



# THE INSIDER

## FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community  
resource guide for the  
City of Harper Woods!  
**FALL EDITION**  
OCTOBER THROUGH  
DECEMBER 2023

**Get the most out of our community!**

## HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

### October

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

**\*October 2 – City Council Meeting**  
**October 7 – Siren Test 1:00pm**  
**October 9 – Columbus Day**  
**\*October 16 – City Council Meeting**  
**October 16 – Curbside Leaf Pickup Begins**  
**October 18 – Water Bills Due**  
**\*October 21 – Family Fun Night**  
**October 31 – Halloween**

### November

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

**November 4 - Siren Test 1:00pm**  
**November 5 – Daylight Savings Set Clocks Back 1 Hour**  
**\*November 6 – City Council Meeting**  
**November 7 – Election Day**  
**City Offices Closed**  
**Polls Open 7am-8pm**  
**November 10 – City Offices Closed – Veterans Day Observed**  
**November 11 – Veterans Day**  
**November 13 thru 17 – Curbside Leaf Pickup Ends**  
**November 15 - Water Bills Due**  
**November 15 – Tree Lighting 6:30pm**  
**Outside HW Fire Department**  
**\*November 20 – City Council Meeting**  
**November 20 thru 24 – Yard Waste/Compost Pick Up Ends**  
**November 23/24 – City Offices Closed**  
**Thanksgiving (Rubbish Delay)**

### December

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

**December 2 – Siren Test 1:00pm**  
**\*December 4 – City Council Meeting**  
**December 14 – Water Bills Due**  
**\*December 18 – City Council Meeting**  
**December 24 – Christmas Eve**  
**December 25 – Christmas Day**  
**City Offices Closed**  
**December 25 thru 29 (Rubbish Delay)**  
**December 26 – City Offices Closed**  
**December 31 – New Years Eve**

*Attention Harper Woods Residents...*

## ***New Housing Coming to Harper Woods***

Harper Woods City Council recently passed development plans to construct 71 new housing units on the property where the former elementary school Poupard once stood. The city has not seen any new housing development in decades.

The housing seeks to fill a space for new 2 & 3 story homes that are 1,200 to 1,300 square feet and features 2 bedrooms and 1.5 to 2.5 baths. Some will have an attached garage. The site will create a sense of place for new residents and will be a unique neighborhood with parkland.

The city will utilize tax and redevelopment incentives as provided by the State of Michigan and other agencies to make the homes affordable to average middle income buyers. There will be no rental units allowed.

The city will also be able to collect property taxes on this land parcel for the first time in the city's history. The school property paid no taxes to the City of Harper Woods. ***Keep up the good work City Council!***



### **Poupard Redevelopment**



**Election Information**

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**Tree Lighting Ceremony**

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# The City of Harper Woods

## Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

## Mayor Pro Tem

Vivian M. Sawicki

## City Council

Cheryl A. Costantino

Tom Jenny

Gerianne LaPratt

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

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

John Szymanski - Acting City Manager

Questions or comments? Please email [info@drivecreativeservices.com](mailto:info@drivecreativeservices.com)

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# Employee in the Spotlight



## Heather Toutant

Heather Toutant was promoted to Director of Public Works in the Spring of 2023 and is dedicated to the success of the City of Harper Woods. Toutant started her career in the Department of Public Works in 2006 and is point person responsible for overseeing trash pickup, pothole patching, paving & repair of streets, storm drain maintenance, sidewalk maintenance, dropped tree limbs, snow & ice control and keeping the grounds around city hall clean and attractive.

Acting City Manager John Szymanski said, "Heather has done an outstanding job since the passing of the former Director (Bill Snyder) and has heightened morale within the department while keeping current with the demands of the city. Heather is also available for questions/answers at our scheduled City

Council meetings and goes out of her way to hear the concerns of the many residents of our city." He personally added, "Heather, no matter what condition a project is in, you always take ownership! It's so nice to know that you got it covered. Your reliability is second to none! You and your DPW team really make a difference in the city and the residents can see it!"

Heather said, "I am very excited and humbled to have recently been promoted to the Director of Public Works. I have been working for the city for almost 18 years and am proud to be a part of such a wonderful neighborhood. There is a lot to learn, and I am incredibly grateful for the mentor I had in the past Superintendent, William Snyder. I have passed two State Water License certifications since my promotion and am currently studying for my third."

She expressed, "The DPW has faced many changes and challenges over the last few years. I am impressed by the DPW team and how they have handled them. I look forward to finding innovative solutions to residential issues and embarking on new improvement projects. I cannot wait to see where this journey takes me professionally as well as our growing, thriving community."

**nixle**  
Making Harper Woods Safer

**Resident Sign Up**  
any one of these ways

- 1 Text Zip Code to 888777
- 2 Sign up at [www.nixle.com](http://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](http://www.nixle.com).



# Neighbor in the News

## George Cotton

"Getting pickled" in Harper Woods has a new meaning thanks to George Cotton. His dream of playing pickleball in his hometown is a reality. After Cotton's persistence and promotion of the sport within the community, the City established pickleball courts inside the existing tennis courts at Johnston Park in 2017. Since then, he has rallied many players in our area by volunteering as a United States of America Pickleball Association ambassador to teach them the game.

George said, "I thought of the day(s) when pickleball courts would be filled with love, laughter, conversation, and the excitement that the fastest growing sport worldwide could provide. With the help of so many individuals over the years including this year by word of mouth and social media, others are coming to our city to see what the excitement is all about. So, this is not about me, it is about us as the community of players "YOUNITED" to share passion and knowledge of the game and to know your neighbors."

