

THE INSIDER

For The City of Harper Woods

Your community
resource guide for the
City of Harper Woods!
FALL EDITION
OCTOBER THROUGH
DECEMBER 2020

Get the most out of our community!

CITY CALENDAR

October

- October 5 – City Council Meeting 7pm
- October 12 – Columbus Day
- October 15 – Water Bills Due
- October 19 – City Council Meeting 7pm

November

- November 1 – Daylight Saving Time
- November 3 – Election Day - Polls open 7am-8pm
- November 11 – Veterans Day – City Offices Closed
- November 16 – City Council Meeting 7pm
- November 16 – Water Bills Due
- November 16 – 20 Curbside Leaf Pick-up Ends
- November 16-20 Yard Waste/Compost Pick-up Ends
- November 26 & 27 – Rubbish Delay
- November 26 – Thanksgiving – City Offices Closed
- November 27 – City Offices Closed

December

- December 7 – City Council Meeting 7pm
- December 15 – Water Bills Due
- December 21 – City Council Meeting 7pm
- December 24 – Christmas Eve – City Offices Closed
- December 25 – Christmas Day – City Offices Closed
- December 25 – Rubbish Delay
- December 31 – New Year's Eve City Offices Closed

A Message from the Mayor...

Hello Harper Woods Residents!



My name is Valerie Kindle and I am so pleased and honored to serve our community as your Mayor. Together, with a commitment to hard work, and in the spirit of collaboration and inclusiveness, we can rejuvenate and restore faith in our city.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about my background.

In my youth, my parents ingrained in me the importance of public service. Now, having lived in Harper Woods for nearly twenty years, I remain mindful of that ideal. I have been on City Council since 2012, but before that I was a Board member of Friends of the Harper Woods Library and a member of the

Harper Woods Planning Commission and the Ordinance Committee. Currently, I am on the Boards of the Harper Woods Lions Club, the Grosse Pointes - Harper Woods NAACP, Grosse Pointe League of Women Voters, and I am the President of the Michigan Women in Municipal Government. I also volunteer with my church, New Life Ministries Worldwide in Harper Woods. As a lifelong eastsider, I have volunteered with other local organizations in providing food and necessities to people in need. I am a retired caseworker with Michigan Works and a recent college honors graduate with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

I encourage you to be in touch, and I promise to listen and talk with you. It's time for us to heal and move forward.

Valerie G. Kindle

**New
This Year!**

Look for your

HARPER WOODS 2021 CALENDAR

inserted within the special Winter Edition of *The Insider* this December.



The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Cheryl A. Costantino

City Council

Ernestine Lyons

Veronica Paiz

Vivian M. Sawicki

Ivery Toussant Jr.

Regina Williams

Acting City Manager

John Szymanski

City Clerk

Leslie M. Frank

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

Harper Woods Insider Advisory Board

Vivian Sawicki - Council member, City of Harper Woods

Larry Hakim - Planning Commissioner, City of Harper Woods

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

Joe Rheker - City Manager

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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Employee in the Spotlight

Vincent Smith - As a recognition of the City's appreciation for his dedication, loyalty, and work ethic; Acting City Manager John Szymanski named Director of Public Safety – Vincent Smith the "Employee in the Spotlight" for this edition. Szymanski stated that his choice of Smith is fitting and centered on the "significant amount of leadership and humility Vince has shown over the last year since his promotion."

Smith is a veteran police officer who has worked for the City of Harper Woods

for 23 years. He has held the ranks of Patrol officer, Sergeant, Lieutenant and most recently, Director of Public Safety. He is also an accredited, certified Fire Fighter too. Director Smith loves being a first responder and demonstrates a passion for his work.

Szymanski added, "There is never a dull moment in his job. Director Smith believes in positive interactions with the City's young people and realizes the importance of setting a good example and being a positive role model. His mission is to create a more progressive culture by moving forward and knocking down barriers toward a more community-based policing orientation."

Mayor Valerie Kindle also voiced of Smith, "Over his lengthy career, he has shown exceptional determination and professionalism in all aspects of his work. Director Smith has made the tough calls and made a real difference in challenging situations."

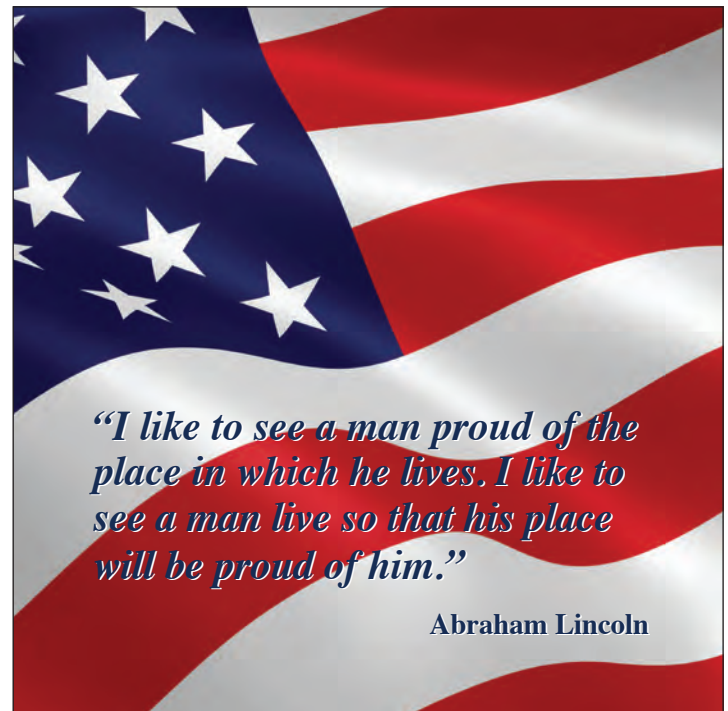
Smith responded to this distinction by saying, "It is an honor to continue to serve the community and the department in the position of Director. The community and the department are a team and we really rely on each other. When COVID restrictions allow, I want more town hall meetings and other events so that the officers know their citizens and the citizens know their officers. I have always been a team player, and as Director, I will continue to move the department forward with our residents needs in the mindset of the community and for the community."



