



THE INSIDER

FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!
SPRING EDITION
APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2024

Get the most out of our community!

HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

April

*Check City's website for time and format

- April 1* – City Council Meeting
- April 1 thru April 5 – Yard Waste/ Compost Pickup Begins
- April 6 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- April 15* – City Council Meeting
- April 15 – Water Bills Due
- April 20 – Earth Day Cleanup Event
- April 22 – Earth Day



May

*Check City's website for time and format

- May 4 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- May 6* – City Council Meeting
- May 12 – Mother's Day
- May 15 – Water Bills Due
- May 18 – Spring Perennial Plant Exchange 10:00am-12:00pm at Salter Park
- May 20* – City Council Meeting
- May 27 – City Offices Closed
Memorial Day Ceremony 10:15am at Johnston Park
- May 27 thru May 31 – Rubbish Delay

June

*Check City's website for time and format

- June 1 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- June 10* – City Council Meeting
- June 16 – Father's Day
- June 17 – Water Bills Due
- June 19 – City Offices Closed –
Observance of Juneteenth
- June 19* – Juneteenth Celebration



President Biden Springs Into Harper Woods

How often does a President of the United States visit the City of Harper Woods? Up until now – never! The City was contacted on February 1, 2024 that President Joe Biden wanted to visit Harper Woods and specifically go to the **"THEY SAY"** restaurant on Vernier near Kelly.

At first, everyone at City Hall thought it was a prank call until the Secret Service and the Michigan State Police started to coordinate law enforcement protocol for the visit. I scrambled to notify the Mayor, City Council and District Judge to come and welcome President Biden and his entourage to Harper Woods. We only had a one-hour notice, but we all made it work.

The President brought with him U.S. Senator Gary Peters, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, UAW President Shawn Fain, and many other important dignitaries including Bishop Charles H. Ellis III and NAACP Detroit Chapter President Rev. Wendell Anthony, to our little City. The visit took place at the City's first "minority owned" restaurant, **"THEY SAY!"**



President Biden with Mayor Kindle and Acting City Manager John Szymanski



President Biden with Judge Coleman and Omari

President Biden was impressed with Harper Woods and complimented our City several times. He spent about (20) minutes at our table alone talking to Mayor Kindle, Judge Coleman, City Administration Staff, and myself. The Mayor and I talked about our City needing a recreation center and a new City hall, but the President seemed more interested in talking to Judge Coleman's son – Omari.

But then, a few weeks later, a letter was sent from the State of Michigan awarding our city a \$1.5 million dollar grant to be used for a recreation center. Coincidence, maybe or maybe not.

I'm just hopeful more Presidents visit the City of Harper Woods in the future!

Sincerely,

John Szymanski
Acting City Manager

HARPER WOODS FUN!

Having a family reunion, birthday party or gathering this year?

Our City Park Shelters are available for rent.

See Page 22 for more details.



Additional Photos of President Biden's Visit

Pages 3 & 4



The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Regina Williams

City Council

Cheryl A. Costantino

Tom Jenny

Gerianne LaPratt

Vivian M. Sawicki

Ivery Toussant Jr.

Acting City Manager

John Szymanski

City Clerk

Leslie M. Frank

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

Harper Woods Insider Advisory Board

Vivian Sawicki - Council member, City of Harper Woods

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

John Szymanski - Acting City Manager

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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Harper Woods Highlights: High School Football Championship Parade

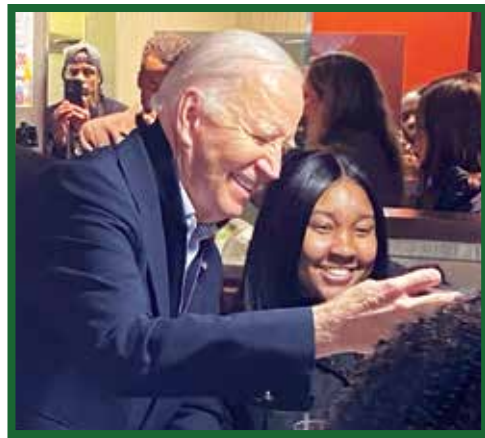


The City of Harper Woods and the Harper Woods School District celebrated our High School Football Team's State Championship historic win by hosting a "Champions of Equality Parade" on January 12th. A pep rally held at the High School closed the event's festivities. Several of our state and local dignitaries participated in the celebration to acknowledge this momentous occasion.

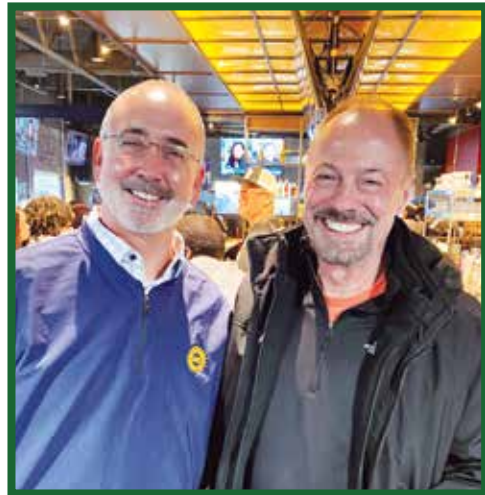




U.S. Senator Gary Peters with NAACP Detroit Chapter President Rev. Wendell Anthony and Mayor Kindie



President Biden socializing with restaurant patrons



UAW President Shawn Fain and Acting City Manager John Szymanski

Featured Business: They Say Restaurant “Looking Forward”

They Say Restaurant is looking forward to serving Harper Woods, eastside communities and the new Eastland Commerce Center. Business has picked up since the summer and fall of 2023. Very recently, President Biden and his political team paid a visit to They Say. President Biden seemed to really enjoy himself as he relaxed, mingled with patrons, and conversed with local political leaders. He even ordered carry-outs for his return trip on “Air Force One”.

The They Say management team has increased their operating hours and operating format. The restaurant is becoming a place to participate in sporting events, host “watch parties” or just join friends and family to have dinner, while watching their favorite team. Of course, the Detroit Lions and University of Michigan had great seasons, which provided many viewing opportunities.