George with his wife, Shirley, are long-time residents who firmly believe in supporting their community and making beneficial contributions. Cotton has volunteered his time for several years delivering Meals on Wheels to residents, mentoring children through local LifeBUILDERS programs, participating in clean up events with the Neighborhood Economic Development Coalition (NEDC), Beautiful Neighborhoods Committee and serving as a member of the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. He also coaches and assists Multiple Myeloma patients through peer support groups which is especially close to his heart.

George Cotton humbly added, "Harper Woods is a treasure, and the residents are the jewels to look after and embrace- look not to get, look to give!" To learn more about playing pickleball, visit the Harper Woods Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page. You can also contact staff at [harperwoodsrec@harperwoods.net](mailto:harperwoodsrec@harperwoods.net) or 313-343-2560 for more information.



## Featured Business/Organization: Morton Development Group

On June 24th, the Morton Development Group ceremoniously opened its doors in Harper Woods by inviting City Officials, residents, and community partners to participate in a Grand Opening and ribbon cutting event.

The Morton Development Group is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting financial literacy and wellbeing in our community. Darryl Morton along with his children Zoe, Zach, and Dexter started this venture in 2020 and are committed to educating and empowering individuals in our area with the knowledge and resources they need to take control of their financial future.

Mr. Morton, a former mortgage broker and school educator said, "My experience in the mortgage industry prompted me to work with people and educate them about their finances and credit. There is a huge lack of financial literacy in the world, and I found out when people do have financial crises, many of them will also suffer with health and mental issues. So, when they can take control of their finances these symptoms will subside."

The group hosts financial literacy workshops, offers personal finance coaching and comprehensive homebuyer education to equip individuals with the necessary knowledge and tools to make informed decisions about their finances to achieve long-term financial stability.

Morton is also working with local school districts to implement financial literacy curriculum into their schools, which Governor Whitmer put into effect last year. He created a curriculum in 2016 that works for grades 5 through 9 that he plans on personally delivering to educate students about finances through the courses.

To find out more about how the Morton Development Group can help you, please view their website at [MONEYFORWELLNESS.com](http://MONEYFORWELLNESS.com) or call (313) 499-1081 for an appointment. You can also visit their location at 19946 Harper Avenue.



## Harper Woods Highlights

### Lost in the Woods

The City of Harper Woods hosted its 2nd Art Festival on August 5th at Salter Park. The event was a huge success with attendance more than doubling from last year's inaugural event. Lost in the Woods featured over 30+ artists/vendor booths and live music performances by local artists throughout the daylong event. There were fun activities for all ages to enjoy that included a rock-climbing wall and live exotic animal program. Local artist Amadeus Roy also revealed his exclusive design created for the event to be used in future years ahead.



### National Night Out

The Harper Woods Public Safety Department hosted its annual National Night Out event on August 1st at Johnston Park. Thank you to all who participated! We could not have done it without our resident volunteers, elected officials, and event organizers. A big "thank you" to the event sponsors: **Christian Financial Credit Union, Family Foods, and Northpointe Development** for making this successful event take place. We look forward to seeing you again next year on August 6, 2024.



### Coffee, Anyone?

Tim Horton's is serving their famous coffee and tasty baked goods again to the Harper Woods community. The much anticipated opening in June revealed the brand-new Tim Hortons facility located at Vernier and Beaconsfield. Stop by to experience their new atmosphere and enjoy their delicious menu items!



### Town Hall Exhibits Proposed Recreation Center



Parks and Recreation Staff and Planning Consultants from Mckenna Associates welcomed our State Representatives, City Officials, and residents to a Town Hall event on August 16th at the site of the Proposed New Community Center in Salter Park.

The City is pursuing a State grant specifically targeted for communities who do not have existing community centers. The town hall was an opportunity for all to see conceptual drawings and share thoughts with City staff.



### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE Saving a Piece of Eastland Mall for the Community

Be on the lookout for "new" trash containers. The City "rescued" some of the trash receptacles from the former mall and the DPW has repurposed them for community use.

**Help keep the City tidy by using these cans soon to be found on pedestrian bridge crossings!**



# Harper Woods Highlights

## Thanedar Endorses SBA in Harper Woods



*Councilmember Cheryl Costantino, Councilmember Gerianne LaPratt, State Senate District 12 Director Paul McAdams, U.S. Congressman Shri Thanedar, Mayor Valerie Kindle, Acting City Manager John Szymanski, Councilmember Regina Williams, HWBA Founding Member Peter Maniaci, Councilmember Ivery Toussant, Economic & Community Development Deputy Director Stephen Lindley, SBA Michigan District Director Laketa Henderson*

On behalf of the Harper Woods Business Association, we would like to thank everyone that attended the most recent town hall event on June 27th at the WCCCD Auditorium. The theme of this meeting was small business financing solutions and general business concerns that included presentations from a few special guests.

Thank you to the local small businesses, elected officials, city administrators, and community partners for attending. Special thank you to our presenters: United States Congressman Shri Thanedar, Laketa Henderson - SBA Michigan District Director, and Representatives from Goldman Sachs 10,000 small businesses.

Please reach out to Peter Maniaci, Harper Woods Business Association at; [pnm2190@gmail.com](mailto:pnm2190@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list for upcoming events and opportunities to participate in the community.

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## Thinking to Start Your Own Business? Already Have One?



The Small Business Administration (SBA) was founded under the 1953 Small Business Act to "aid, counsel, assist and protect, insofar as is possible, the interests of small business concerns."