Neighbor in the News: Our Veterans

We honor all veterans who have given of their lives for freedom. On Wednesday, November 11th please take a moment to thank a veteran, many are your neighbors. Let them know what their commitment to protecting our country means to you.

To all those who have served,
and those who continue to serve...
Happy Veterans Day!



Featured Business/Organization: Support Your Local Businesses



Acknowledgements

The City of Harper Woods urges all residents to shop locally and to support our local businesses. In this edition, we want to acknowledge the contributions of two local businesses for the well-being of Harper Woods residents, employees, and other local businesses.



One local business in the spotlight is The Home Depot, who has made major contributions of gloves and cleaning supplies to the Harper Woods Public Safety Department for our first responders use during the past few months of the COVID-19 pandemic. We also thank The Home Depot for their continued support of City sponsored events.

The other local business in the spotlight is Lowe's, who supplied a large quantity of bottled water to our first responders during the pandemic. Lowe's additionally contributed "personal protection equipment" (PPE's) to local minority owned businesses at Eastland Mall and on Kelly Rd. Director of Scheduling Staffing Administration, Angela Monroe stated, "Lowe's is a part of Harper Woods and in these unprecedented times, we have a responsibility to do what we can to help our community. The health and well-being of our associates and customers is our top priority and we have donated 2,500 N-95 facemasks and twelve boxes of hand sanitizers to the community so far. We are committed to Harper Woods and are here to serve our neighbors".

Eastland Mall's minority owned stores and shopkeepers received over 400 of the 2,500 N-95 facemasks donated by Lowe's, to fight the spread of COVID-19 among their coworkers and customers at the Mall.



Economic and Community Development Director Ty Hinton meets with Eastland Property Manager Laura Cheatham to distribute N-95 facemasks donated by Lowe's.

Department of Public Safety – Police

Citizens Police Reporting Now Available Online for Residents

Online Crime Reporting

It is the policy of the Harper Woods Police Department to provide the highest level of service to the community it serves. 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.

File a report online by going to www.harperwoodscity.org. Go to the Public Safety tab, then select Police Department. Click on the Online Crime Reporting link to enter your information and submit your report. If you have any questions, please call the Harper Woods Police Department at **313-343-2530**.

Virtual Neighborhood Watch Security Camera Registration

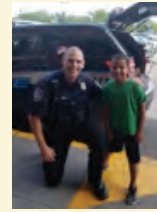
YOU can help fight crime...

Harper Woods residents can now register outdoor security or doorbell cameras with the Harper Woods Police Department online! If a crime is committed in your area, the police can contact you for video footage that could lead to capturing criminals, thus making Harper Woods safer for everyone!

Register your security camera by going to www.harperwoodscity.org. Go to the Public Safety tab, then select Police Department. Click the Virtual Neighborhood Watch Form to register your camera today!



Thank a Police Officer!



Would you like to say thank you, or commend a Police Officer or other employee for a job well done? You can come into the Police Department or call during regular business hours and ask to speak with the Director of Public Safety,

or the on-duty Commander. You may also, write a letter, or e-mail the Police Department at Patrolsupervisor@harperwoods.net at anytime.

Citizen Complaints

Anytime you have an interaction with one of our Officers and feel that said Officer(s) actions were inappropriate, you may come to the station to fill out a Citizen Complaint form. The forms are available 24/7 at the lobby of the Police Department. The forms may be completed at the station or taken home and returned at your convenience. If you do not feel comfortable returning to the station, you may email the complaint form directly to the Director of Public Safety

at Patrolsupervisor@harperwoods.net.

Please contact our department

at **313-343-2511** if you have any questions.



Snow Removal Reminder

Residents are reminded to take into consideration our many residents who use our sidewalks during the winter months. The removal of snow and ice makes it safer for those who transverse our sidewalks without the fear of a slip and fall accident.

Sec. 23-4. - Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks by owners of abutting property.

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

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

Harper Woods Public Safety tips for staying safe during winter weather include:

- If you must go outside, wear protective gear, such as hats, mittens, gloves, scarf and a warm coat.
- Avoid overexertion when shoveling heavy snow, pushing a car, or walking in deep snow.
- Watch for signs of frostbite, which include loss of feeling or pale appearance of fingers, toes or face.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia, which include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, drowsiness and exhaustion.
- Understand the hazards of wind chill. As wind speed increases, heat is carried away from a person's body more rapidly and could lead to severe hypothermia.
- Remove clothing if it gets damp or wet. Wet clothing can make you more prone to hypothermia.
- Check heating units. Poorly operating or damaged heating units can release carbon monoxide gas. Test carbon monoxide detectors for proper operation and battery life.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who are at risk and may need additional assistance.
- Watch pets closely and keep them indoors when possible. Animals can suffer from hypothermia, frostbite and other cold weather injuries.
- If travel is necessary, keep a full tank of gas and an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle. Put warm clothing, such as gloves, blankets and hats, and a cell phone charger in your kit. If you are stranded, stay with the vehicle and wait for help.

Department of Public Safety – Fire

THINK FIRE SAFETY THIS FALL

The fall newsletter is a very busy time for the Harper Woods Fire Department. From October as Fire Safety Month, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, there is sooooo much for us to discuss. We have included a few safety tips from the Fire Department and the NFPA so you can enjoy the holidays safely.

