



THE INSIDER

FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!
WINTER EDITION
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2024

Get the most out of our community!

HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

January

*Check City's website for time and format

- January 1 – City Offices Closed - New Year's Day
- January 1 thru 5 (Rubbish Delay)
- January 2 – City Offices Closed
- *January 3 – City Council Meeting
- January 6 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- January 15 – City Offices Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- January 16 – Water Bills Due
- *January 17 - City Council Meeting

February

*Check City's website for time and format

- February 2 – Groundhog Day
- February 3 - Siren Test 1:00pm
- *February 5 – City Council Meeting
- February 14 – Winter Taxes Due (Valentine's Day)
- February 15 – Water Bills Due
- February 19 – City Offices Closed (President's Day)
- *February 21 – City Council Meeting

March

*Check City's website for time and format

- March 2 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- *March 4 – City Council Meeting
- March 10 – Daylight Savings Time – Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
- March 14 – Water Bill Due
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- *March 18 - City Council Meeting
- March 23 – Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am Salter Park (Page 20)
- March 29 – City Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- March 29 – First Day of Spring
- March 31 – Easter Sunday

A Message from the Mayor....



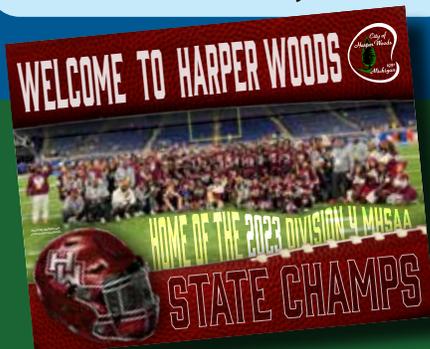
I am humbled and deeply grateful to have been elected for a second term as your Mayor. Also congratulations to Mayor Pro-Tem Regina Williams, newly elected City Councilmember Geri LaPratt and Councilmember Cheryl Costantino. I want to express my deep gratitude to all the City Staff and other city employees for their years of public service to the City of Harper Woods. I strive to represent every member of this community, and I hope you know that you are always welcome to contact me with comments, suggestions, or even complaints. This is how the work of Government gets done as we are all partners in this endeavor. I pledge to

work hard, stay focused on the positive, and reach out to everyone with a stake in the welfare of this community. I have always embraced a "Moving Forward" attitude. It is a positive approach focused on the future. I firmly believe that the future of Harper Woods could not be brighter.

I love serving our city because I am passionate about preserving our community, serving our residents, and facing the challenges of the future. To do this we must continue to create a vision, to be innovative, and be solution oriented. I plan to continue to work hard with the city, county, and state government(s). Cooperation with our neighboring community is essential as no community is an island. As always, we must maintain a balanced budget, continue to lower taxes and to aggressively seek County, State, and Federal funds for city improvements. We have lots of work to do, a bright future ahead, and I look forward to working with all of you in the next two years.

With gratitude,

Valerie Kindle
Mayor – Harper Woods



Look for your
HARPER WOODS 2024 PULL OUT WALL CALENDAR

In this Edition of *The Insider*

The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Regina Williams

City Council

Cheryl A. Costantino

Tom Jenny

Gerianne LaPratt

Vivian M. Sawicki

Ivery Toussant Jr.

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

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

William Snyder DPW Building Dedication

On Friday, September 22, 2023, City Officials along with Mr. Snyder's family and friends joined administrators, employees, business liaisons, and residents to honor William Snyder who was instrumental in leading the operations of the Department of Public Works for over forty-seven years to provide exceptional public services to residents and businesses within Harper Woods. All agreed that the **DPW Building Dedication** was the most fitting gesture the City of Harper Woods could bestow to preserve his legacy.



Celebrating

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. During this month, let us pay homage to Black history-makers, celebrate Black modern-day change-makers, and support the continual pursuit of equality and equity for Black people in our country.



Neighbor in the News

Mary Beth Kane

The Insider asked Mary Beth Kane about her residency in Harper Woods and what she considers most influential to our community's prosperity. Kane said, "I am so honored to have been chosen as the "Neighbor in the News" and hope my story can encourage community engagement from all of the residents."

She explained, "I was lucky to grow up on the east side of Detroit in a close knit neighborhood centered around the Parish of St. Matthew. Very early on, we were able to see examples of volunteerism and what being a good neighbor meant. My parents never used the word volunteer but gave of their time constantly. From driving elderly neighbors to appointments, bringing baked goods to friends, and helping to watch a neighbor's home or pet when they were away. If there was a need, my mom and dad were there. When I moved here thirteen years ago, I started to help my brother coach my nieces softball teams and was so happy to meet many other residents through Harper Woods Little League. It showed me Harper Woods was a vibrant community full of great residents willing to give of their time.

In 2015, when an opening became available on the Harper Woods Library Board, I immediately applied to serve. I am a lifelong reader and believe that libraries play such an important role for all residents to have free and equal access to lifelong education. Libraries act as a hub of information for the community.

It has been an honor to serve with other residents on the board and currently serve as Vice President. Sitting on the Library Board has allowed me to meet many of the residents and elected officials as well as leading into more volunteer opportunities including The Harper Woods Vaccine Clinic and National Night Out. It also led me to start attending City Council meetings and some NEDC meetings.

For the past few years, I have also helped to run one of the Harper Woods Facebook groups. That also led to me co-chairing "Operation Good Cheer". With the help of many generous residents in our Facebook group, we have been able to deliver holiday baskets to seniors in Harper Woods. Another resident initiated "Operation Thanksgiving" and I loved helping to get food to our neighbors in need.

I enjoy living in Harper Woods and can envision many good changes coming in the years ahead. I would love to see more residents attend the events here and to find ways to give back to the city. I am so fortunate to have made new friends from being involved in the city and would love to see some new neighbors get involved. I have always found that you get more from giving and I believe finding ways to be a good neighbor or attending events benefits all of us. Choose something you are passionate about. If you can't rake leaves at a clean-up; offer to pass out water! There are many opportunities to be a part of making this place we call home better for everyone that lives here."

Featured Business: The Helm at the Boll Life Center

Since 1978, The Helm at the Boll Life Center has been the go-to resource for Harper Woods residents for anything aging related for yourself, family member or friend. It isn't just a place, but a hub for ensuring the senior community is supported.

Monday through Friday The Helm is filled with exercise and lifelong learning classes, informational lectures and workshops, card and board games and opportunities to gather with friends or make new ones. The Helm maintains a medical loan closet and is the area's distributor of Meals on Wheels. The staff is available to help you find resources for independent and assisted living, home caregivers, financial assistance and emergency relief, minor home chores, transportation assistance. Anything you may need help with, we can find a resource for you.

