

# THE INSIDER

For The City of Harper Woods

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!  
**WINTER EDITION**  
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2020

Get the most out of our community!

## CITY CALENDAR

### January

- January 1 - City Offices Closed - New Years Day
- January 4 - Siren Test 1:00pm
- January 6 - City Council Meeting 7:00pm
- January 15 - Water Bills Due
- January 20 - City Offices Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 22 - City Council Meeting 7:00pm

### February

- February 1 - Siren Test 1:00pm
- February 3 - City Council Meeting 7:00pm
- February 14 - Water Bills Due - Winter Taxes Due - City Hall open until 4:30pm
- February 17 - City Offices Closed - Presidents Day
- February 19 - City Council Meeting 7:00pm
- February 26 - Ash Wednesday

### March

- March 2 - City Council Meeting 7:00pm
- March 7 - Siren Test 1:00pm
- March 8 - Daylight Savings - Set clocks ahead 1 hour
- March 9 - Board of Review
- March 10 - Election Day - Polls open 7:00am-8:00pm
- March 16 - City Council Meeting - 7:00pm
- March 23 - Board of Review

## Happy New Year Harper Woods!



### Census 2020

#### What is the 2020 Census?

The 2020 Census counts the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. US Constitution: Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the country conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The 2020 Census will mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790. Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire—online, by phone, or by mail. This will mark the first time that you will be able to respond to the census online.

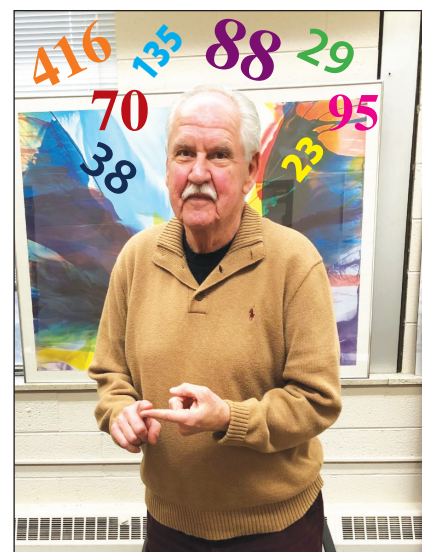
Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more.

#### Importance of the Data

The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—our population, where we live, and so much more. The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Mayor Poynter expressed to all Harper Woods residents, "Stand up and be counted! I can't stress enough the importance for each household in Harper Woods to participate with an accurate count. Literally this data will be the basis for representation and allocation of tax dollars for the next ten years."

City Manager Joe Rheker agrees, "Please make it a point to ensure your household is responsive to the request for census data. Every division of government and everybody is a stakeholder in the 2020 US Census."



Mayor Poynter. "Stand up and be counted."

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



Monday, January 20, 2020

**SERVE ON MLK DAY AND BEYOND.**

#MLKDay



# The City of Harper Woods

## Mayor

Kenneth A. Poynter

## Mayor Pro Tem

Cheryl A. Costantino

## City Council

Valerie J. Kindle

Ernestine Lyons

Veronica Paiz

Vivian M. Sawicki

Regina Williams

## City Manager

Joe Rheker

## 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

**Chaka Johnson** - Community Relations and Parent Outreach, HW School District

**Jean Tallent** - Marketing Manager, Eastland Mall

**Joe Rheker** - City Manager

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

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# Employee in the Spotlight



**Cedric Robinson**- the newest face at City Hall offices considers Harper Woods his neighborhood. Since joining the Treasurer's Department (Customer Services) in October 2018, he has received numerous accolades from city officials, residents and business owners for his friendly smile, professionalism and personal attention to matters. Many residents, colleagues and visitors alike recognize Cedric Robinson as the "Welcoming Man" in Harper Woods.

Additionally, Cedric has uniquely inspired the process of signing up with the city's new "water app" that lets residents and businesses pay their water bills quickly and efficiently through media devices. "Cedric possesses a natural ability to calm a resident's anxiety over a variety

of City payment transactions. Whether it's water bills, property taxes or issues with the city's new "water app", all are made comfortable with his assistance. I have even witnessed him making people feel downright giddy over paying penalties and late fees! Only he could make people feel like that! We are so glad to have him!" acknowledged Finance Director/Treasurer John Szymanski.

Cedric shared his views with the Insider, "When I first started working for the city back in 2018, I didn't really know what to expect with working with the public. I always believed in giving more than what is expected when working on the job. Also, I always believe in going that extra mile to help people. One of my goals when working the window is to greet all residents with a smile and great service. I listen to what they have to say, then respond with words of encouragement. I try to explain things so that they understand the process of how things work (like the estimate vs. actual reading of water bills). What I try to accomplish is to have the residents of Harper Woods leave City Hall feeling better than before they came in."

He enthusiastically added, "Now after months have passed, I enjoy interacting with the residents. When residents come in, we talk about things other than the bills that they are paying. We talk more now, like we are neighbors that haven't seen each other in a month or so. The relationship and conversation have changed to the point that we are looking forward to the next time they visit City Hall. I have found out the residents of Harper Woods are pleasant neighborly people that you want to meet."

Welcome to Mr. Robinson's neighborhood... Where each day is a beautiful day in Harper Woods!





## Neighbor in the News

**Dick & Mary Kingston** believe that good neighbors make great neighborhoods. Called “the Odd Couple” at times, they both share a common ground in that... becoming involved in your

neighborhood is vital for living in a successful community. Remarkably, this energetic couple were married and purchased their home in Harper Woods 36 years ago. Together, they keep their city well-preserved by participating in various community events and projects.

Over this past year alone, the Kingstons volunteered their time and labor at most city events: Earth Day, Kelly Road and Park clean ups, National Night Out and the Slow Roll. Also, both were significant hands in the construction of the Harper Woods Triumph Middle School Garden. DPW Superintendent Bill Snyder added, “Dick’s time-tested experience and no-nonsense approach to getting the job done, makes working

with him a real pleasure. From Earth Day to Kelly Road clean up, he makes a real difference. We really appreciate his help and hard work. The employees at the DPW enjoy working with him and look forward to the next project.”

Mary, having served on the Library Board of Directors for many years, is currently the President Friends of the Harper Woods Library as well as serving on the City’s Beautification Commission, Local Officers Compensation Commission and Ordinance Committee. While Mary advocates for the library in fundraising efforts, Dick also is the keeper of five homes on his block. He proudly told the Insider he has “five lawns to cut and five driveways to plow” during our interview.