They Say Restaurant now operates seven-days a week as follows:

Sundays 12 noon until 10 pm; Mondays through Thursday, 12 noon until 11 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 12 noon until 12 midnight.



Community & Business Progress



Mayor Kindle welcomes U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
(Background U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell greeting Bishop Charles H. Ellis III)



Judge Coleman greets U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow



Mayor Kindle joins White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre for a photo op



What a Difference a Year Makes

As the reader might recall, in our 2023 summer edition, it was projected that the Eastland Commerce Center would be completed by the spring of 2024. At this point, in the winter of 2024, it would appear that NorthPointe (the Developer) will be able to complete all three buildings along with their associated infrastructure components. Those components are the four large detention ponds with protective fencing, completed parking spaces for trucks and automobiles, loading dock areas for each building and green spaces that have been prepared for their finishing landscape items, i.e. shrubs, bushes, trees, etc.

The Developer has also completed renovations on the rear roadway and sidewalk between Kelly Road and Beaconsfield, as promised. All roads required for this industrial complex have been paved. The infrastructure to accommodate truck traffic to and from the industrial buildings has been completed along Vernier. A traffic signal will be installed on Vernier, where the new entrance has been created to accommodate traffic entering Lowes' parking lot and the new main entrance into the industrial complex off Vernier.

Building #1 (built along Vernier) has already been leased to a large international industrial supplier, Thai Summit. It is anticipated that they will start their operations in the summer of 2024. Interest has also been shown in buildings #2 and #3, particularly the largest building (building #2) adjacent to Home Depot. Building #2 is 535,000 square feet. However, the primary obstacle to the leasing process is that electrical power has not been installed in buildings #2 and #3. NorthPointe must also finalize their plans with DTE to make sure enough electrical power and water pressure is installed to accommodate potential customers.

2023 Harper Woods Beautification Award Winners



The Harper Woods Beautification Commission distributed awards to the following recipients:

Glenda Brown & Bennie Catchings, Patricia Delano, Denise Gornick, Michele Savage Ford,

Terri Williams & Stephen Kress, Nicole & Michael Coyro, Janet & Tom Hummel, Dino Mocerri, Candace & Gregory Hodges, Helen & Gregory Near, and Guesquiere Plastics Testing, Inc.

Congratulations to the recipients and **“Thank You All”** for keeping Harper Woods beautiful!

Upcoming Harper Woods Events!

Save the dates and please check the City of Harper Woods website at harperwoodscity.org for information on time, location, and itinerary for scheduled events.



Earth Day Cleanup
April 20th



Memorial Day Service and Ceremony
May 27th



Juneteenth
June 19th



National Night Out
August 6th

Now Available:
Water App to Pay
Your Water Bill with Cash!
No Credit or Debit Card Needed

City of Harper Woods Cash Pay

Easy way to pay your water bill with cash.*

<p>1. Get</p> <p>Get a barcode with your Water Account Number at bit.ly/3thOqjX and select 'pay with cash at a store instead'.</p>	<p>2. Go</p> <p>Go to participating store locations near you, including Dollar general, Family Dollar, CVS, Walgreens, 7-Eleven, Speedway, and Walmart.</p>	<p>3. Scan</p> <p>Scan the barcode at the register to pay bills and receive a receipt from the cashier for the transaction.</p>
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*Service fee applies.
Payments are posting in real-time to: harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Open Camera Scan Code

harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Treasurer Info

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

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2024 tax deferments starting July 1 for the Summer and December 1 for the Winter tax bills. To qualify, a household income cannot exceed \$40,000. The applicant must also be 62 years of age or older, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, veteran, widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. The deferment applications can be obtained at the Treasurer's Office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

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



The City's website www.harperwoodscity.org provides a link to Assessing/property information including photos, sketches, assessed and taxable values as well as amounts due for taxes, water or miscellaneous invoices and payment history. There is no charge to view this information, however, there is a fee to pay invoices with a credit card processing fee that will apply to any of the payments made through the portal.

Delinquent Tax Information Online

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

Property Transfer Affidavit

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

Electronic Debit Transactions

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



ALERT:

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

Water/Sewer Rates*

As of January 1, 2024

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



***Rates subject to change**

Water Bill Delivery

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

Current Fees Effective January 4, 2018

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

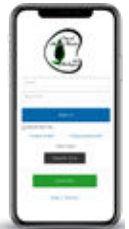
Pay Water Bills & **(Now Available) Tax Bills Online**

www.harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Water Bill: NO FEES

Tax Bill: A CONVENIENCE FEE APPLIES

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



Automatic Payment-Water Bills

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

Automatic Payment-Tax Bills

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

City Clerk Info

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: Beautification Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Brownfield Authority, Local Officers Compensation Commission and the Recreation Advisory Committee.

School Board Candidate Deadline

Eligible Harper Woods School District residents interested in becoming a school board trustee must file petitions with the City Clerk by Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

State Primary Election August 6

On August 6, 2024, voters throughout Michigan will participate in an open primary election for the purpose of nominating candidates to most state and county elective offices. In addition to voting for various elective offices, there may be several state or county wide ballot proposals. The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk is Monday, July 22, 2024. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency in the clerk's office during regular business hours. If you are unsure of your registration status, or where to vote, please call 343-2510 for assistance. If you need an absentee voter ballot application for this election or have any other questions, please call the City Clerk office.



Harper Woods Beautification Commission - Spring 2024

The Beautification Commission (HWBC) is celebrating its 34th anniversary this year! The City of Harper Woods elected to establish the Beautification Commission in 1990 by city ordinance. The HWBC is responsible for advising the City Council on programs, projects, and activities aimed at improving the appearance within the city limits.



With spring in the air, the following is a list of HWBC events:

- ***Get caught doing something positive for your neighborhood!*** National Earth Day is April 22, 2024. Harper Woods has scheduled our city-wide cleanup for Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The HWBC encourages everyone to come out and volunteer with cleanup projects at several locations around the city.
- ***The Perennial Plant Exchange*** has become an annual favorite and is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at Salter Park. The exchange is open to residents of Harper Woods and surrounding communities. Participants provide healthy perennial plants that are potted and labeled with plant identification. Trees, shrubs, and annuals are not permitted for the exchange. Area businesses support the exchange by donating a variety of plants and other garden products, which are raffled off to exchange participants.
- ***Beautification award nominations*** are due by July 8, 2024. Residents who wish to nominate a home in the city for its outstanding appearance and its contribution toward the beautification of the City may contact the City Clerk's office, email HWBeautification@gmail.com, or call Marianne Modlin, HWBC Chair at 313-881-3253. Award winners will be contacted mid-August.