No matter what stage of life, everyone wants to stay connected, healthy and vital. To get answers and assistance. To enjoy life. The Helm is here to help make that happen.

If you haven't been to The Helm, come take a tour. Stop by 158 Ridge Rd, Grosse Pointe Farms, call 313.882.9600 or visit helmlife.org.

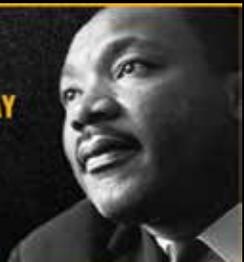


The Harper Woods city offices will be closed in observance of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

MLK DAY
OF SERVICE

Monday, January 15, 2024

SERVE ON MLK DAY AND BEYOND.
#MLKDay



Community & Business Progress

Meet Your Elected Officials



**Mayor Pro Tem
Regina Williams**



Cheryl Costantino



Gerianne LaPratt

Congratulations to Regina Williams, Cheryl Costantino, and Gerianne LaPratt,
on their elections to the Harper Woods City Council.
We wish you all every success in your duties!

Coming Soon: Use the Water App to Pay Your Water Bill with Cash!



City of Harper Woods Cash Pay 

Easy way to pay your water bill with cash.*

- 1. Get**

Get a barcode with your Water Account Number at bit.ly/3thQwX and select 'pay with cash at a store instead'.
- 2. Go**

Go to participating store locations near you, including Dollar general, Family Dollar, CVS, Walgreens, 7-Eleven, Speedway, and Walmart.
- 3. Scan**

Scan the barcode at the register to pay bills and receive a receipt from the cashier for the transaction.

*Service fee applies.
Payments are posting in real-time to: harperwoods.cityinsight.com


Open Camera Scan Code

harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Harper Woods Highlights

Fall Family Fun



The Harper Woods Recreation Department hosted a Fall Family Fun Day at Salter Park this past October 21st. The colorful trees combined with seasonal autumn weather in the park made a perfect backdrop for the event. Children played games, enjoyed snacks, and also competed in a best costume contest.



Lighting Up the Holiday Season

The Harper Woods Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was presented by City dignitaries on November 15, 2023. The event attracted residents to participate in the festive tradition of "lighting the tree" and the City holiday lights. Attendees caroled holiday songs along with the Beacon Heartbeats (2nd Graders from Beacon Elementary School). Thanks to Avery Randolph and her brother Addison along with their parents La'Kenya and Rome Randolph for "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.



Citizen Lab

Since October 2022, the City of Harper Woods became the first municipality in the State of Michigan to begin using an innovative community-engagement platform called CitizenLab. The platform is quickly becoming the "one-stop shop" for residents to find information related to projects and initiatives taking place in the City. The platform has also been used to allow residents to share ideas and take surveys, which has been especially helpful during the Master Plan update process. Future projects will also be calling on residents to share their thoughts and opinions on various projects and ideas.

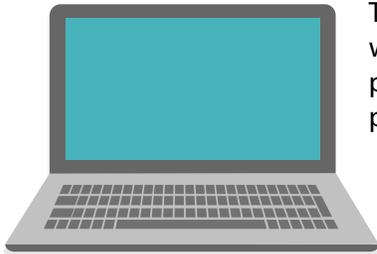
If you have not yet joined the platform, the QR code will direct you to the signup page. The link can also be found on the City's website.

Treasurer Info

Public Notice – City of Harper Woods **Applications for Deferment 2024 Taxes**

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2024 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 to Assessing/property information including photos, sketches, assessed and taxable values as well as amounts due for taxes, water or miscellaneous invoices and payment history. There is no charge to view this information, however, there is a fee to pay invoices with a credit card processing fee that will apply to any of the payments made through the portal.

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.



ALERT:

The City is now processing "actual" reads on the monthly water bills. There will be no more "estimated" reads.

Water/Sewer Rates*

As of January 1, 2024

Fixed Water Charge:	\$11.58/month
Fixed Sewer Charge:	\$20.41/month
Debt Service Charge:	\$2.50/month
Refuse User Fee:	\$4.16/month
Water Usage Fee:	\$67.08 per thousand cubic feet



***Rates subject to change**

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

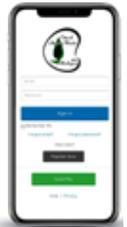
Pay Water Bills & **(Now Available) Tax Bills Online**

www.harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Water Bill: NO FEES

Tax Bill: A CONVENIENCE FEE APPLIES

Convenience fees are assessed by the Credit Card Company and subject to change.



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.

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.

City Clerk Info

Congratulations to our elected mayor and city council members

The City of Harper Woods had a 13% turnout and the voters have elected the following:

Mayor: Valerie Kindle - term expires in November 2025

Council: Regina Williams - term expires November 2027
Cheryl Costantino - term expires November 2027
Gerianne LaPratt- term expires November 2027

Councilmember Williams received the highest number of votes, and she will be Mayor Pro tem, serving in this capacity until the next Harper Woods election in 2025.



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, see our Boards and Commissions page on our website, or call the City Clerk's office for more information. You can also fill out an application, also found on our website, and email, mail or drop it off to the City Clerk. Presently we have openings on the following: Beautification Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Brownfield Authority, Local Officers Compensation Commission and the Recreation Advisory Board.

EARLY VOTING - 2024 Elections

- Beginning in 2024, Michigan voters have the right to cast a ballot early and in person at an early voting site before Election Day.
- Early voting will be available beginning with the presidential primary in 2024 and every statewide and federal election thereafter.
- What is early voting? In November 2022, Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment that gives voters the right to vote early and in person at early voting sites before statewide and federal elections.
- Early voting allows a voter to cast a ballot before Election Day, in an experience similar to voting on Election Day.
- During the early voting period, voters are issued a ballot and can then insert their ballot directly into a tabulator at their early voting site.
- Voters can visit an early voting site in their area to cast a ballot in person during the early voting period. The early voting site for Harper Woods will be City Hall at 19617 Harper Avenue.
- Voters can look up their assigned early voting site(s) up to 60 days prior to Election Day at Michigan.gov/Vote.
- The early voting period takes place for a minimum of nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election
- and early voting sites must be open for at least eight hours each day during the early voting period.

For more information please visit the Michigan Secretary of State's webpage at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting>

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

Department of Public Safety – Police



Vehicle Safety: Be prepared. Keep extra blankets, flashlights, ice scraper, warning devices (e.g., flares, reflectors), jumper cables, first aid kit, snow shovel and rock salt or sand, bottled water and snacks in your vehicle. Always have a cell phone with you.

Driving Safety: If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it is clear of snow before you start the car. In icy and snowy conditions, drive slowly, allow plenty of stopping time, and pay attention to the road and other drivers. If you get stuck in the snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, at a safe distance away. Make sure snow isn't blocking the exhaust pipe and stay in the vehicle with a window open slightly to allow fresh air.

