

Grosse Pointe NOW

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Spring 2015



Mayor Dale Scrace

City Council Members

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

Photo courtesy of The Portrait Place

City Personnel

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

Water Main Flushing Program Begins April 16, 2015

Based upon recommendations from the Department of Environmental Quality, the City Water Department has implemented a bi-annual water main flushing program which began in 2005. The purpose of the program is to improve water quality, water pressure and fire flows for our City residents and businesses.

Special Note
Your home/business will receive a hand-delivered notice advising when the water main on your street will be flushed.

Over time, tuberculation, which is caused by oxidation, forms deposits on the internal walls of the mains. As this buildup increases, flow capacity decreases. By flushing water mains, which involves opening fire hydrants systematically, the rapid flow of water through the main carries out sediment, thereby improving water flow. This process begins with the large transmission mains and then proceeds block by block. In addition to cleaning out mains, the program gives City personnel an opportunity to exercise valves and fire hydrants. If any problems are found during this process, they will be repaired or replaced, thus ensuring that they all will work optimally when needed.

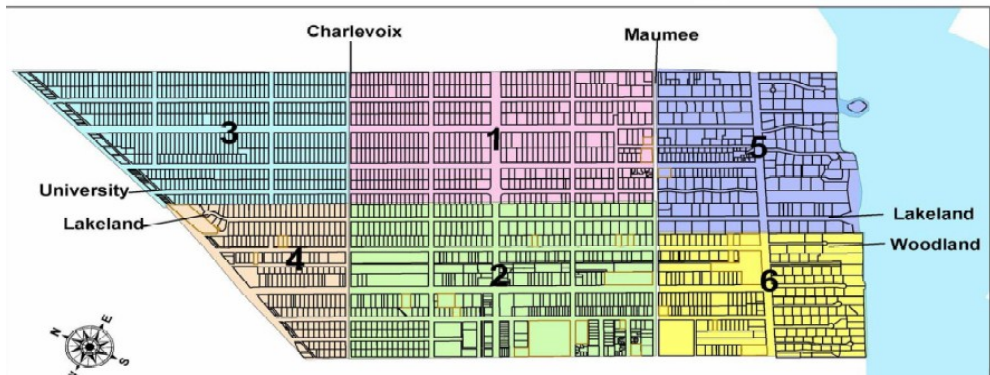
After main flushing, it is common to have temporary cloudiness and/or discoloration of tap water. Although this water is safe to drink, it is recommended that homeowners run water from their basement faucets until the water runs clear after their main has been flushed. To avoid potential staining of laundry, it is also recommended that you refrain from using your washing machine for 24 hours after the procedure is completed.

The first of six zones will be flushed starting on April 16. The remainder of the City will be completed within three weeks. A complete schedule is available at City Hall or on the website www.grossepointecity.org. Flushing will begin at 5:00 am in Zones 2, 3, and 4 at 8:30 am in Zones 1, 5, and 6 and will conclude that day. After the hydrants have been flushed on a given street, a street sweeper will clean up if necessary.

Your patience and cooperation is appreciated during this important flushing program. If you have any special concerns or questions pertaining to this program, please contact the Grosse Pointe Water Department at 313-885-5800.

Sections	Start Time
1	April 16, 2015 8:30 AM
2	April 17, 2015 5:00 AM
3	April 23, 2015 5:00 AM
4	April 24, 2015 5:00 AM
5	April 30, 2015 8:30 AM
6	May 1, 2015 8:30 AM

City of Grosse Pointe Water Main Flushing Schedule



City News and Information

Statewide Road Ballot Proposal 1

This proposal would provide funding needed to fix State and local roads and bridges for the long-term. It would require that all state taxes paid on gas go to transportation. State lawmakers would no longer be able to shift these taxes citizens pay on gas somewhere else.

When do I vote: May 5, 2015

What's the impact on my community? In addition to helping fix State roads, Proposal 1 would generate much-needed additional dollars for Grosse Pointe schools and communities. The City of Grosse Pointe would receive an estimated \$213,081 more in state collected motor fuel road funds by formula which have not increased since 1997. That is approximately a two-thirds increase. In addition, the City would collect an estimated \$48,418 in a Constitutionally guaranteed allocation from the state sales tax. Sales tax revenue sharing from the State to the City has declined by more than \$200,000 compared to 2001.

What guarantees in Proposal 1 improve Michigan's road funding system for taxpayers? This proposal has three guarantees:

1. The proposal would guarantee, for the first time, that every penny paid in state fuel taxes goes to transportation. The politicians in Lansing would no longer be able to divert state gas taxes to some other state program or service.
2. The proposal would guarantee that all state and local government road construction projects include pavement warranties. County, city and village road agencies will be required to submit warranty programs to the Michigan Department of Transportation for approval.
3. This proposal requires road builders to provide their own guarantees in the form of warranties on the roads they build. If the roads aren't built right, the road builders will pay for the repairs, not taxpayers.

Facts & Figures

Ballot Proposal:

- Raises the sales tax from 6% to 7%
- Exempts sales tax from motor fuel
- Removes higher education funding from School Aid Fund
- Dedicates a portion of the use tax to K-12 education

Statutory Changes Effective Only if Proposal 1 Passes:

- Increases the tax charged on motor fuel
- Eliminates the depreciation on vehicle registration fees
- Increase registration fees on the heaviest trucks
- Requires more competitive bidding and road warranties
- Restores the Earned Income Tax Credit to 20% of the federal level

Revenue Generated:

- \$1.3 billion in new revenue for roads, bridges, and transit resulting in more than a 60% increase in funding to cities & villages
- An additional \$100 million in Constitutional Revenue Sharing to municipalities
- \$300 million in new funding for public schools
- \$260 million in tax relief through the Earned Income Tax Credit

Roads - Nearly 30 percent of roads in Michigan are in poor or mediocre condition.

