



THE INSIDER

FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!
WINTER EDITION
JANUARY THROUGH MARCH 2025

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 Year's Day
- January 1 thru 3 (Rubbish Delay)
- January 4 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- *January 6 – City Council Meeting
- January 15 – Water Bill Due
- January 20 – City Offices Closed (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- *January 22 - City Council Meeting

February

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

- February 1 - Siren Test 1:00pm
- February 2 – Groundhog Day
- *February 3 – City Council Meeting
- February 14 – Winter Taxes Due (Valentine's Day)
- February 17 – City Offices Closed (President's Day)
- February 17 thru 21 (Rubbish Delay)
- February 18 – Water Bill Due
- *February 19 – City Council Meeting

March

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

- March 1 – Siren Test 1:00pm
- *March 3 – City Council Meeting
- March 9 – Daylight Savings Time Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
- March 17 – Water Bill Due
- March 17 – St. Patrick's Day
- *March 17 - City Council Meeting
- March 20 – First Day of Spring

From the City Manager's Desk

Dear Harper Woods Residents,

As your City Manager, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your continued engagement and commitment to our community. We are fortunate to live in a vibrant diverse city, and I am proud of the strides we are making and have made together to enhance the quality of life for all our residents and visitors. Listed below are just a few of the recent highlights:

Improved Infrastructure:

Our city has recently completed significant upgrades to our road network, streets, and sidewalks, ensuring safer travel, biking, and walking for all.

Community Events:

Art & music festivals, National Night Out, Perennial Plant Exchange, Parks, and Recreation programs, to name a few, that help celebrate our City's spirit.

Economic Development:

Eastland Commerce Center, Retail Cannabis, Tim Horton's, and Vibrant Vernier Ave. Attracting new business is yielding positive results and creating new job opportunities.

Looking Ahead:

Fraser Square (Former Poupard School) – New (71) townhouse and duplex unit townhouses to be built in 2025. New City Website, Pocket Park on Roscommon Street, Community Center to be built within Salter Park in 2025.

Your voice matters! Please continue to share your feedback and ideas through our public meetings. I am confident that by working together, we can build an even stronger and more resilient Harper Woods for 2025 and beyond!
Happy Holidays to all!!!

John Szymanski
Acting City Manager



Mayor Kindle Receives Award

Page 3

Narcan Box Installation

Page 6

Library Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Page 11



Look for your HARPER WOODS 2025 PULL OUT WALL CALENDAR

In this Edition of *The Insider*

The City of Harper Woods

Mayor

Valerie J. Kindle

Mayor Pro Tem

Regina Williams

City Council

Cheryl A. Costantino

Tom Jenny

Gerianne LaPratt

Vivian M. Sawicki

Ivery Toussant Jr.

Acting City Manager

John Szymanski

City Clerk

Leslie M. Frank

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

Harper Woods Insider Advisory Board

Vivian Sawicki - Councilmember, City of Harper Woods

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

John Szymanski - Acting City Manager

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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Employee in the Spotlight

Ty Hinton

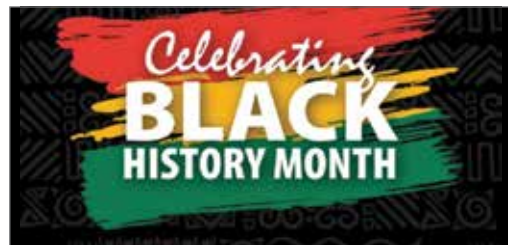
Harper Woods very own Ty Hinton is devoted to public service. Mr. Hinton has been building communities and stabilizing neighborhoods since 1972. He served as the top administrator of Detroit Public Housing under former Mayor Coleman Young, the Executive Director of the Atlanta Housing Authority, the Housing Director for Wayne County for several years, and the Director of Federal Programs for the City of Pontiac. He also has privately developed and built two apartment complexes for Veterans.

The Insider asked Ty what he enjoyed most by living and working in Harper Woods. Mr. Hinton expressed, "What I like about Harper Woods as a resident is its quiet beauty. The tree lined streets, and deep lots contribute to that quiet beauty. Harper Woods also has trees that are huge and have been around since the beginning of the 20th century. I also like and treasure the exceptional diversity of this city. Although there has been a large influx of black families, this is still a very diverse city, where racial harmony is on display every day.

Also, I like working in this City, which has been my home for 15 years. I work with a group of hard working professionals. They have also become a diverse "work family" with occasional differences of opinions, but always get things done as an effective work team. I have been with this family for ten years. The Harper Woods Police are the most professional group of Officers I have ever known, in my public service career!"

Since joining the City of Harper Woods in 2015, Ty became not only an influential member of the city's administration as Director of Economic and Community Development Director; he's also become a vital role model in our neighborhood. City officials, residents, business owners, developers, contractors, and city employees all have recognized Ty for his efforts leading to the preservation of the Harper Woods community.

To commemorate Black History Month, the Insider also asked Ty Hinton what celebrating Black History Month meant to him. Hinton said, "There are several



significant reasons why we have and should continue to celebrate Black History Month. At this "senior stage" in my black life that I hope will matter, I remember the times when the struggle to be recognized as a significant human being was an awesome day to day task, growing up in the culture of "Jim Crow" Alabama.