Department of Public Safety – Police



The Harper Woods Police Department consistently counts on residents to be the eyes and ears of the department. Crime prevention is everybody's business,

and without the assistance from residents, officers could not do their job. So, how can you help? If you see something, say something! Most people are hesitant to call 911 to report what they saw or heard as suspicious. Yes, what you saw could have been nothing. But wouldn't it be better for a police officer to check and make sure? Police officers are never bothered or annoyed by suspicious activity calls. Investigating such things is a police officer's job. In Harper Woods dial 9-1-1 to report any in progress incident. What if you waited a couple hours, or even days and you still want to report it? You can still call our non-emergency line at 313-343-2530 to meet with an officer. And remember if you don't wish to have an Officer come to your home you can always come to our station and meet with an Officer in the lobby.



The Harper Woods Department of Public Safety is asking our residents to familiarize themselves with the following Animal ordinances (specifically canines) which can be found on the City of Harper Woods website. Additionally as of January 1, 2024, dog licenses have increased to \$15.00 and must be renewed yearly.

- Sec. 4-26 Dog Bites
- Sec. 4-27 Running at Large
- Sec. 4-28 Vicious and/or Potentially Dangerous Dogs
- Sec. 4-29 Impoundment
- Sec. 4-41 Licensing.



SPRING IS IN THE AIR! Time for Yardwork and Trimming

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - What is it and why is it important to implement? CPTED is an approach to deterring criminal behavior by designing your residence or business to influence criminal acts prior to them occurring. CPTED is an important strategy to employ to your residence as it will, generally, make potential burglars feel less comfortable in your area and around your home. Here are some things you might want to consider while cleaning up your yards.

Residential Entry Points:

Daylight View – Stand outside of your home's primary front entry/exit areas.

- From this line of sight, what can you see?
- Ask yourself, can you be seen by neighbors or vehicle passing by? If you cannot see them, they cannot see you either. Criminals like privacy too!
- Repeat this process on each side of your home.

Night View – Now, stand outside of your home's primary front entry/exit areas at night.

- Repeat the review process as above. What can you see from your doorways?
- Is lighting present to highlight these same entry/exit points?
- Are there dark spaces that could be lighted?
- Repeat this process on each side of your home.

Street View of Property: Walk or drive by the front of your residence from the street.

- Can you see clearly down both sides of the residence?
- Can the windows and doors be seen from the street-view?
- Does your property follow the 2'-6' rule (hedges and bushes no more than 2' high, and tree limbs trimmed to at least 6' above ground)? This reduces hiding spots for criminals.
- At dark, have tree canopies grown so large that they block any street or residential lighting sources?
- Are there places for a person to conceal themselves near your doorways?
- How well maintained is your yard? A well-manicured property displays strong ownership and presence.
- Is there any signage present to display ownership (No trespassing, alarm signage, etc.)?



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.

Department of Public Safety – Fire

SPRING CLEANING? REMEMBER THESE FIRE SAFETY TIPS!

If you haven't gotten around to your spring cleaning yet, don't worry—we're not here to judge. What we are here to do is offer a gentle reminder to keep fire protection in mind when you're cleaning, organizing, and preparing for the warmer months.

We talk a lot about fire safety during the fall and winter, which makes sense given all the indoor and outdoor fires, deep-fried turkeys, space heaters, and holiday lights that tend to show up when it's cold. But now that it's warming up, there are still plenty of ways to incorporate fire protection into your spring cleaning routine. Here are a few areas to keep an eye on, recommended by us and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).



- **Smoke Alarms** – First and foremost, **check your smoke alarms**. It's a task that can easily go forgotten for months, but how convenient that you should change your battery once a year and spring cleaning comes around once a year. Put it on your list of chores for the big clean to ensure that it happens every 12 months. According to the NFPA, a functioning smoke alarm in your home cuts your risk of dying in a house fire by 50 percent.
- **Chimneys** – As cozy as it was in January and February, come April and May chances are you'll be less inclined to build a fire in the living room fireplace. As easy as it is to just scoop out the ashes, close it up, and forget about it until November, go ahead and have the chimney inspected as part of your spring cleaning effort. The NFPA recommends having a chimney inspected and thoroughly cleaned at least once a year anyway, and getting it out of the way this time of year often means ridding it of buildup that would only cause more damage if it hung around until the fall. Plus, chimney technicians will be more likely to have flexible schedules in the springtime.
- **Kitchen** – Keep countertops and stovetops free of grease and clutter. Excess grease on the drip pan or stovetop can easily catch fire. Clean oil and food spills immediately after they occur and wait until the stove is cool to wipe off oil or grease spills. Keep items that can catch fire, such as oven mitts, towels or wooden utensils, away from your stovetop.
- **Electrical Cords** – Inspect the electrical cords in your home and replace worn or tattered ones. Avoid running cords under carpets or across doorways to prevent them from being damaged. Use extension cords only temporarily and plug major appliances directly into wall sockets.

- **Clothes Dryers** – The leading cause of **fires caused by home clothes dryers** is a failure to clean them. So as tempting as it may be to think, "It's fine until next time", as you're throwing in a load of towels, go ahead and scrape that lint out. And make sure to check the drum for extra lint or any items that may have fallen out of pockets, and keep the area around the dryer free from anything flammable like cardboard boxes and cleaning products.



- **Grilling** – Nothing says spring and summer quite like grilling out. We couldn't agree more. But let's not forget that grilling inherently involves fire, so there are a few things to keep in mind. Before you even turn the grill on, check the propane tank, hose and all connection points to make sure it's not prone to any leaks. Once the grill is on, turn off the tank and burners immediately if you smell gas. If you're using a charcoal grill, make sure you're using charcoal starter fluid, not any other flammable liquids. And once you're finished, let all the coals cool completely before dumping them in a metal container.



