$20-\$200 in cash. We draw 5 winners at the last day of every month.

Let me build your trust next time you have prescription needs. Thank you. Hope to see you soon.

Anula T.
Macomb Pharmacy and Wellness
37035 South Gratiot
Clinton Township, MI 48036
<http://www.macombpharmacy.com>
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- HWHS has a wide variety of sports and extracurricular opportunities
- Fine and Performing Arts Programs
- Foreign Language

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- Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO)

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OUR students are taught to research, synthesize, and analyze real-world problems. **OUR** staff provides high quality, student centered instruction focused on helping each student to reach his or her potential.

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- Students earn High School credit by a selection of courses
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- Fine and Performing Arts Programs
- Foreign Language

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- Early Childhood Development Delays (ECDD)
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CHEF'S CORNER

Microwave Nutella Cake

In a mixing bowl combine ¼ cup flour, ¼ tsp. baking powder, ¼ cup nutella and ¼ cup shelf stable milk. Whisk until smooth. Pour into a microwavable mug. Microwave for 60 seconds and then for 20 second intervals until done.

Lemon Pepper Sardine Salad

In a large bowl mash 1-2 cans of sardines. Add canned olives, capers, artichoke and mushroom. Mix in a tablespoon of mustard. Season with salt, lemon pepper and herbs. Enjoy with crackers and wine.

Charcuterie Trail Mix

In a snack cup select dried kiwi, pineapple and raisins. (fruit of your choice) Add olives and diced cheese. Enjoy with a cheese cracker and can of wine.



An exhilarating time.

As things begin to open back up summer plans are in full blown action. Restaurants have reformed their services for Covid-19 with safety in mind. Now that a vaccine is available we could potentially ditch the mask. However, there are those who are still at risk for catching and spreading the virus. My goal is to only go out if I have a reservation ensuring the environment is well attended to and prepped before my family and I arrive.

Please choose your dining environment wisely, wear your mask when appropriate and limit social events to close family and friends. With that disclaimer out of the way we can now decide what foods and activities can be enjoyed this summer.

Take-out, fast food, and local heritage dining are on the list, says Foodandwine.com; however, the actual joy of eating specially cultivated food from your favorite place will soon reach an end. When one has waited over 45 min to an 1 hour for food that is now cold and inauthentic. What can you do when all the ordering online is closed or the food you have ordered just simply didn't hit the spot?

Pantry, anyone? After realizing my pantry may help me cook amazing dinners. What in my pantry can make a deliberate snack, appetizer or midnight dessert? In this article I have included a list of ingredients that will help you make simple life tying snacks for moments of satiety.

Quick Pantry List

- Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Canned Sardines and Tuna
- Lemon pepper, dried herbs and spices
- Dried fruits
- Flour
- Nutella
- Hard and dried cheeses - cheddar, parmesan and gouda
- Canned olives, capers, artichoke and mushrooms
- Mustard
- Salt
- Cheese cracker sticks
- Canned wine
- Baking powder
- Shelf stable milk

These are quick flavorful snacks you can prepare in moments when you are hungry but want to save your appetite. Thank you for reading today. May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,
-Chef Patricia Lyons

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AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▲ 9.7%

FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 29.9%

FROM Q1 2020

71

NUMBER
OF SALES

▼ 10.1%

FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 22.4%

FROM Q1 2020

37

AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▲ 19.7%

FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 30.2%

FROM Q1 2020

41

AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▼ 4.7%

AVERAGE PRIOR QUARTER

▼ 51.2%

FROM Q1 2020

74.0%

ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▲ 18.0%

FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ 175.4%

FROM Q1 2020

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q1 2021) OVER QUARTER (Q4 2020)

▼ 23.8%

AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 7.2%

TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ 10.1%

TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q1 2021 vs. Q1 2020)

▼ 55.6%

AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 7.2%

TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ 22.4%

TOTAL CLOSED

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

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

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

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Phone: 313-882-8000

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Email: members@gpbr.com

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UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Average Sale Price – Good news!: If you own a home this means you have increased your equity and your net worth. If you are a buyer, it has decreased affordability which unfortunately for some has taken them out of the market for a home. For those remaining it is less competition. It also reinforces the idea that a home is one of the best possible investments you can make. Low rates however, still make buying now the best time in decades to buy. With prices increasing as much as we see above, waiting to buy your first home or step-up into a larger home will never be less expensive.

Number of sales – As expected: A year ago real estate was shut down and sales almost coming to a halt. That sales are up over last year was expected and with lower inventory than a year ago, the decline in sales was also anticipated.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good News!: We were uncertain where this number was going to come in as the data is still impacted by homes selling that had been on the market for an extremely long time. The drop seen here suggests that most if not all of them have been sold.

Inventory – Not Good News!: The issue of low inventory is expected to remain for some time as the usual solution is the construction of new homes. However, higher materials including a steep rise in lumber has made the building of homes difficult.

Absorption Rate – It Depends!: Again, the year over year comparison is not a good measure of the market as the industry was shut down in March. We expect this to be the case through the second quarter as well. If you are a buyer however, it indicates that buying is going to remain a challenge because of more buyers than homes for sale in most price ranges.

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

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Time to Reset our Health!

By Wayne W. Bradley, Sr. President/CEO
Detroit Community Health Connection

If the past 15 months have taught nothing else, it was a stark reminder that our health is indeed the most important thing in our lives.

As we slowly emerge from the COVID-19 shutdown, we should use this time to reset, renew and replenish in ways that strengthen our health and that of our families and communities.

This means getting regular check-ups, committing to eating healthier foods including more fruits and vegetables, drinking more water and being more active. All the things we've heard

before, but possibly not embraced as we should now.

We have a second chance—one to be and do better for ourselves, and each other.

There's nothing like the reality of a pandemic to remind us that our health is, indeed, in our hands. Let's wash them often and embrace better health habits all-around.



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