



THE INSIDER

FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!
SPRING EDITION
APRIL THROUGH JUNE 2026

Get the most out of our community!

HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

April

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

- April 3 - City Offices Closed (Good Friday)
- April 4 - Siren Test, 1:00 PM
- *April 6 - City Council Meeting
- April 6-April 10 - Yard Waste/Compost Pickup Begins
- April 15 - Tax Day
- April 15 - Water Bills Due
- *April 20 - City Council Meeting
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 25 - Earth Cleanup @ City Hall



May

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

- May 2 - Siren Test, 1:00 PM
- *May 4 - City Council Meeting
- May 10 - Mother's Day
- May 14 - Water Bill Due
- May 16 - Perennial Plant Exchange
- May 16 - Armed Forces Day
- *May 18 - City Council Meeting
- May 25 - City Offices Closed (Memorial Day)
- May 25 - Memorial Day Ceremony @ 10 AM, Johnston Park
- May 25-May 29 - Rubbish Delay



June

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

- June 6 - Siren Test, 1:00 PM
- *June 8 - City Council Meeting
- *June 16 - Water Bill Due
- June 19 - City Offices Closed (Juneteenth)
- June 20 - Summer Begins
- June 21 - Father's Day



Spring into Action!

Spring is a time of new beginnings, and we are pleased to announce that on January 5th, 2026, the Harper Woods City Council approved an agreement with I Heart Dogs Rescue and Animal Haven to provide animal sheltering services for the City of Harper Woods. I Heart Dogs is a Warren-based shelter, and their mission statement is to ***"Lead the no-kill movement by rescuing, re-homing, and providing a place of refuge for homeless dogs and cats, while also providing a haven for the pets belonging to domestic violence survivors."***

The Harper Woods Department of Public Safety encourages our residents to report stray animals by contacting our dispatchers at (313) 343-2530, rather than contacting I Heart Dogs directly. Our officers will respond and attempt to secure the animal. When the animal is secured, they will try to locate an owner in the area first. If the animal has no owner-identifying tags or microchip, it will be transported to the Department of Public Safety for temporary shelter and further investigation to locate the owner. Please check the Harper Woods Department of Public Safety Facebook page, where we will post pictures of the animal and the recovery location. When all attempts to locate an owner have been exhausted, they will be transported to I Heart Dogs for placement.



We encourage all pet owners to keep our community safe by complying with the City ordinances regarding animal ownership.

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It's picnic season!
Having a gathering and need a space to host?
Our City Park Shelters are available for rent.
See Page 23 for more details.

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

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Employee in the Spotlight

Jim Grozde



Jim Grozde is one of our newest employees. However, it did not take long for his impact to be felt by the community. After our full-time park maintenance man retired in April 2025, we were put to the task of finding someone to fill his shoes. When the Directors of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works interviewed him, they could already tell he was well qualified and highly knowledgeable of the job and responsibilities. We welcomed him to our staff in September 2025.

Since then, that first impression has been sustained by his continued ability to identify and solve issues around our parks and facilities. When asked about his time working for the City, he humbly answered, ***“I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the community of Harper Woods.”*** His experience working in Public Works

and construction has prepared him to be a valuable and resourceful addition. While his effort has impressed our departments, he has also received praise and recognition from members of our community. Many residents have gone out of their way to acknowledge Jim’s ability to go beyond expectations.

Jim has been a dedicated member of our Parks and Recreation team, consistently going above and beyond to ensure our community’s green spaces are safe, clean, and welcoming for residents. Christine Skerritt, Director of Parks and Recreation, expressed, ***“Jim embodies the true meaning of public service, with a positive attitude and an unmatched work ethic.”***

Thank you, Jim, for your dedication and for keeping our parks beautiful!

Community Progress

Salter Park Temporary Closure

The City is excited to move forward with construction of our new community center dome, a project that will allow for more community engagement and grant us the space to expand our catalog of recreational programs. Construction is scheduled to begin in early May and continue through September.

To ensure public safety throughout the construction period, **Salter Park will be closed to vehicle traffic**. The park will remain open for visitors arriving on foot, but this temporary restriction means that **shelter and pavilion rentals at Salter Park will be unavailable** until construction is complete.

Residents who wish to reserve a shelter rental during this time may still do so at **Johnston Park**, which will continue offering its single rentable shelter without interruption.

Salter Park is a favorite among our community and a prime location for our City's events. We understand this change may cause inconvenience, especially for those planning spring and summer gatherings. Your patience and flexibility are greatly appreciated as we work to bring this new community space to life. Once completed, the dome will provide a flexible, weather resilient venue for sports, events, and recreation. All to benefit the entire community for years to come.

For updates or questions, residents may contact the **Parks and Recreation Office**, visit the **City website under the Parks and Recreation tab**, or check our **official Facebook page**.



Community Center Dome Update

For as long as many can remember, the City of Harper Woods has never had a true community center. There has never been a central indoor space dedicated to year-round recreation where residents of all ages could gather, play, train, and compete regardless of the season. That is about to change with the development of the Community Center Dome.

This project became possible because the City secured grant funding through Wayne County and the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO). That external investment allows Harper Woods to build something transformative without placing the financial burden solely on local taxpayers. It represents an opportunity the City pursued strategically, recognizing the long-term value of indoor recreational infrastructure.

Recently, the City put out a bid for a General Contractor to construct the foundation of the dome. Once that phase is complete, ASATI will install and finish the dome structure itself. This sequence ensures the project moves forward efficiently and responsibly, following proper procurement and construction protocols.