**This year, the SBA is Celebrating 70 years of service to America's small businesses!**

The Michigan District office team consists of individuals who support the more than 900,000 small businesses in the state, by helping **small business get started, grow, and sustain viability, using the "4 C's"**

- **Access to Capital** – through loan guaranty programs.
- **Government Contracting** programs; 8(a) **Business development program**, HUBZONE program **Women Owned Small Business** and Veteran contracting assistance program.
- **Counseling and entrepreneurial development.**
- **Crisis assistance through disaster loan programs.**

**We provide this assistance through our resource partners** and entrepreneurial ecosystem made up of many partners who assist us to help all small business owners with our no-cost (FREE) counseling/mentoring services. These resource partners will help you with business start-up, business growth, funding/financing the business, the business plan and much more.

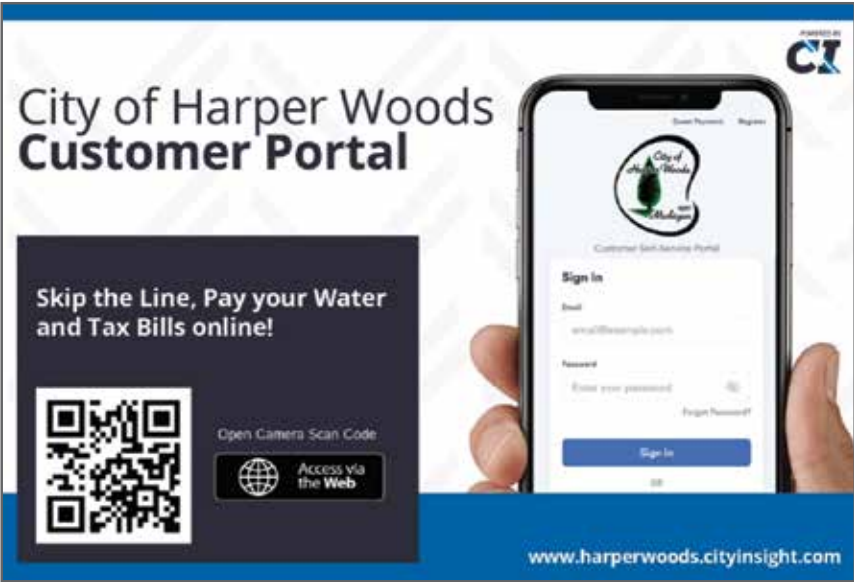
The U.S. Small Business Administration helps power the American dream of business ownership. As the only go-to resource and voice for the small business community. **To learn more about these and other services, visit the district office website Michigan | U.S. Small Business Administration ([sba.gov](http://sba.gov)), or you can email us at [Michigan@sba.gov](mailto:Michigan@sba.gov) for assistance or call 313-226-6075.**

# Community & Business Progress

## 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 [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org).



## Mobile Water & Property Tax Payment App Update

The City of Harper Woods “Mobile App” through City Insight began 2020 with 1,044 registrations and now has increased to a registered total of 2,958 residents and volume of \$6,400,165. We encourage residents to register as the city has expanded services to include Property Taxes in this application. Just a reminder: This site does not charge any fees on your payments for Water Billing but does charge a processing fee for Property Tax Payments.

Also, on the application you will find “City Alerts.” Please visit [www.harperwoods.cityinsight.com](http://www.harperwoods.cityinsight.com) and register today. The front office staff are happy to assist you!



# Treasurer Info

## **Public Notice – City of Harper Woods**

### **Applications for Deferment 2023 Taxes**

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2023 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](http://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](http://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 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

\*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](http://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.



# Department of Public Safety – Police



## HALLOWEEN TIPS FOR KIDS

1. Walk with other kids or have your parents walk with you.
  2. Stay on the sidewalks and don't cut across people's yards.
  3. Cross at intersections only and obey traffic lights.
  4. If you wear a mask, make sure the holes are large enough to see and breathe through easily. MAKE-UP IS SAFER.
  5. Have a plan for walking so you cross the street only when necessary.
  6. Do not go into other people's houses. Stay outside.
  7. Go only to houses that are well lit.
8. Wear bright, reflective colors so that drivers can see you when it gets dark. Remember that just because you see the cars doesn't mean the drivers see you.
  9. Be courteous and say "Thank you" to the people who give out treats. Don't push others when you are at the door.
  10. Have your parents check your treats for tampering. If you see something suspicious, throw it away. Make sure that the treats are in their original wrappers. Do not eat homemade treats unless you know the people who gave them to you.
  11. Carry identification, including your name, address, and phone number.
  12. Trick-or-treat only in your own neighborhood.
  13. After dark, take a flashlight along. This will help you see where you are going, and let drivers see you.
  14. Wear costumes that are fireproof and not too long or too loose.
  15. Do not forget to invite a parent to go with you.

## QUICK TIPS FOR AVOIDING FRAUD

There are many varieties of consumer fraud, but the most common ones are variations of fake check scams, credit repair, free trip offers, and sweepstakes. Here are some tips to help you avoid being a victim:

**Don't give out personal information.** Be suspicious of anyone you don't know who asks for your Social Security number, birthdate, credit card number, bank account number, password, or other personal data.

**Don't be intimidated.** Be suspicious of calls or emails that want you to provide or verify personal information immediately. Answer that you are not interested and hang up or don't reply to the email.

**Monitor your accounts.** Review bank and credit card statements carefully, and report unauthorized transactions to your financial institution immediately.

