THE INSIDER
FOR THE CITY OF HARPER WOODS

Your community resource guide for the City of Harper Woods!

FALL EDITION

OCTOBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2026

75 Years Strong | Celebrating Community, Culture, and Connection

HARPER WOODS CITY CALENDAR

October

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

October 3 - Siren Test, 1:00pm
*October 5 - City Council Meeting
October 12 - Curbside Leaf Pickup Begins
October 12- Indigenous People's Day/ Columbus Day
October 15- Water Bill Due
October 17 - Dome Ribbon Cutting
*October 19 - City Council Meeting
October 24 - Trunk or Treat
October 31- Halloween

November

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

November 1 - Daylight Saving Time Ends
*November 2 - City Council Meeting
November 3 - Election Day - City Offices Closed - Polls Open, 7am–8pm
November 7- Siren Test, 1:00pm
November 7- Artisans' Market 11am-4pm @ HW Library
*November 11 - City Offices Closed - Veterans Day
November 16 - City Council Meeting
November 16 - Water Bill Due
November 18 - Tree Lighting Pre-Glow 5:00pm - in the Library
November 18 - Tree Lighting Ceremony 6:30pm - Outside HW Fire Dept
November 20 - Curbside Leaf Pickup Ends
November 26 - City Offices Closed - Thanksgiving Day
November 27 - City Offices Closed
November 27 - Yard Waste/Compost Pickup Ends

December

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

December 5- Siren Test, 1:00pm
December 7- City Council Meeting
December 15 - Water Bill Due
December 21- City Council Meeting
December 21 - Winter Begins
December 24 - City Offices Closed - Christmas Eve
December 25 - City Offices Closed - Christmas Day (Rubbish Delay)
December 31 - City Offices Closed - New Years Eve

It is our 75th Anniversary!

This Fall marks a historic milestone for our community. On October 29, 1951, residents of what was once Gratiot Township voted to adopt a City Charter. Seventy-five years later, we officially celebrate the history, resilience, and pride that define the City of Harper Woods. It is a time to reflect on our shared heritage, honor the diverse families who make this city thrive, and look forward to a bright and prosperous future.

The first new settler in what was formerly known as Gratiot Township was Casper Salter, who in 1859 took up a claim on Pumpkin Hook Road (now Kelly Road). The growth of the community was slow until the population boom that occurred after the Great Depression and World War II. The sudden growth into our area led to the creation of the City of Harper Woods in 1951.

Over the decades, Harper Woods carved out a unique place in Metro Detroit's cultural history. Longtime residents fondly remember iconic landmarks like the East Side Drive-In, the very first drive-in theater in the region, legendary local teen dance spots like The Hideout, and Eastland Mall. Though businesses and landscapes have evolved, we cannot forget where we started.

Today, our community has achieved monumental progress. Thanks to the strategic and successful management of our city officials, Harper Woods has been safely guided out of past financial hardships. With our fiscal foundation now secure, we are in a position of strength. Our priority is transforming this stability into building a city that our residents are deeply proud to call home, and an inspiring community that our Metro Detroit neighbors look to with respect.

We invite all residents to join in the Fall festivities. Attend our upcoming neighborhood gatherings, share your vintage photographs, and connect with your neighbors as we commemorate this Diamond Anniversary. Together, we honor our past and continue building a welcoming, innovative Harper Woods for the next 75 years.

CITY OF Harper Woods MICHIGAN 75th Anniversary

Happy 75th Anniversary Harper Woods!

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

Deputy City Manager
Phil Cavanagh

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

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

John Szymanski - City Manager

Phil Cavanagh - Deputy City Manager

Harmony Skerritt - Editor
Harper Woods Insider

Questions or comments? Please email info@drivecreativeservices.com

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In the past, during our Anniversaries we would document the moment in time with pictures of the city officials and city department staff. This year we wanted to celebrate the volunteers who continue to show up for our community as well.

A city is only as strong as the people who serve it. Today, we want to share our deepest gratitude for the dedicated individuals who keep our community moving forward every single day.

Thank You to Our City Council

Thank you to our City Council members for their leadership and vision as they represent and guide our community forward.

***From left to right*: Judge Rebekah R. Coleman, CM Teresa Foster, CM Cheryl A. Constantino, City Manager John Szymanski, Mayor Valerie J. Kindle, Mayor Pro Tem Vivian M. Sawicki, CM Regina Williams, CM Ivery Toussant Jr., CM Gerianne LaPratt, City Clerk Leslie M. Frank**

Serving on the Council requires time, energy, and a deep commitment to the wellbeing of every resident. Working alongside city administration, our Council members balance budgets, shape infrastructure, and vocalize the needs and concerns of our community. Their decisions directly impact the place we call home.

We thank them for their dedication and ongoing efforts to ensure the quality of our City and the quality of our residents' lives continue to improve.

First City Council Meeting, 1951

Thank You to Our City Employees

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated city employees across all departments for their hard work and public service.

While much of their effort happens behind the scenes, the impact of their work is felt by every resident, business, and visitor daily. From maintaining our facilities to ensuring public safety and keeping infrastructure moving, every city employee plays a vital role.

We deeply appreciate everything they do to keep our community safe, beautiful, and running smoothly.

City Hall Front Offices

Building Department

32a District Court

Department of Public Safety

Harper Woods Library

Department of Public Works

Parks and Recreation Department

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Thank you to the many community members who continuously show up to support our city's programs, initiatives, and events.

Whether serving on local boards and commissions or lending a hand at community events, these dedicated individuals generously offer their time, knowledge, and resources whenever help is needed. We deeply appreciate the vital role they play in our city.