When complete, the Community Center Dome will provide year-round activities. Our programming will no longer be limited by Michigan weather or dependent on neighboring facilities. The facility will expand recreational access, support health and wellness, create new programming opportunities, and position Harper Woods as a destination for indoor sports activities.

Our goal is to have the dome complete and open for business by September 2026. As progress continues, residents are encouraged to follow updates and reach out to the Economic and Community Development Office with any questions. This project represents more than a structure—it marks a significant step forward in expanding community amenities and investing in the City's future.



Photo courtesy of Hannah Architects

Community Progress

Roscommon Pocket Park Update

Roscommon Pocket Park is on track to open this spring, bringing new life, play, and movement to the neighborhood even though a few finishing touches will continue into the warmer months.

While the park will be fully functional at opening, some greenery and landscaping elements will be completed later in the season, as planting and growth naturally take a bit more time. What will be ready this spring is what matters most to our families and neighbors:

- Play features for our youngest residents, including slides and a hanging bar designed especially for our little ones.
- A walkable exercise path ready for residents of all ages to enjoy.
- A gazebo that will still serve as a welcoming gathering and rest space.

Despite a few compromises along the way, the park's core purpose remains strong. We intend to create a safe, inviting, and active space for the community. Roscommon Pocket Park represents progress, placemaking, and a continued investment in quality-of-life amenities for Harper Woods residents.

We look forward to welcoming you this spring and watching the park continue to grow and evolve throughout the season.



Contact Information by Department

Assessor

(313) 343-2527

SAFEbuilt Building Department

(313) 343-2526

City Manager

(313) 343-2505

Economic and Community Development

(313) 343-2501

Elections

(313) 343-2510



Finance Director

(313) 343-2518

Fire Department

(313) 343-2550

SAFEbuilt Housing Inspection

(313) 343-2526

Library

(313) 343-2575

PAATS

(313) 394-9712

Parks and Recreation

(313) 343-2560

Public Safety Department

(313) 343-2530

Public Works

(313) 343-2570

Treasurer Tax & Water Billing Information

(313) 343-2500

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, 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. 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

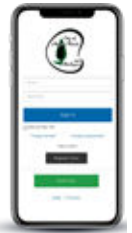
Pay Water Bills & (Now Available) Tax Bills Online

harperwoods.cityinsight.com

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

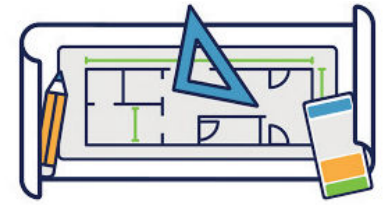
Your water bills and tax bills can be automatically deducted from your savings account or checking account.

- 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.

Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

Building Department Info



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

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

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

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

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. All assessment information is available online through the City's website, www.harperwoodscity.org. For a better understanding of your assessment, taxes, and 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.

MCL 211.7b(1)(a) provides an exemption from property taxes under the General Property Tax Act for real property owned and used as a homestead by a disabled veteran who served in the United States Armed Forces, including the reserve components, and was discharged under honorable conditions. To know if you meet the criteria and guidelines, you can review the application available on the City website or obtain it from 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 the 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.

City Clerk Info

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE DEADLINE

Eligible Harper Woods School District residents interested in becoming a School Board Trustee must file petitions with the City Clerk by **Tuesday, July 21, 2026, no later than 4:00 pm**. Petition forms are available in the Clerk's Office.

AUGUST STATE PRIMARY ELECTION

On **August 4** voters throughout Michigan will participate in an open primary election for the purpose of nominating candidates to most state and county elective offices. In addition to voting for various elective offices, there may be several state or countywide ballot proposals. The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk is Monday, July 20, 2026. After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency in the Clerk's Office during regular business hours or during Early Voting.



Early Voting will take place at City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue, from Saturday, July 25, 2026 through Sunday, August 2, 2026, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm.

If you are unsure of your registration status, or where to vote, please call (313) 343-2510 for assistance. If you need an absentee voter ballot application for this election or have any other questions, please call the City Clerk's Office.

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

The City is looking for civic minded residents to serve on one of the City's various Boards and/or Commissions. If you would like to take an active part in your community, call the City Clerk's Office for more information or fill out an application, found on our website. We have openings on the following: Beautification Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, The Brownfield Authority.

Harper Woods Beautification Commission

Earth Day Clean-Up

To celebrate Earth Day, the Harper Woods Beautification Commission will be hosting a City Clean Up Event! The event will take place **Saturday, April 25, 2026, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**. On the day of the event, please check in with the main organizer, April Martin, behind the City Hall building. Join the Commission along with City officials, City staff, and residents to beautify our community spaces and celebrate the planet we call home.



Spring Perennial Plant Exchange

The Harper Woods Beautification Commission is sponsoring the Perennial Plant Exchange to be held **Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10:00 am–12:00 pm** at Johnston Park.

How the plant exchange works:

- You may bring up to ten perennial plants to exchange.
- Only perennials are accepted and traded—do not bring shrubs or trees.
- Make sure plants are divided and placed into individual disposable containers.
- You will be given a ticket for each plant that you bring, and the number of tickets will determine the number of plants you can take with you.
- Plants are placed in groups according to sun, shade, flowers, foliage, etc.

A Master Gardener will be available to answer all your plant and gardening questions. For more information, please call April Martin at (313) 314-6399 or email HWBeautification@gmail.com



DO YOU HAVE A NEIGHBOR THAT HAS A BEAUTIFUL HOME AND GARDEN?

