

Grosse Pointe NOW

Volume 20 Issue 1

www.grossepointecity.org

Winter 2020

Mayor

Sheila Tomkowiak

City Council Members

Donald Parthum Jr.
John Stempfle
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

Jan 13 City Council
Feb 10 City Council
Mar 16 City Council

CITY PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

It is my great honor to have been elected Mayor of the City of Grosse Pointe, and I am hard at work on behalf of our residents. As we head into a new decade, I would like to share with you what your city government is planning in the months ahead and to ask for your help.

I believe that the primary function of the Mayor and City Council members is to set the direction for what you, our residents, expect and desire from your municipal government — not only for everyday services such as snow removal and parking fees, but also for our future as a city. If we can effectively articulate a vision for going forward and make sure that vision is widely supported, we will be successful.

And this is where you come in.

Because we need to balance the demands of all constituencies with the reality of financial and time constraints, it is vital that we have an accurate understanding of what you want to see from your city government. And to ensure that we hear from all the voices, not just the loudest ones, we are undertaking a statistically valid community survey conducted by a professional market research firm.

Within the next month, you will receive the survey in the mail with instructions on how to respond, either on paper or electronically. Please take the time to complete the survey to let us know what you think.

Once we have the data in hand, we will be in a better position to set goals and priorities and to focus our efforts on what is important to you. This is a great opportunity to participate in shaping your city.

We look forward to receiving your feedback and achieving great things in the months ahead.

-- Sheila Tomkowiak, Mayor

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

The new Public Safety building under construction on Mack Avenue at St. Clair is nearly fully enclosed. Inside work will proceed over the winter. Both this building and the new Public Works building behind City Hall are expected to be occupied this summer.



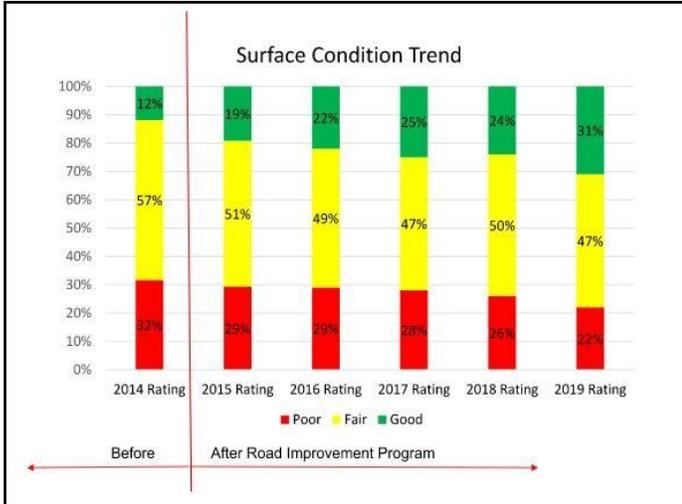
Items to Remember

- *Parks and Recreation Winter Activities - see page 4*
- *City Offices closed on January 20 for the M.L. King Jr. holiday*
- *City Offices closed on February 17 for the Presidents' Day holiday*

City News

City Road Program Showing Results

City of Grosse Pointe's Road Program - Five Years of Progress Charted



The annual review of road conditions, as part of the Road Improvement Program, was recently completed. The 2020 projects will be the sixth year of the Road Improvement Program. This upcoming year, the City will focus on those blocks that have been long identified to require major, costly renovations, as promised. The projects proposed to be completed in calendar year 2020 are:

- Rivard – Kercheval to St. Paul
- Goethe – Washington to University (including an adjacent stretch of University and 1.5” milling on the Goethe dead-end)
- Grosse Pointe Court - Mack to Charlevoix

After the 2020 road projects are bid out, construction is planned for mid-summer 2020. These major roadway repairs are made possible by the Road Improvement Fund

levy approved by voters in the Fall of 2014. Weekly road construction updates are posted on the City website under the “News” section from the onset and until the projects are completed. Information on the six year projections for future road improvements is also available on the City website. This plan is updated annually after the road condition survey.

City Urban Forestry Commission receives prestigious President's Award

The Keep Michigan Beautiful organization recently awarded the City's Grosse Pointe Urban Forestry Commission its highest honor, the President's Award. At its December meeting, the City Council recognized the citizen members of this commission for their work in managing the City's tree canopy. Keep Michigan Beautiful is the state wide affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful non-profit which inspires and educates people to improve and beautify their community environment.

The City established the Urban Forestry Commission through a resolution passed in December 2016. A five-member volunteer commission was appointed in January 2017. Among the commission's many accomplishments are a survey of all City-owned trees that was completed in March 2018; the creation of an ongoing informational and fundraising campaign, named ReLeaf Grosse Pointe in August 2017; expanded Arbor Day celebrations; and more tree plantings.

In July 2019, the Urban Forestry Commission received a \$3,000 grant, the maximum available, from the DTE Energy Foundation's Tree Planting Grant Program. The City was one of only six communities in Wayne County to receive one of these grants.