**Use a shredder.** Tear or shred credit offers, bank statements, insurance forms, and other papers with personal information.

**Ignore unsolicited offers.** Don't respond if someone you do not know asks you to send money or money orders to claim a prize, lottery, credit card, loan or other valuable offer.



## UTILITY SCAMS



**Be alert to these common signs of utility scams:**

- A company switches your utility provider without your permission.
- You receive a call claiming that your service will be cut off unless you pay immediately, using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer, (similar to paying with cash that can't be retrieved).

**Take steps to protect yourself:**

- Review your utility bills, including the name of the service provider.
- Don't give in to the pressure to pay a utility bill that specifies you must pay in cash or by money wire.
- Verify your account status with your utility company, using contact information on a regular bill.



# Department of Public Safety – Fire



## OCTOBER 8-14, 2023 IS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK.

This year's National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) theme is **"Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention."** This year's focus on cooking safety works to educate the public about simple but important steps they can take to help reduce the risk of fire when cooking at home, keeping themselves and those around them safe.

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? The Harper Woods Fire Department urges residents to be aware of simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires:

- Always keep a close eye on what you're cooking. For foods with longer cook times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.
- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and keep anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Create a "kid and pet free zone" of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.



# 32A District Court News

## Judge Rebekah R. Coleman



Greetings Harper Woods,  
WHAT IS IN YOUR HANDS?

The Harper Woods Community is a fantastic place to live and is filled with talented, active individuals. Among our residents are educators, musicians, civic leaders, designers, writers, coaches, and entrepreneurs. During the summer, so many people orchestrated and participated in activities around town. As we enter the giving months that round out our year, I challenge all residents to consider what is in your hands that you can contribute to make this community an even better place.

Rather than trickling down, some of the most satisfying and positive changes in our world start at the local community level and expand upward and outward to our cities, states, country, and the global community. For example, the American Red Cross was started in 1881 by Clara Barton, a woman with a long history of volunteering, and a group of her friends. What would our world be like today without the good work that this organization does? You too can better our community and world through volunteering during this season of giving.

As we round out the year, I am delighted to share that the Court is operating at full capacity and open to serve the community. While attending Court via ZOOM is still an option, appearing in-person is also an option. If you plan to attend Court via ZOOM, 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.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Drug Treatment Program is up and running and has engaged new participants. We look forward to helping our participants gain new skills and insights as they navigate through the program toward becoming drug-free, productive members of our community. A huge "congratulations" goes out to our new graduates from the Community Treatment Program. We wish you the very best.

Finally, an update on a technological advance for the Court. We are working on launching a new and innovative website. Be on the lookout for this exciting change in the near future as we continue our mission to keep our Court operating in the most efficient manner.

Happy Holidays and as always, I am delighted to continue to serve our great city,  
Judge Rebekah R. Coleman

### **Meet The Staff Corner:** Deputy Court Clerk Rosa McLean.

In Rosa's own words... "Service, caring, sharing, compassion, and a strong work ethic are the cornerstones of my personal and professional foundation.

Currently, I have been employed for the past two years with 32A District Court as a deputy Court Clerk. Prior to this, I was employed with 36th District Court for 30 years, of which 18 were as a probation officer. In that position, I enjoyed serving people of various races and ethnic groups. Working with the judges, attorneys, fellow employees and external professional agencies gave me a greater appreciation for the law and how our criminal justice system works.

Forging friendships and work relationships became the crux of my longevity there at the Court. That in part is why I decided to re-enter the work force here at 32A District Court. Although I serve in a different capacity, the frenzy of the work environment still motivates me to give my best. My work duties here consist mainly of processing traffic and ordinance files and assisting as a cashier. Working here with Judge Coleman and the staff is a pleasure. Everyday, I realize there is always something new to learn.

Outside of work, I am very gregarious. I am very family-oriented and very active in my church and community. I love to travel. I've visited Kenya, Paris, Hong Kong, various Caribbean Islands, Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto and numerous U.S. States. My number one hobby is decorating Christmas trees."



# City Clerk Info

## Remember to Vote - November 7, 2023

**October 23, 2023** - Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk for the November general election.

**October 24 - November 7, 2023** - In-person registration at the City Clerk's office with proof of residency.

**November 7, 2023** - General Election. Polls Open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Voters will be responsible for electing the Mayor to a two-year term and three Councilmembers to four-year terms.

A list of candidates as they will appear on the November 7, 2023 ballot are as follows:



### Mayor - (One 2-Year Term)

Valerie Kindle

### City Council (Three 4-Year Terms)

Cheryl Costantino

Gerianne LaPratt

Regina Williams

Curtis Brown

Teresa Foster

A sample ballot will be posted on our Elections page at [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org) or in the City Clerk's office, once they are made available.

### City Council Installation

Newly elected Mayor and City Council members will be sworn in on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

### Registering to Vote:

- Will now be automatic when obtaining a driver's license at a Secretary of State office, unless specifically declined.
- In-person or by mail is permitted up to the 15th day prior to the election.
- In-person is now required to be processed only at the City Clerk's office beginning the 14th day prior to the election up through and including election day with residency verification.