- **Stored Fluids** – How often do any of us actually organize the cabinets under our sinks, or the black holes of our outdoor storage buildings? If you're already cleaning the rest of the house might as well put that out-of-sight-out-of-mind space on your list. Make sure cleaning supplies and things like gasoline tanks are stored in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children and pets and far from electrical cords or any other heat-producing apparatus.
- **Escape Plan** – While you're at it, go ahead and make spring the time of year when you and your family or roommates go over your **escape plan in case of fire**. Ensure that everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of a fire, and especially if there are children in the house, do a couple practice run-throughs of the escape plan.

32A District Court News



Greetings Harper Woods,

Serving as a judge presents a unique set of challenges and rewards that come with the responsibility of upholding the law and administering justice. One of the primary challenges is the weight of making decisions that have profound impacts on people's lives and livelihoods. Judges must navigate complex legal issues, often under tight deadlines and with limited information, while ensuring fairness and impartiality in their filings. However, the role also brings immense rewards, such as the opportunity to contribute to the development of the law and the satisfaction of resolving disputes fairly and equitably. Ultimately, the privilege of serving as a judge offers a chance to uphold the fundamental principles of justice and make a positive difference in society.

An important aspect in being able to serve as a judge efficiently and effectively is having the correct staff. So, I would like to shine a spotlight on the exemplary dedication and hard work of our court staff and employees who are the backbone of our Court operations. From clerks to administrative assistants, probation department to court security, their tireless efforts ensure the smooth functioning of our judicial system. These exceptional individuals embody the spirit of service and professionalism that defines our court community, and I am forever grateful for their unwavering dedication. Whether it's meticulously organizing case files, assisting litigants, or managing court schedules, their contributions are invaluable. Their professionalism and commitment to upholding the principles of justice deserve our utmost appreciation. Join me in recognizing and applauding the outstanding contributions of our court staff and employees.

I am also happy to announce that we are continuing to make progress in our Community Treatment Program that assists offenders who are dealing with mental health diagnosis, and our Sobriety Court Program, that focuses on helping offenders who suffer from substance abuse addictions. Our Court is committed to implementing and enhancing these court programs aimed at addressing mental health and substance abuse issues within our community. Our primary goal is to provide a supportive and structured environment for individuals struggling with the issues to develop effective tools when dealing with trauma and to overcome addiction and lead healthier lives. Through a combination of treatment, counseling, and regular monitoring, participants in our programs receive the support they need to maintain sobriety, gain stability and make positive life changes. By addressing the root causes of mental health issues and substance abuse while providing access to resources for recovery, our specialty court initiatives aim to reduce recidivism rates and promote long-term rehabilitation. We work closely with local treatment providers, law enforcement agencies, and community organizations to ensure comprehensive support for participants and foster a collaborative approach to addressing mental health and substance abuse issues in our district.

As we enter another quarter of the year, I would like to continue to show my appreciation to the citizens of my great city for entrusting me with the task of leading our District Court because I love providing service to our wonderful community. Please note that our Court continues to operate at full capacity and is open to the public. Attending Court via ZOOM will remain as an option, but please ensure that you have a stable internet connection, are dressed in proper attire, and are in a stationary place that is free from background noise and distractions. Your case cannot be conducted via ZOOM while you are operating a motor vehicle. No matter the format or location, all cases are official Court proceedings and must be respected as such. Safety and Justice continue to be the Court's primary goals, so let's all do our part to achieve these goals.

I am delighted to continue to serve our great city,
Judge Rebekah R. Coleman

CAREERS: * We're Hiring: Specialty Court Coordinator**

Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions, establish priorities and work independently. Must also possess the ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with co-workers and the public. Must be able to deal effectively with the public in handling and meet deadlines. Ability to maintain confidential information.

Application is available at the 32A District Court or
<http://www.harperwoodscity.org/employment-opportunities>

An Equal Opportunity Employer

TO APPLY:

Submit cover letter, resume and application to:

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

trice@32adc.net

Department of Public Works

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.**



Yard Waste Collection

Collection begins the week of **April 1** and runs through the week ending **November 22** (on your trash collection day). Please place your yard waste in brown biodegradable lawn bags or rubbish cans no larger than 35 gallons and labeled YARD WASTE/COMPOST. Yard waste will **ONLY** be collected from the beginning of April through the month of November. **Please check your City calendar for specific dates.** For more information go to www.harperwoodscity.org or call 313-343-2570.



Curbside Leaf Collection

Loose leaf collection begins the week of **October 14** and runs through the week ending **November 15** (weather permitting). Collection will be on your regular trash day. Please be aware that "heavy/large" leaf piles may cause a delay in collection. Leaves should be collected the following day. Please:

DO NOT park on leaf piles in the street.

DO NOT blow or place leaves in the street until the night before your trash day.

DO NOT place leaves on top of/near the storm drain in the curb line.

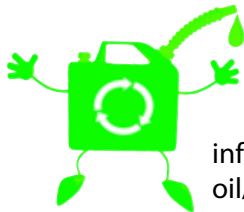
Grass Cutting Violations #89-9 Sec. 16-42 (b)

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

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

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



Trash Delay Reminder!

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

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



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.



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

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.



Building Department Info

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



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

Spring is the perfect time to check your home and property for potential damage caused by the cold winter season.

1. Pick up all of the debris that has been hidden under the snow during the winter months.
2. Prepare your lawn equipment to cut and maintain your property or contact a contractor to do so for you.
3. Remove wild elm trees that grow along side your house, garage or in the fence lines before they become larger and harder to maintain.
4. Make sure your gutters and downspouts are cleaned out and dispersing water away from your foundation.
5. Inspect your concrete for dangerous trip hazards and repair or replace.
6. Deteriorated fencing/structures need to be repaired and painted or removed.
7. Garbage receptacles must be kept behind the house and out of sight from the front view of the property. They should be set to the curb no sooner than the evening prior to your scheduled pick-up date, and returned to the rear yard the same day after pick up.
8. Always make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have fresh batteries.
9. Notify the Building Dept. of any and all blight so we all can enjoy the beauty that Harper Woods has to offer us all.



