



Grosse Pointe NOW

Volume 20 Issue 2

www.grossepointecity.org

Summer 2020

Mayor

Sheila Tomkowiak

City Council Members

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Terence Thomas
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
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

Jul 20 City Council
Aug 17 City Council
Sep 21 City Council

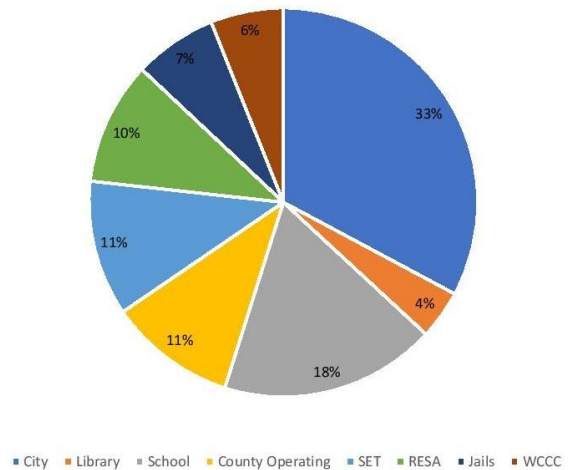
Council Approves 2020-2021 Budget Decreasing Tax Rate

The COVID-19 pandemic created severe and immediate financial challenges to state and local governments across the country. With the near shut down of the economy, economically sensitive revenues immediately dropped. Reduced sales taxes, gas taxes, building permits, and parking fees due to the lack of commercial activity are already impacting the City.

To address the fiscal uncertainty created by COVID-19, the City Council adopted an austere budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, which starts July 1. Overall, the planned General Fund expenditures for the upcoming year are actually less than the previous year. There are no General Fund fee increases proposed in the upcoming budget. In fact, the General Fund tax levy, the Solid Waste levy, the Road Fund levy and the Debt Service levy for new facilities are rolled back and decreased in this budget. In total, property owners will realize a .7503 mill reduction compared to last year -- from 18.2219 down to 17.4715. Most property owners in the City will experience a slight decrease in actual taxes owed for City purposes, even though there were increased property values. Below is a chart that shows how only one third of a homeowner's total annual property tax goes to the City of Grosse Pointe for services like police, fire garbage pickup and parks.

The budget does include funds for several important capital expenditures. Road Improvement Program taxes, approved by voters in 2015, will focus on several blocks that require major reconstruction. Work on two blocks of Goethe between University and Washington begins in July, with work on Rivard between Kercheval and St. Paul expected to start in August. This will be followed by the resurfacing of Grosse Pointe Court between Charlevoix and Mack. The City's Neff Park parking lot will also be resurfaced after Labor Day. The budget also includes funds for DTE to replace all of the City's residential streetlights with LED lights. DTE will begin the bulb replacement this summer. Due to the Michigan Public Service Commission electricity rates that favor LED street lights, this changeout will pay for itself in just over two years.

Property Tax Receipts by Taxing Body



Items to Remember

- *Parks and Recreation News - see pages 2 and 4*
- *City Offices closed on July 3 for the Independence Day holiday.*
- *August Election information - see page 2*
- *Reminder about fireworks restrictions - see page 4*

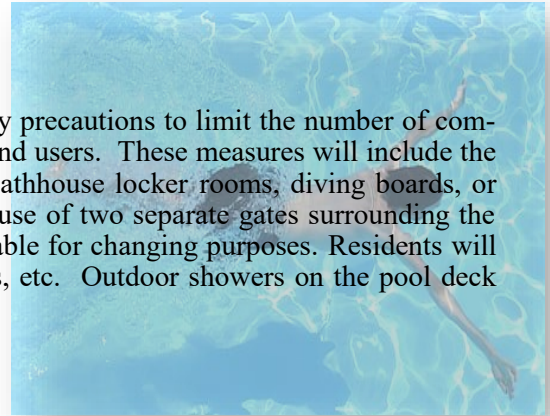
City News

Neff Park Pool

The main pool at Neff Park opens July 1. After opening, the City will adhere to capacity restrictions set in place by the Governor and Wayne County, as well as adhering to COVID-19 guidance issued by the CDC and other health agencies. As directed by the State, gatherings in a public space are limited to no more than 100 people. In order to accomplish this, the City will be asking residents to sign up to swim for specific time periods. Please visit the City's Parks and Recreation website for reservation directions at:

https://www.grossepointecity.org/departments/parks_recreation/index.php.