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:

Please refer to harperwoods.cityinsight.com homepage for real time city alerts – city hall closures, water main breaks etc.

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:	$6.71 per hundred cubic feet

***Rates subject to change**

Water Bill Delivery

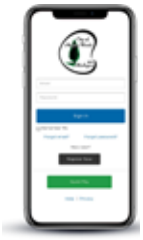
- Bills are mailed on the 20th of each month.
- Payment by 5:00 pm on the due date is the resident's responsibility.
- Failure to receive the bill does not excuse late charges.

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.

City Clerk Info - ELECTION NEWS

2026 GENERAL ELECTION

The General Election will be held on November 3, 2026. Polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. In addition to voting for the Governor, Secretary of State and Attorney General, voters will elect Congressional Representatives, State Senators and judges. Voters will also vote for school board candidates for both Harper Woods and Grosse Pointe School Districts.

Voters can visit the Harper Woods **early voting** site at City Hall at 19617 Harper Avenue beginning on Saturday, October 24 through Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm each day. ***Vote early and avoid the lines on Election Day***.

If you are unsure of where you should vote or to check your registration status you can contact the Clerk's office at 313-343-2510. You can also check out the City Clerk page on the City's website for more information - **www.harperwoodscity.org**. or the State of Michigan Voter information page at **https://michigan.gov/vote**.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

To get an absentee ballot, you must either be on the Permanent Ballot list, or you must complete and return an application for every election. All registered voters in Michigan can request an absentee ballot.

Returning your signed application and/or ballot to the City Clerk?

- Use US Mail - Postage Paid,
- Deliver it to the Clerk's office inside City Hall or:
- Take advantage of our Drop Boxes: One inside City Hall, and the other in the City Hall parking lot. They are monitored regularly and are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We recommend coming into City Hall to the Clerk's office or using the drop boxes to return your absentee ballot if you are returning a ballot within two weeks of election day, to avoid possible postal delays.

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST

If you would like to receive a Ballot for all future elections, request to be placed on our Permanent Absentee Ballot List by marking the box on the Absent Voter Ballot Application.

ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACKING

MCL 168.764c, requires jurisdictions to use a ballot tracker program to track absentee ballot activity for all elections. Through the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC), voters may check the status of their absent voter application and ballot, as well as view their precinct specific ballot, polling location, and mapping to the polling place.

Log onto MVIC at **https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/**

POLLING LOCATIONS - NOVEMBER ELECTION

Precinct 1 - Beacon Elementary School, 19475 Beaconsfield

Precinct 2 - Harper Woods City Hall, 19617 Harper Avenue

Precinct 3 - Wayne County Community College University Center - 19305 Vernier

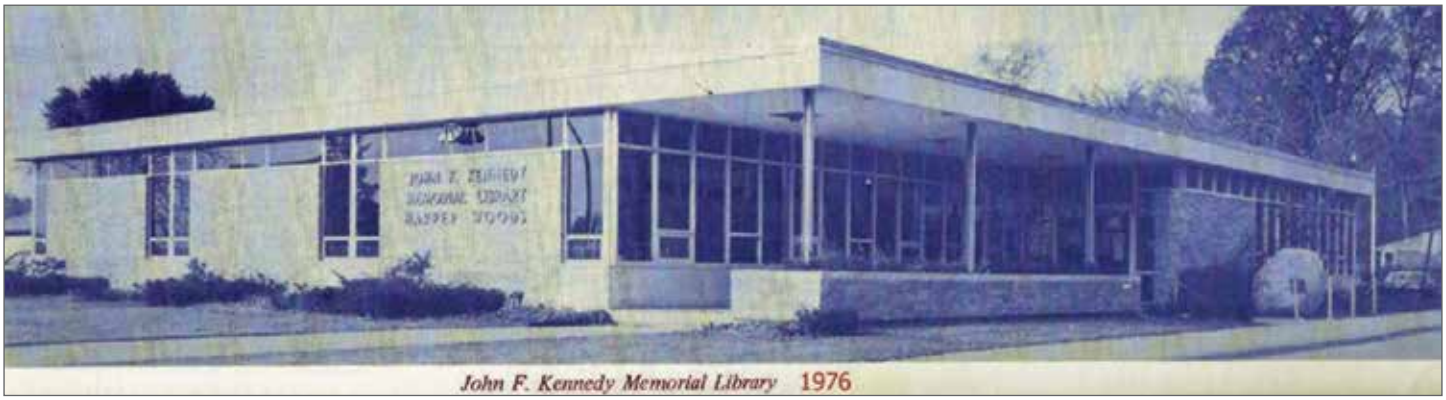
AMERICA 250

BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES

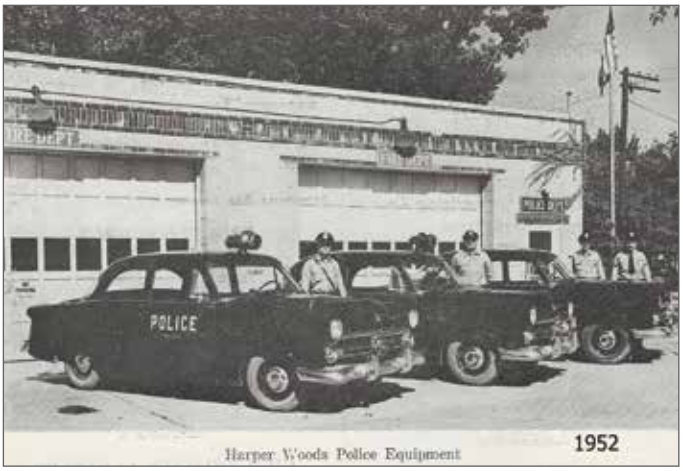
The City is looking for civic minded residents to serve on one of the City's various Boards and/or Commissions. If you would like to take an active part in your community, call the City Clerk's office for more information or fill out an application, found on our website. Presently we have openings on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