Home Safety: Be prepared. Have a week's worth of food, drinking water, medicine and prescription drugs, pet food, and safety supplies on hand. Do not leave lit candles unattended. Keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of snow each day. If you are unable to remove it, contact a willing neighbor or a snow removal business to do it for you. For those going away this season, snow left on the driveway and sidewalk for a period of time can be a dead giveaway that you aren't home, so arrange for it to be cleared every day.



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.

Go Pioneers!

The City of Harper Woods is proud to announce that the **Harper Woods High School Football Team** won its first **Division 4 MHSAA State Championship** on November 25, 2023, making school history!

Coach Rod Oden shared this reflection of the team's victorious season, "It's amazing what we can accomplish when nobody cares who gets credit!"

Congratulations on your stellar season Pioneers...
Looking forward to another championship in 2024!





HEART HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS FOR SURVIVING WINTER WEATHER

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

Heart Health

1. **Go easy on the shoveling.** After a snowstorm, shovel slowly and take frequent breaks. The act of lifting heavy snow can raise your blood pressure. Try using a small shovel to lighten the load and the strain on your heart. If you have had a heart attack in the past or other heart problems, you should avoid shoveling.
2. **Learn the signs of a heart attack.** According to the American Heart Association, chest or upper body pain, shortness of breath, cold sweat, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain may all be symptoms of a heart attack. When in doubt, call 911 and describe your symptoms.
3. **Avoid heavy meals and alcohol before or after shoveling.** Eating a large meal can put added burden on your heart. Alcohol can stimulate the feeling of warmth and you may not be able to properly judge if the cold weather is impacting on your body temperature, putting you at risk for hypothermia.
4. **Prevent hypothermia.** According to the American Heart Association, hypothermia is the leading contributor to death by heart failure. To prevent hypothermia, dress for the cold weather. Wear warm layers of quick-dry synthetic material with special attention to covering your head and chest to trap your body's heat.
5. **Avoid overheating.** While it's important to dress warmly in cold weather, it's also important to avoid getting overheated. Too much warm clothing may cause blood vessels to dilate, which can dramatically lower blood pressure, potentially leading to a heart attack. Dress in layers. If you start to sweat, remove a layer until you cool down.
6. **Maintain a heart-healthy diet.** During the winter, it's easy to eat loads of heavy food to stay warm. Instead, wear warm layers and remember to control your portion size, eat fruits and vegetables, and select whole grains.
7. **Get a flu shot.** The flu causes inflammation which can increase your chances of a heart attack. A flu shot is recommended for all ages, but especially for folks 65 and older, those at high risk for the flu, or people who suffer from cardiovascular disease.
8. **Fill prescriptions.** Snowy or icy weather can keep you from getting prescriptions filled. If you haven't had your medications, and blood pressure is not adequately controlled, it can increase heart attack risk.

Avoid Slips and Trips

9. **Stock up on salt.** Clear snow and ice from your driveway and the sidewalks around your home or business. Use salt before and after a snowstorm to protect yourself and others from slipping.
10. **Create and improve traction.** Make sure your shoes have optimal traction for walking outside and replace worn cane tips to make walking easier. Take off your shoes as soon as you are indoors to avoid creating wet and slippery conditions.
11. **Don't rush.** Take extra time and shorter steps in slippery conditions. Try pointing your toes slightly outward when you walk to maintain your balance. If you become tired, go inside to warm up and take a break.
12. **Exercise caution getting in and out of a car.** Put both feet on the ground and make sure your footing is stable before you stand up. Ask a friend or family member to help you balance if necessary.



Portable Generators and Winter Storms

Did you know?

Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.

32A District Court News

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Greetings Harper Woods,

Let there be Peace on earth and let it begin with me...

Even a sideways glance at any news reports these days would suggest that our world is unsettled and in a state of chaos. There are wars, protests, rising interest rates, infighting within political teams, children stealing classmates Pokémon cards, etc. Being able to establish and maintain a sense of inner peace is so important to our overall well-being.

Peace is one of the basic necessities that we tend to forget about in our day to day lives. It is vitally important and something that we desperately want and seek but to have that we must get back to building trust in various sectors of our lives. The opposite of peace is conflict and allowing conflict to continue in our lives will have effects that are far reaching so we must develop ways to continually build peace. To do that we must start at the source and make concerted efforts to help ourselves and others confront and tackle

the root causes and drivers of conflicts and its legacies and develop strategic plans to move forward.

Many times, conflict arise over issues of inequality, injustice and exclusion. So, it is important to address these issues as they become present so that they do not turn into bigger issues which complicates the overall task of establishing and sustaining peace. We must find out what is needed by us and our neighbors that will help us build back our trust with one another because conflict shatters lives and stunts development. So as we journey through this next season ask yourself what can I do to bring/maintain peace. Be good to yourself and those you encounter. Spread peace and love because we cannot afford to do otherwise.

I cannot believe we are beginning another year already, but I remain forever thankful to be able to continue to provide service to our wonderful community. Our Court continues to operate at full capacity and is open to the public. Attending Court via ZOOM will remain as an option but please ensure that you have a stable internet connection, are dressed in proper attire, and are in a stationary place that is free from background noise and distractions. Your case cannot be conducted via ZOOM while you are operating a motor vehicle. No matter the format or location, all cases are official Court proceedings and must be respected as such. Safety and Justice continue to be the Court's primary goals, so let's all do our part to achieve these goals.

With Kind Regards,

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman

Meet The Staff Corner: Deputy Court Clerk Kira Parker

We would like to introduce the Harper Woods Community to our newest staff member Kira Parker. Ms. Parker is a deputy court clerk working in the civil division. She previously worked in a larger Court and brings a plethora of knowledge and understanding to the 32A family.

Ms. Parker enjoys being at 32A because she likes the smaller work environment, family atmosphere and specialized work tasks that she is given. She loves that she was welcomed with open arms and how the staff all work together in order to make sure that no task is left undone.

When not at work, Ms. Parker enjoys reading, attending comedy shows, traveling, 5D Diamond Dotz and spending time with her family. She also has a fur baby, Tyson, who is extremely spoiled. Ms. Parker enjoys a great conversation so if you are in the area feel free to stop by and say "hi" to Ms. Parker.



CAREERS: *** We're Hiring: 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 meet deadlines. Ability to maintain confidential information.

Application is available at the 32A District Court or

<http://www.harperwoodscity.org/employment-opportunities>

An Equal Opportunity Employer

TO APPLY:

Submit cover letter, resume and application to:

Tamie Rice
Court Administrator
32A District Court
19617 Harper Ave.
Harper Woods, MI 48225

trice@32adc.net

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.