City Manager Joe Rheker said, “Mary and Dick are the dynamic duo of Harper Woods! Anytime they are called upon, they respond like the superhero citizens they are. Whether it’s Dick’s “implements of destruction” for use on Kelly Road clean ups or Mary’s contagious volunteerism of vigilance in the neighborhood- they make moves continuously to make Harper Woods a better community.”

Dick and Mary Kingston have a message for all their Harper Woods neighbors, “Don’t just live in Harper Woods, get involved in your community- help make it a great place to live.”

## Featured Business/Organization:

Family Foods opened their Harper Woods Store in 2005. Mr. Sam Hamama is the owner of the “family friendly” supermarket. Sam expressed that, “his family really loves the people they serve in this community.” His family is from the Middle East and have been in business for 48 years. Their first store was the Pioneer Supermarket on Gratiot. They were farmers in the Middle East, who grew food and sold their own goods in local markets; that is their heritage and family tradition.

Sam Hamama has been a great friend to the Harper Woods Public Safety Department. According to our new Director of Public Safety Vincent Smith, “Sam Hamama is one of the classiest and community involved business owners I have known since my employment within the City of Harper Woods.” Additionally, Det. Sgt. James Ruthenberg stated, “I have had the pleasure to meet and work with Sam Hamama of Family Foods several times since they opened their doors in 2005. Sam is very personable with his customers and our Public Safety Department. I consider Mr. Hamama and the entire Family Foods family a huge asset to our community and encourage residents to see what Family Foods has to offer by stopping in the business.”

Mr. Hamama is known for his generosity, always trying to help families and individuals in need. Therefore, we

are celebrating, with this article, his warm personality and steadfast support for the Harper Woods Community. Located at 19230 Harper Avenue, Family Foods Market is open daily 8:00am to 9:00pm or call (313) 881-7272.



# Department of Public Safety – Police



## **Beware, IRS Scams Are On The Rise**

With tax return season in full swing, IRS scams will be on the rise. If you receive a suspicious phone call, please remember the tips listed below to avoid being victimized this tax season:

THE IRS WILL NOT:

- \* Make contact with you by phone, text, email or social media.
- \* Call you and demand immediate payment.
- \* Require you to pay your taxes a certain way.
- \* Ask for your personal information or threaten to have you arrested if you do not pay them immediately.
- \* Require you to purchase an I-Tunes, Green Dot, Amazon.com card or any other type of gift card for tax payment.

## **Got a New Electronic Device for Christmas?**

That brand new tablet or cell phone is going to bring you great joy as long as you keep it safe. \*Don't lay your hand-held electronics down while you are out (ex: cashier counter, dressing rooms).

- \* Don't leave them in the vehicle.
- \* Record the serial number.
- \* Activate tracking software.
- \* Lock your device with a password only you know.
- \* Change passwords often and don't keep them on your device.



## **Over Night Parking**

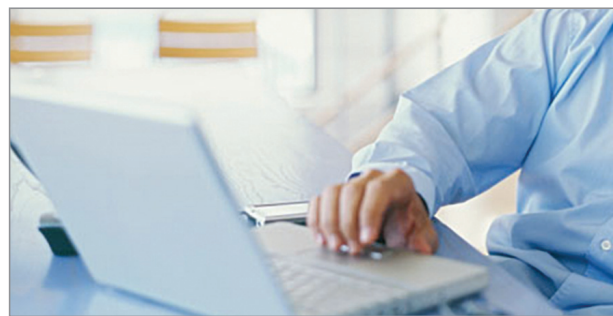
Abuses of overnight parking are being reviewed with a critical eye by the City Council's Ordinance Committee, the Director of Public Safety and the Superintendent of Public Works. A new policy and potential fee increase for an overnight parking pass is expected to be before council in March.

## **Winter Storm Weather Travel Tips:**

- Plan your travel, selecting both primary and alternate routes.
- Let someone know your travel routes and itinerary so that, if you don't arrive on time, officials will know where to search for you.
- Check latest weather information on your radio.
- Try not to travel alone, two or three people are preferable.
- Travel in convoy (with another vehicle) if possible.
- Drive carefully and defensively.
- Watch for ice patches on bridges and overpasses.
- If a storm begins to be too much for you to handle, seek refuge immediately.
- If your car should become disabled, stay with the vehicle, running your engine and heater for short intervals. Be sure to "crack" a window in the vehicle to avoid carbon monoxide build-up.



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).





# Department of Public Safety – Police

## New Public Safety Director Takes Charge



The appointment of then Lt. Vincent Smith to lead the Public Safety Department and be promoted to Director was approved at the November 4th, 2019 regular City Council meeting. Director Smith's candidacy for the position came about from his colleagues. "In order to assess the best fit for the position I felt the community would be best served by me asking the professionals," Joe Rheker states. "As City Manager, I met individually with all full-time members of the Public Safety Department to include dispatchers, patrol, command and fire. I listened to their perspectives on hiring within, who they thought was the best fit and why. Vince Smith was the name that was overwhelmingly stated for being a fair and firm impartial leader who sets the example. His training record reflects his commitment to the concept that public safety departments be proficient in both police and fire response provision. I believe the staff felt their voices were heard and I also believe that Vince Smith is the best fit for this position."

Director Smith has 22 years of law enforcement experience including 17 plus years as a supervisor with the Harper Woods Public Safety Department. He holds a Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Public Safety from Eastern Michigan University, an Associate of Applied Science Law Enforcement from Macomb Community College, he completed advanced individual training at the US Army Military Police School and is a graduate of the former Harper Woods Bishop Gallagher High School.

"Vince has been a mentor and trained most of us in the command staff, he was our Field Training Officer, so he's had a big part in making us the leaders we are today. He's the right man for the job!" said Lt. Chris Schaft - COAM Union member.

"On behalf of the Harper Woods Firefighters Local 1188, we are in full support of the City's appointment of Lt. Vince Smith to Director of Public Safety. We are confident Director Smith will keep the Department moving forward in a positive direction. We look forward to the future of Harper Woods!" said Capt. David Mehl - Union President Harper Woods Firefighters Local 1188.