Assessing Department Info

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

The State of Michigan has adopted new mandatory poverty guidelines for a reduction in taxes based on household income. You can obtain an application from the Assessor's Office or from the City website under the Assessing Department. Please contact the Assessor's Office for the due date to apply for the current tax year.

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

Department of Public Works



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

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

The City continues to provide public education material to every water customer in Harper Woods. As in the past, important information will also be included in the Annual Consumer's Confidence Water Quality Report.

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

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

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

Please be on the look out for the red **"testing required"** door tags and call to schedule delivery of sample bottles as soon as possible.

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

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

LEAD POISONING - Know the facts

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

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



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

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

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

1. TEST YOUR HOME FOR LEAD

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

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

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

2. KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM LEAD PAINT AND DUST

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

3. RENOVATE SAFELY

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

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



WOW!

PAATS WILL TAKE ME THERE?



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



clubs/restaurants ---- shop the Gratiot Loop



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



THE HELM

city hall -- area attractions - coffee shop

**158 Ridge Rd,
Grosse Pointe Farms**

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



Senior Resources

Help for Seniors and Family Caregivers

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

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

Call 313-446-4444.

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



PACE Southeast Michigan revolves around YOU



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

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

Our Service Area

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

Requirements – Passengers must:

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

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

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

Our Fares

ZONE 1

\$2.00 each way:

Within Harper Woods & the Grosse Pointes

ZONE 2

\$3.00 each way:

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

ZONE 3

\$4.00 each way:

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

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

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

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



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

Library News & Events



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

Kristen Valyi-Hax
Library Director

From the Director

Spring has sprung, and we are looking forward to the warm weather. Whether you are looking for information on updating your garden or wanting to do some serious spring cleaning, we have the resources here to help you out.



Our Annual Summer Reading Program is starting soon and will run from June 17 through July 26. We will have games, events, and prizes for all ages. Sign up with us to promote healthy reading habits and prevent the "Summer Slide" for your kids.



As we go into the end of the school year, don't forget that you can help the kids in your family with Tutor.com, an online way to get help with students of all ages. All you need is your library card, and teachers will be there to assist with any subject. If you don't have your card, come in and see us.

Youth and Family Programming

Evening Family Storytime

Come to the library for a storytime and activity the whole family can enjoy. Stick around afterward to learn about upcoming programming.

Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30pm

Book Tasting

Independent readers in Grades 3-6 come visit the library to try a taste of different reading genres. Refreshments will be served at the end!

Saturday, May 18 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm



Summer Reading Program

Summer Reading: June 17 – July 26



Join us for our summer reading program "Adventure Begins at Your Library". Explore different kinds of adventures each week. Read for prizes and participate in weekly programs.
Ages Birth to 17

Summer Reading Ice Cream Social

Summer Reading participants and their family are invited to an end of program celebration!

Wednesday, July 31 from 4:30-6:00pm



Ongoing for Children, Teens, and Families

Storytime! Wednesdays at 11:15am

Join us to sing, move, and listen to stories with your little one! Storytime is geared to children ages 2-5, accompanied by a caregiver. No registration is required!

Drop-In Programming: Wednesdays from 5:30 pm – 6:30pm



We will have Drop-in Lego Building on the 1st and 3rd weeks and Drop-in Games and Puzzles on the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month.

No Drop-In on Wednesday, April 24

Additional Programming

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for up to date programming information!

Adult Summer Reading Program: June 17 – July 26

Adventure Begins at Your Library!

Call the library to sign up or see the librarian at the Reference Desk. It's open to adults 18 years and older. Read or listen to at least 3 books to be eligible for food & prizes at our **End of Summer Reading Celebration** on July 29.

Ongoing Programs for Adults



Wednesday Book Club: **1:30 – 2:30pm**

A study guide containing book summary, discussion questions, and author biography is available upon request.

- April 24: **Firekeeper's Daughter** by *Angeline Boulley* (2023-24 Great Michigan Read)
- May 22: Any book in the **Killing** series by *Bill O'Reilly*
- June 26: **Horse** by *Geraldine Brooks*



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

Mindful Mondays: 1:30 – 2:30pm

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

- April 8: Tax Season: A Penny (or More!) for Your Thoughts
- May 13: May Day Celebration: Flowers, Food, and Fun
- June 10: June is Bustin' Out All Over

Herb/Spice of the Month

Visit the library for a free pre-measured sample of the herb or spice of the month, plus fun facts & recipes.

Available while supplies last.

- April: Celery Salt
- May: Poultry Seasoning
- June: Taco Seasoning



Current Library Hours:
Monday – Wednesday 11am – 7pm
Thursday – Friday 11am – 5pm

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

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

313-394-9712

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



2024 Summer Recreation Program



Please be advised that all programs, activities, dates, times, and locations are subject to change and/or cancellation. Please call our office at 313-343-2560 with any further questions.

Arts & Crafts

One of our most popular programs! Need a few hours in the morning to yourself? Arts & Crafts is a fun, supervised place for your child to have fun and make new friends! Children ages 3-10 years old will enjoy participating in games, craft making and playground play. We offer one six-week session for this program. This program is held outdoors under the picnic shelter at Johnston Park. We will be outside except in cases of extreme weather, so please dress children accordingly. Children must be potty trained. Register early, this program fills up quickly!

Dates: June 24-August 8 **No class Week of July 4**

Days & Times: Age 3-5 years old
Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:00am-12:00pm
Age 6-10 years old
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00am-12:00pm

Fee: \$60 per child - includes daily snack, craft materials and T-shirt.

Kids Tennis

Whether you are a beginner or advanced, you will have a great time in this class. Tennis is held at Johnston Park.