The City continues to 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.

This summer, we collected samples from 30 homes. The EGLE evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of all lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the City's water supply is 47 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb. The "Action Level" is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness; it is not a health-based standard. The goal for lead in drinking water is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in the blood.

Due to these results the City of Harper Woods is required to do more extensive sampling for 2024. It is extremely important that we take these samples, and we will need your assistance.

We will be collecting samples from 60 homes every six months in 2024. Testing the same homes in each round will help us determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing. To assist us in our efforts, contact us at (313) 343-2570 to participate in our drinking water testing program.

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.

Department of Public Works

Snow and Ice Emergencies



Our Public Works Department is responsible for keeping streets clear throughout the winter season whenever there is snow or ice. During a major winter storm, please check to see if Harper Woods has declared a snow emergency by looking at the City's Informational sign, watching your local television news, or listening to the radio. **When a Snow or Ice Emergency is declared, all vehicles must be removed from the street or they may be towed at the owner's expense.** If you live on a corner lot, please be aware that you are responsible for the clearing of the corner cross walk areas. During a salting or plowing event, we typically begin treating the major streets such as Harper, Beaconsfield, 8 Mile, the east section on Vernier, Canton and Peerless. Depending on the time of day, we will focus on the areas around schools.

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

Ordinance Penalty

Sec. 23-4. - Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks by owners of abutting property. The occupant or owner of any premises shall keep the sidewalks in front of, or adjacent to such premises cleared, so far as is practicable and reasonable, from snow and ice to facilitate pedestrian use. Where there are no sidewalks, the

occupant or owner as aforementioned, is required to clear a path free from snow and ice where a sidewalk would otherwise be, to facilitate pedestrian use. Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated it shall be cleared within thirty-six (36) hours after it has fallen or accumulated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!

LEAD POISONING - Know the facts

Lead poisoning is caused by swallowing or breathing lead. Children under 6 years old are most at risk. If you are pregnant, lead can harm your baby. Lead can cause learning and behavior problems.

- FACT** Lead poisoning hurts the brain and nervous system. Some of the effects of lead poisoning may never go away. Lead in a child's body can:
- Slow down growth and development
 - Damage hearing and speech
 - Make it hard to pay attention and learn.



- FACT** When old paint cracks and peels, it makes dangerous dust. The dust is so small you cannot see it. Most children get lead poisoning when they breathe or swallow the dust on their hands and toys. Most children get lead poisoning from paint in homes built before 1978.

- FACT** A lead test is the only way to know if your child has lead poisoning. Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick. Ask your doctor to test your child for lead.

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

1. TEST YOUR HOME FOR LEAD

If you live in a home built before 1978, have your home inspected by a licensed lead inspector. Contact your local health department for more information.

Sometimes lead comes from things other than paint in your home, such as:

- Candy, toys, glazed pottery, and folk medicine made in other countries
- Work like auto refinishing, construction, and plumbing
- Soil and tap water

2. KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM LEAD PAINT AND DUST

- Use wet paper towels to clean up lead dust. Be sure to clean around windows, play areas, and floors.
- Wash hands and toys often, especially before eating and sleeping. Use soap and water.
- Use contact paper or duct tape to cover chipping or peeling paint.

3. RENOVATE SAFELY

- Keep children and pregnant women away from the work area.
- Make sure you and/or any workers are trained in lead-safe work practices.
- Home repairs like sanding or scraping paint can make dangerous dust.

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/Lead
or call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
at 517-335-8885.



Department of Public Works

Refuse Collection Guidelines

- ✓ The maximum weight of any one item is 40 pounds. Trash cans can be **NO LARGER** than 35 gallons.
- ✓ 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.**



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.**

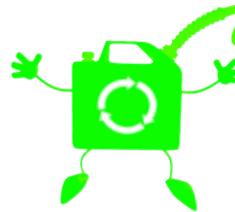
MISS DIG

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



Household Hazardous Waste



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.

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.



Building Department Info



Happy New Year from SAFEbuilt.

Welcome to 2024, 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.

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. Please contact the Assessor's Office for the due date to apply for the current tax year.

The 2024 Notice of Assessments will be mailed at the end of February of 2024. Dates to appeal the valuation of your property will be held in March. Please read your Notice of Assessment for the dates and times of the Board of Review. Appeal information will also be available on the City's website and at the Assessor's Office.

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

nixle
The Neighborhood Information eXchange System

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.

WOW!

PAATS WILL TAKE ME THERE?



salon ----- parks ----- shopping



clubs/restaurants ---- shop the Gratiot Loop



doctor/dentist -- visit friends/family - post office



THE HELM

city hall -- area attractions - coffee shop

**158 Ridge Rd,
Grosse Pointe Farms**

**Need a ride? Call PAATS.
313.394.9712**



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

PACE Southeast Michigan revolves around YOU



PACE Southeast Michigan keeps nursing-home eligible seniors with chronic illnesses independent, in their own homes, for as long as possible. When you enroll in PACE, our expert elder care team works with you to develop a personalized care plan, including social, medical, and other PACE services. We provide access to a full continuum of preventative, primary, acute, and long-term care services 24/7, 365 days a year in our day health centers across southeast Michigan and in the home. By aging in place, seniors have more hope, vitality, joy and an overall higher quality of life. The address of the center residents of Harper Woods would attend is 250 McDougall Ave, Detroit, MI 48207, (855) 445-4554, Pacesemi.org.

PAATS ...your ride is just a phone call away

Our Service Area

The PAATS service area is any location bound by 11 mile Road, Gratiot, Alter Road and Jefferson.

Requirements – Passengers must:

- Be a resident of Harper Woods or the Grosse Pointes.
- Be at least 60 years of age or disabled.

Reserve Your Ride – To reserve a ride, call 313-394-9712. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- Make appointments at least two days in advance.
- We will accept standing appointments.
- Please be ready at your appointment time.

Our Fares

ZONE 1

\$1.00 each way:

Within Harper Woods & the Grosse Pointes

ZONE 2

\$2.00 each way:

- 8 Mile Rd. to 11 Mile Rd.
- Kelly Rd. to Gratiot Ave.

ZONE 3

\$3.00 each way:

- St. John Surgery Center
- Henry Ford Main Campus
- Detroit Medical Center
- V.A. Hospital
- City County Building
- The New Center

Cancellation Policy – It is very important that you call to cancel an appointment so we can reroute our buses to ensure client pick up and arrival times.

Please call 313-394-9712 as soon as possible and leave a message on the voice mail if you are calling after hours.

For More Information: Call our PAATS dispatch office at 313-394-9712



The PAATS mission is to provide safe and reliable transportation, ensuring our residents continue to live their daily lives with independence and dignity.