FOP Patrol Union President Officer Dave Holfelder shared, "I'm excited and proud to serve with Director Smith in his new appointment. He's committed to Harper Woods and will see to it that this department moves forward in a positive direction. As President of our union he has my complete confidence and support."

Director Smith expressed appreciation to his colleagues in support of his appointment by stating that, "Being appointed to the Director of Public Safety position and recognized by my peers in the public safety department is my greatest professional accomplishment. It is an honor to continue to serve the city, it's residents and the members of the Public Safety Department in this capacity. The city government and public safety staff are professionals who strive to keep Harper Woods a destination for families to call home. I look forward to building on the progress of the public safety department by my

predecessors who envisioned a team of public safety professionals delivering the highest quality of service to its residents."



**Pictured top right, Jeff Powell and Public Safety Director Vincent Smith in 2011. Bottom right, they are pictured again in 2019.**



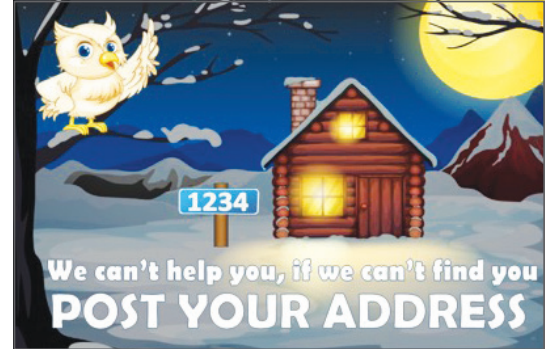
# Department of Public Safety – Fire

## WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE FOR AN AMBULANCE CALL?



When an ambulance is called for service, there are three main areas of concern the emergency medical services providers will look/ask for, alongside the reason for the current complaint/injury. The first is the medical history, meaning any chronic illnesses (high blood pressure, heart conditions, etc.) to include anything the patient is being treated by a doctor for. The second and third items go hand in hand with one another; is the patient allergic to any medications (any medication that caused a rash, swelling, or breathing trouble in the past) as well as the patient's current medications, both over the counter and prescribed by a physician. These items can be listed on a piece of paper that can be kept with the patient or somewhere in the house (posted on the fridge is a common place) so it can be easily obtained by EMS personnel.

These may seem insignificant, however if you think an ambulance may need to come for you or a family member or friend, having this list can save precious time on the scene. Alongside this, please try to remember that a wide, straight path through the house will aid in getting the stretcher to the patient. If you can direct the EMS personnel to an entry door that has a straight pathway, and try to keep it clear of large items, you will be helping EMS quite a bit. During winter months, please try to clear your walkway of snow providing EMS personnel with a safe pathway to move your family member.



There has been an alarming upward trend in home candle fires in the United States. Candles have become increasingly popular among teenagers and

during holidays. More than one-third of candle fires start in the bedroom, and home fires caused by candles occur 10,000 times each year, causing nearly 115 deaths. Candles can create a spirit of warmth, and they add atmosphere and ambiance; but they also create a serious fire hazard. The top three days for candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, like drapes, books, decorations, and clothing.
- Do not place candles where they can be knocked over by children or pets.
- Make sure that candles are placed on a level piece of furniture and in sturdy holders that will not turn over.
- Keep candles and all open flames from flammable liquids.
- Make sure candle holders are non-combustible and big enough to collect dripping wax.
- **REMEMBER: A CANDLE IS AN OPEN FLAME! IT CAN EASILY IGNITE ANY COMBUSTIBLE NEARBY.**



## HEATING YOUR HOME SAFELY

*Did you know?*

Home fires occur more in winter months than any other time of year.

Follow these tips to help prevent winter fires and stay safe this winter season.

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood burning stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.
- Space Heaters
  - Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
  - Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off, so if it tips over, it shuts off.
  - Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.
  - Plug portable heaters directly into outlets and never into an extension cord or power strip.
  - Only use portable heaters from a recognized testing laboratory.



# 32A District Court News

## 32A District Court Nears Completion of Attorney-Client Meeting Rooms

Per Chief Judge Daniel Palmer, construction project of 3 attorney-client meeting rooms is nearing completion. The rooms were mandated by the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) and funded by a state grant.

Since the MIDC law was passed to insure adequate indigent criminal defense services statewide, the 32A District Court has aggressively implemented the new law. "Once we had the necessary funding to improve indigent defense services, we hit the ground running," stated Judge Palmer. Other aspects of the law assure that all indigent criminal defendants have legal representation at their first court appearance (arraignment) and that these attorneys comply with annual training requirements. Judge Palmer also stated, "We started assigning court appointed attorneys for indigent defendants at arraignment as soon as the funding came available. I believe that we were one of the first district courts in the area to do so."

Another aspect of this law requires confidential attorney-client meeting rooms. As the court did not previously have

these, the state funding the construction of the rooms was necessary. These rooms have been constructed in partnership with the City of Harper Woods, and as shown in the photo are nearing completion.

Judge Palmer wants to thank Harper Woods DPW Director Bill Snyder for his assistance with the construction of the new rooms.



## City Clerk Info

### Board and Commission Vacancies

The City is looking for civic minded residents to serve on one of the City's various Boards and/or Commissions. If you would like to take an active part in your community, call the City Clerk's office for more information or fill out an application, found on our website. Presently we have openings on the following: Board of Review, Brownfield Authority, Construction Board of Appeals, Local Officers Compensation Commission, Planning Commission and the Recreation Advisory Board.



- Construction Board of Appeals - 1 Vacancy
- Local Officers Compensation Commission - 1 Vacancy
- Brownfield Authority - 1 Vacancy
- Planning Commission - 1 Vacancy
- Recreation Advisory Board - 1 Vacancy
- Board of Review - 1 Vacancy

### Election News

**Presidential Primary election will be held on March 10, 2020**



The State of Michigan has scheduled a Presidential Primary Election for Tuesday, March 10 2020, for the purpose of narrowing down the list of Presidential candidates for the November Presidential Election. If you want to vote in this election, but

are unsure of your registration status, or you need to register to vote, please call the Clerk's office for assistance. If you would like an Absentee Ballot, so that you can vote by mail, call the Clerk's office and request one. You are no longer required to state a reason for this request, anyone can vote absentee.

# Treasurer Info

## **Public Notice – City of Harper Woods** **Applications for Deferment 2019 Taxes**

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2019 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 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](http://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](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.