Mini Session:

Session I: April 27-May 11
Day & Time: Saturdays 11am-12pm
Fee: \$33
Ages: 6-High School

Regular Sessions (4 weeks):

Session II: June 18-July 18, **No class Week of July 4**
Session III: July 23-August 15
Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Fee: \$40 per 4 week session
Times: Ages 6-8 9:00am-10:00am
Ages 9-High School Age 10:00am-11:00am

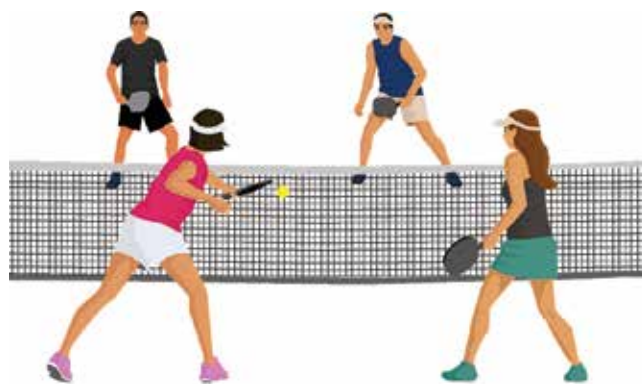


Adult Tennis

We now offer tennis lessons for adults too! Tennis is held at Johnston Park. Great for beginner or advanced.

Session I: April 27-May 11
Day & Time: Saturdays 10am-11am
Fee: \$33

Session II: June 15-July 13 **No class July 6**
Day & Time: Saturdays 10am-11am
Fee: \$40



Pickleball Lessons

Pickleball is a fun, friendly, and social game. It combines aspects of Tennis, Badminton, and Ping-pong. No experience is necessary and equipment is provided. Reserve a 2 hour lesson for between 1-4 players at the Pickleball Court at Johnston Park with our experienced Pickleball Instructor.

Days: Wednesdays & Saturdays
Dates: June 22-July 31
Times: 9:00am-11:00am
Fee: \$5 per person per lesson

Yoga

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

Class Schedule: Monthly/Ongoing
Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 6:00-7:00pm
Fee: Residents \$45 per month
Non-Residents \$55 per month



Summer Dance

Come join the fun and dance as we start our 41st year of the program! **There is no residency requirement.**

Classes will be held on the stage in the Harper Woods High School Auditorium. We require at least one adult to stay with each student child and watch, siblings are welcome too. Pre-registration is recommended at the recreation office with cash, check or money order, or mail your form with a check or money order to the recreation office. Another option is to register in person in the auditorium the first week of classes. **All students**

must be paid in full prior to participating. The payment plan is not available for the summer classes.

Please call the dance program director (Nonny Sperry) at (313) 885-3714 or the recreation office for more details or updates.



Dates: June 17th-July 22, 2024

Monday Classes

Instructors: Miss Mikayla Schiller, and Miss Nonny Sperry

10:30-11:00---Babes in Danceland, ages 2-3 (with an adult)

11:00-11:30---Creative Movement/Pre Ballet, ages 3-5

11:30-12:00---Pre-Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 3-5

12:00-12:30--- Lyrical, ages 6-8

12:30-1:00---Hip Hop, ages 6-8

1:00-1:30---Ballet, ages 6-8

1:30-2:00---Lyrical, ages 9-12

2:00-2:30---Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 9-12

2:30-3:00---Teen/Ballet

Dance Tuition - \$45 (includes 6 lessons) *Plus \$5 registration fee per family.

Family Plan Discount - Family Plan- 2 classes or more. *Applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in 2 or more classes. *

\$10 off for 2, \$15 off for 3, \$20 off 4 or more

Zoom Zumba

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

Class Schedule: Monthly/Ongoing

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

6:30-7:30pm

Sundays

11:00am-12:00pm

Fee: \$40 per month



Fitness Firm Aerobics

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

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

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

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

Email; vitafitjsheehy@comcast.net

Harper Woods Walking Club!!

Join us 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 for more information.

Date: May 18- June 29

Days: Saturdays

Time: 9:00am-10:00am

SAVE THE DATE

Memorial Day Ceremony



The City of Harper Woods Memorial Day Service and Ceremony will be held on **Monday, May 27th** at the

Veteran's Memorial, located at Johnston Park, beginning at 10:15am. The Veterans organizations and service organizations within Harper Woods participate in this program. All are welcome to attend in honor of those who have fought for our country.

Memorial wreaths are placed at the Memorial Flame in their memory. A continental breakfast is served immediately following the service.

Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

The Recreation Department has three parks for community use, each with children's playground equipment and picnic sites. Picnic reservations are accepted starting the first business day of January. Only one picnic allowed per household per year. Residents making a reservation must be 21 years of age or older. **No Moon bounces, trains, charcoal grills, confetti, port-a-potty's, bands, or DJs** allowed for picnics. Picnics may be reserved from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and must be reserved four weeks in advance, with a minimum of three weeks in advance. Refunds for cancellations are only given if you cancel at least 4 weeks before your scheduled picnic date. ****There are no dogs allowed in Johnston or Danbury Park. **Dogs are allowed at Salter Park on a leash, not allowed under shelters or playscape.**



Please see Harperwoodscity.org for a complete list of park and picnic rules.

Park Fees *(Fees are subject to change)

There is a Fee for picnic reservations. A shelter at Johnston or Salter Park is \$100.00. The Pavilion (enclosed building) at Salter Park is \$125.00. The fee is due at the time of reservation. Cash or check only.

Financial Assistance Program

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

Recreation Refund Policy

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

To Register:

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

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

The Recreation Department is located near the front of Johnston Park

Office hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday

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

313-343-2560

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

City of Harper Woods

Parks & Recreation Department.

You can also contact us at

harperwoodsrec@harperwoods.net

or 313-343-2560.

