

# THE INSIDER

## FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community  
resource guide for the  
City of Harper Woods!  
**WINTER EDITION**  
JANUARY THROUGH  
MARCH 2026

Get the most out of our community!

### HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

#### January

\*Check City's website  
for time and format

- January 1- City Offices Closed - New Years Day
- January 1 & 2- Rubbish Delay
- January 3- Siren Test, 1:00pm
- January 3- Intro to Guitar Class (Library)
- January 5\*- City Council Meeting
- January 15- Water Bills Due
- January 20- City Offices Closed - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21\*- City Council Meeting



#### February

\*Check City's website  
for time and format

- February 2- Groundhog Day
- February 2\*- City Council Meeting
- February 7- Siren Test, 1:00pm
- February 14- Valentine's Day
- February 16- City Offices Closed - Presidents' Day
- February 17- Water Bills Due
- February 17- Winter Taxes Due
- February 18\*- City Council Meeting
- February 21- Sewing Essentials Class (Library)



#### March

\*Check City's website  
for time and format

- March 2\*- City Council Meeting
- March 7- Siren Test, 1:00pm
- March 8- Daylight Saving Time, Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
- March 16\*- City Council Meeting
- March 16- Water Bills Due
- March 17- St. Patrick's Day
- March 17- Irish Dance Performance (Library)
- March 20- First Day of Spring



### From the Mayor's Desk

#### Dear Harper Woods Residents



As your Mayor and a proud, long-time resident of Harper Woods, I am once again deeply honored to serve our community!

Throughout the years, I have stood by our City when times were tough and helped it grow to be the thriving community that it continues to be. I did not do this by myself. It was made possible with the dedication of our residents, our local businesses, and the commitment of a forward-thinking City Administration and City Council.

Most people cannot even remember what the old Eastland Mall site looked like a few years back compared to what it is

today. Still, new developments keep coming—including the Fraser Square Townhouses, built on the former Poupard Elementary School site. We are also excited for our Community Center planned for 2026, and the completion of our "Pocket Park" at Roscommon & Duprey.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of our City Council and Administration, we have successfully lowered property taxes. This achievement reflects our commitment to community well-being.

We are also investing in the future of our residents. Through our membership in the "Active Adult Commission," we are expanding services for our senior citizens, such as new classes, workshops, and social events. For individuals of all ages, we have introduced recreation programs, music festivals, concerts, and movie nights to promote health, wellness, and community spirit.

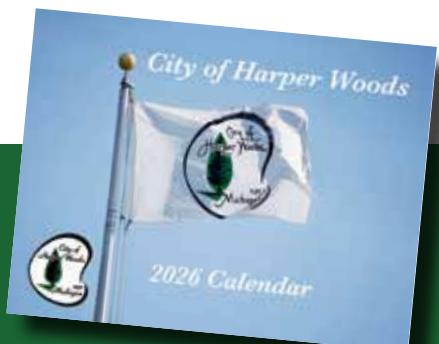
Transparency and trust remain at the heart of our efforts. That is why we have launched a Police Transparency Dashboard on the City's website—[harperwoodscity.org](http://harperwoodscity.org)—to provide accurate information and counter misinformation circulating on social media.

My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to attend one of our regular City Council meetings. Together, we will continue to shape the future of Harper Woods!

With gratitude and commitment,

**Valerie Kindle**  
Mayor, City of Harper Woods

Look for your  
**HARPER WOODS 2026 PULL OUT WALL CALENDAR**  
In this Edition of *The Insider*



# The City of Harper Woods

## Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

## Mayor Pro Tem

Vivian M. Sawicki

## City Council

Cheryl A. Costantino

Teresa Foster

Gerianne LaPratt

Ivery Toussant Jr.

Regina Williams

## 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** - Mayor Pro Tem, City of Harper Woods

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

**John Szymanski** - City Manager

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

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# Employee in the Spotlight

## **Kelly Guyman**

Though her new role as Library Director places her more behind the scenes, Kelly Guyman is steering the ship with a clear sense of purpose. Formerly the Youth Librarian, she fondly recalls the joy of interacting with children and witnessing their unique interests. While she misses the daily connections, she feels she is now able to make a broader impact on the community.

With a rich background in museum leadership—including roles at the Zekelman Holocaust Center, Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum, and Pewabic Pottery—she brings a curator's eye and a community-first mindset to Library operations. The transition has come with a learning curve, especially in mastering the financial and operational aspects of running a public institution. Yet, she is energized by the challenge and excited about the changes underway.

One of her proudest initiatives is the launch of a home delivery program, ensuring that residents who are homebound can still enjoy the Library's offerings. Accessibility, she believes, means meeting people where they are located.

Starting in January, the Library will unveil its "Library of Things," a dynamic collection that goes far beyond books. Residents will soon have access to 3D printers, a tool library, and other hands-on resources designed to empower creativity and practical learning. These additions are meant to open a world of possibilities, especially for those who may not have access to these tools at home.

Community partnerships are central to her vision. Collaborating with our neighboring Grosse Pointe Public Library, the Library is rolling out introductory programs like guitar lessons, sewing classes, and other popular hobbies. These offerings aim to bridge gaps and foster connection among residents of all ages and backgrounds.

While she may no longer be the face greeting residents at the door, her leadership is shaping a library that reflects and responds to the evolving needs of its community. With every new initiative, she is proving that sometimes the most powerful work happens behind the scenes. Make sure to check out the exciting Library programming on page 20.

***Keep up the magnificent work that you do, Kelly!***



# Neighbor in the News

## **Mikayla Schiller**

For 21 years, Harper Woods has been more than just a place to live; it has been home to Mikayla Schiller, a vibrant resident whose roots run deep. Born and raised in the City, with parents who also grew up here, she embodies the spirit of community connection and generational pride.

As a dance teacher and active participant in the Parks and Recreation program, Mikayla is not just shaping routines, she is shaping lives. Her work allows her to engage with residents of all ages, especially youth, helping to foster creativity, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

Some of her fondest memories include the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, where the air fills with Christmas carols, the scent of cookies, and the warmth of hot chocolate. She also treasures the Santa breakfasts and her involvement in the dance and arts & crafts programs—moments that bring the community together in joy and celebration.

Her commitment to Harper Woods goes beyond teaching. She is a familiar face at City events like Trunk-or-Treat and National Night Out, and she takes pride in restocking the Little Free Libraries around town, ensuring that stories and knowledge are always within reach.

Why does she do it? "**By being involved in our communities, we set examples and influence the next generation,**" she expressed. Her hope is that others see her efforts and feel inspired to join in or start their own journey of service.

Her dream for the future of the City is simple but powerful: more community involvement and more activities tailored to preteens and teens. She believes that with greater participation, Harper Woods can continue to grow as a place where everyone feels seen, supported, and celebrated.

***Thank you for being a positive role model for our future generations!***



# Community Progress

## A New Zoning Ordinance

In 2024, the City of Harper Woods Economic and Community Development Department secured funding from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to complete an update of the City's Zoning Ordinance. The planning team McKenna Associates was hired to lead the efforts to update/rewrite the Ordinance, with the assistance of City stakeholders, from the summer of 2024 through June of 2025. The new Ordinance was reviewed by the Planning Commission in late winter and spring of 2025 and adopted by the Harper Woods City Council in June 2025.

The ordinance changes were made to achieve the following:

- Implement goals and objectives from the Master Plan.
- Modernize Ordinance provisions as necessary to comply with current State and Federal case laws and regulations.
- Acknowledge changes in development and land use trends, and improve ease of administration.
- Make the Ordinance more legible and user-friendly.
- Incorporate best practices and align the Ordinance with best practices of the MEDC's "Redevelopment Ready Communities" (RRC) program, and the MSHDA "Housing Readiness initiative."

In the words of Stephanie Peña, a MEDC Official, **"The Ordinance was absolutely amazing and exceeded RRC expectations. Beyond its accessible nature, I appreciated the thoughtful approach to Missing Middle Housing and environmental sustainability efforts."** Having completed the update of the Zoning Ordinance, Harper Woods is now aligned with 64% of the RRC Essentials expectation and 71% of the Certified expectations. Please note that the 71-unit Fraser Square development is a Missing Middle Housing development, supported by a substantial grant from the MSHDA to make it more affordable.



Photo Credit: Fifthroom.com

## Roscommon Pocket Park Update: A Creative, Safe, and Community-Built Space is Taking Shape

The City of Harper Woods is excited to share continued progress on the Roscommon Pocket Park. What was once a vacant lot is now being transformed into a vibrant public gathering space designed for connection, creativity, and community pride.

The sidewalks have been poured, and the traffic island along Roscommon Road is complete, giving residents a first look at how the area is coming together. In response to community feedback, we have also heard your concerns about speeding cars near the new park. Working closely with the Harper Woods Police Department, we are planning to install speed bumps on both sides of the island to slow down traffic and ensure a safer experience for pedestrians, families, and park visitors.