Walk Down Memory Lane

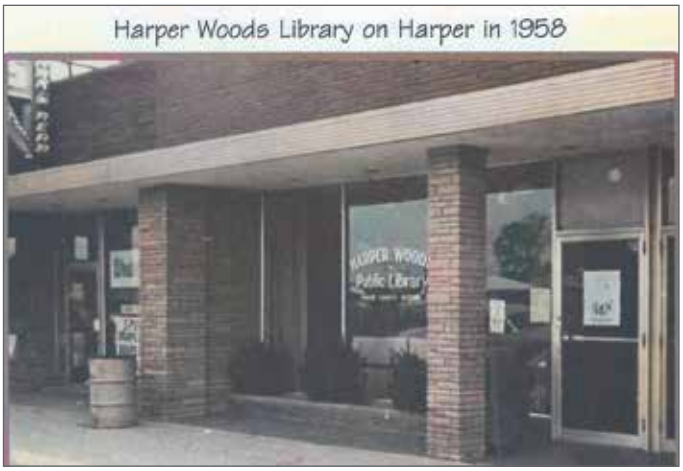
As we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the City of Harper Woods, we invite you to share pictures from events, programs, and places in the City of Harper Woods from over the years. These photos will be collected to be included in our next issue of The Insider.
Please share your pictures through email at: marketing@harperwoods.net



John F. Kennedy Memorial Library 1976



Harper Woods Police Equipment 1952



Harper Woods Library on Harper in 1958

New Harper Woods Fire Station Opened May 30, 1958

HARPER WOODS SCHOOL GUARDS

1955

L. Godbey, C. Nieman, H. Zometsky, C. Schultz and G. Kulbachi.
A group of civic minded women, who through rain or snow, sunshine or sleet, can be seen crossing the children

Community Highlights

Past Events

Community Concert Series

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our second summer holding our Community Concert Series! We opened our series with Harper Woods Jazz All Star Ensemble, and continued with the Laura Rain Band.

Free Family Movie Nights

This summer we held family friendly movie nights in partnership with Wayne County Community College. Our movies this year were Hoppers, A Minecraft Movie, Dora and the Search for Sol Dorado, and Rule Breakers! Residents enjoyed a free movie with popcorn provided!

Senior Fitness Stroll

Our dedicated team of residents joined the City to present our first ever Senior Fitness Stroll on August 1, 2026. The event included a stroll in the park, healthy refreshments, games, line dancing, and a raffle of fun items.

National Night Out

On August 4, 2026, our Public Safety Department hosted the City's National Night Out. This event is focused on building stronger partnerships between law enforcement and local communities, boosting neighborhood camaraderie, and raising awareness about crime and drug prevention. Residents enjoyed bounce houses, the smoke house, live music, facepainting, bike raffle, food, and free giveaways.

Blues in the Woods Festival

Our 3rd Annual Blues in the Woods Festival took place Saturday, August 22, 2026, at Johnston Park. The concert was kicked off by our City Manager John Szymanski playing the Star-Spangled Banner and followed by our wonderful performers including the Urban Arts Orchestra, Tino G. and the Dumpster Machine, and Thornetta Davis.

Upcoming Events

Dome Ribbon Cutting

This picnic season we closed Salter Park to vehicle traffic to build our Community Center Dome. We are excited to fully reopen the park and introduce our residents to our newest facility soon! Join us, Saturday, October 17, 2026, as we hold our official ribbon cutting ceremony. Check the City's website for more information!

Trunk or Treat

Our Trunk or Treat event will be on Saturday, October 24th, 2026. Last year's event was a success. Residents, councilmembers, city staff, and local business owners signed up, decorated their vehicles and passed out treats to our youngest residents. The event creates a safe and fun alternative to door-to-door trick or treating or an added opportunity for extra candy. Need a costume? Visit the Harper Woods Library's page for information on their Halloween Costume Drive!

Pre-Glow & Tree Lighting Ceremony

Our Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is almost here! Join us as we usher in the Holiday Season! The library will be hosting a pre-glow event before the ceremony starts where children can make a festive, light-up craft to take to the ceremony starting at 5:30pm then families can head over to the front of the fire department to watch the lighting of City Hall.

Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety

Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? What does it all mean? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family! Make sure everyone in your home understands the sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and knows how to respond. Learn the sounds of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by checking the user guide, or by searching the brand and model online.

What is your alarm telling you?

SMOKE ALARMS

- A continued set of three loud beeps—"beep, beep, beep"—means smoke or fire. Get out, call **9-1-1**, and stay out.
- A single "chirp" every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- A continuous set of four loud beeps—"beep, beep, beep, beep"—means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call **9-1-1,** and stay out.
- A single "chirp" every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- CO alarms also have "end of life" sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it's time to get a new CO alarm.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of everyone in your home, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Some tips:

✓ Install a bedside alert device that responds to the sound of the smoke and CO alarms. Use of a low frequency alarm can also wake a sleeping person with mild to severe hearing loss.

✓ Sleep with your mobility device, glasses, and phone close to your bed.