## **Water/Sewer Rates**

As of September 1, 2019

Fixed Water Charge:	\$9.69/month
Fixed Sewer Charge:	\$17.08/month
Debt Service Charge:	\$2.50/month
Refuse User Fee:	\$2.30/month
Water Usage Fee:	\$65.13 per thousand cubic feet

\*Water and Sewer 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**

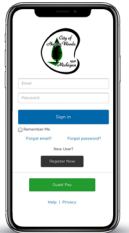
Water Disconnect Fee for Non-Payment:	\$70.00
Final Water Bill Fee:	\$20.00
Unauthorized Turn On of Water:	\$200.00
Water Appointment No Show:	\$50.00

## **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](http://harperwoods.cityinsight.com). *Additional features coming soon!*



## **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](http://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

## The Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA)

DAAA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate, advocate and promote healthy aging to enable people to make choices about home and community-based services and long-term care that will improve their quality of life. The agency serves Detroit, Harper Woods, the five Grosse Pointes, Hamtramck, and Highland Park. The lives of 150,000 older adults and caregivers are touched by the agency annually.



"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" or The Helm at the Boll Life Center (formerly SOC) 313-882-9600



## 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.



## 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.**

<b>Fares:</b> 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



THE WAR MEMORIAL



## PAATS Gift Card and Trip Information

Can't think of a gift for your neighbor, friend, or relative living in the Harper Woods/Grosse Pointe area? Give them a PAATS gift card. Call the PAATS office for more information at 313-343-2580.

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.

### Participating Partner

		<b>In-Home Care Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respite care</li><li>• Safety solutions</li><li>• Dementia and Alzheimer's care</li><li>• Companionship and housekeeping</li></ul>
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**She's always been the independent type. We aim to keep her that way.**

We call our approach Interactive Caregiving™, which keeps our clients mentally and physically engaged while focusing on their needs.

Home + Life + Care | [GrossePointe.ComfortKeepers.com](http://GrossePointe.ComfortKeepers.com) | 586-422-1500

# Library News & Events



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

**Kristen Valyi-Hax**  
Library Director

## From the Director



The New Year always makes me feel so hopeful. Chances for fresh beginnings seem to be within easy grasp. If you are looking for an opportunity to make some positive changes in your life, we can help you here at the library. Want recipes for your new crock pot or pressure cooker? We've got that! Need some books for improving your finances? We've got that! Have an idea for a new business venture you want to start? We can help with that too! Visit us today to see how we can help you have a wonderful 2020.

We can't wait to see you soon!

## Ongoing Events for Children and Parents

**Tot Time:** Toddlers and preschoolers up to 5 yrs. old and their caregivers are invited for stories and songs, followed by unstructured playtime.  
**Mondays, January 27 – March 2 from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.**

**PAWS:** Children are invited to the library to read to our neighborhood story-loving beagle. He enjoys hearing exciting books read to him by our young patrons.  
**Tuesdays, January 14, 21; February 11 and 25; March 10 and March 24 at 4:45 p.m.**



**Homework Help:** Tutoring is available for half-hour sessions for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders on Monday and Wednesday afternoons BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. The service begins on **Monday, January 6** and sessions are available between **4:20 and 6:00 p.m.** Please schedule your appointment with our Youth Librarian. Parental permission is required.

## Special Events for Families

### A Super Brawl:

The day before the NFL's Big Game, we will hold a tournament to crown our very own Super Smash Bros. champion. Think you're the best at Super Smash Bros? Then come out and show us your moves.

**All Ages, Saturday,  
February 1, 2:00 p.m.**



### Valentine's Day Craft:

On Valentine's Day people greet loved ones, close friends, family members, and classmates by sending them cards called valentines. We'll have an opportunity to create a unique card for our special loved ones.

**All ages, Saturday, February 8, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

### Library Lovers' Month – Book Making:

We'll become authors before your very eyes! Put your thoughts and illustrations down on paper and we'll bind them into a book for everyone to enjoy.

**All ages, Tuesday, February 11 at 3:30-5:00 p.m.**

### Black History Month - Let's Hear It Again with

**Gwen:** Gwendolyn Lewis, author of *Plant a Seed...Read* and a retired educator, brings energy in her interactive Black History Month-themed presentation.

**All ages, Saturday, February 29 at 2:00 p.m.**



# Library News & Events



## The Oreo Taste Test:

To celebrate Oreo Cookie Day, we will conduct a highly-unscientific, thoroughly non-biased evaluation of the different Oreo cookies available in

the market. Let's see which one is the HWPL favorite!

All ages, Friday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m.

## National Crafts Month - Paper Crafts:

Paper seems like such a simple material...however, one can create interesting and engaging projects using only paper. Work your creative skills for all to see.

Monday, March 16 at 3:30-4:30 p.m.

## Special Programs for Teens

**Teen Drop In:** The drop-in program will consist of either predetermined new release movies to watch at the library – or- Wii and video games. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesdays, January 8 and 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, February 12 and 26 at 4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, March 11 and 25 at 4:30 p.m.

## Ongoing Programs for Adults

### Read Something Different Book Club

Meets the **second Wednesday** of the month from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**January 8** *How Green Was My Valley* (1939), by Richard Llewellyn

**February 12** *August Snow* (2017), by Stephen Mack Jones

**March 11** *The Good Earth* (1931), by Pearl S. Buck



### Cooking Club

Meets the **third Wednesday** of the month, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

January 15, February 19, March 18

Recipes, cooking techniques, new products, culinary history, and more!

## Mystery Lovers Book Club

Meets the **fourth Monday** of the month, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Choose any book by the author of the month.

**January 27:** Elizabeth George

**February 24:** Hank Phillippi Ryan

**March 23:** James Patterson



## Special Programs for Adults

### Dreams and Visions: Spark Your Creativity!

A Collage Workshop with local artist Katie Hammond. Please register for this event.

Monday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Gourmet Dessert Apple** Learn how to make a tasty treat for Valentine's Day. Please register for this event.

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.

**Paper Easter Egg Wreath** Have *eggstra* fun making this easy craft! Please register for this event.

Monday, March 23, 6:30 p.m.

### Everyone Needs a Friend!

Our Friends of the Library group supports the library with their book sales and Annual Artisans' Market. If you are looking for a way to volunteer and serve your community, ask about becoming a Library Friend at the library or visit our website for more information.