We have also heard some questions about the proposed pavilion, with a few residents expressing concern that it might be as large as a small house. Nothing could be further from the truth. The pavilion will be a 20 x 20 round structure, similar in design to the one pictured in this update. It will provide a shaded area for gatherings, performances, and neighborhood events; a perfect complement to the park's open and inviting design.

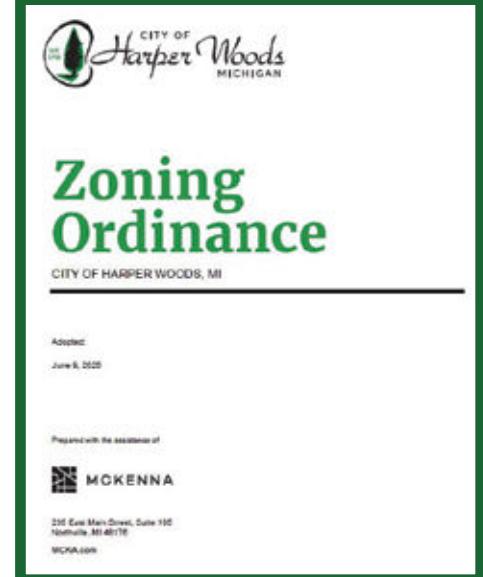
Adding to the park's creative spirit, renowned Detroit artist Donald Calloway will lead a collaborative art project involving residents and students. Calloway, a Kresge Arts Fellow, is celebrated for his vivid large-scale murals and his ability to capture the soul of communities through color, history, and storytelling. His work has appeared throughout the region, transforming everyday spaces into powerful reflections of community pride and resilience.

Together with area youth, Calloway will guide the creation of a series of public art murals that will adorn the Pocket Park, giving students and residents a chance to leave their artistic mark on Harper Woods. The City is currently working with both the Harper Woods School District and Chandler Park Academy to secure student participation in this exciting project.

In addition, the City hopes to involve our dedicated Harper Woods community gardeners, whose passion and expertise will play a key role in beautifying the park's landscape by planting flowers and adding natural touches that enhance the park's welcoming feel.

With the support of State Senator Kevin Hertel and State Representative Veronica Paiz, the Roscommon Pocket Park is being funded through a combination of Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) grant funding, Public Act 51 funds, and City resources. This partnership between local and state support represents what can be achieved when a community works together toward a shared goal.

When completed, the Roscommon Pocket Park will be more than just green space. It will be a lasting symbol of Harper Woods' creativity, collaboration, and community spirit.



# Community Progress

## FRASER SQUARE



### NEW HOMES WITH GROSSE POINTE SCHOOLS

OWN FROM \$1,250 A MONTH WITH UPGRADES INCLUDED\*



- All-new, private community offering a maintenance-free lifestyle with Grosse Pointe Schools
- Located just 5 miles from Grosse Pointe shops & dining with quick commutes via I-94
- Charming Elevations with brick and CertainTeed® siding (as shown per plan)
- 2 Bedrooms and 1.5 - 2.5 baths
- Quality crafted interior finishes including: Merillat® cabinets, granite kitchen counters, Stainless Steel GE® kitchen appliances, washer & dryer, Kohler faucets and luxury plank flooring
- Developed in partnership between Renovare Development and Robertson Homes



BROCHURE  
DOWNLOAD



**RB**  
ROBERTSON  
BROTHERS  
HOMES



313-228-6149  
**FRASER SQ.COM**

All information herein was accurate at the time of publication and subject to Michigan State Housing Development Authority Missing Middle Housing requirements. We reserve the right to make changes in price, specification, or materials, or to change or discontinue models without notice or obligation. Additional monthly costs not included in this calculation may include taxes, insurance and association dues. This is not a commitment to lend, seek a loan estimate before making a decision. Qualifications for loan programs require additional information such as credit scores and cash reserves which is not gathered in this calculation.

## Fraser Square: Progressing Nicely

Construction continues to move forward at Fraser Square, Harper Woods' newest residential neighborhood located on the former Poupart Elementary School site. The development, a partnership between Renovare Development and Robertson Brothers Homes, is transforming the site into a vibrant new community featuring 71 homes—including 48 duplexes and 23 townhomes.

Fraser Square reflects the City's ongoing commitment to reinvest in neighborhoods, attract new residents, and strengthen our community's housing options. This thoughtfully planned development will include new infrastructure, tree-lined streets, and quality homes designed to complement the character of surrounding neighborhoods.

Each home will feature modern layouts, energy-efficient design, and high quality finishes, including Merillat® cabinets, granite kitchen countertops, Moen® faucets, GE® stainless steel appliances, luxury plank flooring, Sherwin-Williams® paint, and brick and CertainTeed® siding exteriors.

### Building a Stronger Future Together

Fraser Square is a key part of Harper Woods' strategy to create diverse housing choices for families at different stages of life, while enhancing our community's long-term vitality. Construction is well underway, with six basements and foundations completed and underground utilities and interior roads expected to finish by January 2026. Home closings are anticipated to begin in Spring 2026.

### Homeownership Opportunities

Homes at Fraser Square are priced starting in the mid-\$200s, with Down Payment Assistance available for qualifying buyers. The development team and partners are also hosting ongoing homeownership information sessions to help residents explore pathways to ownership.

For more information or to join an upcoming session, please visit [FraserSQ.com](http://FraserSQ.com) or call (313) 228-6149.

Fraser Square represents the next chapter in Harper Woods' growth—a beautiful new neighborhood where community and opportunity come home.



Fraser Square Groundbreaking – September 3, 2025



## Community Center Dome

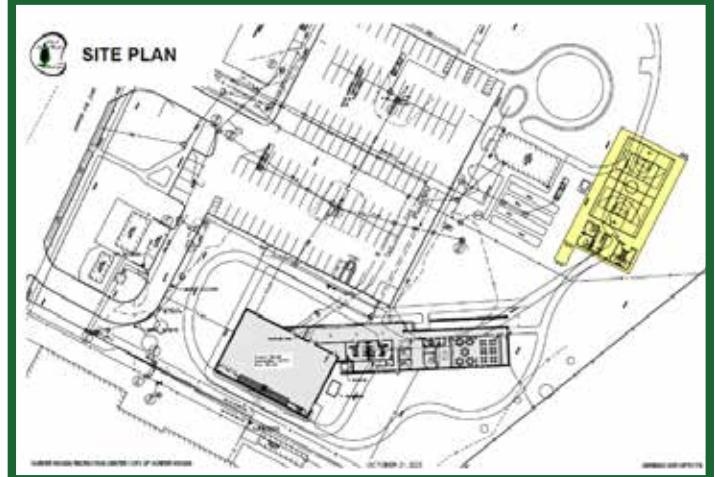
The Harper Woods Community Center project has been years in the making. It is a long-overdue investment in a place where our community can gather, grow, and thrive. But as national politics and funding realities shifted, so did our strategy.

Originally, the project was designed as a traditional brick-and-mortar facility. However, with federal funding delays, government cuts, and ongoing uncertainty in Washington, we were faced with a difficult choice: find a creative solution to stay within our grant timelines, or risk losing the funding entirely. Rather than start over, we made a strategic pivot to move forward with an air-supported dome structure that would meet our immediate needs and preserve our grant award.

This decision was not made lightly. For more than 30 years, our Parks and Recreation Department has operated out of a doublewide trailer at Johnston Park, a structure originally meant to be temporary. The trailer's lifespan is about 20 years, and it has long exceeded that. Our dedicated Parks and Recreation staff have continued to serve residents despite the building's declining conditions, but they deserve conditions that reflect their commitment to this community.

The new Community Center Dome at Salter Memorial Park will finally provide that. It will give Parks and Recreation a permanent home while also offering residents a year-round facility for recreation, programming, and neighborhood events.

Harper Woods has always been a resilient city, and this project represents that spirit. We may be one of the only communities in Michigan without our own community center, but that is about to change. The Dome is not just a building; it is a symbol of progress, perseverance, and pride. It is a place where Harper Woods can finally gather, play, and be neighborly under one roof.



# Treasurer Info

## Public Notice – City of Harper Woods Applications for Deferment 2026 Taxes

The Harper Woods Treasurer's Office accepts applications for the 2026 tax deferments starting July 1 for the summer tax bills 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, an eligible service person, a veteran, a widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. The deferment applications can be obtained at the Treasurer's Office Monday–Thursday from 9:00 am–5:00 pm.

## Assessing, Tax and Utility Billing Information Online



The City's website, [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org), provides a link to Assessing/property information, including photos, sketches, assessed and taxable values, as well as amounts due for taxes, water, or miscellaneous

invoices and payment history. There is no charge to view this information. However, there is a processing fee to pay invoices with a credit card that will apply to any of the payments made through the portal.