However, my awareness of Dr. W.E.B. Dubois (the history & sociology scholar) and George Washington Carver (the well-known botanist) helped me, at 14, to strive and perhaps one day make a significant contribution to society. Only the exploration of significant black achievements, during the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, gives young and older Americans a proper more balanced perspective on what black men and women are capable of achieving or the betterment of all society."

Neighbor in the News



Mayor Valerie Kindle

At the close of 2024, Mayor Valerie Kindle had the honor of being recognized as Michigan Mayor of the Year by the African American Leadership Institute. We asked Mayor Kindle to share her thoughts on receiving this prestigious award. Mayor Kindle said, "Receiving this award was a deeply humbling experience, one that I feel reflects not just my work but the incredible spirit and dedication of the entire Harper Woods community. I am truly blessed to serve as your Mayor, and I'd like to take a moment to share some of the steps we've taken together to strengthen and uplift our city."

Reflecting on my journey, I'm reminded of the mentors and role models who inspired me, from Detroit's east side to Harper Woods, where I've proudly lived for over two decades. My parents instilled in me and my seven sisters the value of service and hard work, which I have carried with me through every stage of my career. From my early years on the Harper Woods Planning Commission to my current role as Mayor, my goal has always been the same: to make our community a better, more welcoming place for everyone.

Since I was first appointed to City Council in 2012, our city has seen many changes, each driven by a commitment to progress while honoring our roots. One of our largest projects, the redevelopment of the former Eastland Mall, is transforming a space that was once a community landmark into a hub for growth and opportunity. I'm thrilled to see new businesses joining us, like the Tim Hortons that recently reopened, and we continue to work toward additional developments that will bring jobs and services right to our doorsteps.

We've also made it a priority to enhance our neighborhoods and public spaces. Over the past few years, we've been hard at work paving streets, updating our three parks, and creating new housing on what was once a closed school property. These projects may seem like small steps, but they represent a vision for Harper Woods that values both history and forward-thinking—a vision that we can all be proud of.

My heart is especially warmed by the cultural milestones we've reached together. Since establishing Juneteenth as an official celebration in Harper Woods, we've watched it grow into a day of unity, reflection, and joy, with music, speakers, and community activities that bring us all together. And when our Division 4 State football champions returned home with their victory, it was a true privilege to celebrate them with a parade they will always remember. These moments of togetherness remind us of the strength and resilience that define our community.

Of course, public service is about showing up for people, and one of my favorite ways to connect with residents is through Harper Woods Just a Little Help of Michigan, a nonprofit program I founded to address food insecurity in our community during the pandemic. Every Thursday, we gather to distribute food and essentials to families, and the support from volunteers and donors has been nothing short of remarkable. This program is proof of what we can accomplish when we come together with open hearts and a willingness to help.

And the work continues! Looking ahead, we're working tirelessly to secure funding for major infrastructure improvements, including our new city hall and a much-needed recreation center. Our city has grown, and so have our needs, but I am confident that with the support of our community and our partners, we'll have the resources needed to bring these projects to life.

I want to thank everyone who makes Harper Woods such a wonderful place to call home. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the area, your involvement and care are what truly make this city special. The award I received last month is one we earned together. Every effort, big or small, moves us forward, and it's my privilege to serve a community so dedicated to the wellbeing of its residents.

Thank you for trusting me as your Mayor, for working alongside me, and for sharing in this journey. As we look to the future, I am filled with hope and excitement for what we will continue to achieve together!"



Treasurer Info

Public Notice – City of Harper Woods **Applications for Deferment 2025 Taxes**

The Harper Woods Treasurer’s Office accepts applications for the 2025 tax deferments starting July 1 for the Summer and December 1 for the Winter tax bills. To qualify, a household income cannot exceed \$40,000. The applicant must also be 62 years of age or older, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, eligible service person, veteran, widow or widower, blind, or totally and permanently disabled. The deferment applications can be obtained at the Treasurer’s Office Monday-Thursday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

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



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

Delinquent Tax Information Online

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

Property Transfer Affidavit

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

Electronic Debit Transactions

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



ALERT:

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

Water/Sewer Rates*

As of January 1, 2024

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



***Rates subject to change**

Water Bill Delivery

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

Current Fees Effective 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

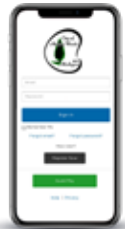
Pay Water Bills & (Now Available) Tax Bills Online

www.harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Water Bill: NO FEES

Tax Bill: A CONVENIENCE FEE APPLIES

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



Automatic Payment-Water Bills

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

Automatic Payment-Tax Bills

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

City Clerk Info

CITY COUNCIL PETITION FILING DUE BY APRIL 22, 2025

Eligible residents interested in running for Mayor or City Council must file petitions with the City Clerk by Tuesday, April 22 before 4:00 p.m. Qualifications include being a resident of the City of Harper Woods for at least two years, a registered elector of the City and not in default to the City. Petition packets will be available in January for pickup. For more information, please call Leslie Frank at 313-343-2510 or send an email to lfrank@harperwoods.net






BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

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

Now Available: *Water App to Pay Your Water Bill with Cash!*


City of Harper Woods Cash Pay


Easy way to pay your water bill with cash.*

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

Payments are posting in real-time to: harperwoods.cityinsight.com




POWERED BY 

Take the barcode below to any participating stores to pay your bill with cash.