Submit your nomination by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (313) 343-2510 or by emailing HWBeautification@gmail.com
Beautification Award Nominations must be submitted by July 8, 2026.

Department of Public Safety – Police



END DISTRACTED DRIVING

Thousands have died in crashes involving cell phone use.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 9 people are killed every day in the U.S. as a result of crashes involving a distracted driver. Distracted driving doesn't just mean texting and driving. Distracted driving means driving while not fully paying attention to the road. Even talking with another passenger is a distraction.

Other distractions include:

- Reaching for your phone.
- Changing the music.
- Checking your GPS or map.
- Taking a selfie or photo.
- Checking email or posting to social media sites.
- Eating and drinking.
- Putting on makeup/grooming.

The extent of the problem

Unfortunately, distracted driving is all too common. How many times have you looked over and seen someone talking on their cell phone or texting?

Consider the following statistics:

- When you send a text, you take your eyes off the road for about 5 seconds. That's the time it takes to drive the length of a football field going 55 MPH! (U.S. Department of Transportation).
- At any moment during daylight hours, about 660,000 drivers are handling cell phones or other electronic devices while driving in the U.S. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).
- You are three times more likely to get into an accident when distracted by manipulating a mobile device (Virginia Tech Transportation Institute).

Don't be part of the problem

It seems like there's always something to look at other than the road. It's tempting to try to stay connected by texting and driving, or to take a quick look at your GPS, but those actions can cost you your life or cause you to injure or kill someone else. Always think about whether it's worth it. Is the text message you're about to send worth an injury or death?

What you can do to help?

Give clear instructions – Give new drivers in your household clear instructions not to use their wireless devices while driving. Discuss the consequences what will happen if they fail to comply with the rule.

Lead by example – No one should text and drive. Be an example for your children, and if you need to text or talk on the phone, pull over to a safe place. Set rules for yourself and your household regarding distracted driving.



YARD WORK AND SAFETY

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - *What is it and why is it important to implement?*

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

Residential Entry Points:

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

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

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

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

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

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



Online Citizens Police Reporting

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

Police Reporting System allows citizens to file police reports for specified offenses over the internet, thereby truncating the reporting process and providing more unassigned time for officers to engage in crime suppression activities. The Online Citizens Police Reporting System can be accessed through the City's website, harperwoodscity.org.

Department of Public Safety – Fire

SPRING CLEANING and FIRE SAFETY

If spring-cleaning hasn't happened yet, don't stress. As you start clearing clutter and gearing up for warmer days, it's a great time to weave in a little fire safety prep.

We usually talk about fire risks in the colder months, such as heaters, holiday lights, and deepfried turkeys. However, spring has its own hazards worth a quick check. A few simple steps can boost your home's safety, and both we and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have a few smart spots to focus on.

Only Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives



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

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



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

GETTING YOUR GRILL READY FOR SPRING!



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

Community Highlights

2025 Beautification Award Winners

On December 1, 2025, we recognized members of our community that exemplified proper care and maintenance of their home's landscape. This year we had the pleasure of awarding Patrick & Bogumila Nichols, Patrice Anderson, Brittney & Latoya Jenkins, William & Gay Duttman, Tim List, Clentonia Morris, Tremiko Thweat, Daniel & Betty Jean McBride, and Essence South.

Congratulations to our 2025 Beautification Award recipients!



New Loader In Town

After 27 years of hard labor and many hours of service (special pick-ups, salt loads, curbside leaf pick up and main break digs), it was time to retire and replace our workhorse #625 - CAT loader. The new John Deere arrived on site on November 5th ready to work and try to live up to its predecessor's reputation.

We appreciate #625's dedication to the City of Harper Woods—enjoy your retirement!

New Generator for City Hall!

In 2021, the City applied for a grant to upgrade the existing generator—previously limited to 911 operations—to a full building emergency power system. Funding was approved in 2022, and the project moved forward despite challenges such as COVID related supply chain delays, coordination with DTE, and required inspections.

We are pleased to share that the project was completed in late 2025. City Hall is now fully supported by the new generator, ensuring uninterrupted operations during emergencies.



SAVE THE DATES!



Earth Day Cleanup
April 25th

Perennial Plant Exchange
May 16th



Memorial Day Service and Ceremony
May 25th

Junteenth
June 19th



National Night Out
August 4th

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.



Yard Waste & Curbside Leaf Collection

Yard waste collection will begin the week of **April 6th** and run through the week ending **November 23rd**. Please place your yard waste in **brown biodegradable lawn bags or rubbish cans no larger than 35 gallons and labeled YARD WASTE/ COMPOST**. Yard waste will **ONLY** be collected between the dates listed above.

Curbside leaf collection will run from the week of **October 12th** through the week ending **November 16th** (*weather permitting*). Please be aware that "heavy/ large" leaf piles may cause a delay in collection. Leaves should be collected the following day. Please **DO NOT**:

- Park on top of leaf piles in the street.
 - Blow or place leaves in the street until the night before your trash day.
 - Place leaves on top of/near the storm drain in the curb line.
- Collection will be on your trash day, barring any complications. It might be necessary to collect leaves the day after your trash day. Please check your calendar for specific dates. For more information go to www.harperwoodscity.org or call (313) 343-2570.



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

Please check waynecounty.com for information on various drop off days. Waste oil/antifreeze is no longer accepted at the DPW for drop off. Please take waste oil to your nearest O'Reilly's Auto Parts for disposal. Please contact the DPW for further information at (313) 343-2570.