## Delinquent Tax Information Online

For delinquent taxes, visit [www.waynecountymi.gov/government/elected-officials/treasurer](http://www.waynecountymi.gov/government/elected-officials/treasurer). Searching for delinquent real tax information can be done by entering the parcel ID, street number, and street name.

## Property Transfer Affidavit

A "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 5:00 pm 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 December 18, 2023

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Water Disconnect Fee for Non-Payment: | \$100.00 |
| Final Water Bill Fee:                 | \$20.00  |
| Unauthorized Turn On of Water:        | \$200.00 |
| Water Appointment No Show:            | \$50.00  |

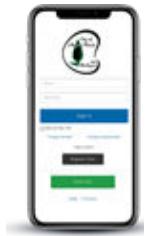
## Pay Water Bills & (Now Available) Tax Bills Online

[harperwoods.cityinsight.com](http://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/Tax Bills

Your water bills and tax bills can be automatically deducted from your savings account or checking account.

- Contact the City Treasurer's office for the automatic water bill payment enrollment form.
- The automatic tax bill payment enrollment form will be mailed with the tax bill

For further information, please call (313) 343-2500.

# City Clerk Info

## Election Information

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ELECTED MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS!**



**Mayor**  
Valerie Kindle  
Term Expires:  
November 2027



**Mayor Pro Tem**  
Vivian Sawicki  
Term Expires:  
November 2029



**Councilmember**  
Ivery Toussant, Jr.  
Term Expires:  
November 2029



**Councilmember**  
Teresa Foster  
Term Expires:  
November 2029

### EARLY VOTING IN 2026 ELECTIONS

Avoid the lines for Elections in 2026 and beyond... With the consolidation of Voting Precincts in Harper Woods, you may experience longer lines on Election Day.

The Solution... Get on the Permanent Ballot List, or stop by the Early Voting Site during the 9 days prior to each State and Federal election.



#### WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

In November 2022, Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved a Constitutional Amendment that gives voters the right to vote early and in-person at early voting sites before statewide and federal elections.

Early voting allows a voter to cast a ballot before Election Day, in an experience similar to voting on Election Day.

During the early voting period, voters are issued a ballot and can then insert their ballot directly into a tabulator at their early voting site.

The early voting period takes place for a minimum of ***nine consecutive days, ending on the Sunday before an election***, and early voting sites must be open for at least eight hours each day during the early voting period.

Voters can visit the Early Voting Site for Harper Woods at Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue, to cast a ballot in person during the early voting period.

#### WHAT IS EARLY VOTING?

You must sign up for the Permanent Ballot list to have a ballot automatically sent to you. No need to fill out an application prior to every election. You can visit [Michigan.gov/vote](https://www.michigan.gov/vote) and fill out an application for an absentee ballot and check the box requesting you to be placed on the Permanent Ballot List. You only need to do this one time, and a ballot will be sent to the address on your application.

*For more information, please visit the Michigan Secretary of State's webpage at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/voting/early-in-person-voting>, or contact the Clerk's Office for more information at (313) 343-2510.*

Check out our Webpage for more Election Information at [harperwoodscity.org](http://harperwoodscity.org) or the State of Michigan Voter information page at <https://michigan.gov/vote>

# Department of Public Safety – Police



## HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

On November 2, 2025, Lieutenant Tom Teatsorth celebrated 25 years with the Harper Woods Police Department, which is a major milestone in a career full of dedication and service. Over the years, Tom has taken on a variety of roles, from Detective to Patrol Sergeant, and now serves as a Patrol Lieutenant. We're happy to share that he's sticking around, with no plans to retire just yet. Here's to many more years of leadership and commitment!

**Congratulations on this milestone event, and thank you for your service to our community, Tom!**

## WINTER SAFETY TIPS

### Safety tips for dealing with the upcoming snow and cold weather:

- Stay off the roads if possible. More cars and people out in severe conditions will raise the chances of accidents. If you can, keep yourself safer by staying inside.
- Increase awareness and leave space. Be aware that other vehicles and pedestrians won't be moving as quickly or may begin to lose traction. Keep a safe distance and allow time to avoid problems.
- Avoid parking in the street during snow emergencies. Parking in the street during snow emergencies causes hazards for City plow drivers and residents themselves. It prevents the plow drivers from doing a thorough job, and poses a risk to residents who now must remove large snowdrifts to gain access to their vehicles.



### Special cautions for pedestrians:

- Don't walk in the street. Streets are for vehicles and bikes, and pedestrians in the roadway can become a hazard for drivers or cyclists who are already contending with snow and ice.
- Look up and around, not down. Be aware and put the phone away. Hazards like bad footing and sliding vehicles could be nearby.
- Use crosswalks and be visible and purposeful. Cross streets at intersections, with the proper signals, and go straight across. Don't go in a diagonal line and spend more time in the street than necessary. With the snow and ice, cars or bicycles will have a very hard time slowing, stopping, or avoiding a pedestrian who is in the roadway.
- Wear appropriate clothes. It's cold and wet. Exposed skin can become frostbitten or lead to other medical problems. Cover up and wear shoes that can take the snow and keep some traction.

## WINTER CAR MAINTENANCE FOR SAFE DRIVING

- Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level.
- Check your tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded.

The kit should include:

- Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries.
- Items to stay warm, such as extra hats, coats, mittens, blankets, or sleeping bags.
- Food and water.
- Booster cables, flares, tire pump, and a bag of sand or cat litter (for traction).
- Compass and maps.
- Flashlight, battery-powered radio, and extra batteries.
- First-aid kit.
- Plastic bags (for sanitation).





## WELCOME OFFICER VOORHEES!

The Harper Woods Police Department is proud to welcome Officer Charles "Chuck" Voorhees to our team. Officer Voorhees successfully graduated from the Oakland County Community College Police Academy on Thursday, October 16th, 2025, following 16 weeks of intensive academic and physical training.

Prior to joining the department, Officer Voorhees served as a loss prevention officer at the Harper Woods Home Depot, where he demonstrated a strong commitment to public safety and community engagement. Upon completion of the Police Academy, he was officially sworn in by City Clerk Leslie Frank and has since begun his patrol duties serving the residents of Harper Woods.

*Welcome, Chuck!*

## USING RIDESHARE SERVICES LIKE UBER AND LYFT

### Wait for Your Ride Indoors

This prevents you from standing outside unnecessarily with a phone in your hand, signaling to passing motorists that you're waiting for someone to pick you up. Instead, wait until your driver is close or has arrived before going outside.



### Confirm Details When the Car Arrives

Don't just look at what time your driver is coming. Pay attention to the make, model, and color of the car, as well as the driver's name and photo. Make sure to match the license plate number on your screen to the one you see in real life.

### Map Your Own Route During the Ride

This is especially important if you're in a different city and aren't familiar with the route. By monitoring your own GPS navigation, you'll see if the driver is leading you astray.

### Don't Share Private Information with Your Driver

This includes your personal phone number. The Uber app automatically encrypts both the driver's number and the passenger's digits to protect both sides' privacy. You should never share credit card info with the driver. All Lyft and Uber fares are paid through the app, and tips can be added there, too.

### Ride in the Back Seat

If you're the only passenger in the car, riding in the back seat gives both the passenger and driver more personal space. It also ensures you're able to get out on either side to avoid traffic.

### Tell a Friend Where You're Going and Who You're With

Both Lyft and Uber let you quickly and easily share who your driver is, where you're going, and when you're supposed to get there.

The "share status" option in the Uber app gives your friend your driver's name, photo, license plate, and location. Your friend can then track your trip and see your estimated time of arrival even if he or she doesn't have the app.

The "send ETA" feature on the Lyft app is very similar. It sends a text to your friend with details about the car, the driver, and how far you are on the route.



## HWPD JOINS COMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS DAY

On September 7th, 2025, the Harper Woods Police Department proudly joined the excitement at Comerica Park for First Responders Day and the Emergency Vehicle Car Show! Officers Michael Verbruggen and Vincent Henley proudly showcased HWPD's patrol cars to fans attending the Detroit Tigers showdown against the Chicago White Sox.

*It was a fantastic day of community connection, baseball, and honoring our everyday heroes!*

# Department of Public Safety – Fire

## New Vehicle: Fighting Fires and Saving Lives from Drug Abuse



The Harper Woods Fire Department acquired a 2022 Chevy Silverado. The purchase was made possible by utilizing the Opioid Settlement funds distributed by the State of Michigan. The vehicle, outfitted with anti-addiction decals, will serve as an "echo unit" for medical purposes with a focus on responding to narcotic overdoses. It will also assist with transporting equipment to and from fire scenes when needed.