Scan the barcode

Start the 3-Step Guide

By clicking the button above, I consent to have a payment barcode link sent to my cell or home.



Open Camera Scan Code

 Access via the Web

harperwoods.cityinsight.com

Department of Public Safety – Police

WINTER SAFETY TIPS



Vehicle Safety: Be prepared. Keep extra blankets, flashlights, ice scraper, warning devices (e.g., flares, reflectors), jumper cables, first aid kit, snow shovel and rock salt or sand, bottled water and snacks in your vehicle. Always have a cell phone with you.

Driving Safety: If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it is clear of snow before you start the car. In icy and snowy conditions, drive slowly, allow plenty of stopping time, and pay attention to the road and other drivers. If you get stuck in the snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, at a safe distance away. Make sure snow isn't blocking the exhaust pipe and stay in the vehicle with a window open slightly to allow fresh air

Home Safety: Be prepared. Have a week's worth of food, drinking water, medicine and prescription drugs, pet food, and safety supplies on hand. Do not leave lit candles unattended. Keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of snow each day. If you are unable to remove it, contact a willing neighbor or a snow removal business to do it for you. For those going away this season, snow left on the driveway and sidewalk for a period of time can be a dead giveaway that you aren't home, so arrange for it to be cleared every day.

NARCAN BOX INSTALLATION



Jason Hammerie, Harper Woods Director of Public Safety and MaryJo Harris, Director of Programs & Administration for The Family Center/Healthy Grosse Pointe & Harper Woods Coalition

The Harper Woods Police Department installed a Nalox-Box in their lobby through the AmeriCorps Community Training (ACT) for Overdose Rescue program at Wayne State University Center for Urban Studies. The installation was coordinated by The Healthy Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods Coalition.

The Nalox-Box is a container stocked with free, ready-to-use Narcan®. Narcan® is an easy-to-use nasal spray that can reverse overdose symptoms. Anyone can retrieve Narcan® from the Nalox-Box to administer immediately in case of a nearby emergency or to take with them as a precaution for a future overdose emergency. Narcan® is critical to saving a life during an opioid overdose.

For information on Narcan® training, please visit the Coalition's website at <https://familycenterhelps.org/coalition> or call 313-447-1374.

Visit StopOverdoseDeaths.org for more information about the AmeriCorps Community Training (ACT) for Overdose Rescue program.

VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION TIPS



1. Never leave your vehicle running with the keys in it. Never.
2. Never leave your keys in the vehicle – the convenient 'keyless' feature is not only convenient for the car owner, but also for the thief who can steal your car with the touch of a button.
3. Lock your car – even without the keys, thieves are more likely to steal a car left unlocked
4. Park your vehicle in a garage or a well-lit area – at home, at the mall or on the road, always try to park in an area where suspicious activity would be noticeable.
5. Keep valuables out of sight.
6. Exercise these tips all year round.



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

The holiday season should be a time of great joy as we celebrate and share gifts with those close to us. Unfortunately, it can be a time when crime becomes more prevalent. These tips are offered to help make your holiday season a safe and happy one. Please take some time to read and share them with your family and friends.

- **Be alert:** Walk confidently, with your head up, and stay in well-lit and well-traveled areas. Pay attention to people walking in front of and behind you. Pay particular attention when you are in crowded areas, such as buses, trains or malls and stores that are filled with other shoppers. Places with large crowds are favorites for thieves and pickpockets. If you carry a purse, keep it in front of you and close to your body. You can do this by covering the flap or clasp with your hand or forearm. Never leave your purse in the shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases. Remember not to carry open-weave bags or purses without zippers or flaps. Those items are easy marks for pickpockets. If you carry a change purse or wallet, keep it in your front pants pocket or in the inside breast pocket of your coat. Always be alert when opening your purse or wallet. Try to shop with friends or relatives. Not only is there safety in numbers, but shopping in a group will give you a chance to catch up on things and renew friendships.
- **Be discreet:** never carry large amounts of money. Whenever possible, use debit or credit cards or checks instead of cash. When using debit or credit cards, make sure that only one slip is printed with your card. Thieves and pickpockets are also more likely to be attracted by expensive clothes and jewelry. When you are out doing your holiday shopping, dress comfortably and casually.
- **Secure your car:** Cars can be an easy target for criminals. Park your car as close to your destination as possible and in a well-lit area. When you do your shopping remember to store your packages in the trunk of the car and not on the back seat. Also, if you take packages to the car but plan to return to the store or mall, drive your car to a new location within the parking lot. Criminals can be on the lookout for unsuspecting shoppers who simply drop their purchases into the trunk and then return to keep shopping.
- **Secure your home:** When you are out shopping, leave some lights on at home. You may also want to let a neighbor know that you will be out of the house for a short time, so they can watch your house for you. If you plan to be away for a longer period to visit friends or family over the holidays, make sure to tell a neighbor or friend who can keep an eye on your house. Have them check periodically to make sure packages that may have been delivered while you were gone aren't sitting on your porch



HEART HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS FOR SURVIVING WINTER 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 the 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 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 on 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, 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, potentially leading 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 folks 65 and older, 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

9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **Don't rush.** Take extra time and shorter steps in slippery conditions. Try pointing your toes slightly outward when you walk to maintain your balance. If you become tired, go inside to warm up and take a break.
12. **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.