MISS DIG – If you notice colored flags in your yard or along the roadway, it is an indication that someone is planning to perform underground construction in that area. The following utility companies are represented by colored flags as indicated:

- Blue – Water ● Green – Sanitary Sewer/Storm Water
- Orange – Telephone/Cable/TV ● Pink – Survey
- Red – Electric ● Yellow – Gas or Oil



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

Residents, please note that according to the City ordinances, any grass over five inches is in violation. This also includes flowerbeds. When a GREEN TAG is placed on your door, you will have 48 hours to take corrective action. If your grass is not cut within that time, the City will hire a private contractor to cut your grass/weeds and the owner will receive an invoice to reimburse the City for such costs. If the owner fails to pay, the City Assessor shall add these charges to the tax rolls for this property. If you have any questions, please call (313) 343-2570 upon receipt of warning or notice.

Sidewalk Maintenance

A friendly reminder 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.



LEAD POISONING - Know the Facts

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

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



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

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

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

1. TEST YOUR HOME FOR LEAD

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

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

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

2. KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM LEAD PAINT AND DUST

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

3. RENOVATE SAFELY

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

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



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 2025, we collected samples from 77 homes. "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 was 11.7 for phase 1 and 5.1 for phase 2 in parts per billion (ppb), which is below the "Action Level" of 12-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 be collecting the required 60 samples again in 2026. Testing the same homes in each round will help us determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

Please call the DPW to see if your home meets the EGLE testing criteria. 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, 7:30 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit the City's website at www.harperwoodscity.org, the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, the EGLE website at <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.

EPA
CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER?

Sources of LEAD in Drinking Water

Copper Pipe with Lead Solder: Solder made or installed before 1986 contained high lead levels.

Lead Service Line: The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main to the home's internal plumbing. Lead service lines can be a major source of lead contamination in water.

Galvanized Pipe: Lead particles can attach to the surface of galvanized pipes. Over time, the particles can enter your drinking water causing elevated lead levels.

Lead Solder: Solder joints and pipe caps are those pipes that connect the lead service line to the main.

Fixtures: Fixtures inside your home may contain lead.

Reduce Your Exposure To Lead

- Use only cold water for drinking, cooking and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water.
- Regularly clean your faucet's screen (also known as an aerator).
- Consider using a water filter certified to remove lead and know when it's time to replace the filter.
- Before drinking, flush your pipes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes.

To find out for certain if you have lead in drinking water, have your water tested.

Replace Your Lead Service Line

Water systems are required to replace lead service lines. If a water system cannot meet EPA's Lead Action Level through optimized corrosion control treatment, replacement of the lead service line is often the responsibility of both the utility and homeowner. Homeowners can contact their water system to learn about how to remove the lead service line.

Identify Other Lead Sources In Your Home

Lead in homes can also come from sources other than water. If you live in a home built before 1978, you may want to have your paint tested for lead. Consider consulting your doctor to have your children tested if you are concerned about lead exposure.

For more information, visit epa.gov/safewater

Waste Management Information for Harper Woods Residents



Priority Waste is proud to partner with Harper Woods to provide top-quality waste and disposal services. We are committed to caring for the environment and the people of Harper Woods, actively supporting local community education and sustainability initiatives.

- **Service Days:** Monday–Friday
- **Compost Pickup Period:** Weekly pick up beginning on April 1 through October 31. Residents must place materials in Kraft paper bags, or 32-gallon containers marked “yard waste.”
- **Bulk Pick Up/Special Pick Up:** Bulk picked up on scheduled day of service.

Customer Service

Need Help? Reach a member of our team.
Contact us today for all your waste management needs.

(586) 228-1200 or 1 (855) 927-8365

<https://www.prioritywaste.com/municipality/harper-woods-mi/>

Holiday Pickup Schedule

We observe the following holidays:

- New Year’s Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

If your service day is on or after the holiday, that week, your service day will be delayed one day.



Resident Sign Up any one of these ways

- 1 Text Zip Code to 888777
- 2 Sign up at www.nixle.com
- 3 Download Nixle Mobile App

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



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

Library News & Events

From the Director:

That was a rough winter, but it's finally spring! At the Library, we've really sprung into action. Did you know that we run a **Seed Library**? You can pick up all kinds of seeds, from bok choy to squash. We'll also be giving out transplants for one week in the spring. Follow us on social media or sign-up for our monthly email newsletter to learn when!

If you've got any home improvement projects that you're hoping to accomplish with the warmer weather, remember that we also have a **Library of Things**! We have drill sets, tampers, laser levels, and more to help you get things done and save some money in the process.

Spring is also a season of change. In a world where we often feel glued to our phones, leading to anxiety and sleeplessness, books offer something else. Reading has proven to increase focus, reduce stress, prevent mental decline and help with sleep! Wherever you are on your reading journey, visit the Library and we'll help find the right book for you. You can even join our **Summer Reading Program** and earn prizes just for reading!

Adult Programs

Floral Watercolor Painting

Join us for a meditative painting class with instructor Barb Davis.
Tuesday, April 21, 5:00 pm–6:30 pm

Spring Book Sale

Stop by for an amazing deal on books, comics, DVDs, and more!
Organized by the Friends of the Harper Woods Library.

Saturday, April 25, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm

Grosse Pointe Theater Readers

Stop by for an evening of hilariously entertaining skits & songs.

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 pm

Book Talk: Coach of Champions

Keith Wunderlich returns to discuss his book on the legacy of track coach D.L. Holmes, the Athletic Director at Wayne State University from 1917–1958. Holmes fostered diversity and advocated for inclusion in sports during a time when segregation was the norm. Sponsored by the Friends of the Harper Woods Library.