As we enter the fall and winter months many homeowners will be turning on furnaces or enjoying a nice warm home cooked meal. During these months the Harper Woods Fire Department will typically see an increase in 911 calls to Carbon Monoxide alarms, this is a good time to check your alarm to make sure it is in operating order and as always check your smoke detector, if it is beeping it needs a battery! Most carbon monoxide alarms have a life expectancy of 10 years, if yours is near its life it may be time to replace it. Ventilating your home while cooking can help reduce any carbon monoxide produced from the oven or stovetop.

Although the State of Michigan Open Burn Law is utilized by the City of Harper Woods, the Harper Woods Fire Department DOES NOT recommend the burning of leaves and / or rubbish. The burning of leaves and rubbish can be a nuisance to the neighborhood and can quickly spread to a larger uncontrolled fire. Many areas of the city have large trees leaving dried fallen leaves on the ground or roof tops. Embers from burning leaves easily float to neighboring properties causing fire to quickly spread. Please utilize the city leaf pick up provided by the Department of Public Works. The State of Michigan Open Burn Law can be viewed on the city's website.



Top Five Halloween Fire safety tips

- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns.
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

Top 10 Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey, and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Holiday Decorating

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



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.

City Clerk Info

Presidential Election



Presidential Election is November 3, 2020

Polls open 7:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m.

The Presidential Election will be held on November 3, 2020. Polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. In addition to voting for the President, voters will elect Congressional Representatives, State Senators and Judges. Voters will also vote for school board candidates for both Harper Woods and

Grosse Pointe School Districts.

A sample ballot will be available on our website at www.harperwoodscity.org. Please contact us with any questions at 313-343-2510 or lfrank@harperwoods.net.

***Avoid the lines!! Stay Home, Stay Safe and Vote Absentee!!
All votes are counted!!***

How to get an absentee ballot

First, request a ballot by getting an application from your county or city clerk's offices or at Michigan.gov/vote and returning the completed form to your city clerk's office. Once your application is received, we will mail your ballot to your house, vacation home or anywhere else in the world. Why wait in line on Election Day - vote by mail!

- * Ballots will be sent by mail for any ballot application received by 5pm the Friday before the election (October 30). Absentee ballots after this date will only be issued in person at the clerk's office.

- * Voters can request and receive a ballot from 8am - 4pm on the Saturday before Election Day (October 31) or between 8am and 4pm on the Monday before Election Day (November 2).

Next, complete, sign and submit your ballot as soon as it is complete... the sooner the better!

- * Drop off your ballot in person to your city clerk or
- * Return your ballot to your city clerk through the mail. All ballots **must** be received prior to closing of the polls at 8pm on Election Day.

You can register and vote

on Election Day, November 3:

In person at your City Clerk office before 8 pm

You may vote that day - Residency Verification Required

Acceptable documents for Residency Verification include:

- * Driver's license
- * Bank Statement
- * Other Government ID
- * State ID
- * Paycheck
- * Current Utility Bill
- * Government Check

Documents must have name and current address - Digital copies are acceptable.

Contact the Clerk's office if you are unsure of where you should vote or to check your registration status - 313-343-2510 or by email at llombardi@harperwoods.net

Offices Closed

November 11 - Veteran's Day
November 26 and 27 - Thanksgiving
December 24 and 25 - Christmas
December 31 and Jan 1

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 go to the City website, click on Departments; Assessor; and review the Frequently Asked Questions page.

32A District Court News

An Update From Your 32A District Court

32A District Court has been focusing on a number of issues in the Harper Woods community. Chief Judge Daniel Palmer has addressed these issues by taking some decisive steps to help solve them.

"It goes without saying that I invest most of my time ensuring our court is run efficiently and preserves justice," Palmer said. "But there are some areas of energy investment the court has dealt with that many of our citizens may not be aware of."

One such issue is opioid addiction, which is a subject that personally affects the judge since he knows many families in the community that have lost their children to accidental overdoses. The court organized an opioid town hall and asked Phil Pavona from Families Against Narcotics to speak and provide advice on how to recognize and deal with the drug addiction of a family member. This town hall was recorded by the Family Center of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods and is available to view on its YouTube channel. "My hope is that the video will send the message that just sending addicts to jail does not solve the problem of their addiction," Palmer said. "Instead, it is treatment and local government oversight that is the best answer."

Substance abuse isn't the only problem area that Harper Woods District Court has focused on. Many criminal defendants in the courtroom suffer from mental health issues, and to combat this issue, Palmer helped create a Community Treatment Court (CTC), also known as mental health court, in May 2019. The CTC continues to grow in 2020, and the judge is extremely proud of what it has done for defendants who need psychiatric treatment to help them avoid criminal activity. "We need to end the revolving door of incarceration and repeat offenses that is present with criminals who have mental health issues," Palmer said. Michigan Supreme Court studies have shown that individuals who complete a mental health court program are less likely to become repeat offenders, are more likely to find employment and housing, and become, overall, more satisfied with their lives. "Personally, I've found this work to be extremely rewarding as I get to witness a true development of individuals once they receive appropriate mental health intervention," Palmer stated.

Besides establishing a mental health court, 32A District Court has also brought awareness to the issue of domestic violence. "Sadly, there are a high number of domestic violence cases that the court oversees each year," Palmer said. "And one of the biggest myths concerning domestic violence is that only the poor or uneducated are victims of abuse. Nothing could be further from the truth. Domestic violence affects everyone — no matter your age, gender preference, race or socioeconomic status."

Palmer was named to the Domestic Violence Committee of the American Judges Association, where he has learned more about domestic abuse and received extensive training on how best to handle situations involving abusive relationships. "It is my hope that I can bring what I've absorbed to promote and improve the effective administration of justice in these cases," he said.