Harper Woods Recreation Department

Participant Name _____

Age _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Birthdate _____

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

Activity _____ Days/Times _____

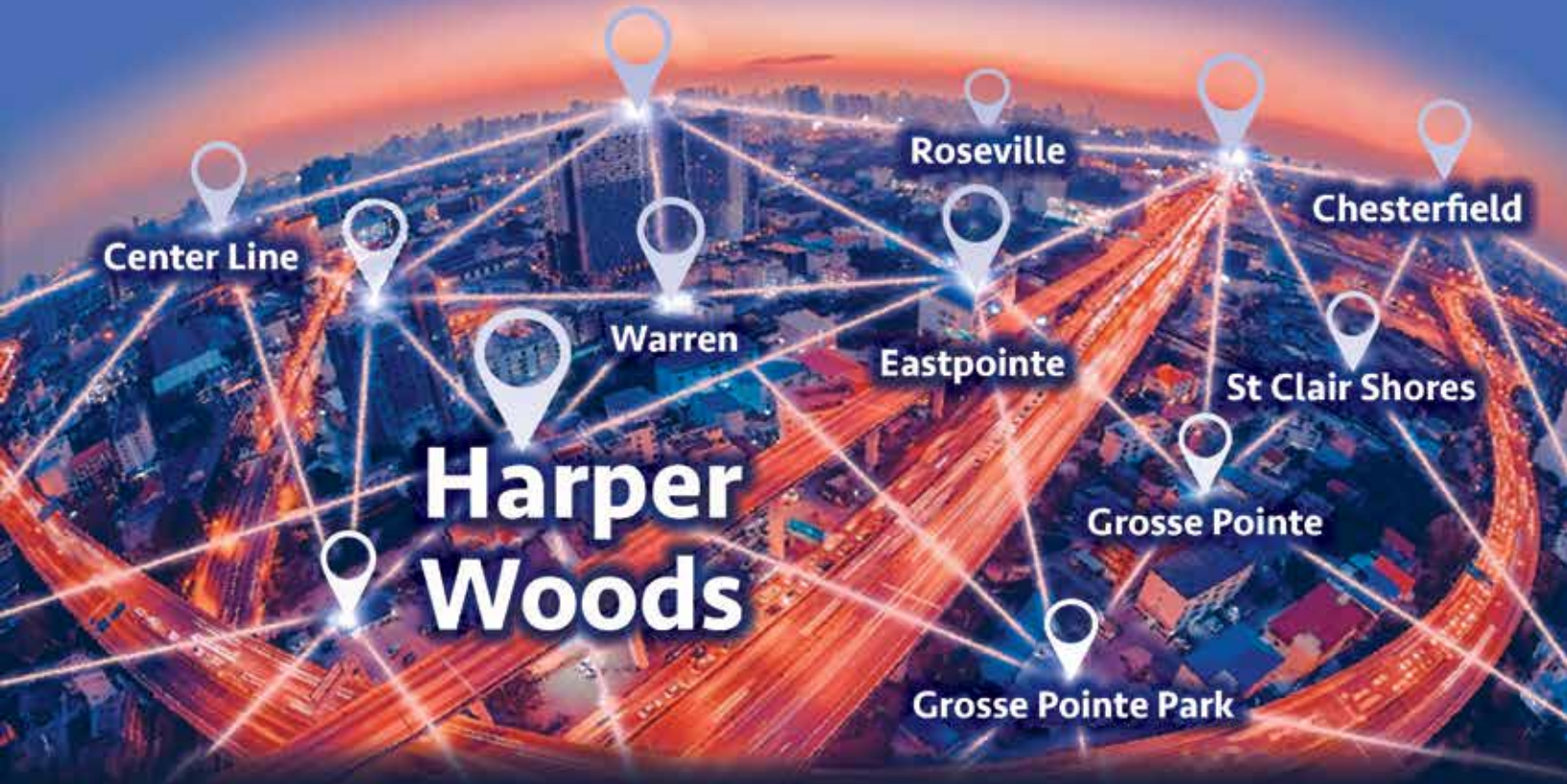
Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant _____

the Community Resource Guide



Harper Woods Edition



Highlighted in this Edition:

**Health & Fitness • AI Artificial Intelligence: Helping Small Businesses
Harper Woods Real Estate Trends • Business Directory • Education • And more**

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

If you or someone you know have an event to promote, a story to share or an idea for the upcoming Summer Edition (July thru September) email us at info@drivecreativeservices.com.

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

Deadline to provide information is Friday, May 17, 2024.



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



DISCOVER YOURSELF WITH US.

2024-2025
OPEN ENROLLMENT
AVAILABLE
JUNE 17!



JOIN US IN OUR
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

BEACON ELEMENTARY

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

*Headstart available for Pre-K

TYRONE ELEMENTARY

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

TRIUMPH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

HW HIGH SCHOOL

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

HW COLLEGE & CAREER INSTITUTE

20570 Kelly Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
586-701-3239



UNIQUE PROGRAMS

eSports Graphic Design & Printing Culinary Arts Radio & TV META24

Marketing



Entrepreneurial Leadership



Cyber Security



Virtual Academy



Robotics

Advanced Degree Program Dual Enrollment Construction Trades & MORE!

Check it off, we have it all!

Today's Health & Fitness



Ken Welch, Owner
Pointe Fitness
& Training

It's Spring. That means we're finally able to shake off winter and expand our fitness routines to include the great outdoors. With that in mind, it's also a good time to appreciate the most important body part that will support all of your activities. Your feet.

All the benefits you gain from running or walking; weight control to cardiovascular improvement, starts with the condition of your feet. When strength training, the development of power and balance doesn't happen without the proper posture and positioning on the solid base your feet provide.

Consider this: Most people take an average of around 6,000 steps per day which translates to over 2 million steps a year. With each step, you may be placing 1.5 times your body weight on your feet. Feet work hard.

Also, over the course of our lives our feet change due to stress and wear. Our arches become less pronounced and flatten out. Our feet become longer and wider and our heel pads wear out reducing shock absorption. They also stiffen up reducing range of motion and balance. Different types of fungus and joint deformities are not uncommon. Gross but true.

It's important to recognize these changes and address them as they happen. For example; the shoe size you may have worn when you were in your 20's is not the shoe size for you in your 40's or 50's. Personally speaking, I use to be a size 11, narrow. The last running shoe I bought was a size 14, wide. It happens!

Respect your feet. Keep them properly fitted, clean, supported and maintained. Don't suffer in too small or worn-out shoes. Save flip-flops for the pool and the beach, not to go shopping in. Wear socks. Trim your nails, take care of blisters and calluses and don't let small issues go unattended; see a podiatrist. These are a few of the things you can do to keep your feet healthy so you can be healthy.

A good exercise program starts by putting your best foot forward.