## Regular Hours

**Monday – Wednesday:** 11 am – 8:30pm

**Thursday:** 11 am – 5pm

**Friday – Saturdays:** 1pm – 5pm

### Closed Holidays:

**January 1:** New Year's Day

**January 20:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**February 17:** Presidents' Day

Visit [www.harperwoodslibrary.org](http://www.harperwoodslibrary.org) or call the library at 313-343-2575

# 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.

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.

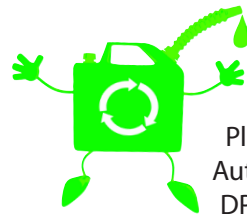
Failure to remove violations penalties are likely to increase in 2020. City Council's Ordinance Committee is considering raising the fines currently at \$25 for first offense to \$50, \$75 for second offense to \$100 and \$125 for third offense to \$150. These potential increases will likely be considered by council in February.

## 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 and recycle bins 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.





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

# 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!*

**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



## 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





# Building Department Info

## Seasons Greetings from SAFEbuilt



As winter once again rears its cold personality upon us there are maintenance items that all residents can perform to prepare us all to have a safe winter.

1. Clean up debris that may become hidden under the snow creating slip and fall accidents such as advertisement flyers, plastic bags, leaves, etc. . .
2. PLEASE-PLEASE-PLEASE clean out your gutters to allow water to flow away from your house foundation. Water that travels down your foundation can freeze and crack your basement walls creating costly repairs.
3. Have a shovel and/or snowblower handy to clear all concrete surfaces. Ice melting agents are a smart item to have readily available as well.
4. An annual furnace inspection should be performed so that you may have peace of mind that it is operating properly and not admitting carbon monoxide into your home.
5. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
6. Be aware of your surroundings and help out your neighbors that are elderly or may have physical limitations.

***Enjoy The Season and Stay Safe!***

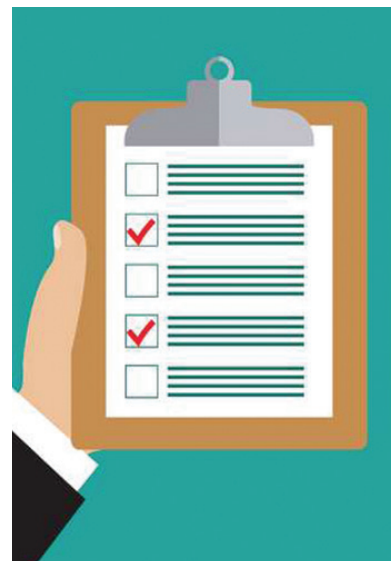
## Assessing Department

The 2020 Notice of Assessments will be mailed out at the end of February with the appeal dates on March 9 and March 23. Check your notice for times the Board of Review will be meeting. Appeal information will be available on the City's website and at City Hall.

All businesses will be receiving the new 2020 Personal Property Statements and Form 5076 Small Business Exemption Affidavit by January. Deadline to file is FEBRUARY 20, 2020.

Veterans filing for the Disabled Veterans Exemption for 2020, must fill out the application and submit the required documents from the Veterans Administration by March 1, 2020. You can obtain an application from City Hall or contact the Assessor's Office to request the application. To inquire about the Disabled Veterans Exemption please contact the Assessor.

The assessor is available on Wednesday's during normal business hours 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
313.343.2527 • [assessing@harperwoods.net](mailto:assessing@harperwoods.net)



### **Participating Partner**



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### **Participating Partner**



**313-881-9556**

**[www.advantageliving.net](http://www.advantageliving.net)**

**19840 Harper Ave., Harper Woods, MI 48225**

# Community & Business Progress

## Residents Select New Council Members



On November 5, 2019 voters elected Ernestine Lyons and Regina Williams to the Harper Woods City Council. The official "oath of office" ceremonies took place on November 12th and included the reappointment of Mayor Kenneth Poynter, Councilmember Veronica Paiz and Cheryl Costantino installed as Mayor Pro Tem. Many residents, family and friends attended to witness this significant milestone in our city's history, noting the diversity of this assembled group which coincides celebrating Women's History Month.

## Inspire the World Training and Consulting Grand Opening

On Sunday, October 27th, a new Financial Services firm, Inspire the World Training and Consulting held a Grand Opening event in Harper Woods. Located at 20386 Harper, their services consist of full financial and business planning by owners K.C. Wilbourn and LaTasha Weatherall. Those services include financial literacy, business consulting/writing, credit restoration, organizational management, and for-profit & non-profit set up services. The Grand Opening was attended by Mayor Poynter and other officials from the city. Welcome to our Harper Woods Community!



## Sir Speedy Printing Relocates



On October 16th, a ribbon cutting ceremony was performed with support from the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce to welcome one of Harper Woods' newest businesses, Sir Speedy Harper Woods. Sir Speedy recently moved from St. Clair Shores to relocate on Harper Avenue. Sir Speedy is a family owned business and has been part of the eastside business community for over 31 years. Owned and operated by Tom and Cathy Coughlin and their daughter Nicole, they strive to handle every print, sign and marketing project with the attention to detail that has helped define their successful and growing business. Welcome to our Harper Woods Community!



# Tree Lighting Ceremony Ignited the Holiday Season in Harper Woods

Despite unusual frigid temperatures on November 13th, the Harper Woods Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony presented by city dignitaries attracted several residents to participate in the festive tradition of “lighting the tree” and city holiday lights. Children from Poupard Packs #44 & #273 and Troops #40327 & 70933 caroled holiday songs while the Harper Woods High School Marching Band played a medley of holiday favorites. A special “Thank You” to Wendy’s restaurant and the Harper Woods-Grosse Pointe Lions Club for their support and generous donations of refreshments for the occasion.



## 2019 Harper Woods Beautification Award Winners



At the November 18th City Council Meeting, the Harper Woods Beautification Commission distributed this year’s awards to the following recipients: Lynda C. Bonucchi, the Dietz Residence, Ursula Dumas, the Fouchia Family, Craig & Lisa Kent, Theresa Lilly, Gardell & Carolyn Sanford, Raoul & Clementine Vanhecke and American Community Developers, Inc. Congratulations to the recipients and “Thank You All” for keeping Harper Woods beautiful!