Portable Generators and Winter Storms

Did you know?

Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows, and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.

Building Dept. & Assessing Dept.

Building Department Info



Happy New Year from SAFEbuilt.

Welcome to 2025, a new year with hope 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 such as 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 so that you may have peace of mind that it is operating properly and not admitting carbon monoxide into your home.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Be aware of your surroundings and help out your neighbors that are elderly or have physical limitations.

Enjoy the winter months and stay safe!

Assessing Department Info

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

The 2025 Notice of Assessments will be mailed at the end of February of 2025. 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 the PTA from the city website or the Assessor's Office. It is the owner's responsibility to ensure the name and mailing address are correct on the property. Please inform the Assessor's Office in writing of any changes.



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.

Community Highlights

2024 Harper Woods Beautification Award Winners



On November 18, 2024, the Harper Woods Beautification Commission distributed awards to the following recipients: Yvette Diggs-McKinney, Dan and Sue Nowakowski, Connie and Donny Pruitt, Eileen Ross, and Heide Milburn-Christmas.

Congratulations to the recipients and "Thank You All" for keeping Harper Woods beautiful!

Also pictured with the winners and the Harper Woods City Council are the 2024 Beautification Committee Members April Martin, Michael Andrzejczyk, Mitzi Giles, Candance Williams, Kayla Camper, Geri LaPratt, Marianne Modlin, and LaShara Clemons.

Tree Lighting Sparks the Holiday Season

The Harper Woods Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was presented by City dignitaries on November 20, 2024. The event attracted community members to participate in the festive tradition of "lighting the tree" and the City holiday lights. The Beacon Heartbeats (2nd Graders from Beacon Elementary School) sang a medley of holiday favorites for all to enjoy. Thanks to Teresa Devroy along with her parents Debra and Brian Devroy for "flipping the switch" this year!

A special "Thank You" to Wendy's restaurant and the Harper Woods-Grosse Pointe Lions Club for their support and generous donations of refreshments for the event.



Go Pioneers!

HARPER WOODS



PIONEERS

Congratulations to the Harper Woods High School Varsity Football Team for another great season...
Looking forward to the 2025 season!

Street Patrol Keeps Residents Safe



A very special "Thank you" to Pastor D.L. Harville and the New Life Ministries Worldwide congregation for keeping their vigilant street patrols ongoing during the Halloween festivities in the City of Harper Woods for many years.

Library Celebrates 60th Anniversary

The Harper Woods Public Library commemorated its 60th anniversary on September 28, 2024. Guests viewed photos, books, and art pieces from the library's history that were on display. The festivities included quizzes, prizes, a raffle, and refreshments. Mayor Valerie Kindle and former Mayor Ken Poynter were guest speakers. State Representative Veronica Paiz presented the library with The Great Seal of the State of Michigan and a Special Tribute to acknowledge the library's institution signed by Governor Whitmer, Lt. Governor Gilchrist, State Senator Kevin Hertel and Representative Paiz.



Library Hosts Artisans' Market and Book Sale

The Friends of the Harper Woods Library sponsored an Artisans' Market and Book Sale on-site at the library on November 9, 2024. The market featured local artisans that displayed unique handmade items for purchase.

This event marked the revival of the market and book sales that have not taken place on-site since 2019 due to the pandemic and lower level flooding that occurred in 2021. The Harper Woods Public Library fully reopened after extensive renovations were completed this past summer.



32A District Court News



Greetings Harper Woods,

As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the enduring principles that guide us: fairness, integrity, and the pursuit of justice. The holiday season reminds us of the strength found in unity, compassion, and the tireless efforts of those who uphold the law and protect the rights of all. We must all take a moment to reflect on the past months, celebrate our accomplishments and develop plans/goals for a bright new year ahead. At the 32A District Court, we are committed to continuous improvement and are excited to enter into 2025 with renewed purpose and vision.

As part of our ongoing commitment to community health and justice, our Sobriety Court Treatment Program has had a transformative year. This program, designed to support individuals struggling with substance use, offers treatment, accountability, and a path to recovery in place of traditional sentencing. In 2024, we were able to help 15 participants through our treatment program, guiding them towards recovery and a fresh start. Through our program we have introduced multiple services to the participants. These services include but are not limited to mental health support, cognitive

behavioral therapy and family counseling. These resources have provided participants with comprehensive care tailored to their unique needs.

Historically, participants in Drug Treatment Programs have shown a significant decrease in repeat offenses, underscoring the effectiveness of our rehabilitative approach. Through partnerships with local organizations, we have integrated job training and employment services into the program, helping participants rebuild their lives and strengthen their economic stability.

In the coming year, we aim to expand our program, and we are committed to helping more individuals in our community find a path to health and stability. Thank you to our staff, led by Probation Director Carrie Petrocelli, for making this program a success. Your hard work and dedication is helping to change lives and build a safer, healthier community.