Library News & Events



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

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director

From the Director

Happy New Year! January is always a welcome renewal and a time for a fresh start. Whether you are looking to improve your health, update your financial situation, or look for a new job, we have the staff and the materials to help you be your best self.



I'm happy to report that our Kids' Area has reopened. We have new books and new DVDs, as well as a new Lego table to play with. Please come in and say "Hi!" to everybody.



Have you picked up your Spice Club bag yet? We feature a different spice each month, and the bag contains a sample of the spice, recipes, and information about each spice. We have given out pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon, and curry powder in the past. Be sure to look below to

see what we're offering this time.

Ongoing for Children, Teens and Families

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

Keep an eye out at the library for in-person programs we will have planned for the upcoming months. Our Kids' Area has reopened, and we will have fun events for kids and families.



Ongoing Programs for Adults

Book Club: 4th Wednesday of the month, 1:30 – 2:30p.m.



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

- January 24: Read any Historical Fiction book by *Fiona Davis*
- February 28: The Henna Artist by *Alka Joshi*
- March 27: The Sentence, by *Louise Erdrich*

Come to the library for seasonal **Take and Make Craft Kits** (While supplies last!)

Mindful Mondays

2nd Monday of the month, 1:30 – 2:30p.m.

Contact the library at 313-343-2575 or hwl@libcoop.net to register.

Discussions with handouts on everyday living: health, wealth, food, family & friends.



- January 8: Cabin Fever
- February 12: Presidents and Valentines
- March 11: The Ides of March

Can't make it? Ask for a "Take It"!

Spice of the Month Club

Visit the library for your free "Spice Kit", a pre-measured sample of the spice of the month, fun facts, and recipes. Available throughout the month while supplies last.

- January: Anise Seed
- February: Parsley Flakes
- March: Black Pepper

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

2024 Winter Recreation Program



Please be advised that all programs, activities, dates, times, and locations are subject to change and/or cancellation. 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 safe and responsible in the water. Our certified instructors will teach your child all the tools they need to become safe and effective swimmers and have fun! 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 - Aqua ducks, Level 1, Level 2:
\$50 for 1 child, \$25 each additional child in same household

45 Minute Classes - Level 3, 4, 5, 6, 7:
\$60 for 1 child, \$30 each additional child in same household

Monday Dates

Winter Session 1: January 8- February 26

*No class January 15th & February 19th

Winter Session 2: March 4-April 22

*No class March 25th & April 1st

Monday Classes

Aqua ducks	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 9-February 27

*No class January 16th & February 20th

Winter Session 2: March 5-April 23

*No class March 26th & April 2nd

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



Winter Session 1: January 9-February 27

*No class January 16th & February 20th

Winter Session 2: March 5- April 23

*No class March 26th & April 2nd

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



Winter Session 1: January 9-February 27

*No class January 16th & February 20th

Winter Session 2: March 5- April 23

*No class March 26th & April 2nd

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 & Times:

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30am - 10:30am

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

If you have questions, please contact Judy Sheehy at 313-886-7534.

Email; vitaftjsheehy@comcast.net

2024 Winter Recreation Program

Dance

Celebrating our 40th Year!

Come join the fun and dance, as we start our 40th year of the dance program! **There is no residency requirement.** Classes are held in the Tyrone Elementary gym/stage area located between Mack and Harper at the intersection of Tyrone and Broadstone. Family members have the option to stay and watch. We require at least one parent or guardian to be on the premises with their child. The reverse side includes more information and the registration form. There is no residency requirement. You can choose to pay in two installments for a fee of \$10 and all balances must be paid by January 20th, 2024. Half of your total tuition payment is due at the time of enrollment. We are excited to be offering a new Pom-Pom Jazz class. It will be taught by Jennette Haxter. She is a Grosse Pointe North Varsity Dance Team coach. Please call program director Nonny Sperry for more details at (313) 885-3714 or email; nedra.sperry@gmail.com.



REGULAR SEASON DANCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2023-2024

DANCE STAFF: Jennette Haxter, Mikayla Schiller, Caitlin Skerske, and Nonny Sperry

Dance Program Director: Nonny Sperry (313) 885-3714
Begins Tuesday, September 26th and the season ends with recital in late April or early May 2024.

Tuesdays

5:30-6:00pm --- Pre-Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 3-5

6:00-6:30pm --- Hip Hop, ages 6-8

6:30-7:00pm --- Ballet, ages 6-8

Wednesdays

5:00-5:30pm --- Creative Movement/ Pre Ballet, ages 3-5

5:30-6:00pm --- Lyrical, ages 6-9

6:00-6:30pm --- Tap, ages 6 and up

6:30-7:00pm --- Hip Hop and Jazz, ages 9-12

7:00-7:30pm --- Teen/Adult Jazz

Dance Tuition - \$175.00 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 - The discount rate is \$150.00 per class if you have 2 or more children or one child enrolling in two or more classes.

Yoga

Yoga is a great way to take time out for yourself. Our certified instructor will lead you through the breathing and movements that can strengthen your body and relax your mind.

Message from Instructor: My name is Tiwana, a certified Yoga Teacher. My classes are warm, inviting, and fun! My love of music is showcased during class. When I teach, I like to use different genres of music to connect with students and fuel the flow. Types of practice: Ashtanga, Vinyasa Flow, and Yin. Please call the Recreation Department for updated class dates for yoga at 313-343-2560.

Class Schedule: Monthly

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays **Time:** 6:00-7:00pm

Fee: Residents \$40 per month

Non-Residents \$50 per month

Zoom Zumba

The Harper Woods Recreation Department has partnered with JRS Fitness, LLC to provide virtual Zumba classes to City residents. To Sign up for classes or if you have questions, please contact the Harper Woods Recreation Department at 313-343-2560.

Class Schedule: Monthly

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm

Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm

Fee: Residents \$10 per month

Non-Residents \$40 per month



Pickle Ball Lessons

Pickleball is a fun, friendly and social game that combines aspects of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong.

No experience is necessary, and equipment is provided.

Reserve your spot with our experienced Pickleball

Instructor.

Days: Wednesdays 6:00-7:00pm

Dates: January - March

Fee: \$5 per person per lesson

SAVE THE DATE

Harper Woods Parks and Recreation
Easter Egg Hunt
March 23, 2024 @ 11:00 am Salter Park (rain or shine!)
Children up to age 12
Fee: \$5.00
Must Register by Friday, March 15th, 2024
For more information call
Parks and Recreation
313-343-2560

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 are accepted starting the first business day of January. Only one picnic allowed per household per year. Residents making a reservation must be 21 years of age or older. **No Moon bounces, trains, charcoal grills, confetti, port-a-potty's, bands, or DJs** allowed for picnics. Picnics may be reserved from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and must be reserved four weeks in advance, with a minimum of three 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 Park. **Dogs are allowed at Salter Park on a leash, not allowed under shelters 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 \$100.00. The Pavilion (enclosed building) at Salter Park is \$125.00. The fee is due at the time of reservation. Cash or check only.