Wednesday, April 29, 5:30 pm

Detroit Repair Cafe



Have a broken appliance? Need help hemming some pants? Have a lamp that needs rewiring? Bring your items to the Library and Detroit Repair Cafe will help bring them back to life!

Saturday, May 2, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm

Hamtramck History

Joe Kochut with the Hamtramck Historical Museum will be in to discuss the history of Hamtramck. Pierogies will be served!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Harper Woods Library.

Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 pm



History of the Hudson Motor Car Company

Ken Poynter will be joining us to discuss the history of the trailblazing rise and the eventual fall of the Hudson Motor Car Company.

Wednesday, June 10, 5:30 pm

Film Club



Like a Book Club, but for films! Movies will be watched independently, then we'll get together at the Library, have some snacks and discuss the movie. At our first meeting in April, we'll get to know one another, discuss our favorite movies, and decide what movies we'll watch next month.

Tuesdays, April 7, May 5, June 2, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm

Ongoing Adult Programming

Grief Work

This program is intended for those who have experienced loss and provides a space to share their experiences and heal. Led by clinical social worker Frank Wilberding.

2nd Tuesday of the month, April 14, May 12, and June 9, 12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Friends of the Library Meeting

Get involved with your community and support the Library's mission by joining the Friends of the Harper Woods Library. At this meeting, we'll discuss volunteer opportunities, programming, and more!

Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 pm

Wednesday Book Club

April 22: Virginia Evans, *The Correspondent*

May 27: Curtis Chin, *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*

June 24: John U. Bacon, *The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald*

Wednesdays, 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

April 9 and 23

May 14 and 28

June 11 and 25

2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month, 1:30 pm–3:30 pm

Join State Rep. Veronica Paiz for Community Conversation and Discussion

State Rep. Paiz will be at the Library to answer questions and discuss concerns.

Monday, April 20 and June 15, 5:30 pm–6:30 pm

Library News & Events

Adult Summer Reading Program: Plant a Seed, Read!

Open to adults 18 years and older. Read or listen to at least 3 books to be eligible for food & prizes at our End of Summer Reading Celebration. Call the Library to sign up or see the librarian at the Reference Desk.



June 22–July 31

Youth Department Programing

Mini Fairy Garden / Gnome Home Craft Night

Bring a little bit of nature magic indoors and make a mini fairy garden or gnome home to take home with you! **Ages 10–Adult. Registration Recommended.**

Wednesday, April 8, 5:30 pm

Earth Month Discovery Workshop with Arts & Scraps

Arts and Scraps will talk to us about the environment and caring for the Earth. Children will make a craft project to take home using all recycled materials! **Best for Ages 5–10. Registration Recommended, space may be limited.**



Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 pm

Folded Book Vase Craft Night

We'll show you how to make a simple decorative vase out of a book and then finish it off with a faux flower arrangement! **Ages 10–Adult. Registration Recommended.**

Wednesday, May 6, 5:30 pm

Backyard Bugs with Bugs on Wheels



Come meet The Bug Lady and her fascinating friends! An exciting and educational introduction to different bugs and pollinators and what they do. You'll even have the opportunity to touch or handle some of the bugs! **Best for Ages 3–16. Registration Recommended, space may be limited.**

Tuesday, May 19, 5:30 pm

Amazing Animals from GP Zoology

GP Zoology will be here to kick off the first week of Summer Reading with an exciting live animal presentation! Come see which animals visit us this year! **All Ages. Registration Recommended.**

Wednesday, June 24, 5:30 pm



Ongoing Youth Programs

Homework Help

Struggling with your homework? Bring in your assignment after school on Mondays and get some extra help! **Elementary–High School Students. *We will not have Homework Help on days the Library or the HW School District are closed***

Mondays, April 13 through June 8, 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 the Month, April 7, May 5, and June 2, 4:00 pm–5:00 pm

Nintendo Switch Game Night

Drop in with the family to play *Mario Kart* and *Overcooked*. **Best for Ages 10 and Up.**

Tuesdays, April 28, May 26, and June 16, 4:00 pm–6:00 pm

Family Game Night

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

Wednesday, April 15 and June 3, 5:00 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

Saturday Creatives Club

Drop in once a month to let your creativity shine! A different creative project each time!

Ages 18 and Under. Children under 10 must be accompanied.

Saturday, April 11 and May 16, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Read To A Dog!

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

Saturday, April 18 and May 9, 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Friday, June 26, 2:30 pm–3:30 pm

Summer Reading Program

Join us for our Summer Reading Program, "Unearth a Story," where we'll dig into dinosaurs, paleontology, archaeology, and of course, reading! Kids and teens can read to earn prizes and attend fun programs each week.

All Ages.

Sign-up starts Monday, June 22.

The program runs through Friday, July 31

Summer Reading Programing will continue in July with programs featuring STEAM activities, creative projects, and family friendly performances.



Register for programs by phone (313) 343-2575
or email: youthhw@libcoop.net

Current Library Hours:

Monday – Wednesday, 11am – 7pm

Thursday, 11am – 5pm

Friday & Saturday, 1pm – 5pm

New Summer Hours

(beginning May 26):

Monday–Wednesday: 12:00 pm–8:00 pm

Thursday & Friday: 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: Closed

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!



How are **YOUR** parents doing?

Learn More Here

Detroit Area Agency on Aging
DAAA
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 center for Harper Woods residents is 250 McDougall Ave, Detroit, MI 48207. Call (855) 445-4554 or visit **Pacesemi.org**.

