

FALL-WINTER 2025

the Parkscene

A SEASONAL MAGAZINE
FROM THE CITY OF
GROSSE POINTE PARK

Halloween in the Park

Exciting city events,
Beautification
Commission news, city
chipping and leaf pick-
up updates



PARKS & RECREATION
ELECTIONS
CITY INFORMATION

City Hall: 15115 East Jefferson,
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Hours: Monday-Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

City Phone Numbers

911 - Emergencies Only
Municipal Offices -
Automated Telephone System:
Main Number
(313) 822-6200
0 - For the operator
1 - Public Service, Building Department
and Assessment
2 - Water & Sewerage Billing
3 - Public Safety
4 - Municipal Court

Direct Lines:

Public Safety: (313) 822-7400
Public Service: (313) 822-5020
Public Works Garage: (313) 822-5100
Voting & Elections: (313) 822-4267
Tax Information: (313) 822-4380
Building Inspector: (313) 822-4365
Water Billing: (313) 822-4380
Municipal Court: (313) 822-3535
City Forester: (313) 822-6200

Parks & Recreation

(313) 822-2812
Press 1: Lavins Activity Center and
Theatre Information
Press 2: Tompkins Community Center,
Picnic Permits and Lindell Lodge
Rentals
Press 3: Harbor Master
Press 4: Lifeguard Office and Pool
Information
Press 5: Inside Gatehouse at Windmill
Pointe Park
Press 6: Outside Gatehouse at
Windmill Pointe Park

Windmill Park Gatehouse
(313) 822-5155
Patterson Park Gatehouse
(313) 822-1681



<https://www.facebook.com/grosseptepark>

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A Season of Reflection, Renewal, and Community

As the leaves begin to change and a crispness returns to the air, fall in Grosse Pointe Park brings with it a renewed sense of

energy and purpose. It's a season of reflection, transition, and community — and this year, more than ever, it's a season full of momentum.

One of the most exciting developments on the horizon is the future opening of the Schaap Center for the Performing Arts. This transformative project will serve as a cultural cornerstone for our city and the greater region — a space to gather, to celebrate the arts, and to showcase local and regional talent. The Schaap Center represents more than just a building — it's a lasting investment in creativity, education, and community connection, and we look forward with great anticipation to the curtain rising on its first season.

In addition, we are thrilled to be moving forward with Grosse Pointe Park's first-ever Parks and Recreation Plan. This comprehensive plan reflects our shared commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all residents. With valuable community input, we are shaping a vision for our parks, facilities, and programming that will guide improvements for years to come — ensuring that everyone, from our youngest children to our most seasoned residents, has access to vibrant, inclusive recreational opportunities.

Our efforts to care for our city also extend to the less visible — but equally important — areas of infrastructure. This fall, we continue to focus

on alley maintenance and proactive code enforcement. These initiatives are about more than compliance — they're about care. Clean, safe, and well-maintained alleys contribute to neighborhood pride and property value. They reflect the standards we set for ourselves and each other as stewards of our shared spaces.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to recognize and sincerely thank our dedicated city staff. From public works and public safety to administration, finance and the city clerks office, these professionals work tirelessly behind the scenes and on the front lines to keep our city running smoothly. Their commitment, expertise, and passion are the backbone of Grosse Pointe Park's continued progress.

As always, this season is rich with opportunities to come together — whether it's through Halloween festivities, fall clean-up efforts, or simply a walk through one of our beautiful parks. Let's embrace the change of season as a reminder that progress is ongoing, and it happens best when we work hand in hand.

Wishing you and your families a joyful, safe, and inspiring fall season.

Warmly,
Michele Hodges
Mayor, City of Grosse Pointe Park

Contents

Parks & Recreation	3
Beautification Commission	5
Elections and Chief's Corner	6
City Manager	7
Chipping and Leaf Pick-Up	7
Court	7
City Clerk	8

Mayor Michele Hodges
Mayor Pro Tem Tom Caulfield
Council Members Brent Dreaver, Christine Gallagher, Tim Kolar, Marty McMillan, Max Wiener
City Attorney Dan Kelly
City Manager Nick Sizeland
Finance Director Ginger Moriarty
City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler

Parks & Recreation Director Chad Craig
Public Safety Director Jim Bostock
Public Works Director Tom Jenny

Halloween in the Park

Halloween in the Park 2025 will take place on Saturday, October 25 at Windmill Pointe Park. Time slots are 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale online and in person on Monday, September 29 at 8 a.m. To purchase tickets online, please go to <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/grosse-pointe-park-mi/catalog> or in person, visit the Lavins Activity Center to purchase a physical ticket. Tickets are \$15 per child. If you are interested in sponsoring a table or volunteering, please contact Chad at craigc@grossepointepark.org. Thank you to Park Grill for sponsoring this year's event!