# 2020 Winter Recreation Program

## Martial Arts

This new, 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 in the gym.

### **Winter Session:**

Jan. 14 - Feb. 27 (No class 2/18 or 2/20)

### **Spring Session:**

March 10 - April 23

**Day:** Tues & Thurs **Time:** 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Fee:** \$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 6 week sessions.

**Winter Session:** Jan. 18 - Feb. 29 (No class 2/15)

**Spring Session:** March 7 - April 18 (No class 4/11)

**Day:** Saturdays **Fee:** \$50.00

**Times:** **Ages 4-6** (co-ed) 10:00 - 11:00 am

**Ages 7-10** (co-ed) 11:00 - 12:00 pm

**Ages 11 & up** 12:00 - 1:00 pm



## Yoga

In today's society, it is easy to become overworked and under-rested. Yoga is an excellent way to shape up your body and mind. Yoga relaxes the mind and body while helping develop concentration, awareness and balance.

This class is held on Mondays at Tyrone Elementary for 6 week sessions.

**Winter Session:** Jan. 13 - March 2 (No class 1/20 or 2/17)

**Spring Session:** March 9 - April 20

**Times:** 6:30-7:30 pm **Fee:** \$40

## Spring Tennis

Our spring tennis will begin on Saturday, May 9th-May 30th. This class runs for 4 weeks.

**Day:** Saturdays **Fee:** \$25.00 per person

**Times:** **Ages 7-10** (co-ed) 10:00 - 11:00 am

**Ages 11-15** (co-ed) 11:00 - 12:00 pm



## Harper Woods Walking Club!!

Join us on Saturday mornings at Salter Memorial Park for walking, and socialize with your neighbors. Pre-registration is not needed and there is no cost. Get your heart rate up by walking the Salter trail. The restrooms will be open for walkers during the walks. Please call the recreation department at 313-343-2560 for more information. Sponsored by Advantage Living Center..

**Winter Session:** Jan. 13 - March 2 (No class 1/20 or 2/17)

**Day:** Every 3rd Saturday of the month

**Time:** 9:00 - 10:00 am

**Cost:** FREE



## 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](mailto:vitaftjudy@comcast.net).



## Pinochle and Cards

Feeling Lucky? You can tempt the luck of the draw every Thursday, at the Harper Woods Library. Pinochle and other card games are played from 1-4 pm. All are welcome.



## Participating Partner

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## Swim

### 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 6 week sessions. **Classes run on Mondays only.**

\*Register early, classes fill up fast.

**Winter Session:** Jan. 13 - March 2 (No classes 1/20 or 2/17)

**Spring Session:** March 9 - April 21

Aquaducks 5:00 – 5:30 pm

Level 1 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Level 2 6:00 – 6:30 pm

Level 3 6:30 – 7:15 pm

Level 4, 5, 6 7:15 – 8:00 pm

**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 6 week sessions at the Harper Woods High School Pool.

**Winter Session:** Jan. 14 - Feb. 25 (no class 2/18)

**Spring Session:** March 10 - April 21

**Days:** Tuesdays **Times:** 5:30 – 6:15 pm

**Cost:** \$55.00



## Water Aerobics

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

**Sess 1:** Sept. 10 - Oct. 15

**Sess 2:** Oct. 22 - Nov. 26

**Times:** Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**Cost:** \$50.00



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 is \$75. The Pavilion at Salter is \$100. The fee is due at the time of reservation.

## **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.

## **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.

## **To Register:**

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

**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**



THE

# COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE



Highlighted in this Edition:

**Chef's Corner • Financial Planning • Health & Fitness • In Home Health Care • Urban Gardening • World Autism Day • And More**

The Community Resource Guide is a quarterly, seasonal guide that provides all Harper Woods residents and businesses an opportunity to share public 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 Spring Edition (April, May, June), contact us at [info@drivecreativeservices.com](mailto:info@drivecreativeservices.com). Deadline to provide information is Tuesday, February 25th (All information provided will be considered without guarantee it will be published)

Have a safe and prosperous 2020!

**To promote your business in this quarterly publication please contact  
Drive Creative Services at 586-453-2487 • email [info@drivecreativeservices.com](mailto:info@drivecreativeservices.com)**



# Today's Health & Fitness

It is that time of year again when most people reexamine their lives and vow to make a personal change for the coming New Year. By February many are "resolution fails."

Life does get in the way.

If you want this year to be different, I have two suggestions for you.

One; make a commitment not a resolution. A commitment is more than giving something a try, you make up your mind that whatever it is; you're going to do it no matter what. We believe in honoring our commitments. For the sake of yourself and those that love you, in 2020-commit to fit.

Two: The workout philosophy that's kept me working out my whole life through busy and tightly scheduled times. The 7-day rule. It's the "resolution solution".

You'll read that we should all workout vigorously an hour a day, 7 days a week.

That's great if you could do that,

but life demands constantly get in the way.

The 7-day rule says, be sure to workout at least twice a week. Now, think of a week as not a calendar week but as just seven days in a row.

If you workout on a Tuesday, you need to workout "one more time" before the following Tuesday. Let's say Saturday is your next workout. Well, now Saturday becomes the first day of the next 7 days. Whatever the day is you workout it becomes the start of the next 7 days. By allowing yourself this flexibility it eliminates the all or nothing mentality that unravels many a good start and actually gets you to start working out more. Yes, you can get in better condition using this method.

Remember, no matter how often you workout, each workout starts the next 7-day cycle. Is that today?



Ken Welch, Owner  
Pointe Fitness  
& Training

## IN HOME HEALTH CARE

Do you or someone you know need help or assistance with day to day activities at home?

Maybe you can benefit from an in-home health care provider. Located in Eastpointe and now happily serving Harper Woods, Comfort Keepers strives to make you and your loved ones lives easier and more enjoyable.

Comfort Keepers understands all the factors that go into accomplishing this goal from who we hire, our flexibility, our skill level, and our cost. We take every aspect of our in-home care to heart and go above and beyond industry standards to truly try to accomplish our mission of elevating the human spirit. Whether it be cooking, cleaning, companionship, or personal care needs, Comfort Keepers mission is to make our clients daily life at home more comfortable.