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

From everyone at the 32A District Court, we wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season filled with peace, warmth, and happiness. Thank you for your commitment to justice and your support of our mission.

Happy 2025,
Judge Rebekah R. Coleman

Department of Public Works

Refuse Collection Guidelines

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



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. (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.

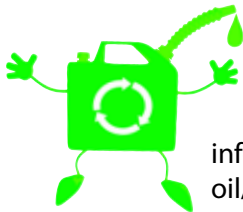


Thaw Frozen Pipes

- Shut off your main water valve.
- Open the faucet so that water will flow 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 as a result of the freeze.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day

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



Trash Delay Reminder!

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



Sidewalk Maintenance

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



Department of Public Works

Snow and Ice Emergencies



Our Public Works Department is responsible for keeping streets clear throughout the winter season whenever there is snow or ice. During a major winter storm, please check to see if Harper Woods has declared a snow emergency by looking at the City's Informational sign, watching your local television news, or listening to the radio. When a Snow or Ice Emergency is declared, all vehicles **must** be removed from the street or they may be towed at the owner's expense. If you live on a corner lot, please be aware that you are responsible for the clearing of the corner cross walk areas. During a salting or plowing event, we typically begin treating the major streets such as Harper, Beaconsfield, 8 Mile, the east section on Vernier, Canton and Peerless. Depending on the time of day, we will focus on the areas around schools.

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

Ordinance Penalty

Sec. 23-4. - Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks by owners of abutting property. The occupant or owner of any premises shall keep the sidewalks in front of, or adjacent to such premises cleared, so far as is practicable and reasonable, from snow and ice to facilitate pedestrian use. Where there are no sidewalks, the occupant or owner as aforementioned, is required to clear a

path free from snow and ice where a sidewalk would otherwise be, to facilitate pedestrian use. Whenever any snow or ice has fallen or accumulated it shall be cleared within thirty-six (36) hours after it has fallen or accumulated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 permittable event. The permit and inspection can be secured by contacting the Building Department at 313-343-2526.



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

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



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



Rodent Control

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

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

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

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



Department of Public Works



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

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

In 2023, we collected samples from 30 homes. The EGLE evaluates compliance with the Action Level based on the 90th percentile of all lead and copper results collected in each round of sampling. The lead 90th percentile for the City's water supply is 47 parts per billion (ppb), which exceeds the Action Level of 15 ppb. The "Action Level" is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness; it is not a health-based standard. The goal for lead in drinking water is 0 ppb; there is no safe level of lead in the blood.

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

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

At this time only homes with LEAD service lines are being tested per 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, the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead, the EGLE website at www.michigan.gov/deqleadpublicadvisory or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

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

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.



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 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

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

Our Fares

ZONE 1

\$2.00 each way:

Within Harper Woods & the Grosse Pointes

ZONE 2

\$3.00 each way:

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

ZONE 3

\$4.00 each way:

- St. John Surgery Center
- 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 message on the voice mail if you are calling after hours.

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



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

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 address of the center residents of Harper Woods would attend is 250 McDougall Ave, Detroit, MI 48207, (855) 445-4554, 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, medical loan closet, community resources, home repair program 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! **313-882-9600 • www.helmlife.org**

Library News & Events

From the Director:

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I would like to introduce myself... My name is Sue Todd, and I am the Interim Library Director. I am happy to come out of retirement to serve the city where I lived and raised my children. I have worked in libraries for over 40 years serving in numerous roles. Throughout my career I have seen the impact that library staff has in the communities they serve and believe more strongly today than ever that public libraries are integral and vital to our communities. They are truly the people's university. Next time you are in the library, stop by the office, it will be a pleasure to meet you.

So, what is your 2025 New Year's Resolution? Is it to save money, meet new people, learn new things about the world around you? If so, the library is the perfect place to achieve these goals. All our resources and programs are free and as a member of the Suburban Library Cooperative, library patrons have access to collections of twenty-member libraries. Patrons also have 24/7 access to our digital library, Libby, where e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines can be downloaded on your favorite digital device. Databases for homework help (Tutor.com), online test preparation for all ages, ideas for hobbies and crafts, small engine repair, and more are available on our webpage. Programs for youth, family and adults are created by our imaginative adult and youth services staff. We invite you to check out what we offer and sign up. You will not be disappointed.



Comic Drawing Classes

Join us at the library the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in January and February to learn to draw in the style of American comics with Ms. Kayla. Each session is a stand-alone, so join us for any one or for all of them! Art supplies will be provided.

Recommended for Ages 10 and Up
Saturdays, January 4 and 18, February 1 and 15, 2:00-3:30pm
Contact the library to sign up.



After-School Crafternoons

Drop-in at the library after school to make a craft to take home!
6th-12th Grade Students
Wednesdays, January 15, February 5, March 12 3:30-4:30pm

Exam Week Study Room



The Once Upon a Time Room will become a quiet study room for Middle School and High School students. We'll provide a study environment with snacks and some quiet brain-break activities.