✓ Keep pathways like hallways lit with night lights and free from clutter to make sure everyone can get out safely.

Hear a Beep, Get On Your Feet!

Hear a Chirp, Make a Change!

HALLOWEEN TIPS FOR KIDS

1. Walk with other kids or have your parents walk with you.
2. Stay on the sidewalks and don't cut across people's yards.
3 Cross at intersections only and obey traffic lights.
4. If you wear a mask, make sure the holes are large enough to see and breathe through easily. MAKE-UP IS SAFER.
5. Have a plan for walking so you cross the street only when necessary.
6. Do not go into other people's houses. Stay outside.
7. Go only to houses that are well lit.
8. Wear bright, reflective colors so that drivers can see you when it gets dark. Remember that just because you see the cars, doesn't mean the drivers can see you.
9. Be courteous and say "thank you" to the people who give out treats. Don't push others when you are at the door.
10. Have your parents check your treats for tampering. If you see something suspicious, throw it away. Make sure that the treats are in their original wrappers. Do not eat homemade treats unless you know the people who gave them to you.
11. Carry identification, including your name, address, and phone number.
12. Trick-or-treat only in your own neighborhood.
13. After dark, take a flashlight along. This will help you see where you are going and let drivers see you.
14. Wear costumes that are fireproof and not too long or too loose.
15. Do not forget to invite a parent to go with you.

UTILITY SCAMS

Be alert to these common signs of utility scams:
A company switches your utility provider without your permission.

You receive a call claiming that your service will be cut off unless you pay immediately, using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer, (similar to paying with cash that can't be retrieved).

Take steps to protect yourself:
Review your utility bills, including the name of the service provider.
Don't give in to the pressure to pay a utility bill that specifies you must pay in cash or by money wire.
Verify your account status with your utility company, using contact information on a regular bill.

USING RIDESHARE SERVICES LIKE UBER AND LYFT

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

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

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

Don't Share Private Information with Your Driver
This includes your personal phone number. The Uber app automatically encrypts both the driver's number and the passenger's digits to protect both sides' privacy. You should never share credit card info with the driver. All Lyft and Uber fares are paid through the app, and tips can be added there, too.

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

Tell a Friend Where You're Going and Who You're With
Both Lyft and Uber let you quickly and easily share who your driver is, where you're going, and when you're supposed to get there.

The "share status" option in the Uber app gives your friend your driver's name, photo, license plate, and location. Your friend can then track your trip and see your estimated time of arrival even if he or she doesn't have the app.
The "send ETA" feature on the Lyft app is very similar. It sends a text to your friend with details about the car, the driver, and how far along you are on the route.

PORCH PIRATES CAN STEAL YOUR JOY

With Christmas around the corner, there is an increase in online shopping and packages being delivered to your home. Porch pirate criminals are known to follow delivery trucks around and when they see an opportunity, they strike!

Take steps to protect your delivered packages:

- Ensure you are home when delivery is scheduled.
- Have packages delivered to a trusted neighbor at home.
- Have packages delivered to your work, if your employer will allow it.
- If available, use store pickup.

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 (on your trash day) and run through the week of November 23rd. (on your trash day) Please place your yard waste in brown biodegradable lawn bags or rubbish cans no larger than 35 gallons and labeled YARD WASTE/COMPOST. Yard waste will ONLY be collected between the dates listed above.

Curbside leaf collection will run from the week of October 12th through the week of 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.

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:

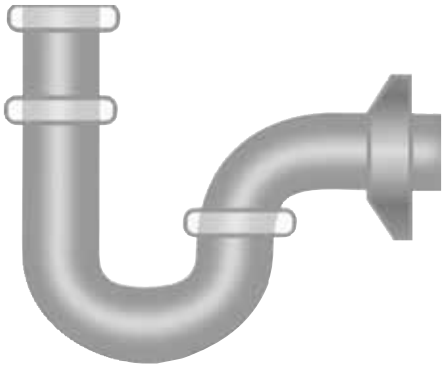
- Blue – Water
- Green – Sanitary Sewer/Storm Water
- Orange – Telephone/Cable/TV
- Pink – Survey
- Red – Electric
- Yellow – Gas or Oil

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

Residents, please note that according to the City ordinances, any grass over 5" is in violation. This also includes flower beds. When a GREEN TAG is placed on your door, you will have 48 hours to take corrective action. If your grass is not cut within that time, the City will hire a private contractor to cut your grass/weeds and the owner will receive an invoice to reimburse the City for such costs. If the owner fails to pay, the City Assessor shall add these charges to the tax rolls for this property. If you have any questions, please call 313-343-2570 upon receipt of warning or notice.

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!

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.

DPW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Although construction season sometimes brings frustration, these projects bring a positive change for the residents of Harper Woods. We appreciate your consideration for crew safety as well as your patience as we complete these projects throughout the city.

The City has the following projects planned during the FALL / WINTER season of 2026:

SANITARY MAIN: Estimated start September 2026 – continuing through Fall / Winter

The city will be cleaning, televising, repairing, pipe bursting and replacing sanitary (sewer) pipes in multiple locations throughout Harper Woods. Individual locations as well as line sections will be included. There are 3 separate phases of this project.

If you are affected by any of these projects, resident notification letters will be posted by the construction contractor or AEW- our engineering firm. Instructions (if necessary) will be included in the notice. Please follow the instructions posted so that we receive the best possible outcomes for the projects in your area.

GLWA will be starting a water transmission main project in Fall / Winter of 2026. This will take place along Northbound Harper from Kingsville to Vernier – more details to follow

As always, if you have further questions or need more details, please call the DPW @ (313) 343-2570 M-F 7:00am-3:30 p.m.