### Voting by Absent Voter Ballot:

- An absent voter ballot can be issued by the Clerk's office to any registered voter that requests one, with no reason needed.
- A regular AV ballot can be requested by mail until 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the election.
- In-person AV deadline is 4 p.m. on the Monday prior to Election Day, however, a resident may register to vote and obtain an AV ballot after this deadline, if voting the ballot in the clerk's office.
- The clerk's office will be open the Saturday prior to Election day from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Check out our Webpage for more Election Information at [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org) or the State of Michigan Voter information page at <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/>

### **CITY OFFICES CLOSED**

**Nov. 7**

**ELECTION DAY**

**POLLS OPEN: 7am-8pm**

**Nov. 10**

**VETERAN'S DAY**

**Nov. 23 and 24**

**THANKSGIVING**

**Dec. 25 and 26**

**CHRISTMAS**

**Jan 1 & Jan 2, 2024**

**NEW YEAR**

## 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**

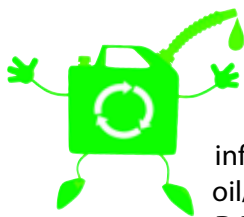
313-343-2500



# Department of Public Works

## Refuse Collection Guidelines

- ✓ Trash cannot be placed at the street until 12 noon the day before your collection day and all cans must to be removed by 12 noon the day after. This is per the City ordinance.
- ✓ 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](http://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 4th** and runs through the week of **November 20th** (on your 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 the week of **October 16th** through the week of **November 13th** (weather permitting). For more information go to [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://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/weeds/vegetation 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 stormwater 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.

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.

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

In 2022 the City asked 30 residential locations to participate in 1 round of sampling between June and September.

This will remain the same for the 2023 sampling schedule.

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](http://www.harperwoodscity.org), the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), the EGLE website at [www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory](http://www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory) or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.



## Snow and Ice Emergencies

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

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

### Ordinance Penalty

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

## Building Department Info

With Autumn in full swing, there are little to no cost maintenance items that can be addressed preventing costly damage and unnecessary repairs:



1. Keep your gutters and downspouts clean to prevent water and ice backups.
2. Make sure your downspouts have a minimum 3' extension to disperse water away from the foundation wall preventing basement flooding and/or cracked walls.
3. Clean the lint out of the dryer vent preventing fire.
4. A furnace inspection from a licensed contractor can save on energy costs and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
5. Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
6. Turn off outside water spigots and disconnect hoses prior to freezing weather.
7. Please rake the leaves and pick up debris that may end up under snow creating slip hazard.
8. Please shovel the snow. We find no glory by issuing ordinance tickets.

## 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. You can only apply for the upcoming 2023 tax year. Deadline to file is before December 12, 2023.

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.



# 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 -----

**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!***



## 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](http://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

November 7, 2023 is an important date for the library because our operating millage is up for renewal. This vote is a **renewal** of a millage previously approved by the voters. It will be .963 mills, meaning that it would cost \$28.89 for a home taxed at \$30,000.

Nearly 45% of the library's budget comes from this millage, and with this the library provides the community with the following:

- Books, digital books, DVDs and more
- Events for all ages
- Technology
- Research and History
- A community gathering place

Make sure you are registered to vote! Fill out your absentee ballot or show up on November 7 to cast your ballot!



## 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 lower level should be opening soon, 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 [hwlibcoop.net](mailto:hwlibcoop.net) to register.

- October 25: *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- November 15: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- December 20: *Wishin' and Hopin': A Christmas Story* by Wally Lamb

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

**Thrifty Mondays – Household Hints, Recipes, Money Management, and More:  
2nd Monday of the month, 1:30 – 2:30p.m.**

Contact the library at 313-343-2575 or [hwlibcoop.net](mailto:hwlibcoop.net) to register.

- October 9: Fall Harvest
- November 13: Thanksgiving Traditions
- December 11: Deck the Halls

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.

- October: Thyme
- November: Pumpkin Pie Spice
- December: Allspice



### Current Library Hours:

**Monday – Wednesday 11am – 7pm**

**Thursday – Friday 11am – 5pm**

Check the library's website for holiday closure dates.  
Visit [www.harperwoodslibrary.org](http://www.harperwoodslibrary.org)  
or call the library at 313-343-2575

# 2023 Late Fall/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 Fall/Winter Session - 6 weeks

**30 Minute Classes - Aqua ducks, Level 1, Level 2:**  
\$50 for 1 child, \$25 each additional in same household

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

### Monday Dates

**Late Fall Session:** October 23-December 4

**\*No class October 30th**

**Winter Session 1:** January 8-February 26

**\*No class January 15th & February 19th**

### 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

**Late Fall Session:** October 24-December 5

**\*No class October 31st**

**Winter Session 1:** January 9-February 27

**\*No class January 16th & February 20th**

### 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



**Late Fall Session:** October 24-December 5

**\*No class October 31st**

**Winter Session 1:** January 9-February 27

**\*No class January 16th & February 20th**

## 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

**Late Fall Session:** October 24-December 5

**\*No class October 31st**

**Winter Session 1:** January 9-February 27

**\*No class January 16th & February 20th**

## 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

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

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

Email [vitafitjsheehy@comcast.net](mailto:vitafitjsheehy@comcast.net)



# 2023 Late Fall/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.

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

5:00-5:30pm --- Tiny Tappers, ages 3-5  
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  
7:00-7:30pm --- Pom-Pom Jazz, ages 7-12  
7:30-8:00pm --- Lyrical, ages 10-14  
8:00-8:30pm --- Teen/ Adult Hip Hop

## 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 6-8  
6:30-7:00pm --- Ballet, ages 9-12  
7:00-7:30pm --- Tap, ages 9-12  
7:30-8:00pm --- Hip Hop and Jazz, ages 9-12  
8:00-8:30pm --- Teen/Adult Jazz  
8:30-9:00pm --- Teen/ Adult Ballet

**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





# 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 in January. Picnics can be booked from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Only one picnic allowed per household per year. No moon bounces, trains, charcoal grills, confetti, port-a-potty's, bands or DJ's allowed for picnics. Reserve at least 3 weeks in advance. Refunds for cancellations are only given if you cancel at least 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 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.