Tuesday Jan. 21 12:30-6:30pm
Wednesday Jan. 22 12:30-6:30pm
Thursday Jan. 23 12:30-4:30pm

Family Game Night

Bring the whole family to the library and play our selection of games! **All Ages**
Tuesdays, January 28, February 25, March 25 5:00-6:30pm

Teen Advisory Board Information Meeting

Want to have a voice in future library programming? We want to hear what you want! Come to the library for pizza and an informational meeting about what the Teen Advisory Board is and how to join. **All Ages.**
Wednesday, February 12, 3:30-4:15pm



Youth and Family Programming

Storytime!

Join us to sing, move, and listen to stories with your little one. Stick around after for some unstructured play time! Ages 2-5, accompanied by a caregiver. No registration required.
Thursdays, 11:15am-12:15pm beginning January 9th



Exploring History and Cultural Identity Through Collage

In celebration of Black History Month we will be hosting African American photographic and mixed media artist Kelsey Arrington-Shaw. She will discuss her body of work and lead participants through an interactive workshop where they will be able to create their own works of art. **Recommended for Ages 8 and Up**
Tuesday, February 18, 4:30-6:00pm
Contact the library to sign up.

Teen Movie Club

Join us for pizza and a movie with a short discussion of the film afterward. We'll be watching *Ponyo!*
Recommended for ages 13-18
Tuesday, March 18, 5:00-6:45pm



Additional Programming Coming Soon!

Look for more information coming soon about additional programs including Paws for Reading! Call or stop by the library or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for up to date programming information!

Programs for Adults

Mindful Mondays: 1:30 – 2:30pm

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

- January 13: *National Gluten-Free Day*
- February 10: *International Fire Extinguisher Day*
- March 10: *International Day of Awesomeness*



Wednesday Book Club: 1:30 – 2:30pm

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

- January 22: *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lahorn (2023)
- February 26: *Die a Little*, by Megan Abbott (2005)
- March 26: *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books*, by Kirsten Miller (2024)



Harper Woods History Rewind - Ride the Wednesday Wayback Machine: 1:30-2:30pm

- January 29: *Early History – Settlers and Farmers*
- March 19: *Kelly Road Shops and Stores*

Corewell's Diabetes Prevention Program: February 21, 2025 – February 27, 2026; 1:30-2:30pm, (Hosted by the Harper Woods Library)

- This is a lifestyle change program that helps people prevent type 2 diabetes.
- Participants meet weekly for the first six months, and then once or twice a month for the second six months.
- *Call The Helm at 313-882-9600 to register.*



Pinochle at the Library! Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:30pm

- Interested?
Call Mrs. Kent at 313-343-2575.

Introducing the Harper Woods Library's Home Economist, M. M. McKent

- Mary Margaret McKent, a graduate of the School of Hard Knocks, brings her homespun wisdom and knowledge of home economics to Harper Woods beginning in January 2025.
- Each month she will leave a special gift bag for you in our magazine area.
- You will find information on cleaning, consumer issues, food preparation, finances, housing, interior design, and more. Plus, a free gift from Mary Margaret!

Call 313-343-2575 to register for all library programs.

Call 313-882-9600 to register for the Diabetes Prevention Program.

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

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

2025 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.

Yoga

Yoga is a great way to take time out for yourself. Our certified instructor will lead you through the breathing and movements that can strengthen your body and relax your mind. Message from Instructor: My name is Tiwana, a certified Yoga Teacher. My classes are warm, inviting, and fun! My love of music is showcased during class. When I teach, I like to use different genres of music to connect with students and fuel the flow. Types of practice: Ashtanga, Vinyasa Flow, and Yin. Please call the Recreation Department for updated class dates for yoga at 313-343-2560.

Class Schedule: Monthly (January, February & March)

Location: TBD

Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Fee: \$40.00 per month



Fitness Firm Aerobics

Fitness Firm offers low impact dance aerobics, incorporating kick box, yoga, free weights, Zumba, toning, flexibility and stretching.

Fitness Firm classes are held at The First English Lutheran Church on the fourth floor, located at 800 Vernier in Grosse Pointe Woods.

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

For more information, please contact Judy Sheehy at 313-886-7534 or vitaftjsheehy@comcast.net.



Fall/Winter Dance

Come Join the fun and dance as we start our 41st 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 and Broadstone. We require one parent or guardian to stay and watch their child during classes. Siblings are welcome. Students have the opportunity to perform in the annual recital. The recital will be in April at the end of the session. YOU CAN REGISTER IN PERSON/ON SITE AT TYRONE 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 e-mail nedra.sperry@gmail.com.

Instructors: Mikayla Schiller, Caitlin Skerske, Nonny Sperry

***Registration for Fall dance opened August 2024**

Tuesdays starting September 24th

Times:

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

5:30-6:00—Pre-Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 3-5

6:00-6:30—Hip Hop, ages 6-8

6:30-7:00—Ballet, ages 6-8

7:00-7:30—Lyrical, ages 9-12



Wednesdays Starting September 25th

Times:

5:00-5:30—Tiny Tappers, ages 3-5

5:30-6:00—Lyrical, ages 6-8

6:00-6:30—Ballet, ages 9-12

6:30-7:00—Tap, ages 9-12

7:00-7:30—Jazz and Hip Hop, ages 9-12

7:30-8:00—Teen/Adult Tap

Dance Tuition - \$175.00 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 payment plan is due by January 20th, 2025.