Best Wishes for a safe construction season,
Heather Toutant
DPW Director

Dear Water Customer,

The City of Harper Woods is dedicated to providing safe, clean drinking water to households, businesses, and institutions throughout our community. In compliance with state regulations, we are launching a cross-connection control program to protect our water system from harmful contaminants.

This new program will require the participation of every member of our community, including you.

Key elements of the program include:

- *Annual testing of existing backflow preventers*
- *On-site surveys for undetected cross-connections*
- *Corrective actions for non-compliant service connections*

While not every program activity will apply directly to your home or business, each element will support safe drinking water for the entire community.

To ensure cost-effective compliance and high-quality service, Harper Woods has partnered with HydroCorp, a specialized service provider with over 40 years of experience, to support the new initiative.

HydroCorp will soon begin distributing postal notifications with further details and instructions regarding your responsibilities. A team is available to answer any questions, and you can learn more about the program at Harperwoodscity.org or by calling the DPW @ 313-343-2570

Your cooperation and participation in this important program help protect your home, your business, and your community. We appreciate your support.

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.

Due to the hard work and dedication of both DPW personnel as well as our residents we have SUCCESSFULLY completed phase 1 sampling for 2026. Preliminary results show we remain in compliance for a 2nd sampling cycle. We will be applying for a reduced sampling schedule moving forward .

Testing the same homes in each round will help us determine if corrective actions are necessary to reduce corrosion in household plumbing.

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/drinkingwater, or call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Department of Public Works

Rain… rain go away

If you are fortunate enough to have a yard drain, you may have had relief from yard flooding. If not, prolonged standing water can be problematic. It is important to eliminate standing water. A sump pump and garden hose may be the most economical way to eliminate standing water in yards.

Extreme care and ALL safety precautions should be taken when using a sump pump. Electricity and water can be a dangerous or deadly combination. A professional may need to be contacted for assistance with this. Most plumbing contractors are familiar with sump pumps and how to use them safely. It is a violation of City Ordinance to discharge water on to your neighbor's property.

The installation of yard drains and fill dirt may provide a more permanent, long-term solution. It is also a violation to displace water by adding fill dirt when it will displace water and flood your neighbor. A reputable landscape company could advise on fill and grading low spots. Our Building Department should be contacted to advise on grading issues.

Wet, soggy ground and significant rainfall can contribute to wet basements or crawl spaces. This would be a suitable time to inspect the grading around the foundation around your home. Concrete landscape materials, sod, and dirt should all be pitched or sloped away from your home. Gutters should be kept clean and there should be downspouts, elbows, splash blocks and extensions on your gutters to direct water away from your home. This may prevent excess water intrusion into a crawl space or basement.

The foundation of homes and buildings are surrounded by drain (weeping) tiles. This is typically installed on the outside of the basement, just below the level of the basement floor, when the home is built. It is designed to take in storm water that soaks into the ground surrounding the home. It is NOT designed to be the main conduit for storm water. It is important to know that this storm line connects or ties into the sanitary line that takes wastewater away from your home. This is evident by the two (2) clean out caps in the basement located by an exterior wall.

When the drain tile around your home is overwhelmed with water it can significantly contribute to water backing up through floor drains. Again, this is why it is important to make sure you have sufficient grading, clean gutters, and downspouts with extensions to direct storm water away from the foundation of your home. The slightest blockage or restriction in your sewer line in addition to the storm water can contribute to sewage backups. Sewer lines should be maintained annually by cleaning and root cutting by an experienced contractor.

Most reputable plumbing contractors offer a warranty and provide a camera inspection to identify developing problems.

All sewer repairs or plumbing work is a permittable event. Permits and inspections can be secured by contacting our Building Department at 313-343-2526.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Library News & Events

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Harper Woods Public Library is happy to join the growing number of libraries which are fine-free! This means we will no longer charge daily overdue fees for any media or print materials within our collection. We are hopeful that this will reduce financial barriers, foster more positive relationships within our community and ultimately encourage more folks to use the library! Visit our website for more information about this exciting change!

ADULT PROGRAMS

LOCAL HISTORY SERIES

History of Mexicantown

Maria Elena Rodriguez, author of *Detroit's Mexicantown* will be joining us to discuss Mexicantown's history and its profound cultural impact on Detroit and surrounding areas.

Wednesday, October 21, 5:30 pm

Boblo Boats and the Story of Sarah E. Ray

Many Detroiters fondly remember Boblo Island, yet few remember that the amusement park and ferries were once segregated. Aaron Shillinger, director of *Boblo Boats: A Detroit Ferry Tale* will join us to consider the story of Sarah Elizabeth Ray, the African American woman whose 1945 court case challenged racial discrimination on the Boblo Boats.

Wednesday, November 4, 5:30 pm

Anishinaabe Basket Making

Dr. Denene De Quintal, Associate Curator for Native American Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts, will be joining us to discuss the history and legacy of indigenous basket making in Michigan. This will include how treaty rights affected the process of basket making, as well as efforts being made by contemporary artists to revive black ash trees left decimated by the emerald ash borer.

Wednesday, December 2, 5:30pm

Identifying and Understanding Artificial Intelligence

In this workshop we'll explore strategies for identifying text, images, and videos generated with artificial intelligence. We will demonstrate how these strategies can be used to protect ourselves against potential scams.

Saturday, October 3, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Fire Safety

Learn all about smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and how you can prevent fires in your home.

