



Grosse Pointe NOW

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Winter 2016



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
Gary Huvaere
Public Service Director
Pete Randazzo
Public Service Supervisor
Kevin Lawrence
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

Grosse Pointe is Great!

People often ask how the City is doing. People who live here. People who live nearby. People who do business here. You may have family or children who used to live here and ask you how things are in Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe is a community that people care about, and care to ask about. That is one of Grosse Pointe's greatest strengths. We care about our community and we communicate with others about our community.

So how is Grosse Pointe? It is GREAT! At the start of the new year, it is time to reflect on where we have been and where we are headed. There are so many good things happening. After a long period of recession and unprecedented decline in property values, the housing market has rebounded and continues to climb. In the downtown, where The Village experienced significant vacancies and a whole side of one block of the street was vacant, there are now very few storefronts left to lease. Over the holidays, it was a joy to see people lining the streets and filling the parking lots. The street decorations and all the newly renovated buildings completed the Christmas Village scene, and showed the City's vibrancy at its heart.

With the recovery has come a stabilization of the City finances. Last year began a long process of rebuilding the infrastructure that took a hit from deferred maintenance when property tax revenues declined during the recession. In 2015, the City finished a nearly \$5 million sewer pipe rehabilitation project that repaired all of the most serious issues identified in a City wide assessment. Work on City Hall, which was converted from a house more than 20 years ago, included a new roof, gutters, insulation, exterior paint and replacement of a wood entryway that had deteriorated over time. And the most work done in memory was completed on City street repairs, including resurfacing and curbs on Kercheval Avenue in the downtown.

Coming up this year are more infrastructure improvements. The year 2016 is the first year of street improvements to be funded entirely by the new road millage approved by voters. Instead of plucking away at one or two blocks of the worst streets per year, the millage allows the City to implement a comprehensive road improvement program. This approach will maximize the value of the road repair funds by keeping roads from getting into horrible condition. This year, the entire stretch of St. Paul will be resurfaced from Cadieux to Fisher, as well as Roosevelt Place from Maumee to Jefferson, and University Place from Maumee to just north of Jefferson. On Fisher Road, the City will replace a deteriorated water main, and instead of putting the sidewalks back the way they are, the entire streetscape will be transformed with decorative street lighting, landscaping and aggregate walkways, with assistance from a State grant. This public investment will help anchor the success of a \$14 million private investment being made by Farms Market to expand into a bigger specialty grocery store starting at Maumee and stretching for more than a 1/3 of the block.

It is important to communicate the great developments going on. To keep apprised of the latest news and updates on the City electronically, sign up for email blasts on the City website (under online services). In that section of the website, the City has enhanced its customer response section, allowing for residents to submit service requests online. For those with smart phones, you can download a new app that even allows you to send in a picture of the issue. Just check out the Apple store or Google Play for the Grosse Pointe mobile app by WebQA.

Happy New Year from everyone at the City!

City News

Home Safety Tips While Away

The Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department provides the following tips on home safety while you are out of town for the holidays and vacations:

- 1) Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos, and computers should be inscribed with an identifying number unique to its owner (do not use your entire social security number).
- 2) Create an up-to-date home inventory including make, model, serial numbers, other detailed descriptions, and photographs of items of value (including jewelry). This inventory should be kept somewhere safe, out of the house.
- 3) At least two light timers should be set to turn the lights and TV on and off in a logical sequence when away for an extended time period to give the appearance that someone is home.
- 4) The motion detector or other alarm system (if you have one) should be activated when you leave home.
- 5) Mail and newspaper deliveries should be stopped or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up should be made when you are away from home for a period of time.
- 6) Ask a trusted neighbor to tend the yard, shovel the snow, and watch your home when you are away or have a trusted friend or relative house sit in your absence.

Upcoming Meetings

Council Chambers - 17145 Maumee Ave.

January 25 (4th Mon.)	City Council	7:00 pm	March 21	City Council	7:00 pm
February 22 (4th Mon.)	City Council	7:00 pm	April 18	City Council	7:00 pm

Items to Remember

- *Real Christmas trees will be picked up at the curb until January 29, 2016.*
- *City Offices closed on January 18 for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday*
- *Parks and Rec Winter Fest - see page 4*
- *City Offices closed on February 15 for President's Day holiday*
- *County & School tax bills are payable without penalty until February 16*

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

City News

Snow Removal Procedures

In anticipation of winter weather, listed below are some of the key points of the City's adopted snow removal and salt application policy.

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. The four private roads south of Jefferson are not salted or plowed.



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.

City personnel take every precaution to ensure that snow is removed in a safe manner but sometimes snow-plowing 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 weeks of:

January 18 for Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

February 15 for President's Day holiday

Christmas Tree Pickup



Please note that real Christmas Trees placed at the curb will be picked up after the holiday until January 29, 2016.

If a Christmas Tree is placed at the curb more than one month following the Christmas holiday, the homeowner will be charged an Extra Trip Garbage pickup fee of \$50.00.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Board of Review

The City of Grosse Pointe is now accepting applications from the City of Grosse Pointe community to serve as a volunteer member of the Board of Review.

The Board of Review meets three times a year; The March Board of Review usually meets 3 days in mid-March to hear and decide appeals of value made by property owners, the July and December Boards of Review meet one Tuesday of those months for about 1 hour to make any corrections to the assessment roll and decide on hardship applications.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Review, please submit an application indicating your interest, experience and background to the City of Grosse Pointe. Applications are available from the City Clerk at City Hall or on the City website at www.grossepointecity.org.

Applications are due as soon as possible. Position open until filled.

Parks and Recreation



Twelfth Annual Winter Fest and Pig Roast

Our Winter Fest is in its twelfth year and is a wonderful opportunity to take pleasure in the winter weather. You will be able to experience various activities like pony rides, curling, arts and crafts, ice sculpting, ice skating, 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. So let it snow!!!

Neff Park Winter Fest

Saturday, January 30 - 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

January – March 2016

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.

Fifth Annual All Pointes Daddy Daughter Dance

April 16, 2016

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Grosse Pointe South High School

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

Registration begins March 1 with a
April 8, 2016 deadline. Registration includes
a single stem rose, appetizers, refreshments,
photo and dancing.

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



Used Ice Skate Donation

Continues during the winter season. All sizes and
types in good condition will be accepted.

Please bring your skates to the Neff Park Office.

Boat Well and Boat Rack Renewal Information

- If you are on any of the waiting list(s), a reminder renewal card has been sent out to you. This card must be returned to the City by **February 1** to maintain your spot on the waiting list(s).
- Remaining 50% of boat well deposits are due by **February 1**.
- 2016 Small Boat Rack Renewal Agreements and Fees are due by **March 1, 2016**.
- Late fees imposed.
- If we do not receive payment by the dates above, your space may be offered to the waiting list(s).