Family Plan Discount - \$150 per class for two or more * Applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in two or more classes.

Harper Woods Parks and Recreation
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 12, 2025 @ 1-3pm at Salter Park (rain or shine)
Children up to age 12
Fee: \$5.00
Registration begins Monday, March 3, 2025
Ends Friday, March 28, 2025
For more information call Parks and Recreation
313-343-2560

Parks & Recreation Update

Park Facilities

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



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

Park Fees *(Fees are subject to change)

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

Financial Assistance Program

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

Recreation Refund Policy

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

To Register:

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

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

The Recreation Department is located near the front of Johnston Park

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

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

313-343-2560

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

City of Harper Woods

Parks & Recreation Department.

You can also contact us at

harperwoodsrec@harperwoods.net

or 313-343-2560.

Harper Woods Recreation Department

Participant Name _____

Age _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Birthdate _____

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

Activity _____ Days/Times _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Signature of Parent, Guardian, or Adult Participant _____

the Community Resource Guide



Harper Woods Edition

“Connecting Residents to Community”

Highlighted in this Edition:

Harper Woods Real Estate • Special Needs Resource Fair
Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce
Kids Helping Kids

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KIDS IN HELPING KIDS



Susie Q's Kids, a 501c3 nonprofit, supports the mission of other nonprofits, works closely with service agencies and businesses to advocate for the mental health and well-being of kids, engages "Kids in Helping Kids", philanthropy, service, and gratitude has helped over 16,000 kids in need in hospitals, hospices, shelters, foster care, autism/advocacy/grief centers, schools, camps, and wherever there is a need.

A recent collaboration with all four Ronald McDonald Houses in Michigan places their comfort bags as welcome bags in the hands of families dealing with medical issues offering a measure of normalcy during challenging times.

An additional collaboration with Phi Theta Kappa broadened their reach throughout Michigan, connecting young servant leaders working along seasoned service agencies to make kids smile and find hope and healing.

To learn more about becoming a Smile Maker, collaborating, and volunteering with Susie Q's Kids, visit susieqskids.org/ or contact drmary@susieqskids.org or call 586-206-8424.



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Wayne County Community College District
 Mary Ellen Stempfle University Center
 19305 Vernier • Harper Woods, MI 48225
 313-962-7150 • WWW.WCCCD.EDU

GROSSE POINTE Chamber of Commerce

Join the Chamber and maximize your chamber membership

Your Chamber of Commerce membership is only valuable if you take advantage of all the benefits it has to offer. Here are four ways you can maximize your membership:

- Know why you joined: It's important to understand what you hope to get from your chamber membership. Do you want to connect with like-minded entrepreneurs, or do you want more visibility for your business? Understanding your primary motivation will help you determine which events and resources to take advantage of.
- Pay for your employees to join: The Chamber offers a "company" membership, which allows your staff to take advantage of the benefits. Including your staff is a great way to boost employee morale and offer new professional development opportunities.
- Take advantage of every marketing opportunity: Take advantage of every opportunity you can find to promote your business. The Chamber offers different ways to market your company and generate new leads for your business.
- Participate regularly: Make sure you regularly attend events and make a point to get to know other members. You might also consider volunteering for a committee or sponsoring an event the chamber is hosting.

For additional information, visit
WWW.GROSSEPOINTECHAMBER.COM

Or Call: (313)881-4722

gp♥cc



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Chandler Park Academy
20254 Kelly Rd.
Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 499-3010
chandlerparkacademy.net

EDUCATION

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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

Anna Taylor
KW - The Monzo Group
235 N. Groesbeck Ave.
Mount Clemens, MI 48043
(734) 417-5922
anna@monzogroup.com

REAL ESTATE

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Mount Clemens, MI 48043
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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

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\$156,515

AVERAGE SALE PRICE

▼ 7.1%
FROM Q2 2024

▲ 20.1%
FROM Q3 2023

59
NUMBER
OF SALES

▲ 0.0%
FROM Q2 2024

▼ 11.9%
FROM Q3 2023

34
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE MARKET

▲ 26.0%
FROM Q2 2024

▲ 6.3%
FROM Q3 2023

84
AVERAGE MONTHLY
INVENTORY

▲ 3.7%
FROM Q2 2024

▲ 5.2%
FROM Q3 2023

24.3%
ABSORPTION
RATE¹

▲ 3.7%
FROM Q2 2024

▼ 16.3%
FROM Q3 2023

MARKET ACTIVITY

Single Family • Detached

QUARTER (Q3 2024) OVER QUARTER (Q2 2024)

▲ 3.7%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▲ 3.3%
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▲ 0.0%
TOTAL CLOSED

YEAR-OVER-YEAR (for Q3 2024 vs. Q3 2023)

▼ 9.1%
AVERAGE ACTIVE

▼ 12.5%
TOTAL UNDER CONTRACT

▼ 11.9%
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.