## Heart Health and Safety Tips for Surviving the Cold Weather

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

### Heart Health

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

### Avoid Slips and Trips

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

## Practice Fire Safety While Staying Warm

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install any stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel-burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



# 32A District Court News

Serving Justice with Integrity,  
Compassion, and Community

## Message from the Bench

As we close another year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the tremendous work we have accomplished together. The holiday season reminds us that justice, like generosity, is best served with both fairness and compassion. This year, our court has continued to demonstrate dedication, professionalism, and respect for every individual who comes through our doors. I am deeply grateful for our staff's commitment to service, teamwork, and excellence, especially during challenging times.



May this season bring peace, rest, and renewal to you and your families. Let's carry that same spirit of hope and unity into the new year ahead.

## Court Updates & Year in Review

- Efficiency & Innovation: 2025 saw continued implementation of digital filing systems, improving access and reducing delays.
- Recovery Court Success: This year, we celebrated numerous graduates from our Recovery Court programs, recognizing their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to lasting change.
- Training & Growth: Staff attended professional development sessions focusing on trauma-informed practices and procedural justice.

## Holiday Safety Reminder

As we celebrate the holidays, let's remember that safety and responsibility go hand in hand with joy and togetherness. Please plan ahead when attending gatherings—avoid impaired driving, use designated drivers or rideshare services, and stay alert on the roads. Be mindful of scams targeting holiday shoppers, and take care when using online payment systems. Let's all do our part to ensure that this season is filled with happy memories, not preventable tragedies.

## Staff Spotlight

This season, we recognize our court team for their resilience, positivity, and dedication. Special thanks to our clerks, probation officers, security staff, and administrators who ensure our court runs smoothly year-round.

## Season's Reflection

As we celebrate with loved ones, let us remember the importance of grace—both in our personal lives and in our work. Justice is not only a matter of law but of heart, and every act of kindness strengthens our community.

Warm wishes for a safe, joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year from everyone at the 32A District Court!

Judge Rebekah R. Coleman  
32A District Court

## 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 and Water Billing Information**

(313) 343-2500



# Community Highlights



## Fall Seed Exchange

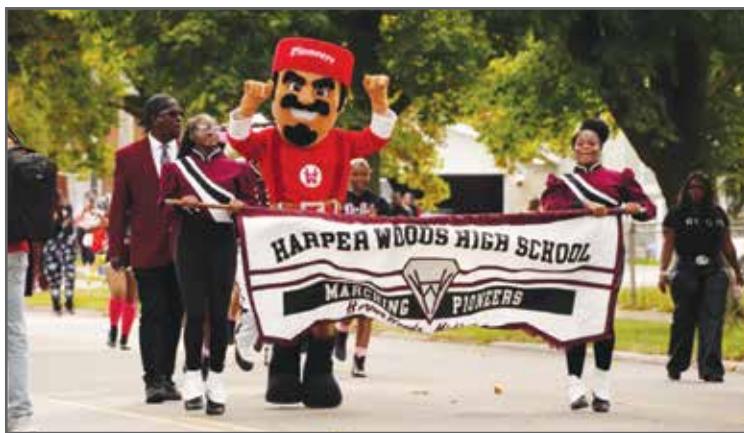
On September 13, 2025, the Harper Woods Beautification Commission held their annual Fall Seed Exchange. Residents had the opportunity to learn about and pick from large variety of seeds. Each year we see more attendees, and next year we hope to see them continue to grow.

*Missed Out? Join the next Fall Seed Exchange on September 12, 2026!*

## Harper Woods High School Homecoming Parade & Game

Harper Woods came alive with school spirit during its vibrant homecoming parade on Friday, October 17. The homecoming celebration reached its peak as the Harper Woods Varsity Football Team secured their victory under the Friday night lights, ending the festivities with a well-earned win.

**Go Pioneers!**



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

**MLK DAY**  
OF SERVICE

Monday, January 20, 2026

SERVE ON MLK DAY AND BEYOND.

#MLKDay

A portrait of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the right side of the banner.



## Trunk-or-Treat

On October 25, Parks and Recreation hosted our City's first ever Trunk-or-Treat event for the community. The event included candy, games, spectacular decorations, and contests for best costumes/trunks.

Thank you to all the volunteers and families who joined us for our Halloween event! Residents showed their creativity with their trunk decorations and attendees showed off their best costumes.

*We look forward to seeing you all next time on October 24, 2026!*



## Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Wednesday, November 19th, the City of Harper Woods began to glow once again. Prior to the ceremony the Harper Woods Library hosted a Pre-Glow event with fun activities for the family. The Ceremony with performances from our local schools, dazzling lights, and delicious refreshments, our community came together to embrace the beginning of the holiday season.

*Thank you to the Harper Family for lighting up City Hall this year!*

## Cannabis Dispensary Opens

Harper Woods' newest Cannabis Dispensary, *The Chronic Michigan*, opened its doors this fall. For more information, visit the location at 20760 Harper Avenue, check out their website at [www.thechronicmi.com](http://www.thechronicmi.com), or call (313) 636-0420.



*Photo Credit: The Chronic Michigan*

# Department of Public Works

## Refuse Collection Guidelines

- ✓ The maximum weight of any one item is 40 pounds. 30 to 35 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, TVs and furniture will also be collected on regularly scheduled refuse collection days.
- ✓ Building materials such as wood with nails, dirt, cement, and sod can be collected as a special pick-up by the Public Works Department by calling (313) 343-2570.
- ✓ (Bulk waste exceeds size limits) includes the following: Move outs, evictions and large set outs. Contact the Department of Public Works for a special pick up.
- ✓ Loose debris will not be cleaned up by the trash contractor. All trash must be contained in bags.
- ✓ **Do not place trash bags/cans in the street. This creates a traffic hazard. All cans/bags should be placed on the boulevard.**



## Trash Delay Reminder!

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

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



## Water Pipe Maintenance

Water Utilities are responsible for water mains and lines up to the shut off valve (stop box), but not pipes located on your property. If a pipe bursts on your property, call a plumber immediately for repairs.

Help protect your pipes from potential damage and avoid costly repairs by following these steps.

Please call the DPW with any questions at (313) 343-2570.

## Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Set home thermostats above 55 degrees during cold weather.
- Drip cold water in farthest faucet from your main valve. Moving water keeps pipes from freezing.
- Find shut off valves for emergencies.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.
- Open cupboards and vanities to warm pipes.



## Thaw Frozen Pipes

- Shut off your main water valve. Open the faucet so that water flows through the pipe once the area is melted. This will help melt more ice.
- Apply heat to or around the pipe using a hair dryer. Keep all sources of heat away from flammable materials and do not use any open flame devices, kerosene heaters, or blow torches. Also, do not use devices that will cause the melted ice to boil, as that can also cause pipes to break.
- Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn water back on and check all joints for leaks and other areas for cracks that may have occurred because of the freeze.



**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
- Red – Electric
- Yellow – Gas or Oil

## Sidewalk Maintenance

A friendly reminder that all homeowners are responsible for maintaining and correcting any sidewalk or driveway approach defects. However, before any repairs are made a permit from the Building Department must be obtained. For more information, please call (313) 343-2526.

## **Maintaining Sewer Lines**

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

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

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



## **Rodent Control**

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

- ◆ Keep your yard free of trash.
- ◆ Use trash cans with tight fitting lids.
- ◆ Keep your yard free of high weeds, brush/branch piles and building materials.
- ◆ Make sure debris does not collect under wooden decks and porches or along side garage. Pick up fallen fruit and vegetables from gardens daily.
- ◆ Clean up dog feces and leftover uneaten food daily.
- ◆ Firewood must be stored a minimum of 18 inches above ground.
- ◆ If you compost, turn pile daily. Food scraps should not be put in compost piles. This will only invite rats.
- ◆ Feeding the birds and squirrels on a regular basis can cause rodent problems.
- ◆ Lastly, rat bait (poison) can be purchased at your local store. **EXTREME CAUTION** should be exercised when using these products. Always follow manufacturers instructions. These products **MUST** be kept away from children and pets.

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

## **Downspouts, Surface Drainage, Etc.**

The City requires that downspouts be disconnected from the drain tile or weeping that surrounds your home. Failure to do so is a violation of City Ordinance Sec. 27-54.

Downspouts, surface drainage, etc., and can significantly contribute to a flooded basement.



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

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

# Department of Public Works

## 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](http://Michigan.gov/Lead)  
or call the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
at (517) 335-8885.



## WATER NOTICE - URGENT

Water Sample required

Please contact the  
Department of Public Works

313-343-2570

to schedule immediate delivery of sample  
bottles for state mandated - lead/copper  
in drinking water testing.

Thank you for your assistance

If the DPW has tagged your residence with this notice, we prompt you to call the Public Works Department to schedule a time for us to deliver water-sampling bottles. We are taking lead testing seriously and we ask for your cooperation on this matter. Residents who received a red "testing required" door tag are responsible for contacting the DPW to comply with the city's EPA requirements..