Wednesday, October 7, 5:30 pm

Brunch: Dress as Your Favorite Literary Figure

Whether it's Mary Poppins or Gandalf the Grey, join us at the library as your favorite literary figure for a scrumptious brunch and some literary-themed games. **Registration encouraged.**

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Free Eye Care for Seniors

Vision Access Detroit, A Michigan Health Endowment Fund Initiative, is offering eye exams and eyeglasses to those who qualify. If you have not had an eye exam in 2+ years, you have health challenges and you have a diagnosis that impacts your vision, you are eligible for the program. To learn more and schedule your appointment call (313)644-3233.

Friday, October 9,10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friends of the Library Meeting

Becoming a Friend of the Library is about more than getting books on shelves- it's about embracing a mission to educate, connect and empower. It's an opportunity to make a lasting impact on your community and to ensure that libraries continue to thrive for generations to come.

Tuesday, October 13, 6:00 pm

Headshots in a Pinch with Monica Morgan

Learn simple and useful techniques to create professional looking portraits.

Saturday, October 17, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Heritage Room Reopening: 75th Anniversary

To celebrate the city's 75th anniversary, the library will be re-opening the Heritage Room! Documents, photos and other various artifacts have been meticulously organized and categorized in preparation. To celebrate both the re-opening and the 75th, we will be hosting a panel presentation and discussion. Brief presentations will be given on a variety of topics, from the effects of the Interurban Railway to early settlers in the area.

Saturday, October 24, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Artisans' Market

Get your holiday shopping done early at this year's Artisans' Market! We host a variety of local artists with fun and beautiful wares. Have a new addition to the family who needs a handmade blanket? A brother who needs an upgrade to his cutting board? Or just a beautiful set of earrings for yourself- whatever it is you can find it at the Artisans' Market! This event is coordinated by the Friends of the Harper Woods Library.

Saturday, November 7, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

History Club Planning

Calling all history enthusiasts, help us plan an exciting new club! At this introductory meeting we'll brainstorm what we envision for the History Club. We could start an oral history project, discuss historical movies, or maybe something else! We can't wait to hear your ideas!

Monday, November 9, 6:00 pm

Harvest Still Life Painting

Come and create a gourd-geous painting of a fall themed centerpiece. Whether you prefer acrylics or watercolors, Barb Davis will be there to help you with tips and tricks.

Saturday, November 14 , 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Library News & Events

Books, Bath and Beyond

Join us for an afternoon of foot soaks, sugar scrubs, bath salts, and more!

Saturday, November 21, 12:30 pm

Pottery Ornament Workshop

Pewabic Pottery artist and instructor, Joshua Kochis will be leading an ornament glazing workshop. Attendees are welcome to paint one ornament which will then be fired in a kiln and brought back to the library for pick-up the following week at the Circulation Desk. **Registration is Required.**

Saturday, December 5

Session One: 10:30 am – 11:30 am (All Ages)

Session Two: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm (Ages 12 and Up)

Ongoing Adult Programs

Beginner Crochet Class

Learn how to crochet with the amazingly talented Janaya Stokes. She will guide you through the basics of crocheting in an easy to understand way. **Registration is requested.**

Weekly Saturdays, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Session 1: October 3 - November 7 *no class on 10/31

Session 2: November 14 - December 19 *no class 11/28

Gentle Evening Yoga

In this yoga class instructor Yemisi Odetoyinbo will be guiding us through poses and postures focused on increasing flexibility and reducing stress. This class is designed to be accessible to all skill levels. Please bring your own yoga mat if possible as there are a limited number available.

Biweekly Monday Evening: October 5, October 19, November 2, November 16, November 30, December 14 5:45 pm – 6:45 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.

1st Tuesday of each month, October 6, November 3, December 1 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Enhance Fitness with Rosa Hunter

This class aims to improve the overall functional fitness and well-being of older adults. This ongoing, evidence-based class includes exercises that focus on four key areas important to the health and fitness of participants: low-impact cardiovascular, dynamic and static balance work, strength training and stretching.

Weekly Wednesdays and Fridays 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Wednesday, October 14 - December 18 *No class on November 11, 18 & 27

Registration required, please contact The Helm 313-882-9600

Grief Work

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

2nd Tuesday of the month, October 13, November 10 and December 8, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Pinochle at the Library

October 8 and 22

November 12

December 10

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

Afternoon Book Club

October 28 - *The Spellshop*, by Sara Beth Durst

November 18 - *The Mighty Red*, by Louise Erdrich

December 16 - *By Any Other Name*, by Jodi Picoult

Monthly on Wednesdays, 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Healing Book Club

This new book club's theme is Rest, Restore, Rise: A Self-Care & Healing Journey. We'll explore both fiction and nonfiction books that share relatable stories and provide opportunities to gain new perspectives around mental health, healing, and personal growth.

October 28 - *Unwell Women: Misdiagnosis & Myth in a Man-Made World*, by Elinor Cleghorn

November 18 - *Hope in the Dark*, by Rebecca Solnit

December 16 - *Four Agreements*, by Don Miguel Ruiz

Monthly on Wednesdays, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Community Conversations with State Rep. Veronica Paiz

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

October 20

November 17

December 15

Tuesdays, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Meeting with an Aide from Sen. Hertel's Office

October 13

November 10

December 8

Second Tuesday of each month, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Petting Farm

"Unearth a Story," Come meet and pet some adorable small farm animals on the library's front lawn.

Ages 2 – 18

Saturday, October 3, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Halloween Costume Closet

Need a Halloween costume? Come "shop" our Costume Closet of gently used donated costumes. One costume per child please.