Disciplinary issues that affect our younger citizens is another concern the court has tackled. 32A District Court has obtained special jurisdiction from the Wayne County Circuit Court to preside over truancy diversion proceedings, which Palmer thinks will address attendance and self-control problems that affect our younger citizens. "I believe our truancy efforts have helped these kids learn new ways of coping and avoid criminal charges in the juvenile court," he said.

Running a court which dispenses justice and treats people fairly and with respect is at the cornerstone of Palmer's judicial philosophy. In the most recent survey conducted by the Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office, 96 percent of people attending 32A District Court hearings thought that they were treated with courtesy and respect by court staff while 98 percent thought that their case was handled with fairness by the judge. "We have always striven for efficiency and to provide a positive experience for people when accessing 32A District Court under my leadership," Palmer said.



Treasurer Info

Public Notice – City of Harper Woods

Applications for Deferment 2020 Taxes

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2020 tax deferments starting July 1 for the Summer and December 1 for the Winter tax bills. To qualify, a household income cannot exceed \$40,000. The applicant must also be 62 years of age or older, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, veteran, widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. The deferment applications can be obtained at the Treasurer's Office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

Assessing, Tax and Utility Billing Information Online



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

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

Delinquent Tax Information Online

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

Property Transfer Affidavit

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

Electronic Debit Transactions

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



Water/Sewer Rates

As of May, 2020

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



Water Bill Delivery

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

Current Fees Effective January 4, 2018

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

Automatic Payment-Water Bills

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

Pay Water Bills Online – NO FEES!

Free Mobile Water App Available! Please refer to your current water bill for details and how to register at harperwoods.cityinsight.com. See website for new features!



Automatic Payment-Tax Bills

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

Pay Property Taxes by Credit Card Online

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

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



Senior Resources

Sheltering in Place with Airline Treats

Fresh, surplus food donations from the national airline caterer Gateway Gourmet through a partnership with Gateway Gourmet and Project Isiah were a welcome surprise to residents of Park Place Senior Apartments in Harper Woods. In response to COVID-19, logistics and deliveries were made possible by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, serving Harper Woods, Hamtramck, Highland Park, the five Grosse Pointes and Detroit.



Let DAAA help you ... an aging parent ... a friend or neighbor. For anyone who needs information or referrals related to healthy aging, home-delivered meals, household chores, or long-term care planning, start with a call to the Detroit Area Agency on Aging: 313-446-4444.

The Helm at The Boll Life Center

The Helm is an essential resource for adults ages 60 & up in Harper Woods and the Grosse Pointes. At The Helm you can participate in classes and activities to stay healthy and safe, expand your knowledge and enjoy fun and friendship. We also provide support services and information to help older adults continue living independently including chores assistance, caregiver programs, income tax preparation, Medicare counseling, medical equipment loan closet, Meals on Wheels and more. Contact The Helm at The Boll Life Center at (313) 882-9600.



PAATS News

Do you know about PAATS?

Pointe Area Assisted Transportation Service (PAATS) provides transportation to persons age 60 or older and disabled residents of Harper Woods and the five Grosse Pointes. You MUST call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a ride.

Service Area – The service area takes residents to all locations in an area bound by the following: 11 Mile Rd., Gratiot Ave., Alter, Jefferson. We also go to several site specific locations including: Henry Ford Hospital, DMC, New Center, V.A., and others. Call for more details.

The following fares are per one-way trip.

Fares: Within Harper Woods & the Grosse Pointes	\$3.00
Outside of the City limits of Harper Woods and the 5 Grosse Pointes	\$4.00
Site Specific Locations	\$5.00

Call the PAATS office for more information at 313-343-2580.

Special Trips

We also provide transportation to special trips arranged by The War Memorial. Trips include plays, tours, shopping, great lunches at area restaurants, and many more. Call The War Memorial at 313-881-7511 for more information.



Library News & Events



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

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director

From the Director

After nearly 3 months of the building being closed to the public, we re-opened our doors on July 6th. Since then we have been operating under Stage 4 of our Reopening Plan: Grab and Go. It's been wonderful to see our patrons in person again. Our goal is to continue to serve the residents of Harper Woods safely and efficiently. Let us know if we can be of service to you, and we will do our best to take care of your library needs.

Steps We Are Taking to Keep You Safe:

- Sanitizing high-touch areas of the building
- Promoting social distancing
- Limiting computer use to 30 minutes and reducing the number of terminals
- Requiring masks to all who are medically able to wear them
- Quarantining returned items
- Allowing curbside pickup



Promoting Social Distancing – We are promoting social distancing in a few ways: We have set up markers on the floor to reduce the space in areas like the checkout desk. We have reduced the number of computer terminals that are available so they are all 6 feet apart. We have removed chairs from tables and desks to ensure people don't get too close.

Quarantined Items – All books, movies, and other items that are returned to the library are quarantined for 96 hours. Why are they held back for 4 days? Scientific testing that focuses on library items (books, DVDs, CDs, etc.) has determined that after 4 days, coronavirus is undetectable on them. Because we want our staff, you, and your families to be safe, we don't check them in until after the time has passed. Don't worry – when we check them in, we back-date them to the date that you brought them in.

Curbside Pickup – If you are not comfortable coming into the library building, don't forget that curbside pickup is still available! After you're told that your hold is available or after you call us to ask for something, come to the south side of the building for your pickup. Just give us a call and we will bring your items out to you. We'll do this for all sorts of items – kids' books, movies, bestsellers...whatever you'd like to check out!

Children's Annex – In order to protect our families and our staff, we have closed off the lower level and set up a Children's Annex on the first floor across from the checkout desk. We have a selection of books, movies, VOX books, and audiobooks all available for you and your child to choose from. Is there something you want that isn't upstairs? No worries – one of the staff members will be happy to get it for you.