The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act has changed to better protect your health. The State of Michigan has updated the water sampling rules to better detect lead in your drinking water. These changes require communities with lead service lines to do more sampling. The new sampling method is likely 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.

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

In 2024, 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 from phase 2 was 12.9 parts per billion (ppb), which is below the "Action Level" Surys<sup>§</sup> 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.

We will continue to collect samples from 60 homes every six months in 2025. 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.

**Only homes with LEAD service lines are being tested, as directed by EGLE. Taking these samples helps us keep your drinking water safe ~ PLEASE participate to keep us from being in violation of EPA requirements.**

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

*For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the City's website at [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org), the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), the EGLE website at <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/organization/drinking-water-and-environmental-health/drinking-water>, or call the National Lead Information Center at (800) 424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.*



# Department of Public Works

## Snow and Ice Emergencies

Our Public Works Department is responsible for keeping streets clear throughout the winter season whenever there is snow or ice. During a major winter storm, please check to see if Harper Woods has declared a Snow Emergency by looking at the City's informational sign, watching your local television news, or listening to the radio. When a Snow or Ice Emergency is declared, all vehicles must be removed from the street or they may be towed at the owner's expense. If you live on a corner lot, please be aware that you are responsible for the clearing of the corner cross walk areas.

During a salting or plowing event, we typically begin by 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 their basement windows, furnace, or dryer.

### **Ordinance Penalty**

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

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

Sec. 23-4a. Penalty; enforcement.

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

1. For first offense, a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be assessed.
2. For a second offense, a fine of seventy-five (\$75.00) shall be assessed.
3. For third offense and all subsequent offenses, a fine of one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) shall be assessed.

We truly regret plowing snow into driveways and covering crosswalks. We know what a difficult task removing this snow can be. Our objective is to keep the streets safe for travelling and accessible 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.

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

# Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

## Building Department Info

Happy New Year from SAFEbuilt!

Welcome to 2026, a new year with hopes of safer times. Property maintenance is required to keep yourself and the general public safe, so please put forth the effort to:

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

Enjoy the winter months and stay safe!



## Assessing Department Info



The Assessor is available on Wednesdays during normal business hours, 9:00 am–5:00 pm. You can contact the Assessor at (313) 343-2527 or by email at [assessing@harperwoods.net](mailto:assessing@harperwoods.net). All assessment information is available online through the City's website, [www.harperwoodscity.org](http://www.harperwoodscity.org). For a better understanding of your assessment, taxes, and for general questions, please visit the website and 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 form from the Assessor's Office or from the City website under the Assessing Department. Please submit by the requested due date.

The 2026 Notice of Assessments will be mailed at the end of February 2026. Dates to appeal the valuation of your property will be held in March. Please read the Notice of Assessment for the dates and times of the Board of Review. Appeal information will be available on the City's website and at the Assessor's Office.

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



### Resident Sign Up

any one of these ways

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

Nixle keeps you up-to-date with relevant information from your local public safety department and schools.



The City of Harper Woods encourages all of our residents to join Nixle. This is a community messaging system run in partnership with our local government. Participating members will receive real-time messages regarding important topics such as crime alerts, traffic safety issues, important dates, and community events. The program is safe, and registration is easy and is provided at no cost. Messages are received by email or through the web depending on your custom settings. Stay informed by signing up now at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

# Library News & Events

## **From the Director:**

This year, we're excited to introduce our Library of Things! It is what it sounds like—starting in January, we will have a collection of "things" available for check out. From cordless drills to sewing machines, we'll have something for everyone. To celebrate, we will be hosting a series of introductory workshops at the Library, ranging from Sewing Essentials to Intro to Guitar. Details are listed below. It's a new year, so why not try out a new hobby!

## **Intro to Guitar**

This class is designed for absolute beginners, so don't be intimidated! Use our guitars to go over the basics: how to tune your guitar, the parts of a guitar, and beginner chord progressions. Registration is encouraged as space is limited.  
**Ages 12 and up.**

**Saturday, January 3, 1:30 pm–2:30 pm**

## **Sewing Essentials**



Stop by to learn the basics of sewing! We'll introduce the different parts and functions of the sewing machine and essential sewing techniques. Registration is encouraged as space is limited.  
**Ages 12 and up.**

**Saturday, January 3, 1:30 pm–2:30 pm**

## **Birdwatching 101**

Wild Birds Unlimited is partnering with us to teach us how to use binoculars for birdwatching! They will share how to spot, identify, and thoroughly enjoy your birdwatching experience. **Ages 12 and up.**

**Saturday, March 28, 1:30 pm–2:30 pm**



## **Friends of the Library Events**

### **Friends of the Library Meeting**

Becoming a Friend of the Library is about more than getting books on shelves—it's about embracing a mission to educate, connect, and empower. It's an opportunity to make a lasting impact on your community and to ensure that libraries continue to thrive for generations to come. Registration is encouraged though not required.

**Tuesday, January 13, 6:00 pm–7:00 pm**

### **Current Library Hours:**

**Monday – Wednesday, 11am – 7pm**

**Thursday, 11am – 5pm**

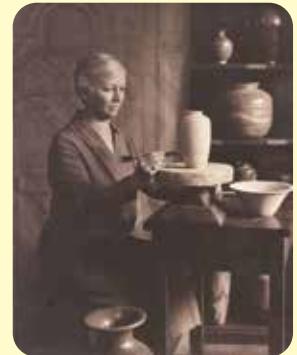
**Friday & Saturday, 1pm – 5pm**

## **Adult Programming**

### **Friend's Sponsored Speaker Series Continues**

#### **Exploring Pewabic Pottery**

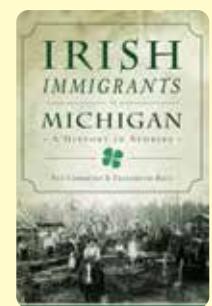
Join us for a look into the 122-year history of Detroit's iconic Pewabic Pottery. Founded in 1903, Pewabic is one of the oldest continually operating potteries in the United States. Working from their National Historic Landmark studio on Detroit's east side, Pewabic continues to preserve a tradition of hand craftsmanship that has enriched lives for generations. Explore images from the Pewabic archives during this presentation as we guide you through over a century of handcrafting pottery and tiles in Detroit.



**Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm**

#### **Irish Immigrants in Michigan**

Local Historians Elizabeth Ross and Pat Commins will be visiting the Library to explore the legacy and impact of Irish Immigrants in Michigan. They will also discuss the book they co-authored: *Irish Immigrants in Michigan: A History in Stories*. Registration is encouraged though not required



**Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm**

#### **Ongoing Adult Programming**

##### **Book Club**

Join us for an interesting group conversation about the following books:

January 21: *The Lamplighters*, by Emma Stonex

February 25: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebeca Skloot

March 25: *The Midnight Library*, by Matt Haig

**Wednesdays from 1:30 pm–2:30 pm**

#### **Harper Woods Library's Home Economist Offers a Special Gift Bag**

Mary Margaret McKent will leave a special gift bag for you in our magazine area. You will find information on cooking, cleaning, consumer issues, finances, housing, interior design, and more; plus, a special gift from Mary Margaret!

#### **Pinochle at the Library!**

January 8th and January 22nd

February 12th and 26th

March 12th and 26th

**Second and Fourth Thursdays of the Month, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm**

# Library News & Events

## Youth Department Programming

### Puppet Show – Jo Jo Fish and the Magic Pearl



The Amazing Clark will present a puppet show full of fun and laughter. Join us for an underwater adventure with Jo Jo Fish as he learns about friendship and courage with the help of his friends.  
**Best for families and ages 5 and up.**  
**Registration recommended.**  
**Tuesday, January 13, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm**

### Irish Dance Performance

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a lively Irish Dance program! Enjoy a performance by Motor City Irish Dance, then try it out for yourself as they teach the audience a dance as well! No dance experience necessary! **Best for families and ages 5 and up.**  
**Registration recommended.**



**Tuesday, March 17, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm**

### Storytime

Join us to sing, move, and listen to stories with your little one. Stick around after for some unstructured play.

**Ages 5 and under with caregiver.**

**Thursdays, 11:15 am–12:15 pm**

### Homework Help

Struggling with your homework? Bring in your assignment after school on Mondays and get some extra help. Specializing in Elementary reading comprehension. **Elementary-High School Students.**

**\*We will not have Homework Help on days the Library or HW School District is closed\***

**Every Monday, starting January 12, 4:00 pm–6:00 pm**

### Anime & Manga Club!

Interested in anime and manga? Come talk about and watch some of your favorites! Snacks provided! **Ages 10–18.**

**1st Tuesday of each Month: January 6, February 3, and March 3, 4:00 pm–5:00 pm**

### Family Game Night

Bring the whole family to the Library for some unplugged fun with our selection of games! **All ages welcome.**

**1st Wednesday of each Month: January 7, February 4, and March 4, 5:00 pm–6:30 pm**

### Saturday Creatives Club

Drop in once a month to let your creativity shine! A different creative project each month! **Ages 18 and under.** Children under 10 must be accompanied by a caregiver.