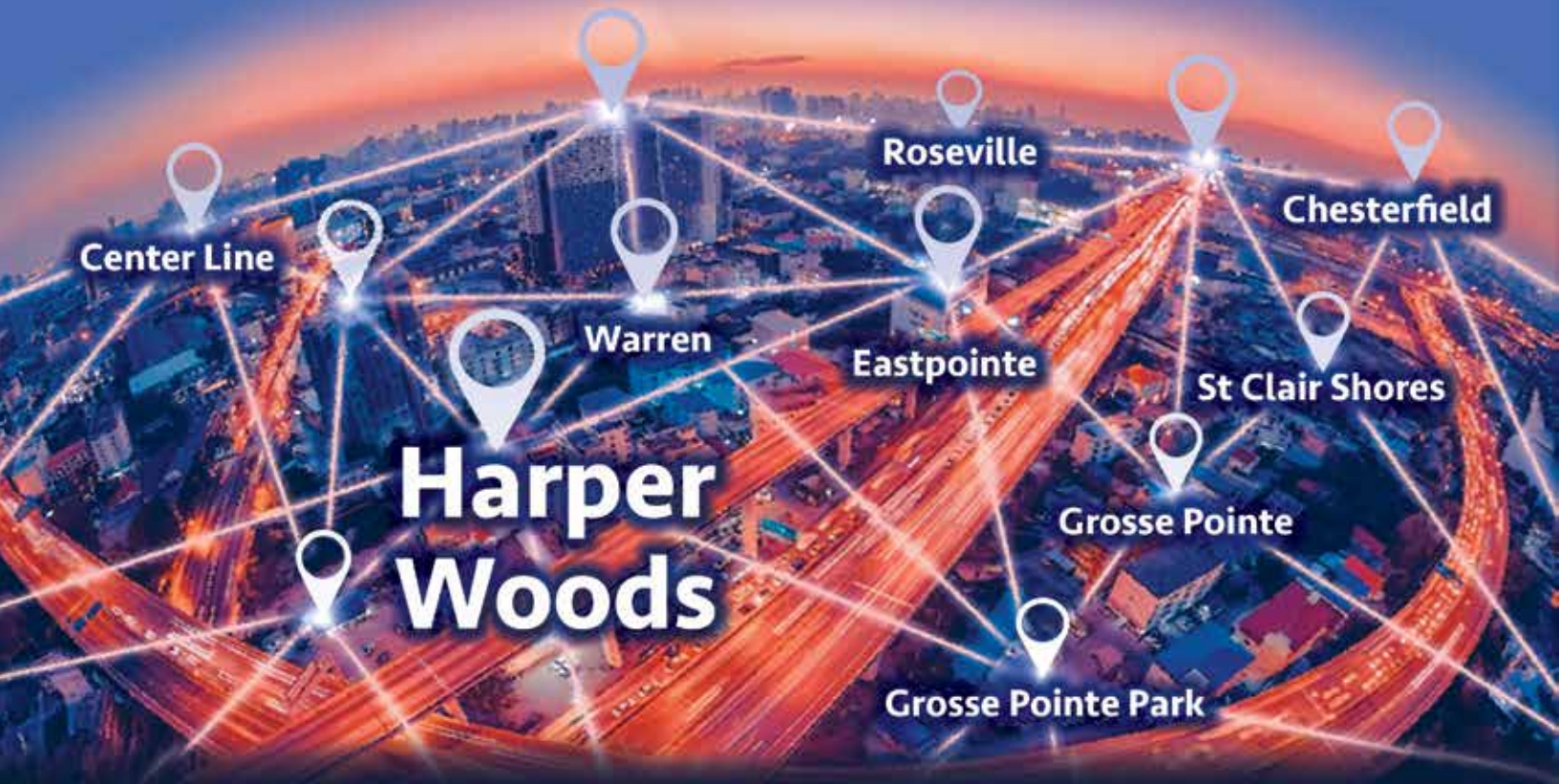
Activity \_\_\_\_\_ Days/Times \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant \_\_\_\_\_

# the Community Resource Guide

## Harper Woods Edition



Highlighted in this Edition:

**Health & Fitness • Become a volunteer “Angel” • Parenting Conference • Business Directory  
Grosse Pointe Chamber – Job Board • Harper Woods Real Estate Trends • 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](mailto:info@drivecreativeservices.com).

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

***Deadline to provide information is Friday, October 20, 2023.***



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



# SUMMER RECIPE OF FUN: SMILES, CUDDLES, AND COMFORT BAGS

We provided comfort bags to kids on the cardiac floor at Children's Hospital, Henry Ford Sandcastles Grief program, Play Place Autism Center, Centria Autism Center, Jasmynn's Voice for autistic kids, and local shelters and foster care agencies such as Grace Centers of Hope, Big Family of Michigan, Turning Point, Care House of Macomb County, and Ennis Center for Children.

According to Sinead Nimmo, Child Life Specialist at Children's Hospital:

*"Having comfort bags to share with patients at their bedside helps to bring a feeling of comfort and care to our patients and their families. When patients have a stuffed animal to cuddle or a fun activity to play with, it can assist with coping with hospitalization because kids have a comfort item or things to help them pass their time. We always love the opportunity to share comfort bags with our patients and families!"*



To learn more, check out their website [susieqskids.org](http://susieqskids.org) or contact Dr Mary Welsh at [drmary@susieqskids.org](mailto:drmary@susieqskids.org).

