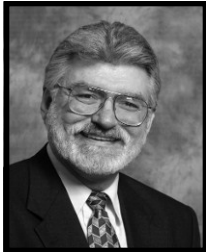


Grosse Pointe NOW

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Winter 2012



Mayor Dale Scrace

City Council Members

Christopher Boettcher
Donald Parthum Jr.
John Stempfle
Andrew Turnbull
Christopher Walsh
Jean Weipert

City Personnel

- Peter Dame
City Manager
- Julie Arthurs
Asst. City Manager/Clerk
- Kimberly Kleinow
Finance Director
- Stephen Poloni
Public Safety Director
- Paul Weitzel
Public Service Director
- Gary Huvaere
Public Service Supervisor
- Frank Schulte
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

State of the City 2012

Even as signs point toward the end of Michigan's deep recession, the City of Grosse Pointe continues to grapple with fiscal issues. Due to the steps taken over the past several years to address significantly declining revenues, the City's financial condition remains solid. This is shown by the top marks the City's most recent independent audit and its continued AA+ bond rating. Nonetheless, the City's five year financial forecast, updated in December, projects significant structural deficits. If further corrective budgetary actions are not taken to put future revenues and expenditures in balance, the City would deplete the reserves it has worked so long and hard to accumulate.

Over the next year and possibly two, the City forecast projects continued assessment declines. Even though real estate prices appear to be stabilizing, the assessment process lags behind the actual market. After this spring's upcoming property reassessment process, on average, residential assessments will likely be cut in half from what they were six years ago. State revenue sharing and gas tax funds continue to decline. With the City at the maximum tax rate allowed by Proposal A/Headlee without a vote by the citizens, the City's current year budget was balanced almost entirely through expenditure reductions. Through service delivery efficiencies, employee concessions, reduced employee head counts, and reduced administrative, consultant and supervisory costs, to date, City services have been spared significant service level reductions.

In later years, the five year forecast indicates that the primary ongoing financial challenge arises from increasing City employee retiree liability. While the City's employee pension program is currently actuarially fully funded, increasing City contributions will be required to keep that status, despite a reduction in retirement benefits for any new employees. The biggest projected future challenge will be funding the more than half a million dollars in existing annual retiree medical costs. Unlike the pension program, even in good years, back when these medical benefits were granted to employees, sufficient funds were not set aside to pay for the skyrocketing cost of health care and prescription drugs which have risen 71% since 2007.

The City has had great success in securing grant funds to address infrastructure issues during the past several years to creatively fill the void in available City funds. This summer, Waterloo will be resurfaced from Fisher to Cadieux with a project that is 80% federally funded.

Article continued on page 2

Items to Remember

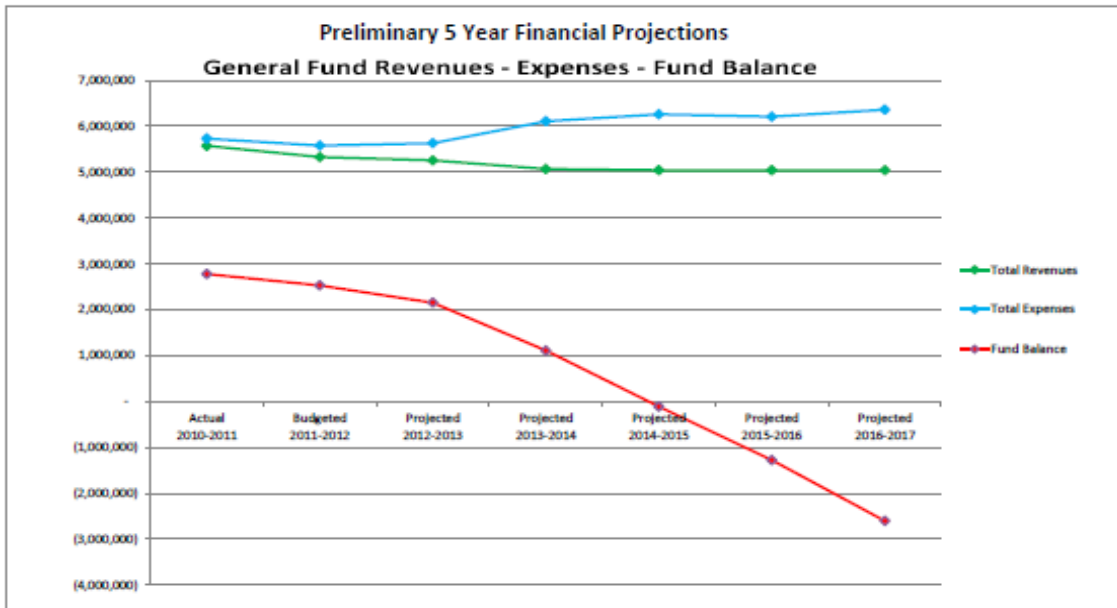
- *County & School tax bills are payable without penalty until February 14*
- *Parks and Rec Winter Fest - see page 4*
- *City Offices closed on January 16 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday*
- *City Offices closed on February 20 for President's Day holiday*
- *Presidential Primary Election - Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Voting at Maire School from 7 am to 8 pm.*

City News

State of the City 2012 continued

While a larger water main is put in place, Mack Avenue's sidewalk area will be given a much needed decorative facelift, two-thirds of which is funded by a federal grant. The City of Grosse Pointe Foundation, through donations of our citizens, continues to fund beautification projects in the Village.