**Saturdays, January 10, February 14, and March 21, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm**

### Craft Night

Come get crafty with us! A different craft each month that you can create and take home. Crafts will be semi self-directed with instructions appropriate for **Grade School to Adult Ages.**  
**Tuesdays, January 20, February 10, and March 24, 5:00 pm–6:00 pm**

### Tabletop Gaming

Interested in cooperative role playing games? Join in for an afternoon of fantasy and adventure as we play Pathfinder. Beginners welcome! **Ages 12–18.**

**Wednesdays, January 21, February 11, and March 25, 4:00 pm–5:30 pm**

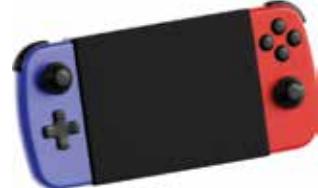


### Read To A Dog!

Do you like to read? Do you like dogs? Come to the Library to read to certified therapy dog, Dolly! She loves to listen to stories and meet new friends.

**Saturdays, January 24, February 28, and March 14, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm**

### Nintendo Switch Game Night



Drop in with the family to play *Mario Kart* and *Overcooked*.

**Best for ages 10 and up.**

**Last Tuesday of each Month, January 27, February 24, and March 31, 4:00 pm–6:00 pm**

### Build-A-Thon

Drop in for some quiet building time at the Library! We'll have different kinds of blocks to experiment with!

**Friday, February 20, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm**

Register for youth programs by phone (313) 343-2575 or email: [youthhwl@libcoop.net](mailto:youthhwl@libcoop.net).

Call or stop by the Library, check out our website's calendar or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for up-to-date programming and for holiday closures! Give us a call at (313) 343-2575 with any questions!

# 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 that residents of Harper Woods would attend is 250 McDougall Ave, Detroit, MI 48207. Call (855) 445-4554 or visit [Pacesemi.org](http://Pacesemi.org)

## The Helm Truly has Something for Everyone!



classes, The Helm truly has something for everyone. The Helm also provides essential services to the five Grosse Pointe communities and Harper Woods, including Meals on Wheels, a medical loan closet, community resources, home repair programs, and case coordination. The Helm is here to help older adults maintain their independence and navigate the challenges of aging with dignity and support. Come see us soon! Call (313)-882-9600 or visit [www.helmlife.org](http://www.helmlife.org)

The Helm, located at 158 Ridge Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, is a vital hub for older adults in the community, offering a wide array of social, recreational, educational, and health-related programs and activities designed to promote both physical and mental well-being, and enhance quality of life.

From fun exercise classes to arts and craft workshops, trips around town, educational seminars, or language

# Senior Resources



**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

**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 pm–2:30 pm

- 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
- V.A. Hospital
- Henry Ford Main Campus
- City County Building
- Detroit Medical Center
- 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 voicemail 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.

# 2026 Winter Recreation Program



Please be advised that all programs, activities, dates, times, and locations are subject to change and/or cancellation. Please call our office at (313) 343-2560 with any further questions. You can also visit us on Facebook @ City of Harper Woods Parks and Recreation Department.

Celebrating  
42  
Years!



## Fall Dance

Come join the fun and dance as we start our 42nd year of the dance program! There is no residency requirement.

All classes take place in the Tyrone Elementary gym/stage area. Located between Mack and Harper at the intersection of Tyrone & Broadstone. We require one parent or guardian to stay and watch their child during classes. Siblings are welcome. Students will have the opportunity to perform at the annual recital in April at the end of the session. You can register in person/onsite at Tyrone during the first two weeks of classes. We suggest you arrive ten minutes prior to your child's class time if you choose this option. After that, the Recreation Office will oversee all payments. The other options to register are by mail or via the drop box at City Hall.

Please call Nonny Sperry for more details at (313) 885-3714 or email [nedra.sperry@gmail.com](mailto:nedra.sperry@gmail.com).

**Instructors:** Jannette Haxter, Mikayla Schiller, Caitlin Skerske, Nonny Sperry

**\*Registration for Fall Dance begins August 2025\***

### Tuesdays, Starting September 23rd

#### Times (PM):

5:00–5:30-- Tiny Tappers, ages 3–5  
5:30–6:00-- Pre-Jazz and Hip-Hop, ages 3–5  
6:00–6:30-- Tap, ages 6–8  
6:30–7:00-- Ballet, ages 6–8  
7:00–7:30-- Lyrical, ages 8–12  
7:30–8:00-- Pom-Pom Jazz/Dance Team Skills, ages 8/up  
8:00–8:30-- Teen/Adult Hip-Hop

### Wednesdays, Starting September 24th

#### Times (PM):

5:00–5:30-- Creative Move/Pre-Ballet, ages 3–5  
5:30–6:00-- Hip-Hop, ages 6–8  
6:00–6:30-- Lyrical, ages 6–8  
6:30–7:00-- Tap, ages 9–12  
7:00–7:30-- Jazz and Hip-Hop, ages 9–12  
7:30–8:00-- Ballet, ages 9–12  
8:00–8:30-- Teen/Adult Tap  
8:30–9:00-- Teen/Adult Jazz

#### **Dance Tuition:**

\$190 per class, \*plus \$10 family registration fee\* Tuition can be paid in two installments with HALF DUE at time of enrollment. There will be an additional \$10 installment fee for the payment plan. Final payment of the plan is due January 19, 2026. **Only cash, checks, or money orders accepted.**

#### **Family Plan Discount**

\$170 per class for two or more. Applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in two or more classes.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN 2026:**

- Check back here in Harper Woods' *The Insider* quarterly newsletter.
- Follow our Facebook page at [City of Harper Woods Parks and Recreation Department](https://www.facebook.com/CityofHarperWoodsParksandRecreationDepartment).
- Check the City's website, [harperwoodscity.org](http://harperwoodscity.org).

# 2026 ANNUAL CITY OF HARPER WOODS EVENT CALENDAR

Come join us for our annual events and spend time with members of your community.

***Don't forget to add these dates to your calendar!***

## Easter Egg Hunt



March 28, 2026

## Memorial Day Ceremony



May 25, 2026

## Juneteenth Celebration



June 19, 2026

## National Night Out



August 4, 2026

## Trunk Or Treat Event



October 24, 2026

## City Tree Lighting



November 18, 2026

# 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 four 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](http://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. The Pavilion (enclosed building) at Salter Park is \$125. 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 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 or as credit for future recreation registration fees for amounts of \$10 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: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm 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](mailto: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



***“Connecting Residents to Community”***

Highlighted in this Edition:

Real Estate • Today's Health & Fitness • The Family Center

FAN – Help Keep Our Community Warm This Winter

Michigan Shipwrecks – The Western Reserve

Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce

## CRG DIGITAL FEATURING MACOMB COUNTY

***“Connecting Michigan One Community at a Time”***



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**[CRGMichigan.com](http://CRGMichigan.com)**

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

Powered By



# Todays Health & Fitness



## POINTE FITNESS: HOME GYM OR GYM MEMBERSHIP?

The importance of fitness as it relates to better health, mobility, cognitive functioning, and longevity is on people's minds more than ever. The big question is... do you join a gym, or do you spend the money and set up your own home gym?

I've done both, and for me, joining a gym is the only way—and that's not because I own one! The main reason Pointe Fitness exists is because when I first moved to Grosse Pointe in 1990, there were no gyms here. Working out at home sounds good in theory, but the limitation of equipment, plus the confinement, boredom, and distractions just take the energy out of the workout.

The professional equipment provided, the atmosphere, the motivation; that spark I feel when I

walk into a gym sets a tone and gets me focused. That turns into results, especially if you're not in the mood to exercise!

Likewise, the money spent on home equipment, in most cases, would buy a membership for 2-3 years at a well-rounded gym. And if you're new to exercise, you'll learn more in person. These days, people rely on influencers for suggestions, but being able to personally share and learn from others is the best way.

The feeling of purpose when you head into a gym and the sense of accomplishment when you leave can't be duplicated at home. But whatever you decide, be exercising somewhere!

Ken  
Pointe Fitness

Ken Welch, Owner  
Pointe Fitness & Training

## A GYM YOU CAN BE PROUD TO BELONG TO 3 DECADES OF FITNESS



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[WWW.POINTEFITNESSANDTRAINING.COM](http://WWW.POINTEFITNESSANDTRAINING.COM)

## RAISE HOPE & FOSTER DREAMS



### BECOME A FOSTER PARENT

In Michigan, there are approximately 10,000 children in foster care & nearly 200 children who still need an adoptive family.