The Helm Truly has Something for Everyone!



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

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**.

Senior Resources



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

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

Please call (313) 394-9712 as soon as possible and leave a 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.

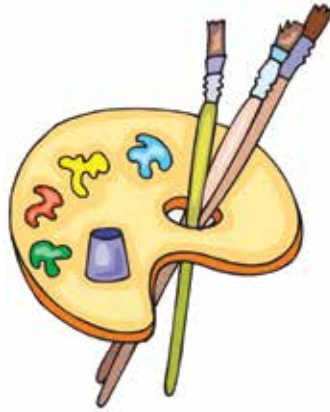
2026 Spring/Summer Recreation Program



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

Arts & Crafts

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



Dates: June 23–August 6 **No classes the week of June 29**

Days & Times: Age 3–5 years old
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am–11:00 am
Age 6–10 years old
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:30 am–1:30 pm

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

A minimum of 5 students is required to run classes

Kids Tennis

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



Regular Sessions (4 weeks):

Session I: June 23–July 23 **No classes the week of June 29**

Session II: July 28–August 20

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Times: Ages 6–8, 9:00 am–10:00 am
Ages 9–High School Age, 10:00 am–11:00 am

Fee: \$40 per 4-week session

A minimum of 5 students is required to run classes

Adult Tennis

This class is held at the Johnston Park Tennis courts. Great for beginners or more advanced players.

Regular Session (4 weeks):

Dates: June 20–July 25 **No class July 4**

Days: Saturdays

Time: 10:00 am–11:00 am

Fee: \$50



Pickleball

Pickleball was created with one thing in mind: fun. It is designed to be easy to learn and play, whether you are five, eighty-five, or somewhere in between. Classes are held at Johnston Park in the court next to the Tennis courts.



Organized Group Play

Days: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday

Dates: June 20–July 29

Times: 9:00 am–11:00 am

No Organized Group Play on July 4

Fee: Free

Discover Pickleball - (Beginners Only!)

Days: Thursdays

Dates: June 25–July 30

Times: 6:00 pm–7:00 pm

Fee: Free

2026 Spring/Summer Recreation Program

Summer Dance

Come join the fun and dance as we start our 43rd year of the Dance program! **There is no residency requirement.** Classes will be held on the stage in the Harper Woods High School Auditorium. We require at least one adult to stay with each student. **Pre-registration** is required at the Recreation Office with cash, check, or money order, or mail your form with a check or money order to the Recreation Office. You can also mail to or use the drop box at City Hall. **All students must be paid in full prior to participating.** The payment plan is not available for the summer classes.

Please contact the dance program director, Nonny Sperry, at (313) 885-3714 or nedra.sperry@gmail.com for more details or updates.



Dates: June 22–July 27

Monday Classes

Instructors: Miss Mikayla Schiller, and Miss Nonny Sperry

10:30 am–11:00 am--- Babes in Danceland, ages 2–3
(with an adult, no extra fee)

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

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

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

12:30 pm–1:00 pm--- Hip-Hop, ages 6–8

1:00 pm–1:30 pm--- Ballet, ages 6–8

1:30 pm–2:00 pm--- Lyrical, ages 9–12

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

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

Family Plan Discount - Family Plan– 2 classes or more. *Applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in 2 or more classes. * \$10 off for 2, \$15 off for 3, \$20 off 4 or more

Zumba Classes!

Adult Water Zumba

Dive into this fun and energizing workout. This class combines the rhythmic moves of Zumba with refreshing resistance of water. This class is perfect for all fitness levels. Burn calories, improve cardiovascular health, and tone your muscles—all while enjoying a low impact, soothing exercise in the pool.

Day/Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 pm, Saturdays at 8:00 am

Location: Pierce Middle School (15430 Kercheval, enter from back of school, door letter H)

Fee: Free to City residents & City employees

Must register at the Recreation Office to reserve a spot

Live Adult Zumba

Get ready to dance, sweat, and have a blast with our live Zumba class! This is a high-energy workout combines Latin rhythms, Hip-Hop, and Pop music to keep you motivated. Whether you are looking to boost your fitness, burn calories, or have fun, Zumba is the perfect way to stay active and feel great.

Day/Time: Mondays at 6:15 pm, Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, Saturdays at 9:30 am

Location: Pointe Fitness & Training (19556 Harper Avenue)

Fee: Free to City residents & City employees

Must register at the Recreation Office to reserve a spot





SAVE THE DATE

Memorial Day

★ ★ ★ Ceremony ★ ★ ★

The City of Harper Woods Memorial Day Service and Ceremony will be held on **Monday, May 25th** at the Veteran's Memorial, located at Johnston Park, beginning at 10:15 am.

The Veterans organizations and service organizations within Harper Woods participate in this program. All are welcome to attend in honor of those who have fought for our country.

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



Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

The Recreation Department has three parks for community use, each with children's playground equipment and picnic sites. Picnic reservations are accepted starting the first business day of January. Only one picnic allowed per household per year. Residents making a reservation must be 21 years of age or older. **No Moon bounces, trains, charcoal grills, confetti, port-a-potty's, bands, or DJs** allowed for picnics. Picnics may be reserved from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and must be reserved four weeks in advance, with a minimum of three weeks in advance. Refunds for cancellations are only given if you cancel at least 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 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 Park is \$100. The fee is due at the time of reservation. Cash or check only. See page 3 for more information regarding Salter Park.