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

To stay up to date with all of the recreation offerings, please visit our Facebook page:

City of Harper Woods

Parks & Recreation Department.

You can also contact us at

harperwoodsrec@harperwoods.net
or **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 _____

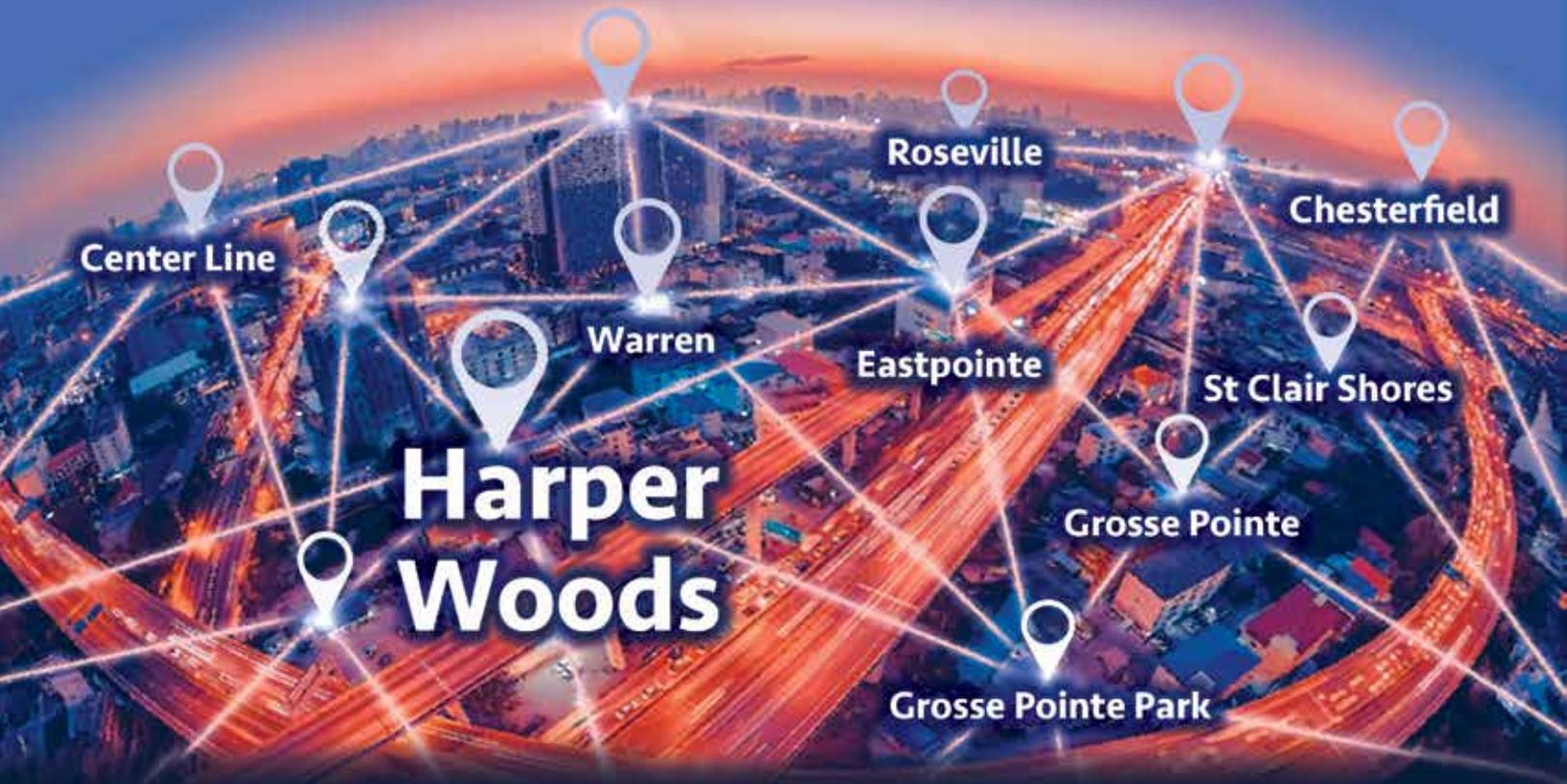
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant _____

the Community Resource Guide



Harper Woods Edition



Highlighted in this Edition:

**Harper Woods Real Estate Trends • Care 29th Annual Parenting Conference • Business Tips
Emotional well-being for 2024 • Business Directory • Education • And more**

The Community Resource Guide is a quarterly, seasonal publication providing all Harper Woods residents and businesses the 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 Special Winter Edition (January thru March) email us at info@drivecreativeservices.com.
(All information provided would be considered without guarantee it will be published)

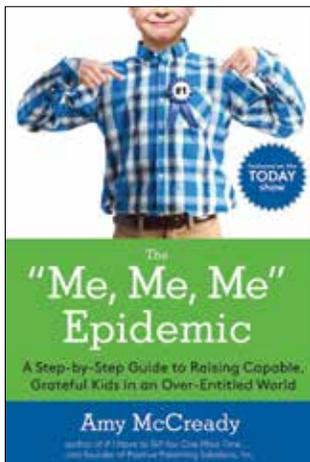
Deadline to provide information is Friday, February 2, 2024.



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

CARE

OF SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN



SAVE THE DATE: CARE 29th Annual Parenting Conference on March 2, 2024

Raising children can be challenging. Even the best parents need a little guidance sometimes.

CARE of Southeastern Michigan's 29th Annual Parenting Conference offers parents, caregivers, and professionals a day to learn and enhance their skills and knowledge about parenting children of all ages.

This year's keynote speaker is bestselling author Amy McCreedy, author of "The Me, Me, Me Epidemic."

The conference occurs at Macomb Intermediate School District, 44001 Garfield Rd., in Clinton Township on March 2, 2024, from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

Registration opens on December 1, 2023 @ www.careofsem.com.

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A COMMUNITY LIAISON

Susie Q's Kids was awarded Corp Magazine's 2023 Best of MichBusiness Nonprofit Beacon Award. Through Dr Mary's collaborative approach, she fosters relationships with nonprofits throughout our communities. She recently participated in the Grosse Pointe Nonprofit Summit, was highlighted on Fox 2 Amy's Angels, is a member of the Sterling Heights Lions, Clinton Valley Kiwanis Club, Sterling Heights Rotary Club, and Community Liaison for many various organizations like the Southeast Macomb Chamber of Commerce working to better the lives of kids in our community offering hope, awareness, and assistance.