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**GPPSS Information Nights**

**Kindergarten  
& Young Fives**  
1-9-20 @6:30pm  
Your Fall 2020  
Elementary

**High School**  
1-15-20  
For parents of  
incoming 9th  
graders Fall 2020

**Multi-Age  
Info Night**  
1-16-20 @6:30pm  
Marie Elementary  
740 Cadieux

**Middle School**  
Coming in  
March at Parcels  
Middle School







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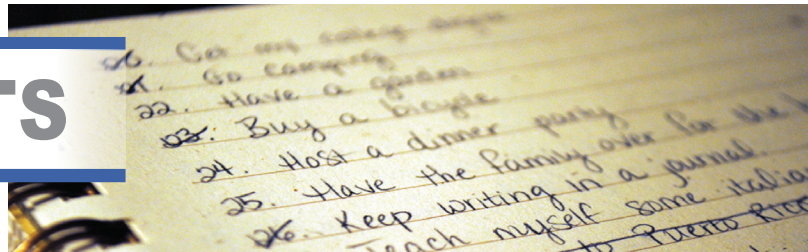


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# YOUR BUCKET LISTS



Most of us have a bucket list that includes our hopes and dreams – adventures, travel, volunteering, retiring and spending more time with family and friends. A financial bucket list is essential if you are going to realize your dream bucket list! I work with my clients to develop both lists and it is probably the most enjoyable part of my job. This is about setting goals and planning how to reach those goals.

The first bucket to fill is for emergencies; cars breakdown, appliances stop working, etc. A good rule is to have 6-12 months of living expenses in your savings account to tide you over if you suddenly become unemployed or have a financial emergency. This bucket has to remain safe and available. I recommend my clients keep these funds in a savings or money market account, things that will not go down in value.

Once you fill your emergency bucket, the other buckets are generally funded simultaneously – drop a little in both buckets every pay period. Your savings bucket is filled for a future goal that you are planning for within the next 3 to 10 years. This bucket may be to buy a new car, or a down payment on a house. It can also be for that trip on your dream bucket list! Invest these funds to keep up with inflation and provide conservative growth.

The third financial bucket should be saving for retirement and wealth accumulation. This bucket provides financial freedom. The more you save, the earlier and more comfortable your retirement. The most common retirement savings is a 401(k) or 403(b) available through your employment. Many times your employer will match some of what you contribute – that's free money, make sure you take advantage. Set up an investment account in addition to qualified retirement accounts. Invest bucket three for the long haul in stocks and bonds that provide

long-term compounding returns.

The most efficient way to fill your buckets is to control spending. I counsel my clients who do not have all their buckets full to be thoughtful in their spending. Every purchase you make today is like taking a withdrawal from one of your buckets. I met with a couple ten years ago, they were in their late forties and had saved almost nothing for retirement. They were frightened and knew they were in trouble.

Ten years later, that same couple is looking forward to retirement because they became mindful of how they were spending their future. Every year for the last ten years both contributed the maximum to their 401(k) accounts at work. They set up an investment account beyond their retirement plans. Every paycheck they each contributed a set amount automatically (if the funds are not readily accessible, they will not be spent!). They invested in an aggressive, but diversified portfolio and the compounding and their contributions have made a world of difference in their financial status.

The couple adjusted their lifestyle; they are happier and more relaxed, and they are very near the date at which work will become optional. Take the time to develop your dreams and financial bucket lists and a plan to make them happen.



For additional information please call  
(313) 290-2602  
or email me at  
[santonelli@antonelliadvisors.com](mailto:santonelli@antonelliadvisors.com).



## Light It Up Blue for World Autism Day

On April 2, 2020, The Family Center of Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods will be kicking off the Light It Up Blue campaign to highlight World Autism Day. Communities and businesses all over the globe including the Empire State Building and the Eiffel Tower

will be aglow in blue lights in support of autism awareness. Individual citizens are asked to also participate by changing their porch light to blue for that night.

The Family Center will be partnering with local businesses, area schools, civic organizations, and other non-profits to bring this to fruition. The project is special in that it does not exclude anyone, it creates connectedness around a singular theme, and supports our citizens and families dealing with autism in a big way. It also enhances awareness, creates empathy and community pride, and will highlight to others that this community is supportive of everyone and is a wonderful place to live and raise children.

For more information, or to participate in this important community event, please contact The Family Center at 313.447.1374 or [info@familycenterweb.org](mailto:info@familycenterweb.org).



# CHEF'S CORNER

## Granny's Chicken and Dumpling Soup

### INGREDIENTS:

2 split chicken breasts (on the bone with skin, about 3 lbs)  
8 cups water  
2 bay leaves  
1-1/2 tsp salt  
3 celery stalks chopped  
3 carrots, chopped  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 tsp cayenne pepper  
1/2 tsp dried thyme  
1/2 tsp black pepper  
1/4 tsp garlic powder  
1 stick (1/2 cup) butter  
2/3 cup AP flour  
1/4 cup cream  
1/2 cup frozen peas

### DIRECTIONS:

In an Insta Pot, add in split chicken breasts, water, salt and bay leaves. Bring to a boil and cook for 45 minutes. Don't boil until water evaporates. Prepare the vegetables and start the dumplings.

## For the Dumplings

### INGREDIENTS:

1-1/4 cups AP flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
1/2 tsp salt  
2 Tbsp butter  
1/2 cup milk

### DIRECTIONS:

In a glass measuring cup, heat the milk and butter until butter is melted. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. Add in milk and butter mixture and stir with a fork just until combined. Dough should be soft. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead to make it come together. Roll out and cut with small cookie cutter. Cover with a damp towel until ready for them. Meanwhile, after the chicken has cooked for 45 minutes, remove and shred with a fork. Add in the chopped vegetables and cook for 10 minutes. In a separate small saucepan, melt butter and whisk in flour. Cook over medium heat for 30 seconds, stirring constantly to create a roux. Gradually whisk in stock until no lumps remain. Add vegetables and bring to a simmer, then add in cream and peas. Bring to a light boil and add in the dumplings, one by one. Stir gently, cover and cook for 10 minutes or until dumplings are tender and done. Turn off heat and add back in the shredded chicken. Stir to heat the chicken through and serve to friends and family.

Winter is here early, and it seems like it will surely be a white Christmas this year. Now that snow is on the ground hotter foods are coming to the table. Soup pots, stews and slow cookers create the foods that warm our souls. Savory broths made from bones and vegetable medleys with aromatic tones are all a part of Winter foods.