- ◆ Website: www.GPBR.com
- ◆ Phone: 313-882-8000
- ◆ Fax: 313-882-6062
- ◆ Email: members@gpbr.com
- ◆ Address: 710 Notre Dame, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230



UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

For those who might appreciate some perspective relative to this quarter's data, in 2020, the average home was selling for \$111,824, it was taking 75 days on average to sell, and those selling were getting 98.1% of their asking price. Today the average home is now selling for 40% more, is selling twice as fast, and is receiving 100% of the asking price (on average).

Average Sale Price – Good: Great year over year, down from last quarter, but that is because of the homes for sale, not a decline in value.

Number of sales – Poor: Down from a year ago but that was when interest rates which had been close to 9% had started to decline which brought buyers out of the woodwork. Quarter over quarter numbers suggests demand remains strong even with prices rising noticeably.

Days on Market (DOM) – Good: At approximately one month, while slower than when days were in single digits, this is still very good with 72 being typical in a balanced market.

Inventory – Improved: Not up by much, but up is always better when inventory is low.

Absorption Rate – Good: Up from last quarter, but down from last year is an indication that the market is continuing to moderate giving buyers an opportunity to buy and sellers the opportunity to rely on their asking price as being likely making their next step less uncertain.

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

Disclaimer:

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®.

Changes Coming to the Buying and Selling of Residential Real Estate

A recent agreement involving the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) and the courts takes effect August 17, 2024.

The changes will impact buyers and sellers of residential real estate who use a REALTOR®.

The Grosse Pointe Board of REALTORS® is a 2000-member association of real estate professionals across southeast Michigan headquartered in the City of Grosse Pointe. It is an industry leader in providing hyper-local content for its members and the communities it serves. Inquiries should be sent to Bob@GPBR.com.





MEET YOUR LOCAL REALTOR

Tim Nagel started his real estate career 27 years ago and is now with the #1 Team of all in Michigan, Keller Williams, The Monzo Group. With many years of experience in the business and as a Multi-Million Dollar Producer, he holds a great wealth of knowledge, a stellar reputation, powerful negotiation skills, great customer service, dedication, and ethics through each transaction he does. All of his clients can look to him, not just for the best guidance, but as a wonderful resource in the industry. He is an absolute pleasure to work with. He also holds the ABR, ePro, SRES & MRP certifications.

Tim's goal is to guide you successfully and easily through the contractual, investment, and emotional decisions involved in the Real Estate

process. He lives by the motto "Treat others the way you want to be treated."

Additionally, Tim is married and in his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, swimming, bike rides, and playing yard games like cornhole and volleyball. He is also an avid Golden Tee Golf player.



Buy • Sell • Lease • Residential • Commercial

HARPER WOODS REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

19766 Woodmont Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$223,000

20935 Parkcrest Drive
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$260,000

19340 Beaconsfield Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$133,000

19195 Woodmont Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$175,000

20953 Hampton Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$245,000

19324 Woodcrest Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$111,500

20469 Kenosha Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$197,000

19976 Kenosha Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$90,000

19157 Woodland Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$112,000

19357 Kingsville Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$90,000

20446 Old Homestead Dr
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$176,500

18944 Woodland Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$145,000

20956 Littlestone Road
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$200,000

20663 Kenmore Avenue
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$150,000

20005 Beaufait Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$206,000

20887 Lochmoor Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$252,000

19983 Lochmoor Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$185,000

20300 Fleetwood Drive
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$235,000

20621 Woodmont Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$250,000

18941 Kenosha Street
Harper Woods, MI 48225
\$88,000

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\$155,000

21207 Severn Road
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INTEREST RATES FOR MORTGAGES VARY

As we begin 2025 in the United States, interest rates for different types of mortgages vary:

Conventional loans typically offer interest rates between 5.99% to 6.99% for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages, requiring a down payment of 3% to 20%. Private mortgage insurance (PMI) may be required if the down payment is less than 20%.

FHA loans, insured by the Federal Housing Administration, have rates ranging from 5.5% to 6.5%. They require a minimum down payment of 3.5% and include upfront and annual mortgage insurance premiums.

VA loans, guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, feature competitive rates of about 5.5% to 6.5% with no down payment requirement. They may include a one-time funding fee, which can be financed into the loan.

These rates are influenced by economic conditions and lender policies, which directly impact how affordable buying a home can be. It's important

for homebuyers to shop around and consult with mortgage brokers or lenders to find the best mortgage options tailored to their budget and financial situation. Brokers can provide valuable insights and help navigate the complexities of mortgage terms and rates, ensuring buyers make informed decisions.



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3RD ANNUAL RESOURCE FAIR



The Family Center, in partnership with the Special Needs Resource Alliance, is hosting the 3rd Annual Special Needs Resource Fair on Tuesday, February 25 from 3:30-7:00pm at The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive. The event is free and designed for parents and caregivers looking for supportive opportunities for their neuro-diverse children. Families and strollers are welcome, and a quiet room with self-directed activities is available. The Fair features over 50 vendors including a wide variety of educational, recreational, and occupational resources along with mental health, legal, and government services for all ages. Visit FamilyCenterHelps.org for more information.





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The Detroit Area Agency on Aging is bringing its traveling COVID-19 vaccination team directly to your home.

Detroit Area Agency on Aging is a nonprofit that serves seniors, adults with disabilities, and caregivers residing in Detroit, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park & the 5 Grosse Pointes.

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