



# Grosse Pointe NOW

Volume 18 Issue 2

[www.grossepointecity.org](http://www.grossepointecity.org)

Spring/Summer 2018

### Mayor

Christopher Boettcher

### City Council Members

Donald Parthum Jr.  
John Stempfle  
Sheila Tomkowiak  
Andrew Turnbull  
Christopher Walsh  
Daniel Williams

### City Personnel

Peter Dame  
City Manager  
Julie Arthurs  
Asst. City Manager/Clerk  
Kimberly Kleinow  
Finance Director  
Stephen Poloni  
Public Safety Director  
Peter Randazzo  
Public Service Director  
Pat Thomas  
Public Service Supervisor  
Christopher Hardenbrook  
Recreation Director

### Municipal Judge

Russell Ethridge

### Phone Numbers

City Hall 885-5800  
Public Safety 886-3200  
Municipal Court 343-5262  
Neff Park Office 343-5257

### Upcoming Meetings

Council Chambers - 17145  
Maumee Ave. at 7:00 pm

May 21 City Council  
June 18 City Council  
July 16 City Council



## Public Safety Plan Progressing

The new Public Safety facility for police and fire authorized by the referendum last August is on track for a September 2018 groundbreaking. The City Council and the architecture firm of Partners In Architecture have been reviewing and refining designs to make sure the building meets the community's long-term needs and stays within budget. The latest design (shown above) features a fire tower that will enable new on-site training scenarios for its public safety officers, as well as with the City's mutual aid partners. With the reversal of Detroit's approval for the location on Canyon for a Public Works facility, the City Council is also examining alternatives within the City of Grosse Pointe to attempt to meet the Public Service Department's needs.

## The City Wants Your Opinion - Please Respond to Survey

For the first time, the City of Grosse Pointe will be conducting a citizen satisfaction survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather feedback on City programs and services. It will be a valuable tool used to develop and measure the progress of Council priorities, and help the Council plan for the future. By seeking residents' opinions, the City will hear about what it is doing well and other areas where the City can improve and focus its attention.

The survey is being administered by ETC Institute. ETC Institute is a national leader in municipal survey research, and has conducted hundreds of customer satisfaction surveys for cities across the country. Look for a survey in the mail in June. Every household will receive one. Results will be collected and tabulated by ETC. This will ensure individual responses are kept confidential. It will take participants approximately 15-20 minutes to complete a survey.

The survey will ask residents about their level of satisfaction and priorities for a wide range of community services including public safety, parks and recreation, code enforcement, public works, communication, and customer service. The results will be benchmarked against the results of other citizen surveys that ETC has conducted for comparison. The survey results will be presented to the City Council by ETC, and ETC's report will be publicly available.

### Items to Remember

- Yard waste collection began April 2, see page 3 for information
- Pool opens at Neff Park on May 26
- City Offices closed on May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday
- Music on the Plaza begins in June. Schedule of performers coming soon!

# City News

## Council Authorizes Review of Updated Hotel Concept

In April, the City Council heard a presentation from Pedersen Development Company outlining an updated design concept for a hotel on City owned parking Lot 2. Pedersen worked with a City Council appointed hotel advisory committee comprised of Grosse Pointe residents earlier this year who provided the developer with input on community expectations for such a project. Pedersen presented materials, available on the City website, showing a five story hotel of between 88 and 100 rooms on St. Clair, with a 200 space parking structure on the Notre Dame side of Lot 2, opposite the Kroger parking lot. After the presentation, and after public comment, the Council voted to conduct an in-depth financial and feasibility review of the concept. The Council also voted to extend Pedersen's rights as the preferred developer, for an additional six months. Please feel free to share your comments about this concept with the City Council by emailing [council@grossepointecity.org](mailto:council@grossepointecity.org).