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

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:

Face Addiction Now's Run Drugs Out of Town is June 27th!
Grosse Point Chamber of Commerce · Today's Health & Fitness
Michigan History- The Fight of the Century
The Family Center- Make Mental Health Part of Your Routine

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Today's Health & Fitness



Ken Welch, Owner
Pointe Fitness
& Training

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

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MAKE MENTAL HEALTH PART OF YOUR ROUTINE



The Family Center

EMPOWERING FAMILIES. ENRICHING LIVES.

As final projects and exams approach, and planning for the end of the school year celebrations begins, it's important to remember that academic success is just one piece of the puzzle. Emotional well-being plays a vital role in how children learn, grow, and connect. When kids feel supported, they're better equipped to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Here are a few simple ways to support the kids in your life:

Talk early and often. Ask how they're feeling—not just about schoolwork, but about friendships, routines, and how their body feels when they're anxious.

Recognize signs of stress or anxiety—like trouble sleeping, irritability, avoiding school, or physical complaints like headaches and stomachaches.

Give kids tools to manage big feelings, such as taking deep breaths, journaling, drawing, or taking short breaks to reset.

Normalize asking for help. Remind them it's okay to talk to a trusted adult when things feel overwhelming.

Mental health is a key part of overall well-being, and small conversations at home can make a big impact. Let's all work together to help students feel supported, seen, and empowered.



32 Lake Shore Drive
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
313 447 1374
FamilyCenterHelps.org

CNS Healthcare is a non-profit Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic that provides essential services and support to those affected by mental illness, substance use, intellectual/developmental disabilities and emotional disorders. For more information, visit: cnshealthcare.org.

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DISPENSARY

Essence South

19616 Kelly Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 532-1100
essencemichigan.com

EDUCATION

Grosse Pointe Public School System

20601 Morningside
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
(313) 432-3000
gpschools.org

EDUCATION

Wayne County Community College District

19305 Vernier
Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 962-7150
wcccd.edu

HEALTH & FITNESS

Pointe Fitness

19556 Harper Ave.
Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 417-9666
pointefitnessandtraining.com

MORTGAGES

Michigan Mortgage Pro

NMLS: 2566773
Joe Murray - NMLS: 1698513
joe@michiganmortgagepro.com
(586) 210-3077
michiganmortgagepro.com

REAL ESTATE

The Monzo Group

235 N. Groesbeck Ave.
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
(586) 210-3350
monzogroup.com

SENIOR RESOURCES

Detroit Area Agency on Aging

1333 Brewery Park Blvd. Suite #200
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 446-4444 Ext. 5225
detroitseiorsolution.org

SENIOR RESOURCES

The Helm

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helmlife.org

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THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY



On June 22, 1938, over a hundred million people gathered around their radios for "The Fight of the Century." In one corner was 24-year-old Joe Louis, a black man who became the youngest ever boxing heavyweight champion of the world in 1937. He had only ever lost one fight.

In the other corner was Max Schmeling, a German man who became the poster child of Nazi Germany after defeating Louis in 1936. Hitler paraded Schmeling around, using his surprising win over Louis as proof that the Aryan race was superior.

But in this highly anticipated 1938 rematch, for perhaps the first time in history, white Americans were rooting for the black man. "I knew I had to get Schmeling good... the whole country was depending on me," Louis recalled. After just 2 minutes and 4 seconds of fighting, the world erupted. Louis destroyed Schmeling, becoming the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, and an American hero.



To hear the incredible full life story of Detroit boxing legend Joe Louis, plus other tales of Michigan history, tune in to the Michigistory podcast.

FAN'S RUN DRUGS OUT OF TOWN IS JUNE 27TH!



Lace up your sneakers and be part of the movement! Face Addiction Now's 18th annual Run Drugs Out of Town 5K takes place Saturday, June 27th, at 10:00 am at Macomb Community College's Center Campus (walk-up registration begins at 8:30 am).

This fun, high-energy, family-friendly event brings together runners, walkers, teams, and supporters of all ages to take a stand against substance use disorder.

Every registration, sponsorship, and donation fuels FAN's free programs that provide education, prevention, support, and pathways to recovery for individuals and families across our community.

Whether you're racing for a personal best or strolling with loved ones, your participation sends a powerful message: recovery is possible, stigma has no place here, and no one has to face addiction alone. Run, walk, cheer, or give—however you join in, you're helping build a stronger, healthier, more compassionate community.

Register today at faceaddictionnow.org/events/run-drugs-out-of-town



GROSSE POINTE

Chamber of Commerce

DID YOU KNOW?

A strong Chamber of Commerce is one of the most valuable assets a community can have, serving as both a champion for local businesses and a catalyst for economic vitality. Chambers create meaningful connections—linking entrepreneurs, residents, and community partners in ways that spark collaboration and growth. They provide essential resources, from networking opportunities and educational programs to marketing support and advocacy, helping businesses of all sizes thrive.

Beyond supporting individual enterprises, Chambers strengthen the overall quality of life by promoting local shopping, hosting community events, and fostering a

sense of shared pride in the places we call home. They amplify the voices of businesses, celebrate innovation, and work to ensure that the local economy remains vibrant, resilient, and welcoming.

In many ways, a Chamber of Commerce is the heartbeat of its community—uniting people, elevating local talent, and creating an environment where businesses and neighborhoods flourish together.

Visit www.grossepointechamber.com to discover amazing local businesses and to purchase Grosse Pointe Gift Cards.