Susie Q's Kids "creates comfort bags for kids in need", furthers the mission of other nonprofits that distribute their bags (to hospitals, hospice, shelters, foster care, autism centers, grief groups, and schools), and engages "Kids in Helping Kids" through awareness, philanthropy and creating our comfort bags.

Dr. Mary's motto is "We are Better Together". Got an idea, contact her at drmary@susieqskids.org or 248-220-6846.



THE ONE PLACE THAT CAN KEEP YOU ACTIVE, FIT AND HEALTHY.

We're committed to keeping your mind sharp and your body strong. From workout classes to nutrition programs, there are many ways to help keep you fit, strong and looking and feeling your best. Whether you're taking the first steps to getting back into shape or maintaining your best self, we can help. Visit us online or in person and see all the ways The Helm is there on your fitness journey.

VISIT: HELMLIFE.ORG

313.882.9600

LIFE'S A JOURNEY.
FIND YOUR WAY.

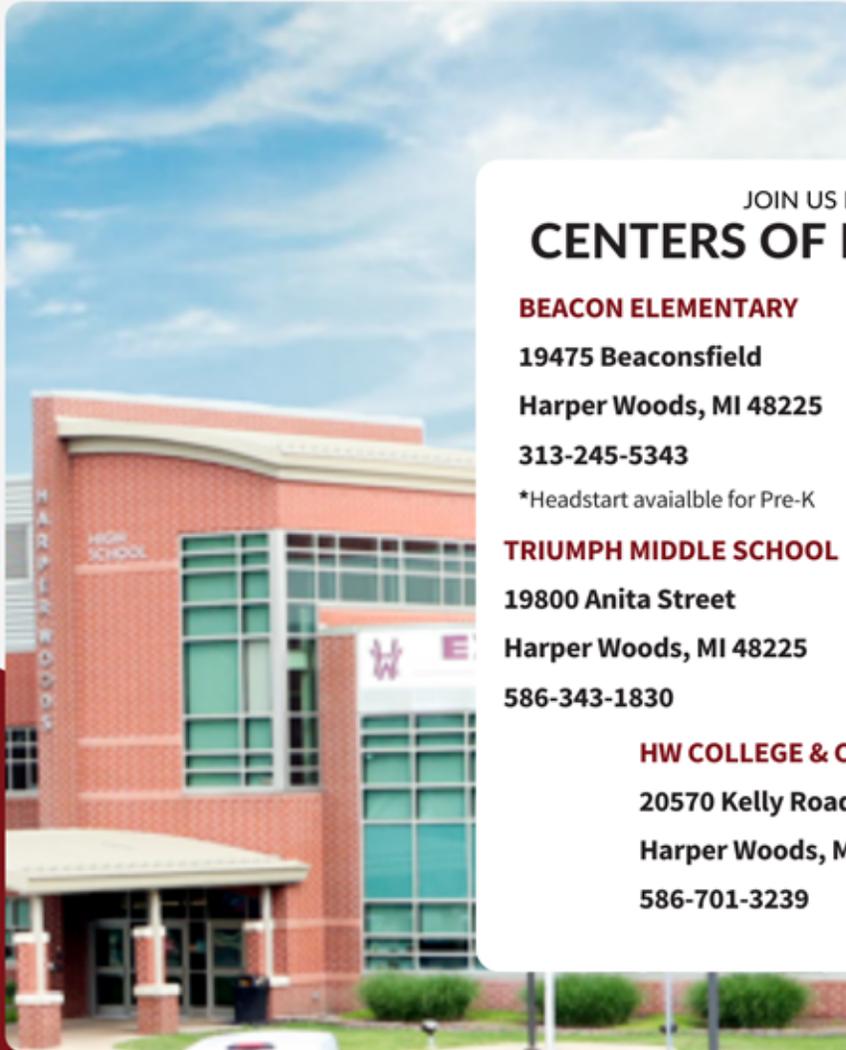
The Helm
158 Ridge Road
Grosse Pointe Farms





DISCOVER YOURSELF WITH US.

2023-2024
OPEN
ENROLLMENT
NOW AVAILABLE!



JOIN US IN OUR
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

BEACON ELEMENTARY

19475 Beaconsfield
Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-245-5343

*Headstart available for Pre-K

TYRONE ELEMENTARY

19525 Tyrone Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-245-5379

TRIUMPH MIDDLE SCHOOL

19800 Anita Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
586-343-1830

HW HIGH SCHOOL

20225 Beaconsfield Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
313-245-3037

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EMBRACING 2024: A JOURNEY TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, individuals facing the challenges of depression, anxiety, or other mental illnesses are presented with a unique opportunity to set a transformative goal: to prioritize and nurture their mental health and emotional well-being. While the journey may be fraught with ups and downs, it's one of immense value and empowerment. Here are some valuable tips and techniques to empower individuals on their quest to manage emotions and free themselves from the binds of negative thoughts.

1. The Power of Self-Compassion:

It's essential to treat yourself with the same compassion you'd extend to a close friend. Acknowledge that you are not defined by your mental illness. Embrace self-compassion as a cornerstone of your emotional journey.

2. Seek Professional Help:

Remember that seeking professional support is an act of strength, not weakness. Therapy and counseling can provide you with the tools and coping strategies to manage your mental health effectively.

3. Self-Reflection:

Take time for introspection. Understanding your own emotional landscape is an integral part of self-discovery. This knowledge is the key to managing your emotions more effectively.

4. Mindfulness and Meditation:

Mindfulness and meditation practices can significantly improve emotional well-being. These techniques help you stay present in the moment and reduce the power of intrusive negative thoughts.

5. Emotional Journaling:

Maintaining a journal can serve as an emotional release. It enables you to channel your thoughts and feelings constructively and gain insight into patterns that trigger negative emotions.

6. Challenge Negative Thoughts:

Identify and challenge negative thought patterns. Learn to distinguish between fact and perception and replace unhelpful thoughts with more rational and balanced perspectives.

7. Establish a Support Network:

Lean on the support of friends, family, or support groups. Sharing your emotional burdens with those who understand can provide solace, encouragement, and shared experiences.

8. Physical Health Matters:

Physical health and emotional well-being are interconnected. Regular exercise and a balanced diet contribute to improved mood and emotional resilience.

9. Embrace Creative Outlets:

Engaging in creative activities, such as art, writing, or music, can provide a powerful outlet for your emotions. These activities offer an expressive means of managing your thoughts and feelings.

10. Prioritize Self-Care:

Self-care rituals are not indulgences; they're necessities. Dedicate time to activities that bring you joy, relaxation, and rejuvenation.