In my kitchen this winter I am preparing to have guests over and with that comes a lot of holiday décor. I've become a huge fan of the Insta Pot, it helps me cook even when I don't want to. Pressure cooking helps prepare tender meats and bountiful sauces that fill your home with comfort and love. The best winter recipes start from holiday favorites to foods needed to withstand the coldest nights. Eggnog, hot chocolate, sugar cookies and gingerbread houses; are some holiday favorites. On the

coldest days after shoveling the snow chicken noodle soup is the way to go. There are countless winter recipes I would love to share especially now that the holidays are finally here. I have a recipe for chicken and dumpling soup my Granny would make when I was young. I also want to share my favorite hot cocoa that will carry me through this winter. I hope these staples from my kitchen can help you in yours this winter.

## The Ultimate Hot Chocolate

### INGREDIENTS:

1 cup Borden heavy cream  
3 cups milk  
1/2 cup sweetened condensed milk  
6 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 tablespoon cocoa powder

### DIRECTIONS:

To make this Ultimate cup of chocolate; combine all the ingredients in a small pot. Place over low heat. Wisk all ingredients until chocolate has melted and the cream is frothy. If you really want to make this cocoa special drop in a peppermint candy for a minty fresh flavor, or a 1/2 shot of peppermint schnapps if you're over 21. Serve in your favorite mug or thermos to go. With the remaining heavy cream whip 1/4 cup until it forms a soft peak. Place a dollop of whipped cream right on top and enjoy its creamy chocolate goodness.



-Chef Patricia Lyons



# URBAN GARDENING

Planning a Spring garden in the winter couldn't be easier. If you gardened last year, review the results you got. Were you happy with your yield? If not, consider relocating or changing varieties.

Do some research about plants that are native to your area. Plants that naturally grow where you live will be easier and more likely to yield than imports.

Consider your space. Decide on an earth garden, raised beds or container gardening depending on how much or little space you have.

Get your family or community involved in your vegetable garden project. Kids love to help choose the seeds & will more likely eat what they grow.

Start a compost pile after the last frost of winter. Compost vegetable scraps ASAP before you start your seedlings.

Attend classes about seedling starts, composting and growing. Beaconsfield Farms MI Classes start in April. Find out more on Facebook.



**Fran Ramales Andrzejczyk**  
**Owner Beaconsfield Farms**  
**- Harper Woods**



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<b>66</b> NUMBER OF SALES	
	▼ <b>8.3%</b> FROM PRIOR MONTH
	▼ <b>12.0%</b> FROM Q3 2018
<b>39</b> AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET	
	▲ <b>13.3%</b> FROM PRIOR MONTH
	▼ <b>8.3%</b> FROM Q3 2018
<b>79</b> CURRENT INVENTORY	
	▲ <b>76.6%</b> FROM PRIOR MONTH
	▲ <b>31.7%</b> FROM Q3 2018

**27.8%**  
ABSORPTION  
RATE<sup>1</sup>

▲ **47.8%**  
FROM PRIOR MONTH  
▲ **33.3%**  
FROM Q3 2018

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### QUARTER-OVER-QUARTER

▲ **73.4%**  
ACTIVE

▼ **26.8%**  
UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **9.0%**  
CLOSED

### YEAR-AFTER-YEAR

▲ **51.7%**  
ACTIVE

▼ **1.8%**  
UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **12.0%**  
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)

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## LEARN TO BUILD A BETTER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CUSTOMER

To create customer relationships, and keep them strong, you must do all you can to engage customers. Here are five ways to build customer relationships and keep them coming back.

- **COMMUNICATE:** Promoting your business and listening to your customers are equally important. Have a conversation with your customers - what are their needs?
- **EXCEED EXPECTATIONS:** Under promise and over deliver. Your customers expect great products or services from you. You should continue to raise the bar on what your business offers. When you impress your customers, they will keep coming back.
- **ASK FOR FEEDBACK:** Invite customer feedback to show you are listening and always respond promptly whether it's a compliment or a complaint.
- **CONNECT:** Technology offers more ways to begin a conversation with your customer than ever before. Use online tools and social media outlets to reach your customers and make sure your website is top-notch.
- **SHOW APPRECIATION:** Reward your long-time customers with a loyalty discount program. Give away branded items such as pens, notepads, or inexpensive items such as t-shirts or hats with your logo on it. It's a small yet effective way to say thank you to your customers while keeping your business top-of-mind.

From regular networking and volunteer events to promotion and marketing packages, membership in your local Chamber of Commerce will gain you access to opportunities to make connections, meet potential new clients, and gain exposure for your brand. To learn more, visit [www.grossepointechamber.com](http://www.grossepointechamber.com) or give us a call at the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce (313)881-4722.

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## EXCELLENCE ABOVE ALL

### Our Mission

To support and advance learning for all Harper Woods School District students by obtaining contributions for academics, athletics, arts, and activities.

### Our Organization

The Harper Woods Educational Foundation is made up of a Board of Directors representing the Harper Woods School District, parents, business, clergy, as well as the greater community. The Foundation Board meets a minimum of four times per year to identify funding opportunities as well as to designate funds donated to support academics, athletics, arts, and activities.

### Donate Today To Support

#### Classroom Grants

Support teachers and staff members as they provide classroom based learning activities to support student achievement in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies.

#### Athletics

Afford student athletes with full athletic programs and opportunities to participate in specialized training, clinics etc.

#### Student Scholarships

Provide financial support for students to attend out of school educational opportunities and graduating seniors to continue their post secondary education.

#### Arts

Enhancements to the Fine & Performing Arts program, including art, dance, band, choir, and drama.

#### Student Activities

Offset cost of district sponsored field trips and provide opportunities for ALL students to be able to participate.



### How To Donate

Donations to Harper Woods Educational Foundation are tax deductible. Donors may designate funds to a specific activity. All donations must be made by check payable to Harper Woods Educational Foundation. All donors to the foundation will be recognized for their financial gift to support educational opportunities for Harper Woods School District students.

#### To Donate Contact:

**Chaka Johnson, Parent and Community Liaison**  
chaka.johnson@hwschools.org | (313) 220-6188

#### Harper Woods Educational Foundation

19851 Anita St. Harper Woods, MI 48225  
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