Friends Events Cancelled – We're sad to say that the Fall Used Book Sale and the Artisans' Market have been cancelled for this year. The Friends are dedicated to making these items available to the community, so keep an eye out for when these events will be hosted in 2021. You can still support the Friends of the Library through Kroger's Community Rewards Program. Just go to Kroger.com and link your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card to the Friends of the Harper Woods Library.

Ongoing Programs for Children

Storytimes: Our Children's Librarian will upload intermittent Story Times to our YouTube channel, so make sure to subscribe! Regular in-person Story Time will not resume until 2021.

Ages 4-9, subscribe to our YouTube channel or our Facebook page.

Coloring Contests: Each month, pick up our monthly coloring sheet so we can decorate our windows for people who can't come into the library. Every coloring sheet will be eligible for a raffle prize, limit one entry per child.

Take-Home Crafts: Stop by the library to pick up some crafts to do at home, or ask that we put one in a curbside pickup. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for specifics!

Special Events

Halloween Parade: We will enjoy a socially-distanced parade outside the library where we'll pass out treats. If weather does not permit, come into the library to show us your costume and pick up a goodie bag! Masks required. (Note: Subject to change based on State Executive Orders.)



All Ages, Wednesday, October 28, 5:00 PM



Socially-Distanced Santa: Pick up a Christmas kit from the library and join us for a special Santa Zoom call. Santa wants to hear from you, all the way from the North Pole! (Note: Subject to change based on State Executive Orders.)

All Ages, Wednesday, December 16, 5:00 PM

Ongoing Programs for Adults

Read Something Different Book Club

- October: *My Life as a Rat* by Joyce Carol Oates
- November: *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes
- December: Choose a book by Susan Waggoner – *Have Yourself A very Vintage Christmas*, *It's a Wonderful Christmas*, *Under The Tree*

Mystery Book Club

- October: Edgar Allen Poe
- November: Cara Black
- December: Faye Kellerman



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

Department of Public Works

Refuse Collection Guidelines

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



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

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



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 6th** and ends the week of **November 27th** on our trash collection day. Please place your yard waste in brown biodegradable lawn bags or rubbish cans no larger than 35 gallons and labeled **YARD WASTE/COMPOST**. Yard waste will **ONLY** be collected from the beginning of April through the month of November. **Yard waste in plastic trash bags WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.** Please check your City calendar

for specific dates. For more information go to www.harperwoodscity.org or call 313-343-2570.

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

Residents, please note that according to the City ordinances, any grass over 5" is in violation. This also includes flower beds. When a GREEN TAG is placed on your door, you will have 48 hours to take corrective action. If your grass is not cut within that time, the City will hire a private contractor to cut your grass/weeds and the owner will receive an invoice to reimburse the City for such costs. If the owner fails to pay, the City Assessor shall add these charges to the tax rolls for this property. If you have any questions, please call 313-343-2570 upon receipt of warning or notice. **DO NOT BLOW GRASS CLIPPINGS INTO THE STREET. THEY CAN CAUSE A SAFETY HAZARD AS WELL AS CLOG OUR STORM DRAIN SYSTEM.**

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.



Department of Public Works

Maintaining Sewer Lines

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

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



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

Rodent Control

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

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

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

Downspouts, Surface Drainage, Etc.

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

Gutters should be kept clean of debris.

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

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



Department of Public Works

Snow and Ice Emergencies

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



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

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

Ordinance Penalty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact Information by Department

Assessor

313-343-2527

SAFEbuilt Building Department

313-343-2526

City Manager

313-343-2505

Economic and Community Development

313-343-2501

Elections

313-343-2510

Finance Director

313-343-2518

Fire Department

313-343-2550

SAFEbuilt Housing Inspection

313-343-2526

Library

313-343-2575

PAATS

313-882-9600

Parks and Recreation

313-343-2560

Public Safety Department

313-343-2530

Public Works

313-343-2570

Treasurer Tax & Water Billing Information

313-343-2500



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.

To remain in compliance with these changes, in 2019, the City of Harper Woods increased the number of water samples taken from residential homes. Residents participated in water sampling at 30 locations. This is known as lead and copper monitoring. The criteria was to sample water from homes known to have or suspected to have lead water service lines. These samples were then analyzed by the Great Lakes Water testing lab. The results were forwarded to the participants.

Of the 30 locations sampled, 4 yielded results in exceedance of the action level of 15 ppb (parts per billion). All copper results were in the acceptable range. **This exceedance is not a health based standard nor a violation of The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act**, but rather an indicator that triggers additional action on the City and water supplier's part. To date, the City has made a public service announcement through media outlets. Additionally, the City will provide public education material to every water customer in Harper Woods. As in the past, important information will also be included in the Annual Consumer's Confidence Water Quality Report.

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

If you have questions, concerns, need information on, or can provide us with information on the service line material in your home or business, please contact the Public Works Department, Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 3:00pm.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the City's website at www.harperwoodscity.org, the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, the EGLE website at www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Community & Business Progress

Salter Park Gets New Equipment!

This summer new playground and basketball equipment were installed at Harper Woods Salter Park. The purchase was made possible with funds from a Wayne County Recreation Grant. An improved play structure and new swings replaced the former 20-year-old pieces. Additionally, a double goal basketball system was added on the original basketball court area.

The latest updates of equipment will allow families of our community plenty of recreational enjoyment for many years to come!



Public Safety Virtual Workshop

Don't miss out on the first Harper Woods Virtual Public Safety Workshop Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This online event begins a series of upcoming Public Safety workshops in the future!

Please visit our City website at www.harperwoodscity.org for more information.