## THE ONE PLACE TO TURN WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO GO.

Aging purposefully and with dignity takes knowledge. The Helm has the information you need. From where to get help with chores, caregiving and nutrition needs to Medicare and health insurance to helping you find what best fits your needs, our experts can help keep you (or your loved one) on course to living your best life. Visit us online or in person and see all the ways The Helm is there on your journey of staying involved, independent and inspired.

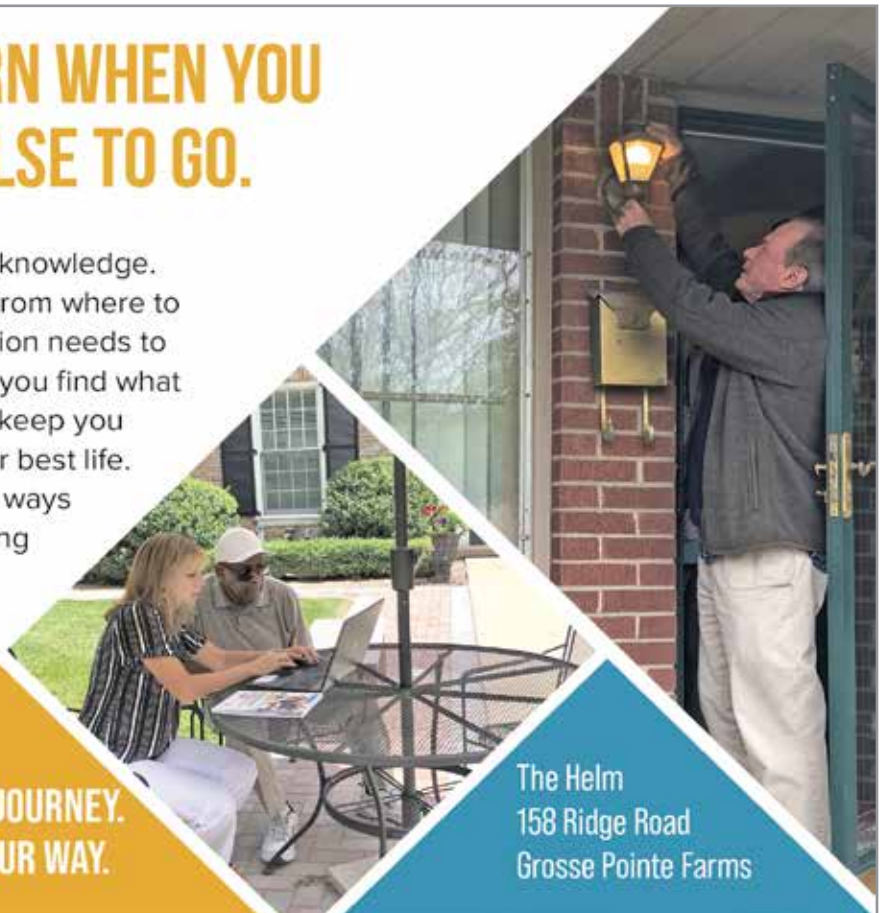
VISIT: [HELMLIFE.ORG](http://HELMLIFE.ORG)

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The Harper Woods School District

[www.hwschools.org](http://www.hwschools.org)

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# Today's Health & Fitness



Ken Welch, Owner  
Pointe Fitness  
& Training

## GYM ETIQUETTE

Our weather is going to be changing soon so a lot of people will be getting back to the gym. In the pursuit of fitness one of the things that isn't talked about enough is the practice of Gym Etiquette. Or, how to behave properly and get along with your fellow gym members. We're all in this together. Here are some key, do's and don'ts, that apply in just about every gym setting.

1: Simply be considerate and courteous of others. It's not hard. Give respect, you'll get respect.

It's also common to share equipment if your gym is crowded at a certain time. "How many more sets do you have?" "Do you mind if I work-in while you're resting?" are reasonable questions.

"No! I'm using it" is not a reasonable response. You bought a gym membership not the gym. Learn to share. In turn, allow yourself to be flexible in your workout needs. Be willing to find alternatives if your favorite piece of equipment is being used.

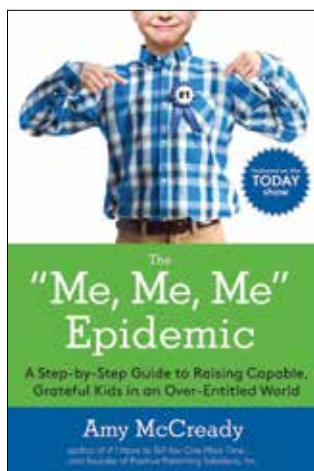
2: Stay off your phone when working out at any workout station. Checking your phone between sets turns into monopolizing equipment. It's rude, don't do it.

3: Put equipment, weights, dumbbells, back where they belong. Help keep "your" gym safe and orderly.

4: Wash your workout clothes and keep your footwear clean. Cleaning your body but not your clothes mean's you're still going to stink and it's unpleasant to other's. Bring other shoes to wear in the gym, especially in winter. Don't track snow and salt into your gym and on to equipment. It creates a mess and it's unsafe. (Someone could slip in the puddle you left)

5: If you're unfamiliar with an exercise or piece of equipment ask a staff person for help. Don't make up stuff or try things you saw on the internet, it can be dangerous.