Thirteen trees were planted in City right of ways in November 2019 using a combination of grant, City funds and donations from residents.



The City has long maintained a five-year tree trimming cycle. As a result, the Commission's tree inventory documented that 97% of City-owned trees were “in good or excellent condition.” Maintenance also improves safety, since tree trimmers find and remove broken, hollow, dead or damaged limbs before they fall and possibly injure a person or property. The annual tree trimming this winter is being conducted on Lincoln, Washington, Rivard and University.

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the “ReLeaf Grosse Pointe” campaign through the City's nonprofit City of Grosse Pointe Foundation at Grosse Pointe City Hall, 17147 Maumee Ave., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230. Funds received will be utilized to plant replacement trees lost to disease over the last several decades.

City News

Snow Removal Procedures

Listed below are some of the key points of the City's snow removal and salt application policy adopted in 2010.

Plowing and Salting - Streets are plowed when snow fall is 3 inches or greater. Streets with less than 3 inches of snow are generally not plowed, but are spot salted, especially at intersections. The City does not salt streets to a bare road surface. Private roads are maintained by the property owners of that street.



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, Monday through Friday, typically before school starts. Please make every effort to keep your sidewalks clear throughout the winter.

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 monitor specific weather and road conditions to ensure the City roads are safe during snow removal season.

Rubbish and Recycling Pickup and Winter Holidays

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

January 20 for M.L. King Jr. holiday

February 17 for Presidents' Day holiday

Christmas Tree Pickup



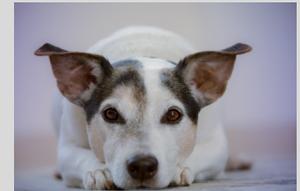
Please note that real Christmas Trees placed at the curb will be picked up after the holiday until January 31, 2020.

If a Christmas Tree is placed at the curb after Friday, January 31, 2020, the homeowner will be charged a \$75.00 special pickup fee.

Dog Licenses

Just a few reminders about making sure you are complying with city ordinances and being a responsible pet owner.

- All dogs are required to be licensed on or before March 1 of each year.
- Proof of immunization against rabies must be presented at time of application.
- The fee for a dog license is \$5.00 on or before March 1. After March 1, the fee is \$15.00.
- If your dog is found by the police department and it is necessary to impound the dog, there are several charges that may apply.



If you have questions related to the dog license ordinance, please contact the Public Safety Department at 886-3200.

Presidential Primary Election - March 10, 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 will receive their application for the March Election in the mail next week.

IMPORTANT: If you do not select a **BALLOT TYPE ON YOUR MARCH 10, 2020 ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION**, a ballot will not be issued to you. There are three ballot types to choose from: 1) Republican Party; 2) Democratic Party; OR 3) Ballot without a Presidential Primary Party (Proposal Only).

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 at City Hall, 17147 Maumee Ave. or place in the City's drop box located at City Hall parking lot. Visit the City's website www.grossepointecity.org for more election information.

Parks and Recreation

Annual Winter Fest and Pig Roast

Our Winter Fest is in its sixteenth year and is a wonderful opportunity to take pleasure in the winter weather. You will be able to experience various activities like curling, ice sculpting, ice skating, petting farm, a hockey shoot out, and broomball. Warming fires along with free hot chocolate and s'mores will be available. There will also be a catered meal for your enjoyment at \$5 per person. Valid park passes are required for entry. So let it snow!!!

Neff Park Winter Fest

Saturday, January 25, 2020 - Activities begin at 1:00 pm.

Neff Park 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.

January – March 2020 - Everyday, 12:00 – 7:00 pm

Saturday Warming Fires This year we will be hosting weekend warming fires catered with s'mores and hot chocolate during each Saturday that the Neff Park Ice Rink and Warming Room is open.

All Pointes Daddy Daughter Dance

March 21, 2020

6:30 pm

Held at Grosse Pointe South High School Main Gym - For girls ages 12 and under
Registration begins February 3, 2020 with a March 13, 2020 deadline. Cost is \$10 per person.
Registration includes a single stem rose, appetizers, refreshments, photo opts, and dancing!

Please check the City's website or contact the Parks and Recreation Office to register or for additional information.



Platform Tennis Seasonal Memberships

Seasonal membership applications are available at City Hall, the Park office and the City's website. Platform tennis courts can be reserved up to three days in advance. All reservations must be made by 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Additional information and court reservations are available through the City's website.

Platform Tennis Reservation Play

October 1 to April 30

Everyday, 8:00 am - 10:00 pm

Boat Well and Boat Rack Renewal Information

- If you are on any of the waiting list(s), a reminder renewal card has been mailed to you. This card must be returned to the City by **February 1** to maintain your spot on the waiting list(s).
- Remaining 50% balances of boat well deposits are due by **February 1**.
- 2020 Small Boat Rack Renewal Agreements and Fees are due by **March 1, 2020**.
- Late fees will be imposed.
- If we do not receive payment by the dates above, your space may be offered to the waiting list(s).