



Grosse Pointe NOW

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Spring 2019

Mayor

Christopher Boettcher

City Council Members

Donald Parthum Jr.

John Stempfle

Sheila Tomkowiak

Andrew Turnbull

Christopher Walsh

Daniel Williams

Contact us at:

council@grossepointecity.org

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

Patrick 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

Neighborhood Club

2nd Floor - 17150 Waterloo
at 7:00 pm

City Council

May 20, June 17, July 15

New Public Safety Headquarters for Police & Fire Underway

Pictured Right: City of Grosse Pointe elected officials, administrators and the project architects and builder, take part in the groundbreaking for the new Public Safety building at the corner of Mack Avenue and St. Clair.



This much needed Public Safety facility at the entrance to the community will strengthen public safety operations, support the neighborhoods on both sides of Mack, and enhance the Mack Avenue business district. It replaces a facility built in the 1920's that can't accommodate modern fire trucks. The facility on Maumee will be preserved and retrofitted to house the City's municipal court. The aged Public Works building located on Maumee has also been razed for replacement by a fully enclosed, larger facility.

City Council Supports Maire School

In a recent letter to the elected School Board, the Mayor and members of the City Council unanimously expressed support for keeping Maire Elementary School open. The School Board will make a decision on potential school closures in the near future (see www.grossepointecity.org). Maire School, located in the important heart of the Grosse Pointe community, is the City's only school and is a vital part of The Village. The school has a long track record of exemplary academic performance, with a culture of strong support by the parents and community. It is part of the walkable, traditional neighborhood character of Grosse Pointe that makes our community unique. The school contributes to the economic well-being of The Village and the values of the surrounding properties. The building itself reflects Grosse Pointe's architectural heritage as the City's only State registered historic site. To express your thoughts about this important matter, you may send an email to: schoolboard@gpschools.org and attend upcoming School Board meetings regarding this topic.



Project Bloom is in its eighth year! Residents and merchants continue to sponsor flowerbeds in The Village and at 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. Residents are invited to participate in these community events. Planting will be: **Thursday, May 30 - Planting in The Village - 9:00 am.**

If you have a few hours to help out this year, please let us know. Do you need credit for volunteer service hours? Do you want to get your friends together to do something fun? Join us! We would love to have your assistance! Please contact Susan Budrys at suebudrys@gmail.com or 882-9816. *Looking forward to another beautiful season!*

City News

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 2019, this initiative is in its fourth phase and homes on Washington, Lincoln, Fisher Road and homes south of Jefferson will be inspected by the City's certified Code Enforcement Officer. 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 of Grosse Pointe at 885-5800.

DTE Energy Gas Upgrades Infrastructure in Grosse Pointe

DTE is now in the second year of a project to replace all of the gas mains in the community with high pressure lines. The new mains will connect to each home and business with new gas meters at each location.

Last year the project focused on the section of the City between Maumee and Jefferson. This year, DTE will focus on the area south of Jefferson, and that work has begun. At the same time, a separate crew will construct a new gas main loop for the rest of the City along Cadieux, Mack and Fisher Roads. Once that new loop is installed, DTE will work in the residential areas on every street between Mack and Kercheval, not including The Village. DTE will send letters to everyone in the affected neighborhoods with more information.

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.

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:

Check your status: dteenergy.com/gasrenewalmaps Frequently Asked Questions: dteenergy.com/gasrenewal

Contact DTE: 313-270-9240 A DTE representative is available from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday.
Leave a message if calling after hours.

City News

Yard Waste Pickup Guidelines

- Yard waste pickup began April 1 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 are \$65 each. Contact City Hall for further information.

Enjoy Summer More

Follow the Lawn Equipment Hours

Remember! City code stipulates that no person shall use or operate lawn equipment before 8:00 am or after 8:00 pm on Monday through Saturday, or before 9:00 am or after 8:00 pm on Sunday or legal holidays. Lawn equipment includes: powered lawn mowers, edging tools, grass clippers, weed cutters, or grass or leaf blowers.

Your neighbors thank you!

Items to Remember

- *Pool opens at Neff Park on May 25. Make sure your park pass registration is up to date!*
- *City Offices are closed on May 27 for the Memorial Day holiday.*

Rubbish and Recycling Pickup and Holidays

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

May 27 for the
Memorial Day holiday

Water Quality Report Available - The water quality report describing the source and quality of your drinking water is available at <http://www.grossepointecity.org/departments/public-services/water-sewer>

To receive a paper copy in the mail, contact the City Water Dept. at pthomas@grossepointecity.org.

Parks and Recreation

Neff Park's Kick Off To Summer

Don't miss this event! The Kick Off to Summer happens on **Saturday, June 15 at 1:00 pm.**

Start the summer season with the official unveiling of the newly revitalized baby pool and play features made possible with the support of the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation.

The official ribbon cutting for the recently donated marina pier binoculars will also take place. The pier binoculars are a gift from the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation and the Grosse Pointe Boat Club.

During the event, information will be available regarding summer recreation classes and programs, along with special activities for the kids... plus free frozen custard from Wally's!

These events are sponsored by the City of Grosse Pointe Foundation, Grosse Pointe Boat Club, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department. See you at Neff Park!!!



Oak Wilt Update

By Brian Colter, City Forester

Oak Wilt is a fungal disease (*Ceratocystis fagacearum*) affecting all species of oaks in the Eastern United States and parts of Canada. Red oaks are especially susceptible, often dying within weeks of infection. The disease spreads underground through root grafts and overland by beetles that spread fungal spores from tree to tree. Symptoms include premature leaf browning during the growing season, and sudden leaf drop in the summer. Diagnosing this disease is difficult because symptoms are similar to other oak disorders.

Oak Wilt expert, Dave Roberts, PhD, Michigan State University, has never seen oak wilt in Grosse Pointe. In fact, there had been no recent confirmed cases of Oak Wilt in Wayne County until 2016, when it was discovered on Belle Isle. Over 200 hundred oaks were removed in an effort to isolate the fungus which was probably introduced onto Belle Isle by the movement of firewood. Grosse Pointe homeowners need to be prudent. Preventing the spread of Oak Wilt is the best form of management. **DO NOT** trim oak trees during the growing season. Trim oak trees during the winter months. Also, NEVER move firewood. Infected wood can spread the fungus to healthy trees.



As of March 12, 2019, there are 81 city owned oak trees. To date, Oak Wilt has not been diagnosed on city owned property.

For additional information visit

michiganoakwilt.org.

Pictured left is Brian Coulter with Shumard oak logs on Belle Isle, Fall 2017