Follow these guidelines and you can prevent being "that person" in your gym.



### 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](http://www.careofsem.com).

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**Mission:** To help build happier, healthier families.

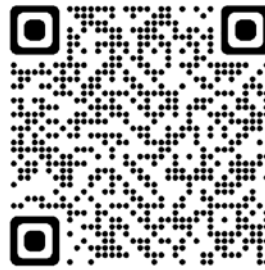
**Vision:** To be the first source for building connected, resilient families who thrive at every stage.

We partner with and support our local schools, community organizations, and healthcare providers to provide **FREE** programs and resources on a variety of topics important to families.

We also lead the Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods Coalition, with representatives from 12 sectors of our community who are dedicated to preventing substance abuse and promoting mental health.

**Free Fall Programs:** Preschool Playtime, Yoga & Meditation, Community Baby Shower, Men's Night Out, Narcan Training, Suicide Prevention Training, and more!

Visit **FamilyCenterHelps.org** for a full list of programs, a directory of local service providers, and timeless advice from experts on family dynamics, special needs and learning support, mental health, and substance use prevention.



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# GROSSE POINTE Chamber of Commerce

## GROSSE POINTE CHAMBER JOB BOARD

The Grosse Pointe Chamber takes great pride in providing a comprehensive Job Board hosted on the Chamber's website that is a one-stop shop for employment opportunities.


This innovative platform provides Chamber member businesses with the ability to post their job openings, offering a convenient and centralized resource for both employers and job seekers.

We strive to ensure that all job listings are up-to-date, accurate and tailored to meet the needs of our diverse user base.

Looking for employees? Looking for employment? Check out the Chamber's Job Board: [www.grossepointechamber.com](http://www.grossepointechamber.com) or call: (313)881-4722.

*\*The Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce is not responsible for vetting applicants or facilitating interviews - the goal of the Chamber job board is to provide interested parties with opportunities and information to contact business owners who are hiring.*


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#### DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Nov. 5, 1-3 p.m.

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- High School - Jan 10
- Kindergarten/Young 5 - Jan. 11

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**(313)-782-3914**  
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**(313) 432-3000**  
gpschools.org

## EDUCATION

**Harper Woods School  
District**  
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hwschools.org

## HEALTH & FITNESS

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**(313) 417-9666**  
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## INSURANCE

**Nations Insurance**  
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## SENIOR RESOURCES

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

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**\$145,659**

AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▲ **18.2%**  
FROM Q1 2023

▲ **0.2%**  
FROM Q2 2022

**75**  
NUMBER  
OF SALES

▲ **33.9%**  
FROM Q1 2023

▼ **22.7%**  
FROM Q2 2022

**44**  
AVERAGE DAYS  
ON THE MARKET

▼ **10.0%**  
FROM Q1 2023

▲ **57.1%**  
FROM Q2 2022

**66**  
AVERAGE MONTHLY  
INVENTORY

▼ **14.3%**  
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **18.51%**  
FROM Q2 2022

**32.5%**  
ABSORPTION  
RATE<sup>1</sup>

▲ **28.3%**  
FROM Q1 2023

▼ **34.7%**  
FROM Q2 2022

## MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

### QUARTER (Q2 2023) OVER QUARTER (Q1 2023)

▲ **16.7%**  
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ **13.0%**  
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ **33.9%**  
TOTAL CLOSED

### YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q2 2023 vs. Q2 2022)

▲ **18.5%**  
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ **20.8%**  
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **22.7%**  
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®.

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

- ◆ Website: [www.GPBR.com](http://www.GPBR.com)
- ◆ Phone: 313-882-8000
- ◆ Fax: 313-882-6062
- ◆ Email: [members@gpbr.com](mailto:members@gpbr.com)
- ◆ Address: 710 Notre Dame, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Average Sale Price – Healthy:** Normally higher sale prices would indicate decreases in affordability, but in June eight homes or one-third of all closed sales were for \$200,000 or more. This is the highest number of homes sold in that price range. As far as we can tell that is the most ever in one month. It does not mean however that buyers are being priced out of the market because the average sale price remains below \$150,000.

**Number of sales – Good:** The increase quarter over quarter is evidence that the higher interest rates are being perceived as back to normal.

**Days on Market (DOM) – Good:** with 72 days considered normal, 44 days may be higher than what some are accustomed to, but it is historically low.

**Inventory –Fair:** The preference would be to see inventory grow which would increase sales.

**Absorption Rate – Seller's market:** It remains a seller's market at this current level, but in some markets the rate is well over 40% which is very unhealthy for buyers.

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

Disclaimer:

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®.

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER “ANGEL” FOR HOPE NOT HANDCUFFS AND HELP SAVE LIVES



Hope Not Handcuffs is an initiative of Families Against Narcotics (FAN) that helps people who are struggling with drug or alcohol addiction get placed into treatment. Anybody can walk into a participating police station and ask for assistance, at which point that department will contact FAN. A volunteer “Angel” will then be dispatched to the station to offer support and work with FAN’s call center to get the person the help they need. This program, which is operational in Harper Woods and all five Grosse Pointes, needs volunteers to run smoothly. If you’re a compassionate person who lives in the Harper Woods/Grosse Pointe area



and would like to help FAN help people who are ready to get treatment for their substance use disorder, we would love to have you join our team. For more information on becoming an Angel, go to [familiesagainstnarcotics.org](http://familiesagainstnarcotics.org) and click the “Volunteer” tab. Or call 833-202-4673.

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*Tracy Purnell, MA, LPC, NCC, CAADC*  
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