*We need your help to provide a safe, nurturing home for these children until they can be returned to their families.*

When children cannot be returned to their homes, foster parents are often asked to provide permanent homes.

*Become a foster parent.*



1-313-460-4755  
1-855-MICHKIDS  
[MICHIGAN.GOV/HOPEFORAHOME](http://MICHIGAN.GOV/HOPEFORAHOME)

# FAN OFFERS FREE HELP FOR FAMILIES & FRIENDS



Formerly Families Against Narcotics

Addiction affects more than just the person using drugs or alcohol—it impacts entire families. That's why Face Addiction Now (FAN)—a Macomb County-based nonprofit—encourages the loved ones of those struggling with substance use disorder to get help for themselves.

FAN's free services include Stronger Together support groups and the Family Recovery Coaching program, both designed specifically for family and

friends so they can focus on their own healing and recovery.

Stronger Together groups meet both in-person and virtually, offering a safe space to share experiences, gain insight, and learn to support a loved one in ways that are healthy for everyone. Meanwhile, the Family Recovery Coaching program connects participants with certified family coaches who provide personalized, one-on-one guidance drawn from their own lived experience and evidence-based lessons.

You don't have to navigate a loved one's addiction alone—FAN can help.

For more information, visit [faceaddictionnow.org/family](http://faceaddictionnow.org/family), or call (586) 438-8500.



# FINDING GRATITUDE IN THE PEOPLE AROUND US

By Nichollas Rayfield, LPC  
Clinical Director, Inner City Family Services – Detroit



25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES & ENRICHING LIVES

During the holiday season, many of us are reminded of the importance of family, connection, and gratitude. Yet, for some, this time of year can also bring tension, old disagreements, or complicated emotions. Finding gratitude for the people in our lives—especially when relationships aren't perfect—can feel challenging, but it's one of the most powerful ways to build peace and emotional resilience.

Gratitude doesn't mean ignoring hurt or pretending everything is fine. Instead, it's about choosing to focus on what is good, even in difficult situations. It might mean appreciating a loved one's effort, their sense of humor, or the lessons they've taught you—whether intentional or not. Every relationship, even imperfect ones, offers an opportunity for growth and understanding.

Here are a few helpful strategies to cultivate gratitude in your relationships:

- Shift from judgment to curiosity. When someone's behavior frustrates you, ask yourself, "What might they be struggling with?" Compassion allows space for gratitude to grow.

- Practice small, daily acknowledgments. Send a kind text, express appreciation out loud, or quietly reflect on what someone has contributed to your life.
- Focus on progress, not perfection. Appreciate small efforts and the positive intentions behind people's actions.

Gratitude also strengthens emotional health. Studies show it lowers stress, improves mood, and helps us maintain perspective during challenging times. When we intentionally look for the good in others, we often end up feeling more grounded, more connected, and more at peace with ourselves.

This holiday season, try to find one thing to appreciate in every person you encounter.

Gratitude doesn't erase differences—it transforms how we experience them.

Inner City Family Services provides a wide range of behavioral health services to support individuals and families. We believe in a holistic approach, and are here to bridge gaps in mental health services and provide comprehensive support tailored to each individual's needs. For more information, please visit: [icfsdetroit.com](http://icfsdetroit.com)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## DISPENSARY

**Essence South**  
19616 Kelly Road  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**(313) 532-1100**  
[essencemichigan.com](http://essencemichigan.com)

## EDUCATION

**Grosse Pointe Public School System**  
20601 Morningside  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236  
**(313) 432-3000**  
[gpschools.org](http://gpschools.org)

## EDUCATION

**Wayne County Community College District**  
19305 Vernier  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**(313) 962-7150**  
[wcccd.edu](http://wcccd.edu)

## HEALTH & FITNESS

**Pointe Fitness**  
19556 Harper Ave.  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**(313) 417-9666**  
[pointefitnessandtraining.com](http://pointefitnessandtraining.com)

## MORTGAGES

**Michigan Mortgage Pro**  
NMLS: 2566773  
Joe Murray - NMLS: 1698513  
[joe@michiganmortgagepro.com](mailto:joe@michiganmortgagepro.com)  
**(586) 210-3077**  
[michiganmortgagepro.com](http://michiganmortgagepro.com)

## REAL ESTATE

**The Monzo Group**  
235 N. Groesbeck Ave.  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043  
**(586) 210-3350**  
[monzogroup.com](http://monzogroup.com)

## SENIOR RESOURCES

**Detroit Area Agency on Aging**  
1333 Brewery Park Blvd. Suite #200  
Detroit, MI 48207  
**(313) 446-4444 Ext. 5225**  
[detroitseniorsolution.org](http://detroitseniorsolution.org)

## SENIOR RESOURCES

**The Helm**  
158 Ridge Road  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
**(313) 882-9600**  
[helmlife.org](http://helmlife.org)

## TRANSPORTATION

**Smart Bus**  
535 Griswold Street  
Detroit, MI 48226  
**(866) 962-5515**  
[smartbus.org](http://smartbus.org)

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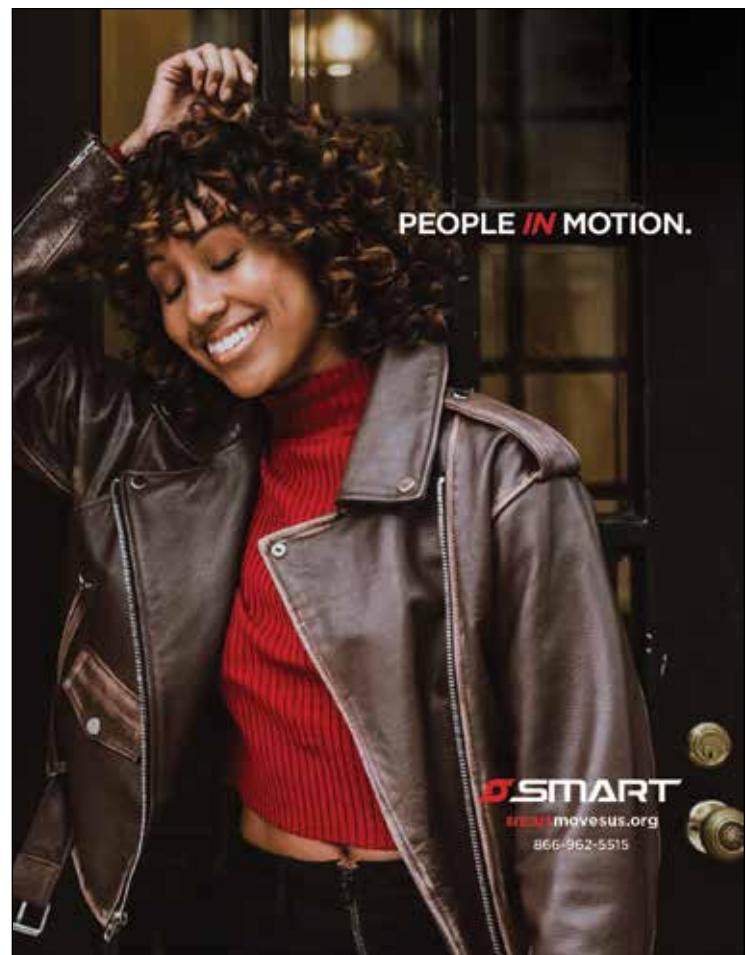
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## WORD SEARCH

EDITION THEME:  
**HARPER WOODS HOLIDAYS**

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| Presents | Wreath     |
| Winter   | Calendar   |
| Frost    | Garland    |
| Angel    | Bag        |
| Candle   | Resolution |
| Cake     | Fireplace  |
| Icicle   | Family     |

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NBNEFIEPASTNAAPSAGWGRELON

# MICHIGAN SHIPWRECKS: THE WESTERN RESERVE



In August of 1892, millionaire Peter G. Minch took his family on a cruise bound for Minnesota aboard the fully-crewed SS Western Reserve. It was smooth sailing until August 30, when the vessel was met with rough conditions near Whitefish Bay. The ship, lightweight from carrying only human cargo, was no match for Lake Superior's waves.

The 28 passengers quickly boarded the lifeboats as the ship broke apart beneath them. The first, made up entirely of crewmen, flipped as soon as it hit the water. The second was about 30 miles off the shoreline. The storm continued and the sun dropped.

Another ship approached. The survivors screamed and signaled to no avail. Drowned out by darkness, they went undetected. After ten hours of paddling, the Minch family and crew were just a mile from the shoreline when they were overturned. Harry Stewart, the sole survivor, shared the only first-person account of what happened to the Western Reserve...



Continue this story, including the discovery of the ship by The Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, on episode one of the Michigistory podcast, by Cassidy Hough and Big Mitten Media.

## WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

### CONTINUING EDUCATION AT WCCCD

WCCCD offers Continuing Education (CE) programs for seniors in Wayne County at no cost!



### COURSES AND PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Music Appreciation
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- Current Events
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313-962-7150 • [WWW.WCCCD.EDU](http://WWW.WCCCD.EDU)



# GPPSS INFO NIGHTS

These info nights all start at **6:30 p.m.** in your neighborhood school. They are designed for parents & guardians. Student events come later in the year.

**1** ENTERING ELEMENTARY 1/8

**2** ENTERING MIDDLE SCHOOL 1/6

**3** ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL 1/7



## KINDERGARTEN/YOUNG 5

Come learn about the day in our two kindergarten options. Explore the curriculum. Meet teachers and ask questions. We can't wait to partner with you! If you live in the GPPSS boundary call to see if you attend at Mason or Monteith.



## RISING 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Our GPPSS middle schools house grades 5-8. Learn about the ways we help students transition seamlessly from elementary to middle school and what this means for the courses we can offer! Attend at Parcells Middle School, 20600 Mack.



## RISING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Do you have a student entering high school in the fall? Explore what sets GPPSS apart – from our expansive curriculum, to 30 sports, and award winning fine and performing arts! Attend at North High School, 707 Vernier.



313-432-3003



[gpschools.org](http://gpschools.org)



[info@gpschools.org](mailto:info@gpschools.org)

# GROSSE POINTE

## *Chamber of Commerce*

### SHOP LOCAL!

When you shop locally, you're not just buying a product—you're investing in your neighbors' dreams. That coffee shop owner who remembers your order, the boutique that carries one-of-a-kind pieces, the bakery creating custom treats; they're all part of what makes our community special.

Local businesses offer something you can't get from big chains: personal service and unique finds. Need a gift that won't be found anywhere else? Your local artisan probably has it. Plus, when you shop locally, more of your money stays right here in the community, supporting jobs and keeping our area vibrant.

Every dollar you spend locally makes a difference. Your neighbors are counting on us, so let's show up for them!

Uncertain about the perfect gift for your special someone? Consider purchasing Grosse Pointe Gift Cards, allowing them the pleasure of selecting their own ideal gift.

Visit [www.grossepoinchamber.com](http://www.grossepoinchamber.com)  
to discover amazing local businesses and  
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**Wishing You & Your Loved Ones  
a Safe & Prosperous 2026!**

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# REAL ESTATE



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## Why Now is the Right Time to Buy a Home: Mortgage Market Update

If you've been thinking about buying a home, now may be the right time to take the leap. With the mortgage market showing signs of stability and home prices stabilizing, many buyers are finding this moment offers a unique opportunity to secure long-term financial stability.

## Fixed-Rate Mortgages: A Smart Choice for Stability

As more buyers opt for fixed-rate mortgages, locking in a stable monthly payment, it's clear that this is an ideal time to take advantage of predictable loan terms. In uncertain times, a fixed-rate mortgage offers peace of mind, ensuring your payment stays the same for the life of the loan. This is especially important for buyers looking to avoid the unpredictability of adjustable-rate loans.

### Refinancing Could Work for You, Too

If you already own a home, refinancing could be a great way to lower your monthly payments or consolidate debt. With many homeowners taking advantage of refinancing, this could be the moment for you to adjust your mortgage terms to better suit your financial goals.

### The Housing Market is Stabilizing—Don't Miss Out

While home prices have slowed after a period of rapid growth, many areas still have strong demand, and inventory remains limited. This means that homes in desirable locations are still selling quickly. By acting now, you can secure a home before prices potentially rise again or available properties become even scarcer.

In short, with stable mortgage options, steady home prices, and the potential for long-term financial benefits, now is a smart time to buy. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or looking to refinance, taking action now could help you lock in favorable terms for years to come.



**Joseph Murray**  
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NMLS: 1698513



**\$170,765**  
AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▲ 6.4%  
FROM Q2 2025

**55**  
NUMBER  
OF SALES

▲ 9.1%  
FROM Q3 2024

▲ 22.2%  
FROM Q2 2025

▼ 6.8%  
FROM Q3 2024

**38**  
AVERAGE DAYS  
ON THE MARKET

▲ 0.0%  
FROM Q2 2025

▲ 11.8%  
FROM Q3 2024

**102**  
AVERAGE MONTHLY  
INVENTORY

▲ 3.0%  
FROM Q2 2025

▲ 11.2%  
FROM Q3 2024

**18.5%**  
ABSORPTION  
RATE<sup>1</sup>

▲ 25.9%  
FROM Q2 2025

▼ 16.2%  
FROM Q3 2024

### MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

#### QUARTER (Q3 2025) OVER QUARTER (Q2 2025)

▲ 3.0%  
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 2.8%  
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ 22.2%  
TOTAL CLOSED

#### YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q3 2025 vs. Q3 2024)

▲ 14.6%  
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 1.4%  
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ 6.8%  
TOTAL CLOSED

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

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

<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.

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- ◆ Address: 710 Notre Dame, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



## UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

**Harper Woods** is officially rocking the real estate tightrope—balanced, but with just a hint of a seller's swagger. It's like watching a tug-of-war where both sides are catching their breath, so buyers and sellers can haggle prices without worrying about inventory swooping in to crash the party.

Meanwhile, the market is gearing up for a new chapter thanks to the splashy arrival of Fraser Square and its 71 brand-new, wallet-friendly homes. If history is any clue, the mere existence of these fresh digs could give home prices across the community a little happy dance. Let's see if past performance can outdo itself—cue the drumroll!

**Average Sale Price – Very Good:** With inventory on the rise, sale prices are still showing off. Apparently, homes in Harper Woods don't mind sharing the spotlight—they just keep getting more valuable anyway!

**The number of sales – Improving:** For the third straight quarter, unit sales are on the rise—apparently, homes in Harper Woods are flying off the shelves like the hottest new gadget. If this keeps up, we might have to start handing out trophies for "Most Improved Sales"!

**Days on Market (DOM) – Good:** Hanging out between 30 and 40 days means buyers are actually taking time to browse—no one's panic-purchasing whatever has four walls and a roof. If you've recently jazzed up your home, expect a few extra admirers (and maybe even a bidding war or two). Shiny new upgrades are like catnip for house hunters!

**Inventory – Good:** More homes on the market means buyers can finally shop around instead of settling for the first thing that doesn't leak. Sellers, take note—pricing your place like it's the Taj Mahal might get you crickets instead of offers, so it's time to sharpen those pencils and get strategic!

**Absorption Rate – Balanced Market:** The market is just a smidge above balanced, meaning sellers might need to channel their inner Zen master and practice a bit more patience than before—no instant bidding wars, but at least there's still plenty of drama for everyone to enjoy!

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

#### Disclaimer:

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## MEET YOUR LOCAL REALTOR

Hello, Harper Woods! My name is Germaine Iwu, your local REALTOR®. As a proud Metro-Detroit native, I've had the pleasure of living in many great cities in Wayne and Oakland Counties—including Troy, Dearborn, and Detroit. My oldest son graduated from Harper Woods High School, and through his school journey, I was able to experience the amazing community in Harper Woods!

With a background in sales, marketing, and entrepreneurship, I've always had a passion for connecting with people and helping them reach their goals. Real estate is where that passion truly comes to life. Equipped with the in-depth knowledge of our amazing team at Keller Williams - The Monzo Group, I focus on educating my clients so they come out of our transaction feeling empowered and ready for home ownership.

Outside of real estate, you will find me enjoying downtown Detroit, traveling anywhere with a beach, or at a local youth sporting event watching my kids play baseball, football, or soccer.

There's nothing more rewarding than helping someone find a place to call home and take the next step toward building generational wealth. Whether you're buying your first home, looking to sell, or ready to invest, I'm here to guide you every step of the way with honesty, dedication, and a genuine love for what I do.



(586) 210-3350

## HARPER WOODS REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

**20488 Woodcrest Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$180,000**

**20309 Elkhart Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$95,000**

**19258 Eastborne Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$224,900**

**20521 Beaufait Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$194,900**

**19649 Huntington Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$225,000**

**20501 Old Homestead Dr.**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$240,000**

**20918 Hollywood Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$65,000**

**19332 Beaconsfield Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$130,000**

**21175 Hunt Club Road**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$185,000**

**20283 Lancaster Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$275,000**

**21731 Bournemouth Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$215,000**

**19944 Kenosha Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$125,000**

**20625 Elkhart Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$162,000**

**18532 Roscommon Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$70,000**

**21200 Country Club Drive**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$210,000**

**20651 Damman Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$215,000**

**18790 Kingsville Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$118,000**

**20647 Kenmore Avenue**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$225,000**

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**21101 Beaufait Street**  
Harper Woods, MI 48225  
**\$283,000**

**20253 Elkhart Street**  
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**\$95,000**

**20643 Danbury Lane**  
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