Harper Woods Virtual Public Safety Workshop #1 Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00pm

Program:

- Rollout of the NEED program (Neighborhood Eyes and Ears Deterrent)
- Crime Prevention Tips
- Learn about how the Harper Woods Court System Works
- Fire Safety Program

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
MEETING ID: 895 6519 0039
PASSCODE: 199957

Courtesy of the Harper Woods Public Safety Department and the Crime Reduction/Law Enforcement Task Force. A Sub Committee of the Harper Woods Development Coalition.

Harper Woods Soup is Back... Virtually!

Join us on Sunday, October 4th, 2020 at 5pm for Soup to Go - We want to turn this year's Soup into not only a pitch contest but a virtual event to showcase local small businesses and encourage people to support Harper Woods "start-ups" and "been-ups".

For registration and further event details please visit harperwoodssoup.com



harperwoodssoup.com

HARPER WOODS SOUP & SMALL BUSINESS SHOWCASE

The Micro-granting
Community dinner that helps
launch new business and
creative ideas

Sunday, October 4 (Virtual)
5:00pm
Zoom ID: 835 9936 3255

2020 Fall/Winter Recreation Program

Important Notice

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

Martial Arts

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

Late Fall Session: Oct. 27-Dec. 10

Winter Session I: Jan. 12-Feb. 18

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

Cost: \$60.00 per person



Tumbling

This exciting class will be held on Saturdays at the Harper Woods High School on the second floor. Participants develop hand/eye coordination, balance, strength and flexibility through tumbling and obstacle courses. This class will be taught by Lisa Biggs and will run for a 6 week session.

Late Fall Session: Oct. 24-Dec. 5

Winter Session I: Jan. 16-Feb. 20

Day: Saturdays

Cost: \$60.00

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



Fitness Firm Aerobics

Fitness Firm offers low impact dance aerobics, incorporating kickbox, yoga, free weights, Zumba, toning, flexibility and stretching. Fitness Firm classes are held at The First English Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall, located at 800 Vernier in Grosse Pointe Woods. Registration for this class is done with the instructor, on-site at your first class. If you have any questions about the Fitness Firm class, please contact the instructor, Judy Sheehy at 313-886-7534 or email at vitaftjudy@comcast.net.

Kids Swim Lessons

Our lessons teach children to be independent and safe in the water. Our certified instructors will teach your child all of the tools they need to become a good swimmer, and they have fun too!! The lessons are offered at the Harper Woods High School pool, and are available for a 6 week session. **Classes run on Mondays only.**

*Please register early, classes fill up fast.

Late Fall Session: Oct. 26-Nov. 30

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

Monday Classes

Aquaducks	5:00-5:30pm	Level 1	5:30-6:00pm
Level 2	6:00-6:30pm	Level 3	6:30-7:15pm
Level 4, 5, 6	7:15-8:00pm		

Swim Fees:

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

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



Adult Swim Lessons

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

Late Fall Session: Oct. 27-Dec. 1

Winter Session I: Jan. 12-Feb. 16

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

Water Aerobics

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

Late Fall Session: Oct. 27-Dec. 1

Winter Session I: Jan. 12-Feb. 16

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

OPEN SWIM on Tuesdays!

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

Residents ONLY

You must stop in at the HW Recreation Department to get a Swim Pass prior to open swim.





Dance

Come join the fun and dance, as we start our 37th year of the dance program! There is no residency requirement. All classes are held in the Tyrone Elementary/gym/stage area located between Mack and Harper at the intersection of Tyrone and Broadstone. Students have the opportunity to perform in the annual Recital. It will be held in late April (end of the session) in the auditorium at Harper Woods High School and there is no charge to attend the Recital. There are ballet barres. We suggest you arrive ten minutes prior to your child's class time if you choose this option.

Please call dance program director Nonny Sperry with questions at (313) 885-3714.

**Celebrating
37 Years**

REGULAR SEASON DANCE PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2020-2021

DANCE STAFF: Mikayla Schiller, Caitlin Skerske, Nonny Sperry

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

Begins Tuesday, October 20 and ending with tentative rehearsal and recital on May 18 and 19

approximately 25 dance lessons

Tuesdays starting October 20

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

5:30-6:00pm---Tiny Tappers, ages 3-5

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

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

7:00-7:30pm---Hip Hop, ages 10-14

7:30-8:00pm---Production Class (free), ages 7 and starts up in February

Wednesdays starting October 21

5:00-5:30pm---Junior Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 4-6

5:30-6:00pm---Ballet, ages 5-7

6:00-6:30pm---Tap, ages 6-9

6:30-7:00pm---Ballet ages 8-10

7:00-7:30pm---Lyrical, ages 10 and up

7:30-8:00pm---Tap, ages 10 and up

8:00-8:30pm---Ballet, ages 10 and up

8:30-9:00pm---Teen/Adult Jazz

Production Dance Class (no charge) — This class will be offered to all students ages 7 and up. Dancers will meet once a month. Do not miss your chance to dance in an extra routine with a large group in the Recital!! There is no experience necessary. Students will need to purchase a Harper Woods Dance Logo T-shirt.

Dance Tuition — \$150.00 per class *plus \$10 family registration fee which 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. Final payment of the payment plan is due by January 22, 2021.

Family Plan Discount — This discount applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in two or more classes.

2-5 classes: 10% off the total

6 or more classes: 20% off the total

Recital Costumes — Please be aware that you will not be purchasing a costume for the 2021 Dance recital. Students will be putting together their own costumes or buying accessories at minimal cost.



TREE LIGHTING

Come and see City Hall aglow with lights on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30pm.

Join fellow dignitaries in singing carols and socializing. This event is held in front of the Harper Woods Fire Department.

Refreshments will be served.