## Fisher Road Streetscape Project Starting

This summer, the City will begin construction of the Fisher Road streetscape project. Rather than merely replacing plain concrete where the water and gas mains were dug up, the City has approved a contract to reconstruct the streetscape from the storefronts to the curb. With the assistance of a \$384,000 MDOT grant, the improvements will make the Fisher Road business district more pedestrian friendly. The project includes decorative streetlights, new landscaping and trees at the curb (to buffer people from the street), new benches, bike racks, and a safer mid-block crossing to Grosse Pointe South High School. As soon as school is out, construction will begin from Extreme Pizza to Comerica Bank and conclude before school starts again. The plan is to complete the rest of the block next summer concurrently with the prospective completion of the new Farms Market grocery store.

### Fisher Road Streetscape Design

GROSSE POINTE, MI - 08.11.16  
McKENNA RUSSELL DESIGN



PROPOSED STREETScape

## DTE Energy Gas Upgrades Infrastructure in Grosse Pointe

DTE Energy crews will again be at work upgrading Grosse Pointe's natural gas infrastructure, replacing older steel lines with durable polyethylene lines – in an effort to keep DTE Gas systems reliable for years to come. DTE Energy gas crews will replace more than 140 miles of lines in its service territory as part of a multi-year program to enhance the company's natural gas infrastructure. The upgrade also includes replacing cast-iron main lines as well as updating natural gas meters and relocating meter equipment to building exteriors. The new flexible polyethylene lines are easier to transport, less costly to install and are corrosion resistant. The pipe walls are thicker than those they replace and are also more resistant to cracks and pressure, reducing the potential for leaks.

Every street in Grosse Pointe will need the new gas lines and every house will need new connections. This will require digging in parkways, across some streets, under sidewalks, and up to your new meter location - - now to be located outside. Most of the work is done with underground directional boring rather than open trenches to reduce the amount of digging needed. After the natural gas lines are upgraded, DTE is required to restore lawns, sidewalks, driveways and streets to their previous condition. Until your block is upgraded, the City cautions that you may wish to avoid any major landscaping work in the parkways, near the location where your gas lines enter your house, or work on the sidewalks in front of your house along the street.

This year, DTE's work will be in the southernmost section of the City, between Maumee Avenue and the lake. When it is your neighborhood's turn for the gas work, DTE will send you a letter notifying you that work will be started soon. DTE will need access to your interior gas meter, so it is important to respond quickly to appointment requests to keep the amount of disruption time to a minimum for you and your neighbors. For more information about the renewal program, visit [dteenergy.com](http://dteenergy.com) and check out the gas renewal section.



# City News

## Yard Waste Pickup Guidelines

- Yard waste pickup began April 2 and continues until leaf pickup starts in the fall.
- The best way to dispose of yard waste is by using a green City yard waste cart. It can hold far more than paper bags or containers purchased elsewhere and it has wheels so you can roll it around your yard and to the curb. You may also place yard debris in waste containers labeled with a “yard waste sticker” or use a biodegradable brown paper bag. Stickers and information about purchasing a City yard waste cart are available at City Hall or on the City’s website. Biodegradable brown bags can be found at local hardware or lawn/garden stores.
- Plastic waste containers with stickers & biodegradable bags shall *not* weigh more than 50 lbs. and/or be larger than 32 gallon capacity. Carts purchased from the City have no weight limit.
- Please do not mix your yard waste with any household rubbish.
- **Yard Waste will not be picked up in plastic bags at any time!**
- Yard waste accumulated by private landscapers will not be collected by the City and must be removed by the contractor.
- All branches and limbs shall be neatly placed at curb on your pickup day all facing the same direction (trunks toward curb). Limbs shall not exceed six (6) feet in length. Intertwined brush shall be bundled
- Yard waste should be placed at the curb prior to 7:30 am on your rubbish day.
- A \$75.00 charge will apply for special pickup requests.
- **Reminder** - Yard waste should not be placed at the curb prior to 4:00 pm on the day before your scheduled pick up day.