For the safety of staff and residents, the City will be taking the necessary precautions to limit the number of commonly touched surfaces and maintain social distancing among the staff and users. These measures will include the opening of the main pool only without the use of drinking fountains, bathhouse locker rooms, diving boards, or pool chairs. Residents will be asked to enter and exit the pool area by use of two separate gates surrounding the pool, and to arrive ready to swim with the locker rooms not being available for changing purposes. Residents will also be asked to bring with them their own chairs, goggles, kick boards, etc. Outdoor showers on the pool deck will be made available.



Primary Election - August 4, 2020

The next election is the Primary Election on Tuesday, August 4, 2020. Absentee Voting is available to registered voters for all elections and is a convenient way to cast a ballot instead of going to the polls on election day. Absentee Ballot Applications are available online and feature the option to join the Permanent Absentee Voter List for future elections. Voters currently on the City's Permanent Absentee Voter List should have received their application for the August Election in the mail.

Completed Applications can be returned by the following methods: 1) Mail it to the Clerk's Office; 2) Email it to city@grossepointecity.org; or 3) Drop it off in the City's drop box located in front of City Hall.

- Last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the Local Clerk for the August 4, 2020 election is **Monday, July 20, 2020**.
- Tuesday, July 21 through 8:00 pm on August 4, 2020 - In-person voter registration with proof of residency with the Local Clerk.
- Friday, July 31, 2020 through 5:00 pm is the last day to request an Absentee Ballot by mail.
- **Ways to Register to Vote** - online at mvic.sos.state.mi.us/registervoter, at a local Secretary of State office, at City Hall, or by mail.

Visit the City's website www.grossepointecity.org for more election information.

Water Quality Report Available - The water quality report describing the source and quality of your drinking water is available at <http://www.grossepointecity.org>
To receive a paper copy in the mail, please contact njohnston@grossepointecity.org.

City News

Yard Waste Pickup Guidelines

- Yard waste pickup began in April 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.

Enjoy Summer More

Follow the Lawn Equipment Hours

Remember that 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!

City
Yard Waste Carts
Refuse Carts
Extra Recycling Carts

All For Sale \$65
(free delivery)

Contact City Hall
885-5800

Rubbish and Recycling Pickup and Summer Holidays

There is no delay in pickup for the week before or after the Independence Day holiday.

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

September 7 for the Labor Day holiday

Parks and Recreation

Neff Park Gate Attendants and Park Passes

Park passes are required to enter Neff Park. If you do not have a park pass or need to replace a lost or stolen pass, please call the Park Office at 343-5257 between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday-Saturday to schedule an appointment.

If you are a new resident, when you call please confirm with staff what documentation you will need to bring with you. We ask that you please wear a face mask or cloth face covering for your appointment. The pictures will be taken outside the Park Office.

Important Reminders about Neff Park

When visiting Neff Park, we ask that you wear a cloth face covering while maintaining the proper physical distance of more than 6 feet. Also, please remember that dogs are not allowed in Neff Park during the summer unless you are taking your pet directly to your boat.

Park Facilities

With limitations set on group gatherings, Neff Park group permits will not be accepted. However, beginning June 15, the City Parks and Recreation Office will begin accepting rental requests for the Neff Park boat club and pavilion. Rental request forms can be obtained from the City's website. Please call the Park Office at 343-5257 for facility availability. The Neff Park bathrooms, marina, and playground are open along with picnic tables and walking paths. Tennis courts at Elworthy Field are also open.

FIREWORKS - Know the Rules

The Fourth of July is the time of year for fans of fireworks to enjoy them. Remember that City Code stipulates fireworks ignition, discharge and use in the City is limited to the following days after 11:00 a.m.:

- (1) December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1.
- (2) The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Memorial Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- (3) June 29 to July 4 until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days.
- (4) July 5, if that date is a Friday or Saturday, until 11:45 p.m.
- (5) The Saturday and Sunday immediately preceding Labor Day until 11:45 p.m. on each of those days

A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks on public property. Further information on the fireworks ordinance #437 can be found on the City website, under Code of Ordinances.

Make sure to handle fireworks carefully to ensure a safe celebration!

Reminder to Leash Your Pets

As a reminder to residents, when they are out and about in the City, owners may not allow their dogs to stray beyond the owners premises unless the dog is on a leash of no longer than ten feet in length. Dog owners and dog walkers must properly hold the leash and be capable of restraining the actions of the dog. Don't forget to clean up after your dog too! Please refer to Section 10-27 of the City Code for more details.

Thank you for keeping both residents and pets safe!