Please note that event is subject to change or cancellation

Participating Partner



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

Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

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



Park Fees *(Fees are subject to change)

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

Financial Assistance Program

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

Recreation Refund Policy

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

To Register:

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

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

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

Harper Woods Recreation Department

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS:

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

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:

**Supporting Local Businesses • Health and Fitness • Chefs Corner
Harper Woods Real Estate Trends • Foot Care • Business Directory
Education • Cultivating Resilience in the Midst of Uncertainty • And more**

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

If you or someone you know have an event to promote, a story to share or an idea for the upcoming 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, October 30.



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

WHY YOU NEED TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Most small business owners work crazy hours (late nights, early mornings, holidays...) and carry a tremendous responsibility for not only themselves and their families, but also their employees who depend on them for their livelihood. Small businesses are the lifeblood of our community. It is important to support them, thank them and celebrate them. Here are seven reasons why you should thank a local business TODAY!

Create Jobs

When you hire locally, you are ensuring that our family members, friends, and neighbors can make a living. When someone has the resources to live comfortably, they can spend money in our community. This is a beautiful circle that helps communities thrive.

Uniqueness and Charm

There is nothing like walking into a local restaurant or retailer. Their products, services and personality add to the local landscape and create a destination not only for residents, but surrounding communities and visitors as well.

Locally Made Products and Services

There is something so satisfying and inspiring about purchasing a locally produced product or service. If you support Made in America, you can't get more authentic than shopping at a mom and pop shop in your city or town.

Community Identity

Local businesses play a huge role in a community's identity. They serve as landmarks, meeting places and a significant source of community pride.

Local Support

Local businesses sponsor youth baseball teams, donate gift certificates to community nonprofits and host fundraisers. They chose your community to open their business (and invest their time and money) so they inherently care and want to make our community a great place to live, work and play.

Involvement in the Community

Local business owners and their employees sit on boards, help plan community events and festivals and belong to the local Chamber of Commerce, civic groups, and other organizations. They are invested and involved with their time and services.

Tax Money

Business owners pay taxes, which creates a bigger tax base that directly benefits our community.

What are your favorite local businesses?

Help them by leaving them a positive review online, taking your friends with you next time, or just keep doing business with them. When you support a small business, it's a chain reaction. Perhaps you go to a gift shop to pick up a card and a unique present. Next door is a restaurant. You stop in for lunch. While you are at both places, you snap a few pictures and put them on Instagram. In the matter of an hour or two, you have spent your hard-earned money at two local businesses AND you promoted them through your Instagram post. YOU created a chain reaction. (What a beautiful thing if we all did that!) So please, make it a point to support your local businesses.




**Jennifer Palms
Boettcher,**
IOM President



Regan Stolarski,
Director of
Administration

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25 YEARS!**

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Today's Health & Fitness

What's fun about working out?

For more and more people, an easy question. Simply put; we really like to. We like to challenge ourselves; we like the results; we like the creative process of discovering new exercises and sharing new ideas about different workouts with others; we couldn't imagine our lives without it. Still, there are those who don't share the enthusiasm and actually say they "hate it."

Working out? Fun? I don't think so.

The fun isn't necessarily the workout, it's the results that occur because of it. Owning a gym, I hear all kinds of examples from clients and members who have come to realize what the workout fun part really is.

Women have told me about their confidence wearing sleeveless outfits because now they can show off their toned arms instead of hiding them. It never use to be that way before they started lifting weights. Showing the "guns," is kind of fun. Keeping up with their kids on a hike; also, cool. Running into people

they haven't seen in a while and getting complimented about looking younger or losing weight when all that really happened was, they got leaner and stronger.

A good everyday example of workout fun is brushing aside an offer from a store clerk asking if you need help with what looks like a heavy purchase.

It feels good to say, "no thanks, I got it."

Men have told me with pride about dropping belt sizes. How eating better is actually preferred. Getting kudos from their doctor for racking up better health numbers and being "that guy" in the golf group that really is in good shape. A big one? Winning points with their wives for finally taking their health seriously.

It's all in how you think about it. Working out; really is, a lot of fun.



Ken Welch, Owner
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CHEF'S CORNER

Amuse Bouche Gumbo By: Chef Patricia Lyons

DARK ROUX

½ cup canola oil
2/3 cup flour
2 quarts of chicken stock (Swanson's)
3 cups of creole sausage
3 cups of cooked, diced chicken
2 cups of raw shrimp peeled and deveined

TRINITY:

1 cup of celery diced	2 tbs Tony Chachere's creole seasonings
1 cup of onions diced	2 tsp Tony Chachere's gumbo file
1 cup of green peppers diced	salt and pepper to taste
4 tbs of minced garlic	white rice:
1 cup of diced tomatoes	2 cups of jasmine rice
2 cups of frozen chopped okra	4 cups of hot water
1 tsp lemon pepper	

DIRECTIONS:

In a large stock pot heat oil and add flour. Stir and cook flour until it resembles that of wet sand. Once the roux is dark enough (NOT BURNT) Deglaze with chicken stock and stir. Add the Trinity which is celery, onions, green bell peppers and garlic. Simmer for 25 min.

This is a good time to cook the rice. Start your rice by rinsing 2 cups under cold water in a fine mesh strainer. Rinse until water runs clear. Boil 4 cups of water first and then add rice. Stir to incorporate. This allows for perfectly separated grains of rice. Steam rice on low for 15-18 min. Do not stir. Allow rice to steam. Turn off heat.

Add cooked sausage and chicken to the simmered pot of Gumbo base. Then allow your gumbo to simmer and reduce. (5-6 min) You want the sauce to become Nape, which means to thickenedly coat the back of the spoon. Add your shrimp and seafood very last. Once the seafood has cooked. Taste and season your Gumbo with lemon pepper, Creole season, salt and pepper. Always add Gumbo file before serving.