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Understanding Mortgage Decisions in Today's Housing Market

An educational guide for today's homebuyers

Mortgage decisions today are about more than simply purchasing a home—they're about understanding how financing choices shape long-term stability. As the housing market continues to normalize, education has become one of the most valuable tools for buyers, especially those entering homeownership for the first time.

Why Mortgage Structure Matters

A mortgage is more than a monthly payment. Loan terms, repayment structure, and how a balance is paid down over time all influence affordability and equity growth. Buyers who understand these fundamentals are better prepared to choose financing that supports both their lifestyle and long-term financial goals.

Predictability Supports Better Planning

Consistent housing costs allow homeowners to plan with confidence. Understanding how different loan options affect payment stability helps buyers avoid surprises and build a strong financial foundation.

"Understanding how a mortgage works is just as important as choosing the right home."

Refinancing as a Long-Term Consideration

Refinancing is often misunderstood as a short-term tactic. In reality, it's a planning tool that homeowners may use to realign their mortgage with changing life circumstances or financial priorities.

Supply, Demand, and Decision-Making

While price growth has moderated, housing supply remains limited in many areas. Knowing how supply and demand affect the market helps buyers approach homeownership thoughtfully rather than reactively.

Education Builds Confidence

In a more balanced market, informed buyers are empowered buyers. Taking time to learn how mortgages work leads to clearer decisions, reduced stress, and a more confident path to homeownership.

Mortgage Basics Every Buyer Should Understand

Loan Term

The length of time you have to repay your mortgage. Common terms range from shorter timelines to longer ones, which impact how payments are structured over time.

Amortization

How each payment is divided between principal and interest. Early payments are structured differently than later ones, which affects how equity builds.

Equity

The portion of your home you truly own. Equity grows as you pay down your loan and as property value changes over time.

Refinancing

Replacing an existing mortgage with a new one to better align with financial or lifestyle goals. Often used as a long-term planning tool.

Fixed vs. Adjustable Loans

Fixed loans offer consistency, while adjustable loans change over time. Understanding the differences helps buyers choose stability or flexibility.

Pre-Approval

An early step that helps buyers understand purchasing power before shopping for a home.



Joseph Murray
Broker, Michigan Mortgage Pro
(586) 210-3077 | (248) 228-4843
michiganmortgagepro.com
joe@michiganmortgagepro.com
NMLS: 1698513



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AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▼ **13.0%**
FROM Q3 2025

▼ **7.9%**
FROM Q4 2024

49

NUMBER
OF SALES

▼ **10.9%**
FROM Q3 2025

▼ **2.0%**
FROM Q4 2024

38

AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▲ **0.0%**
FROM Q3 2025

▲ **15.2%**
FROM Q4 2024

50

AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▼ **9.1%**
FROM Q3 2025

▼ **5.7%**
FROM Q4 2024

29.7%

ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▼ **19.0%**
FROM Q3 2025

▼ **5.6%**
FROM Q4 2024

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q4 2025) OVER QUARTER (Q3 2025)

▲ **3.1%**
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ **5.6%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **10.9%**
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q4 2025 vs. Q4 2024)

0.0%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ **13.3%**
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ **2.0%**
TOTAL CLOSED

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

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

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

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UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

Q4 in Harper Woods is always a bit of an adventure. Investors are busy juggling their portfolios, and the market statistics can look a bit sparse—kind of like trying to judge a party based on who shows up before 8 PM. Still, the market's true strength might be flying under the radar, with the absorption rate standing strong for sellers. All things considered, 2026 is shaping up to be the kind of year where both buyers and sellers should find something to smile about in Harper Woods.

Average Sale Price – Fair: The dip in the average sale price this quarter isn't a sign of market doom—it's just what happens when a parade of investment homes hits the scene. Think of it as a clearance sale in the housing aisle; plenty of deals, but not a lot of luxury upgrades this time around.

The number of sales – Fair: Q4 is usually a little quieter than Q3—as if the market itself is leaning back and letting out a sigh after the year's hustle. Investors are more likely to put a "For Sale" sign in the yard than add another property to their basket, while the average resident homeowner is practicing their best "I'm not moving" impression, happy to hibernate until spring.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good: The numbers refuse to budge, and at less than 40 days on market, homes are finding new owners almost as fast as free donuts disappear at an open house. Sellers are still getting 98.4% of their asking price, and in 60% of cases, buyers are even willing to toss in a little extra—so there's clearly a bidding war, not a yard sale, going on.

Inventory – Fair: Buyer demand is still as strong as ever, putting a little friendly pressure on prices—which means affordability is playing hide and seek. With so many buyers eager to jump in, a boost in inventory would be like someone bringing more chips to the party: absolutely welcome, and nobody's leaving the dance floor early (including sellers).

Absorption Rate – Seller's Market: The absorption rate still has sellers grinning, though it's dialed down just enough to keep things from turning into a conga line of bidding wars. Consider it the real estate equivalent of a packed party—not so wild you lose track of your shoes, but popular enough that everyone wants an invite.

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 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.

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Harper Woods, MI 48225
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20537 Williamsburg Court
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19341 Woodside Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
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19720 Woodside Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$142,900

19009 Woodside Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$132,000

19400 Kingsville Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$69,000

18549 Elkhart Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$105,000

19331 Kingsville Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$134,900

21225 Bournemouth Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$100,000

20632 Kenosha Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$132,000

19404 Roscommon Street
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\$85,000

18996 Roscommon Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$98,000

19420 Woodmont Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$120,000

20293 Washtenaw Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$72,000

19015 Kingsville Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$90,000

19380 Roscommon Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$100,500

19239 Beaconsfield Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$100,000

19397 Washtenaw Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$105,000

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