As we usher in 2024, let's collectively commit to nurturing our mental health and emotional well-being. The path may be challenging at times, but it's one filled with hope, growth, and transformation. By embracing these techniques and adopting a mindset of self-compassion, you can empower yourself to manage your emotions, find relief from negative thoughts, and embark on a journey towards mental health and emotional stability.

For more information, call 313-782-3914, email info@reason4you.com or visit the website at reason4you.org

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The Family Center

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Building Blocks for Self-Esteem/ How to Build Self-Esteem

We all experience highs and lows throughout our life regarding how we feel about ourselves. Some days we may feel confident, while other days we may feel insecure. Some days we might feel somewhere in between.

Self-esteem is how we perceive and value ourselves as human beings and a lot of factors can affect how we feel, including the feedback we receive from others, stressful or challenging life events, our achievements, and the beliefs we have about ourselves.

Low self-esteem can prevent us from trying new experiences, disconnect us from our loved ones, and potentially lead to anxiety and depression. Building self-esteem takes time and patience, but it's worth it because you're worth it!

Building your esteem can boost your mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. It can also help you experience life more positively and increase your ability to navigate stressors and challenges more confidently.

Now, how do we exactly build our self-esteem? Below are five ways to get you started. If you find yourself struggling or in need of additional support you may want to consider talking with a therapist to help you.

- 1. Be kind to yourself:** being able to identify and challenge negative self-talk is important to building your self-esteem. Challenge negative perceptions of yourself by writing down your strengths, positive traits, and moments you are proud of. This will help you remember all the great qualities you possess!
- 2. Do what you love:** find time for things you love. Spending time doing what you love will help boost your mood and create more fun moments in your life.
- 3. Surround yourself with positive relationships:** surrounding yourself with people who are positive and supportive will help you feel more connected and confident. During those hard days when you're feeling low, your loved ones can help boost you up! Setting boundaries with people who do not help your self-esteem is one way to protect yourself and your space.
- 4. Recognize areas of your life that lower your self-esteem:** there may be triggers or situations that lower our self-esteem. Examples can include work, relationships, and social media. Monitoring your emotions and recognizing triggers can help you determine where you may need to engage in more self-care and boundaries. Therapy is a great tool to help you better understand your triggers and take steps towards managing those difficult areas in your life

- 5. Practice self-acceptance:** you can always find areas to grow or change, but it's valuable to remember that you are deserving of love and acceptance just as you are. We are all human- we all make mistakes and have areas for growth. It's okay!

Most importantly, be patient with yourself and the process. Setbacks are common and expected during the journey so allow yourself space to learn and grow. Make sure you acknowledge and celebrate the small steps you achieve along the way. They matter as much as the big steps! You are worth the time, effort, and investment.



By Audra Balcarcel MA, LLC. For more information please visit [All Things Possible Wellness](http://AllThingsPossibleWellness.com) at allthingspossiblewc.com

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GROSSE POINTE Chamber of Commerce

Ten Customer Service Tips To Help Your Business Stand Out!

Whether you're planning your next venture or have an established small business, there's one thing to keep in mind: You Must provide exceptional customer service to keep clients happy and loyal to your brand. Below is a list of tips to help your business succeed.

1. Personalize your customer experience.
2. Be present on all channels.
3. Welcome customer feedback.
4. Hire individuals with superb skills.
5. Go to great lengths to solve problems.
6. Know your product inside out.
7. Never underestimate the value of your current customers.
8. Don't make promises you can't keep.
9. Educate your customers.
10. Be unique and memorable.

At the end of the day, small businesses can't survive without customer service. Use these tips along with a little creativity and experimentation to get the results you desire. When you improve customer service, your small business will immediately feel the impact!

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- Kindergarten/Young 5 - Jan. 11

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AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▼ **10.1%**
FROM Q2 2023

▼ **15.9%**
FROM Q3 2022

61
NUMBER
OF SALES

▼ **18.7%**
FROM Q2 2023

▲ **3.4%**
FROM Q3 2022

28
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▼ **36.4%**
FROM Q2 2023

▲ **55.6%**
FROM Q3 2022

66
AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▲ **15.8%**
FROM Q2 2023

▼ **34.5%**
FROM Q3 2022

35.7%
ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▼ **5.7%**
FROM Q2 2023

▲ **57.8%**
FROM Q3 2022

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q3 2023) OVER QUARTER (Q2 2023)

▼ **13.6%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ **3.0%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **18.7%**
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q3 2023 vs. Q3 2022)

▼ **34.5%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ **9.5%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ **3.4%**
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
- ◆ Fax: 313-882-6062
- ◆ Email: members@gpbr.com
- ◆ Address: 710 Notre Dame, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Before we go into the numbers above, it is important to recall what was happening in the market a year ago. Interest rates had risen 5% and were expected to go higher. Consequently, investors were aggressively selling, and retail buyers were aggressively buying.

Average Sale Price – Neutral: Under other conditions, these numbers would be concerning, but the rapid transition last year as rates increased and demand surged suggests caution before making any assumptions about the market.

Number of sales – Good: The slight quarter-over-quarter increase is a more realistic representation of the market than year-over-year.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good: with 72 days considered normal, 28 days while up from a year ago is improved significantly over the previous quarter.

Inventory – Good: While the year-over-year number is weak, the improvement from Q2 of 2023 is good.

Absorption Rate – Seller's market: It remains a seller's market although it slipped a little from last quarter, but not enough for a buyer or seller to notice.

An absorption rate between 15.4% and 18.3% is considered a market in balance. Higher favors sellers, lower favors buyers.

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Senior Homeowners Might Consider Unlocking Home Equity To Help Counter Inflation

Inflation is putting a heavy strain on the elderly population, and many seniors are worried that they might outlive their savings. A common challenge for many seniors is finding ways to supplement their income. During inflationary times, a Reverse Mortgage is one option a senior can employ to increase cash flow, by freeing some of their home equity to help ease the pressures of everyday expenses and help retirement savings last longer.

A federally insured Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) loan, commonly known as a Reverse Mortgage, is a way seniors aged 62 and older, who qualify, can access equity from their home, eliminate their monthly mortgage payment, and remain in their homes long-term. Reverse Mortgage loan borrowers must own and occupy their home as their primary residence, pay all taxes and insurance, maintain the home, and comply with all loan terms.

Money received from a Reverse Mortgage can be in a Lump Sum, Monthly Payout, or Line-of-Credit (or a combination of these choices).

The Reverse Mortgage option might not be right for you or your loved one. Getting proper information and a thorough assessment is important.

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David Underwood is a Senior Mortgage Loan Officer & Reverse Mortgage Specialist with over 25 years in the industry. He's based locally in Metro Detroit and a resident of Harper Woods.

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