Monday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 13, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Halloween Luminary Craft

Drop in and create a paper bag luminary with a Halloween design

Ages 5 and Up

Tuesday, October 20, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Paint a Fall Leaf Suncatcher

Come by and paint a fall leaf suncatcher with special suncatcher paint.

Ages 8 and Up

Monday, November 9, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Tree Lighting Pre-Glow

Stop in at the library before heading over to the City's Tree Lighting to make a festive, light-up craft to take with you! **All Ages.**

Wednesday, November 18, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Visit from Santa!

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting the library to share some stories, songs, and fun! Afterward, children will have an opportunity to talk with Santa and take a photo! **Registration Required.**

Tuesday, December 8, 5:30 pm

Snowman Craft

Do you want to build a snowman? Drop in and make a mini snowman that won't melt!

Ages 5 and Up

Tuesday, December 15, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Indoor Outdoor Games

Stop by the library and play! We'll have a selection of our outdoor games set up inside to give you a break from the confines of the cold weather. **All Ages.**

Monday, December 28 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

New Year Drop-In Craft

Drop in Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon to make a quiet, kid friendly craft to celebrate the New Year with!

Tuesday, December 29 and Wednesday, December 30
12:00 – 2:00 pm

Ongoing Youth Programs

Anime & Manga Club

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

1st Tuesdays: October 6, November 3, December 1, 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, October 27, November 24, December 29,
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Homeschool Meetup

Come meet other local families who homeschool to discuss and share resources and experiences. Kids can bring something to work on or do an activity we'll have here so the adults can talk.

1st Wednesdays: October 7, November 4, December 2,
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Evening Storytelling Series

Join us once a month for a special evening storytime. Each month will be a different theme and may feature a guest storyteller or special activity. **Ages 6 - 10**

1st Wednesdays: October 7, November 4, December 2 5:30 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 – 12:30 pm

Read To A Dog!

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

Saturdays, October 17, November 14,
December 12 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

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

Call or stop by the Library, check out our website's calendar or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for up to date and additional programming information.

Regular Hours:

Monday - Wednesday: 11:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday - Friday: 10:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am – 2:00pm
Sunday: Closed

Library Closures

Closing early on November 25 at 5:00pm
November 26 – 28
December 24 – 26
December 31 – January 2

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!

Detroit Area AGENCY ON AGING

PACE Southeast Michigan revolves around YOU

PACE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN keeping seniors independent

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 AT THE BOLL LIFE CENTER

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**.

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

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

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

32A District Court News

Greetings Harper Woods,

This year marks a remarkable milestone as the City of Harper Woods celebrates its 75th Anniversary. For three-quarters of a century, Harper Woods has grown into a vibrant community built on resilience, service, and neighbors working together. The 32A District Court is proud to be part of that history, serving generations of residents with fairness, integrity, and a commitment to justice.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we also look toward the future, continuing to strengthen public trust while serving our community with compassion, accountability, and respect.

Recovery Court: Changing Lives, One Success Story at a Time

One of the brightest accomplishments this year has been the continued success of the 32A District Court Recovery Court Program. Throughout 2026, we have proudly celebrated multiple graduates who have completed the demanding program and chosen a path of recovery, accountability, and hope.

Recovery Court is about much more than addressing substance use disorders, it is about rebuilding lives, restoring families, and creating safer communities. Participants work closely with the Court, treatment providers, probation officers, and community partners to achieve lasting success. Each graduation serves as a reminder that recovery is possible and that when individuals are given support, structure, and encouragement, remarkable transformations can occur.

We congratulate every graduate on this outstanding achievement and thank the dedicated professionals and community partners who make these successes possible.

A Proud History of the 32A District Court

Since its establishment, the 32A District Court has remained committed to providing accessible, impartial, and efficient justice for the residents of Harper Woods and the surrounding community. Over the years, the Court has evolved to meet the changing needs of those it serves while remaining grounded in the principles of fairness and equal justice under the law.

The Court's history includes significant milestones that reflect both progress and opportunity:

- The Court welcomed its first woman to serve as District Court Judge, helping pave the way for greater representation in the judiciary.
- The Court also celebrated the appointment and service of its first African American District Court Judge, marking another important chapter in the Court's commitment to diversity and leadership.
- The continued expansion of specialty court programs, including Recovery Court, has demonstrated the Court's dedication to addressing the root causes of criminal behavior while improving public safety.

These milestones remind us that justice is strengthened when our courts reflect the diverse communities they serve.

Community Partnership Matters

The 32A District Court believes that justice extends beyond the courtroom. Through partnerships with law enforcement, treatment providers, local organizations, schools, and community leaders, we continue working toward a safer, healthier, and stronger Harper Woods.

Whether through specialty court programs, educational outreach, or community engagement, we remain committed to serving our residents with professionalism and compassion.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the holiday season, we extend our sincere appreciation to the residents of Harper Woods for your continued trust and support.

Congratulations once again to the City of Harper Woods on 75 years of excellence. We are honored to be part of this community's rich history and look forward to continuing our mission of delivering justice with integrity for many years to come.

From all of us at the 32A District Court, we wish you and your family a safe, peaceful, and joyous holiday season!