The New Normal

During the quarantine of the Covid-19 Pandemic, I found myself in my Kitchen a lot, like every hour to be exact, and for hours on end at a time. I even found myself cooking in my sleep. Often waking up to something burning. Perhaps a sauce I had left to simmer. Prepping, cooking, and eating. Not knowing exactly what was going to happen next. With no work or ability to physically visit family and friends. Stores closed and all things sold out. I cooked my way through dishes and recipes that I hadn't tried in years.

One of the first dishes I knew I wanted was Gumbo. It's traditionally a French dish with African, Spanish and German influence. Gumbo is essentially a surf and turf stew, served with rice. With so many variations one could find a gumbo with shrimp and beef, chicken and sausage & okra with fish. After researching several recipes and YouTube videos I finalized my own Gumbo recipe. I wanted food that I knew would taste good and bring the comfort I needed to get through the self isolated quarantine.

On top of comfort food during quarantine, I found myself dipping into flavored syrups, liquors and spirits. Creating cocktails I would only get from my favorite speakeasy or after hour bar. I created a side car cocktail that I renamed the Side Chick after finding out about my boyfriends' infidelity. This drink helped me through a lot of heart ache, moments of insecurity and pure boredom.

I wish every human the opportunity to find healing and prosperity during these unforeseen hard times. Attached is my favorite recipe for Gumbo that is savory and comforting, along with my go to cocktail The Side Chick that is strong and relaxing.



-Chef Patricia Lyons

The Side Chick

INGREDIENTS:

1 ½ oz Hennessy or cognac
2/4 oz. Grand Marnier or Orange liquor

2/4 oz. Peach schnapps
2/4 oz fresh squeezed lemon juice
2/4 oz. peach nectar
Haribo peach gummy candy
Ice

DIRECTIONS:

In a cocktail shaker add ice and pour your measured ingredients into the shaker. Cover shaker and shake until frost appears on outer layer. Smack or pop the shaker with palm of your hand to release the cover. Pour/strain into Coupe cocktail glass. Garnish with peach gummy candy. Please enjoy this drink responsibly and drink in moderation. As we continue to beat Covid-19, please remember to wear your face mask when entering public spaces and continue to remain 6 feet apart to maintain social distancing.



\$103,810

AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▲ **12.3%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **0.7%**
FROM Q2 2019

44
NUMBER
OF SALES

▼ **24.1%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▼ **38.9%**
FROM Q2 2019

56
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▲ **11.1%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▼ **24.4%**
FROM Q2 2019

50
AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▼ **16.71%**
AVERAGE PRIOR QUARTER

▲ **11.1%**
AVERAGE Q2 2019

29.3%
ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▼ **9.0%**
FROM PRIOR QUARTER

▼ **45.0%**
FROM Q2 2019

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q2 2020)-OVER-QUARTER (Q1 2020)

▼ **23.3%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ **21.4%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **24.1%**
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (Q2 2020 vs. Q2 2019)

▲ **2.2%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ **20.3%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **38.8%**
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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UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Average Sale Price – Good news!: This is expected to increase as long as rates remain low and inventory remains critically under-supplied. Interest rates are not expected to increase much over the next 18 months. Those listing their homes now will likely see close to asking if not above asking sale prices.

Number of sales – Expected: While inventories had started to increase while real estate was shut-down, the uptick in sales since then has returned the market to undersupplied which will constrain sales.

Days on Marker (DOM) – Average: Generally, 60 days on market (DOM) is considered normal.

Inventory – Expected: While inventory increased year over year, sales have now depleted the number of homes available. How buyers and sellers will react to the market will not have reduced inventory, again adding to those things they need to consider.

Absorption Rate – Average: You never like to see the absorption rate decline; however, at 26.9% it remains a seller's market.

Covid-19 and the Governor's Executive Order – The lifting of restrictions on how real estate practitioners could operate has produced a huge increase in sales across the broader Tri-county area. In Harper Woods, home values continue to move upward. Despite the historically low interest rates (below 3.0%) for the 30-year fixed rate mortgage, inventory remains limited which in turn is limiting the number of homes sold. It is likely whatever impact the shut-down had on real estate, it will be limited to Q2 of 2020.

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Thinking of Custom Orthotics?



Overview: Custom-fabricated orthotics are shoe inserts that improve foot function, body alignment and balance. They also help reduce excessive pressure points of the foot. When fitted

into proper shoes, the orthotics act as an interface between foot, the shoe and the ground, providing improved foot biomechanics. True custom orthotics are fabricated from a three-dimensional mold of your foot by means of cast or virtual 3-D image, such as CAD/CAM. Off-the-shelf shoe inserts, which claim to be custom fitted, is an advertising way of saying, 'this is your size,' and will not provide the same therapeutic benefits as custom orthotics. **Medically speaking, unless a mold was made of your foot, it is not a custom device.**

Should I Choose Custom Orthotics or Off-the-Shelf?

For many people, off-the-shelf inserts are inexpensive and

may provide necessary relief for foot, knee, hip and back issues. These devices usually cost up to \$100. Others, due to biomechanical issues, require more help and can benefit from custom-fabricated orthotics. A trusted, credentialed source, such as your foot doctor, physical therapist or certified pedorthist can help guide you to a proper recommendation based on your unique circumstances. Custom-fabricated orthotics usually start around \$300.

Choose a Credentialed Practitioner:

Amazingly, Michigan is a non-licensed state for creating or selling foot orthotics, whether custom-fabricated or off-the-shelf. It is in your best interest to work with a credentialed practitioner, such as a Board Certified Pedorthist (C.Ped), whether you have a prescription from your doctor or not.



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



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