Bridges - 27 percent of Michigan bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

Car repair costs - Michigan ranks first for annual individual repair cost to registered drivers, at \$357 per driver.

Per capita spending - Michigan ranks last in per capita spending on roads at \$154.

Upcoming Meetings

Council Chambers, 17145 Maumee Ave.

April 20	City Council	7:00 pm
May 11	Budget Hearing	7:00 pm
May 18	City Council	7:00 pm
June 15	City Council	7:00 pm

Items to Remember

- *Yard waste collection began April 6. See page 3.*
- *State Special Election - Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Voting at Maire School, 740 Cadieux Road, 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.*
- *Mayors' Prayer Breakfast at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club is May 7, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. Tickets available at City Hall.*
- *Village Paint the Window contest is Saturday, May 9.*
- *Pool opens at Neff Park on May 23.*
- *City Offices closed - Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day holiday.*
- *Music on the Plaza concerts begin on June 4. For the concert schedule, please visit the Village website at www.thevillagegp.com.*

Public Works News



Yard Waste Carts

For Sale \$65

Contact City Hall

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

Thanks for your help!

YARD WASTE REMINDERS

- Yard waste pickup began April 6 & continues until leaf pickup starts in the fall.
- Place yard debris in waste containers labeled with a “yard waste sticker”, use a biodegradable brown paper bag or use the green City yard waste cart. 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 should be placed at the curb prior to 7:30 am on your rubbish day.
- \$50.00 charge will apply for special pickup requests.

Rubbish & Recycling Pickup Spring - Summer Holidays

Rubbish pickup will be delayed one day the week of May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday.

Rubbish pickup for the week of July 4, Independence Day holiday, will be on schedule.

National Arbor Day Foundation - Tree City USA Award

The City of Grosse Pointe has been recognized by The National Arbor Day Foundation once again for its high standard of excellence in its urban forestry programs. The National Arbor Day Foundation has awarded the City with its Tree City USA award for the 29th year. The Tree City USA organization recognizes communities that effectively manage their public tree resources by meeting four standards. The standards require a tree department, tree ordinance, forestry budget, and an Arbor Day observation with proclamation. The program requires an annual forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita. The City currently budgets over \$11.75 per capita.



TREE CITY USA

More City News



Sponsor A Garden Project

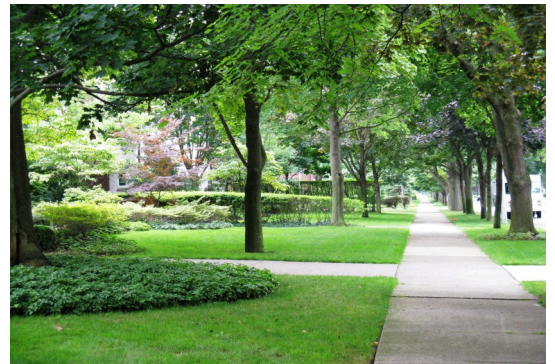
Project Bloom is in its fourth year! Residents and merchants continue to sponsor flowerbeds in The Village and Neff Park. Thanks to all of our loyal sponsors who have donated money year after year to beautify our downtown area and City park! Although most of our sponsors have agreed to once again sponsor a bed, Project Bloom does have opportunities for new sponsors. Also, Project Bloom is very much in need of volunteers to help plant and maintain the flowerbeds. Planting Day is in May, we'd love to have your help! If you are interested in either sponsoring a garden or helping to plant, please contact Susan Budrys at suebudry@gmail.com or 882-9816, or Susan Hartz at susanhartz@att.net or 886-8982.

Susan Budrys and Susan Hartz, Project Bloom Co-Chairs

How Green is Your Lawn?

Are you in the habit of applying fertilizer or paying someone to fertilize your lawn every spring? Did you know that when fertilizer is applied improperly it may pollute the Clinton River, its tributaries and Lake St. Clair? Though we all want to have green and luscious lawns this spring and summer, we also need to be aware of the potential hazards our lawn care practices may cause. When too much fertilizer is applied it washes off easily and becomes very harmful to the environment. This is specially true when a rain storm comes. Rain can wash fertilizer straight into the storm drain and most storm drains empty into our lakes, rivers and streams. Some tips to keep in mind are:

- Mow at least 3" high. Return clippings to recycle nutrients; sweep or blow clippings from walks and driveways onto the lawn. Taller grass crowds out weeds and promotes deeper roots, deeper roots help the lawn survive droughts
- Be patient in the spring - wait until May to fertilize after thaw. Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn.
- Choose lawn fertilizers with low or no phosphorus (the middle number) and follow the directions. Maintain a NO APPLICATION zone near lakes, rivers, streams and storm drains.
- Sweep fertilizer granules from walks and driveways onto the lawn.
- Don't soak your lawn and avoid night watering. Watering should not produce puddles; lighter, more frequent watering is best.



Repairing or Renovating Your Home?

Winter can take a toll on your home. If you plan on making home repairs this spring or are starting a long awaited renovation project, please keep in mind that a building permit may be required. Depending on the type of project, other permits such as mechanical, electrical, plumbing and fence permits may also be required. Consult with your contractor to ensure proper permits have been secured from the City. Even if you are doing the work yourself, a permit may still be required. Inspections are then made to ensure the work meets code

requirements which helps to avoid future problems. Please take advantage of the City Inspectors' building expertise to ensure that your home project meets safety standards. For more information regarding what type of work requires a permit, please contact the Grosse Pointe Building Department at 417-1180.