After five years of increasingly constrained budgets, tough decisions lie ahead. Given that Public Safety comprises 58% of the General Fund, new ways to collaborate with the other Grosse Pointes, particularly on police and fire matters, are being evaluated. Options range from simply coordinating the purchase of the same fire equipment, to jointly operating dispatch operations, to evaluating a consolidated Public Safety Authority with our neighbors. Since future revenues, at the current tax rates, will clearly not be able to support the services in the manner historically offered, the City will need to evaluate its service levels and its revenues to ensure the revenues the community chooses to allocate toward its local government are spent on what the community desires most. As the City approaches the upcoming budget challenges, please share your thoughts and priorities with City officials by sending a letter to City Hall or an email to city@grossepointecity.org.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 23 (4th Monday)	City Council	7:00 pm
February 13 (2nd Monday)	City Council	7:00 pm
March 19	City Council	7:00 pm
April 16	City Council	7:00 pm

New Members of the Public Safety Department

The City of Grosse Pointe would like to welcome two additions to our Public Safety Department. Our new Director of Public Safety is Stephen T. Poloni. Chief Poloni replaces Jim Fox, who retired after 28 years of service. Chief Poloni, arrives from Grosse Pointe Shores, where he served as the Director of Public Safety for the past eight years.

The second addition is Thomas Burnette, a newly hired Public Safety Officer. Officer Burnette served as a police officer for the City of Ypsilanti, prior to joining our department.

City News

Snow Removal Procedures

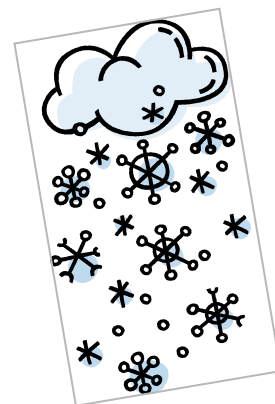
The City has an adopted snow removal and salt application policy. This is the same policy in effect last winter. In anticipation of the upcoming winter season, listed below are some of the key points.

Plowing and Salting - Streets will be plowed when snow fall is 3 inches or greater. Streets with less than 3 inches of snow will not be plowed, but will be spot salted. The City does not salt streets to a bare road surface.

Sidewalks - The clearing of snow from sidewalks adjacent to private property is the responsibility of the property owner or resident. As a courtesy, when snowfall accumulation is greater than 2 inches, the City will clear sidewalks during regular working hours, 5:30 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

City personnel take every precaution to ensure that snow is removed in a safe manner but sometimes snowplowing results in property damage. Residents are reminded that the City is not responsible for damage to items in the public right-of-way such as sprinkler heads, shrubbery, plantings/planters, or any decorative materials.

The Public Works and Public Safety Departments will continue to monitor specific weather and road conditions to ensure the City roads are safe during snow removal season.



Rubbish Pickup & Winter Holidays

Rubbish pickup will be delayed one day the week of January 16 for MLK Jr. Day holiday

Rubbish pickup will be delayed one day the week of February 20 for President's Day holiday.

Recycling Pickup & Winter Holidays

Recycling pickup will be on schedule the weeks of January 16 and February 20, 2012.

Crime Watch Tips – Help prevent crimes of opportunity

- ↳ Remove valuables from vehicles at night – such as Ipods, Ipads, laptops, wallets, purses, GPS devices, money.
- ↳ When leaving your home for extended periods – utilize lights on timers, stop mail and newspaper deliveries and notify the police department with an emergency contact phone number.

New Public Safety Phone System

If there is a police, fire or medical emergency – dial 911.

When calling the public safety department, dial 886-3200 – press 1 if you need a car dispatched or need to speak with a dispatcher. If you need to speak to the Detective Bureau, Chief, or On-Duty supervisor, please listen to the recording and press the appropriate prompt.

Parks and Recreation



Eighth Annual Winter Fest and Pig Roast

Our Winter Fest is in its eighth year and is a wonderful opportunity to take pleasure in the winter weather. You will be able to experience various activities like petting exotic animals, curling, ice sculpting, hockey shoot out and broom-ball. There will also be a catered meal for your enjoyment. Let it snow!

Neff Park Winter Fest

Saturday, January 28 - Activities begin at 1:00 p.m.

Ice Rink and Warming Room

What would winter be without outdoor ice skating? For those who don't take to the cold, the warming room will be available. The warming room will be closed on holidays.

Neff Park Ice Rink Warming Room

December 2011 – March 2012

Everyday from 12:00 – 7:00 pm

**Used Ice Skate Donation continues during
the winter season.**

Mark your calendar for the . . .

All Pointes Daddy Daughter Dance

March 10, 2012

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Grosse Pointe South High School

\$8.00 per person - For girls ages 12 and under

Registration begins February 1 with a March 7, 2012 deadline

Please check the city's website or contact the Parks and Recreation Dept. at 343-5257 to register or for more information.



Beginner Skating Lessons

Our lessons are for kids who have very little skating knowledge. Kids will learn the basic skills necessary to propel themselves on the ice. We offer two sessions with a choice of two meeting times. Register early. Class space is very limited. \$15 per student.

Session I: January 7th, 14th and 21st - Registration began December 6, 2011
Saturdays, 3:00 – 3:45 or 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Session II: February 12th, 19th and 26th - Registration begins January 3, 2012
Saturdays, 3:00 – 3:45 or 4:00 – 4:45 pm

Boat Well and Kayak Renewal Information

- Waiting list renewal cards for boat wells and kayak racks have been sent out for the 2012 season. Renewal cards must be returned to City Hall by **February 1** to maintain your spot on the waiting list(s).
- Kayak Renewal Packets with the season fee of \$100 are due by **March 1**.
- Remaining 50% of boat well deposits are due by **February 1**.
- If we do not receive payment by the dates above, your space may be offered to the waiting list(s).