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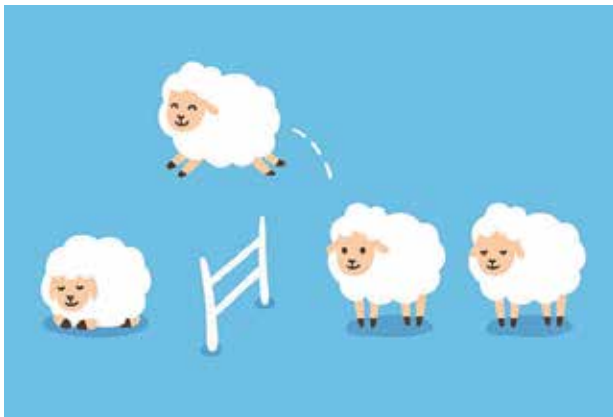


The Family Center

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Exploring the Consequences of Sleep Deprivation

Sleep is a universal necessity, varying with age and individual needs. Researchers have extensively studied the consequences of sleep deprivation, including its impact on brain function, REM cycles, and overall well-being, emphasizing the crucial role sleep plays in maintaining health.



For optimal sleep health, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and Sleep Research Society recommend seven or more hours of sleep per night for adults aged 18-60 and seven to eight hours for adults over 65. Sleep deprivation often leads to cognitive impairment, affecting necessary yet monotonous tasks that take place daily, such as managing emails, coordinating meetings, or handling routine responsibilities.

An alarming finding shows adults being unable to recognize such impairments. This poses a risk of errors that can affect others as irritability, low energy and libido, and impaired judgment set in. Fortunately, these issues resolve quickly, and optimize cognitive function, when highlighting the importance of understanding and preventing the consequences of insufficient sleep.

Much like caring for your teeth, your brain too thrives on routine. Practices such as eliminating screens 30-60 minutes before bedtime, filtering blue light by utilizing the night shift feature, and avoiding late evening exercise are important to implement. Additionally, consistent bedtime, limited caffeine in the second half of the day, and alcohol avoidance before bed contribute to better sleep quality. For those with unique sleep needs, personalized advice is good to obtain by consulting your primary care provider.

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

Paramveer Swaich, DO, Family Medicine, Corewell Health East-Grosse Pointe. For more information, please visit: www.corewellhealth.org.

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SPRING INTO WELLNESS: BRIGHTEN YOUR DAYS WITH TIPS FROM YOUR LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT

By Tracy Purnell, Licensed Professional Counselor

As spring approaches, seize the opportunity for growth, fresh beginnings, and well-being. As a licensed counselor, I am delighted to share tips to help rejuvenate your mind and body.

Whether it's reading a book, taking a bubble bath, or practicing mindfulness, commit to self-care by engaging in activities that bring relaxation and joy.

Remember that joy is abundant, even in times of reduced sunlight. Subsidize with other avenues of fulfillment like spending quality time with family and friends to rejuvenate your sense of belonging during the seemingly isolating winter months.

As winter passes and spring approaches, you'll find many opportunities to ground yourself both physically and mentally. The combination of engaging with nature and releasing endorphins can be achieved through participating in sports, peaceful nature walks, and interacting with the blooming world around you.

You can also harness springs energy to declutter your space, fostering mental clarity. Pay attention to emotional attachments to items and consider letting go of things that no longer serve you, tackling one area at a time if needed.

Remember that simple joys can be found in simple experiences, like touching the earth. From backyard vegetable gardens and stunning fragrant flowers, to achieving your first house plant giving you a new leaf, much satisfaction comes from nurturing life.

After prioritizing the rejuvenation of energy in winter, the opportunity of spring isn't to be underestimated. From revisiting January resolutions, to setting new and challenging goals, spring is a time to seek motivation and purpose.

By incorporating a few of these tips into your daily life, you can spring into wellness and experience greater happiness, balance, and vitality. Here's to a season of growth, renewal, and flourishing well-being.

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A portrait of Tracy Purnell, a woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored blazer, smiling.

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Jenny Boettcher, Lisa Frasier, Abigail Turnbull

effectively, increase productivity, and ultimately drive growth and success in today's highly competitive business environment.

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AVERAGE SALE PRICE

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FROM Q3 2023

▲ 6.2%
FROM Q4 2022

59

NUMBER
OF SALES

▼ 11.9%
FROM Q3 2023

▲ 15.7%
FROM Q4 2022

33

AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▲ 3.1%
FROM Q3 2023

▼ 28.3%
FROM Q4 2022

70

AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▼ 2.8%
FROM Q3 2023

▼ 26.5%
FROM Q4 2022

27.3%

ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▼ 14.4%
FROM Q3 2023

▲ 57.5%
FROM Q4 2022

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q4 2023) OVER QUARTER (Q3 2023)

▲ 2.9%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 31.9%
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ 11.9%
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q4 2023 vs. Q4 2022)

▼ 26.5%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 10.9%
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ 15.7%
TOTAL CLOSED

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

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

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

Peppered in reds, yellows, and greens, the Q4 information clearly demonstrates the complexities of the market. For example, how can a decline in an Absorption rate of 14% and an increase in the absorption rate of 57% both be a good thing (details to follow).

Average Sale Price – Good: It is always good to see moderate increases, a run-away market in either direction is never good for the consumer in the long run.

Number of sales – Fair: With Q4 generally being a time of fewer sales, a decline of 12% is not alarming. The increase year over year is likely due to the aggressive rise in interest rates seen in 2022 which choked off sales in the latter part of the year.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good: How people perceive this number is more a matter of personal perception than market reality. While many recall the days when days-on-market were less than 15 days, those were unusual times. In a normal market 72 days is the average, so 33 is still brisk, it just doesn't feel like it.

Inventory – Poor: The decline in inventory is the primary constraint for those looking to sell who need a new home, and for those looking for their first home. Unfortunately, there is no relief in sight.

Absorption Rate – Seller's market: With the continued low inventory and relatively high demand as more people look to own a home, an absorption rate under 30% does not abuse buyers. By the same token, an absorption rate in the low teens could suggest serious trouble for housing, which is never good for the typical buyer or seller. This is why the decline in the Absorption Rate to below 30% is good, and the increase from the low teens is good as well.

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

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