With respect and gratitude,
Judge Rebekah R. Coleman

Contact Information by Department

Assessor (WCA)
(313) 343-2527
Building Department (SAFEbuilt)
(313) 343-2526
City Clerk/Elections
(313) 343-2510
City Manager
(313) 343-2518
Deputy City Manager
(313) 343-2501
Economic and Community Development
(313) 343-2500
Finance Director
(313) 343-2516
Fire Department
(313) 343-2550
Housing Inspection (SAFEbuilt)
(313) 343-2526
Library
(313) 343-2575
PAATS
(313) 394-9712
Parks and Recreation
(313) 343-2560
Public Safety Department
(313) 343-2530
Public Works
(313) 343-2570
Treasurer Tax and Water Billing Information
(313) 343-2500

Building Department Info

The Building Department would like to wish all residents and business owners a safe and happy fall. The Building Department handles multiple complaints daily. Most of these complaints are regarding grass and yard maintenance, as well as trash and rodent issues. We all wish to live in a better environment and by taking the time to maintain our properties this objective can be achieved.

Our department is asking all to be aware of your surroundings, communicate with your neighbors, and to always help out your neighbors when you can. It is only by acting as a team that a community can change for the better. With all residents and business owners taking the time to properly maintain their properties and help one another, we can make this an achievable goal. We all need to participate in the success of Harper Woods.

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

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

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 are correct on the property. Please inform the Assessor's Office in writing of any changes.

2026 Fall Recreation Program

Important Notice

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.

Fall Dance

Celebrating 43 Years!!

Come join the fun and dance as we start our 43rd year of the dance program! There is no residency requirement. All classes will take place at Tyrone Elementary School, located at 19525 Tyrone Street. We require one parent or guardian to stay and watch their child during classes. Siblings are welcome. Students will have the opportunity to perform at the annual recital. The recital will be in April at the end of the session. You can register in person, on site for the first week 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 contact the dance program director, Nonny Sperry, Please call Nonny Sperry for more details at (313) 885-3714, or e-mail nedra.sperry@gmail.com.

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

***Registration for Fall dance begins August 2026**

Tuesdays, starting September 22nd

Times:

4:30 pm–5:00 pm--- Babes in Danceland, ages 18 months–3 years (with an adult)
5:00 pm–5:30 pm--- Creative Movement/Pre-Ballet, ages 3–5
5:30 pm–6:00 pm--- Mini-Movers (Pre-Hip-Hop), ages 3–5
6:00 pm–6:30 pm--- Tap, ages 6–8
6:30 pm–7:00 pm--- Ballet, ages 9–12
7:00 pm–7:30 pm--- Pom-Pom Jazz/Dance Team Skills, ages 7–12
7:30 pm–8:00 pm--- Teen/Adult Hip-Hop

Wednesdays, starting September 23rd

Times:

5:00 pm–5:30 pm--- Tiny Tappers, ages 3–5
5:30 pm–6:00 pm--- Shimmer & Shake (Pre-Jazz/Pom), ages 3–6
6:00 pm–6:30 pm--- Hip-Hop, ages 6–8
6:30 pm–7:00 pm--- Ballet, ages 6–8
7:00 pm–7:30 pm--- Tap, ages 9–12
7:30 pm–8:00 pm--- Jazz/Hip-Hop, ages 9–12
8:00 pm–8:30 pm--- Teen/Adult Tap
8:30 pm–9:00 pm--- Teen/Adult Lyrical

Dance Tuition - $190 per class (plus $10 family registration fee). Tuition can be paid in two installments with HALF DUE at time of enrollment. There will be an additional $10 installment fee for the payment plan. Final payment of the payment plan is due January 19, 2027. **Only cash, checks, or money orders accepted.**

Family Plan Discount - $170 per class for two or more. Applies to siblings OR one child enrolling in two or more classes.

Fabiola Zumba Classes!

Fabiola's Live Zumba

Get ready to dance, sweat, and have a blast with our live Zumba class! This is a high-energy workout that 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.

Classes Begin: October 3rd
Day/Time: Monday at 6:15 pm, Wednesday 6 pm, Saturday 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

Fabiola's 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.

Classes Begin: October 1st
Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday at 5 pm, Saturday at 8 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

TRUNK OR TREAT

The City of Harper Woods' Recreation Department will be hosting Trunk or Treat at Salter Park*

Bring the kids out in their costumes for this fun-filled event! Attendees will vote on the best costume and best trunk decoration.

Saturday, October 24
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Salter Park*

Cost: $10 per Trunk passing out treats (candy will be supplied to you day of event), FREE for Treaters (Ages 14 and Under)

Pre-registration is required. Please register by Friday, October 16th

If you have any questions, please call the Recreation Department at **(313) 343-2560**.

When planning your costumes/decorations, please remember this is a family friendly event.

****Subject to change***

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 or Salter Park is $100. The Pavillion (enclosed building) at Salter Park is $125. The fee is due at the time of reservation. Cash or check only.

Financial Assistance Program

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

Recreation Refund Policy

1. Requests must be submitted in writing to the Recreation Department within the first two weeks of the program.
2. No refunds will be given after the second week of class, except under special circumstances, i.e. medical reasons.
3. Refunds will be given in check form through City Hall for amounts over $10 or as credit for future recreation registration fees for amounts of $10 or less.

To Register:

Register at the Recreation Office or mail in the registration form with payment. Phone reservations not accepted.
Make checks payable to: **City of Harper Woods**

The Recreation Department is located near the front of Johnston Park
Office hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday
The mailing address is: City of Harper Woods Parks & Recreation 20221 Beaconsfield, Harper Woods, MI 48225
(313) 343-2560

To stay up to date with all of the recreation offerings, please visit our Facebook page: City of Harper Woods Parks & Recreation Department. You can also contact us at harperwoodsrec@harperwoods.net 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 _____