### **City Yard Waste Carts**

**\$65 each**

**Contact City Hall**

**All empty containers (rubbish and/or recycling bins/carts and yard waste containers) must be removed from the curbside by the evening of your regular collection day. *Thanks for your help!***

### **Rubbish and Recycling Pickup for Spring - Summer Holidays**

Rubbish and recycling pickup will be delayed one day the week of:

May 28 for the Memorial Day holiday

Rubbish and recycling pickup will be delayed one day the week of July 2 for Wednesday & Thursday collections only. Monday & Tuesday collection will be on schedule the week of July 2.

**Water Quality Report Available-** The water quality report describing the source and quality of your drinking water is available at <http://www.grossepointecity.org/Portals/1066/Docs/Water%20QualityNL2017.pdf>

To receive a paper copy in the mail, contact us at [pthomas@grossepointecity.org](mailto:pthomas@grossepointecity.org).

# Parks and Recreation



Project Bloom is in its seventh year! Residents and merchants continue to sponsor flowerbeds in The Village and Neff Park. Thanks to all of our loyal sponsors who have donated money year after year to beautify our downtown area and City park! Donations are tax deductible and go through the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** - Project Bloom is very much in need of volunteers to help plant flowers. Planting will be on:

Thursday, May 24 - Planting at Neff Park - Time TBD

Thursday, May 31 - Planting in The Village - Time TBD

**Sponsor A Garden Project  
Volunteers Needed!**

If you have a few hours to help out on either day, or BOTH!, please let us know. Do you need credit for volunteer service hours, or you want to get your friends together to do something fun? Join us! We would love to have your help! If you are interested in either sponsoring a garden or helping to plant or weed, please contact Susan Budrys at [suebudrys@gmail.com](mailto:suebudrys@gmail.com) or 882-9816, or Susan Hartz at [susanhartz@att.net](mailto:susanhartz@att.net) or 886-8982. *Looking forward to another beautiful season!*

Susan Budrys and Susan Hartz, Project Bloom Co-Chairs



## RELEAF GROSSE POINTE

In January of 2017, the newly formed City of Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission held their first meeting. During this last year, the commission and city forester have created a master plan, surveyed trees on city property and performed a gap survey indicating the City's need of more than 100 trees to fill in areas where trees are lacking. With the ash tree blight continuing to take its toll on the City's ash tree population, the number will more than likely go up. Last year, the City planted eight trees. This spring, budgeting through grants and city resources calls for the planting of 21 trees.

Won't you join our efforts to increase the number of trees in the City? We have partnered with the Grosse Pointe Foundation to receive tax deductible donations for funding tree planting in Grosse Pointe. One hundred percent of donations go directly to the purchase and planting of trees. Please send your donation to:

City of Grosse Pointe Foundation  
c/o ReLeaf Grosse Pointe  
City of Grosse Pointe, 17147 Maumee Avenue, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230  
(Please write *ReLeaf Grosse Pointe* on the memo line of the check.)

For more information, please contact City Forester, Brian Colter, at [bcolter@grossepointecity.org](mailto:bcolter@grossepointecity.org) or 313-885-5800.

## Neighborhood Inspection Program Continues

In an effort to maintain and improve property values and to ensure the attractive appearance of the City's housing stock, the City is continuing its enhanced housing inspection program. The Neighborhood Inspection Program establishes a regular exterior review of all residential properties. One of the greatest assets of the City is its attractive neighborhoods and fine housing stock. The enhanced inspection program institutes a regular and systematic exterior code inspection schedule of rental and owner occupied homes for property maintenance code violations. This inspection supports the upkeep of buildings, thereby promoting attractive neighborhoods and neighborhood property values.

This program will continue on a rotating basis so that every three to four years a residential property will receive an exterior inspection. In 2018, this initiative is in its third phase and homes on Neff Road, Grosse Pointe Court, St. Clair, Notre Dame, Loraine, Cadieux Road, sections of Maumee Avenue and St. Paul will be inspected by City of Grosse Pointe staff. Notifications have been sent to the residences in the inspection area. If you have any questions regarding the Neighborhood Inspection Program, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Officer at 885-5800.