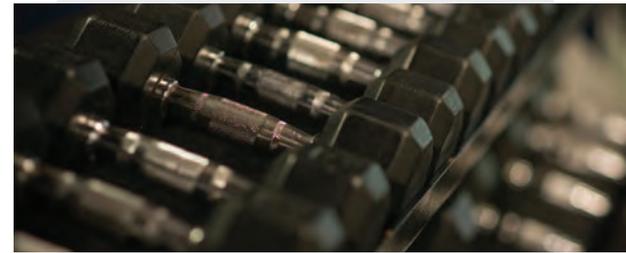
New Hours at Meade Fitness Center!

Starting Tuesday, September 2, the Meade Fitness Center's hours of operation will be:

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Monday-Saturday: 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

We are excited to offer these new hours of operation to our fitness center members. If you are interested in purchasing a fitness center membership, please visit <https://www.grossepointepark.org/174/Meade-Fitness-Center-Information>



Park Hours

Patterson Park
7:30 a.m. - Dusk

Windmill Pointe Park
7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Lavins Activity Center
Monday - Saturday: 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



Halloween Sip N Paint

Please join us for a spooky fun night on Friday, October 10, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Tompkins Community Center for our Halloween Sip N Paint event. While you get to dress up in your favorite Halloween costume, you'll also get to paint a Halloween themed canvas. This is a great opportunity for a date night or ladies night out. The registration fee is \$70 per person. Register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/grosse-pointe-park-mi/catalog> or in person at the Lavins Activity Center.

Participants are welcome to bring their own adult beverage and are responsible for the consumption of that beverage. You must be at least 21 years old to register and participate in this activity. All art supplies and materials will be provided. Please remember to drink responsibly. This class will be taught by a Painting with a Twist instructor. Please plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes prior to the start of the activity.

Park Passes: New Location Alert!

Apply for park passes in-person at the Lavins Activity Center at Windmill Pointe Park, 14920 Windmill Pointe Drive, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., or online at grossepointepark.org. Please allow up to 72 hours for the application to process. Online passes can be picked up at the outside gatehouse. Individuals must show identification when picking up park passes.

Brunch with Santa



Please join us at our annual Brunch with Santa event at Windmill Pointe Park on Saturday, December 6. Registration will begin on Monday, November 10 at 8 a.m. You can purchase seats for the event online at <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/grossepointe-park-mi/catalog> or in person at the front desk of the Lavins Activity Center.

The event fee is \$20 per family member, no fee for children under the age of 2, although you will need to email Chad at craigc@grossepointepark.org to let him know if you have a child under 2 attending. All family members over the age of 2 are required to purchase a seat. The event will include brunch, goodie bags,

trackless train rides and time with Santa! Each time slot is limited to 55 individuals, so time slots will fill up quickly. Time slots will be 9 a.m. - 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., and 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.



Thank You, After 6 on Kercheval Sponsors!

The City of Grosse Pointe Park would like to thank all 2025 sponsors. This summer series would not be possible without your generous donations.

Presenting Sponsor: The Pointe Hardware Group

Gold Sponsors: Brosnan Builders, Red Crown, Aquatic Source, The Bricks Pizzeria, edmund t. AHEE jewelers, Brine Oyster House, Pointe Alarm, Pet Supplies Plus, Coreander's Children's Bookshoppe, Grosse Pointe News, Harvey Animal Hospital, LeRouge Boulangerie, Atwater in the Park, Thermal Mechanical LLC, Carly Copus Licensed Insurance Agent, Village Dental Associates

Silver Sponsors: The Zealous Root, University Liggett School, Pointe Cabinets & Design, Marshall Landscape Inc., DTE

Bronze Sponsors: Hoof n' Woof, Rustic Cabins, H2O Cleaners, Grosse Pointe Spine Center, Gold & Braid, Duffey & Co., Aesthetic Theory Detroit

Beautification Commission Updates

As summer winds down, the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission is already looking forward to a busy and beautiful fall season. Several events are planned with opportunities for residents to get involved and help keep our city green and vibrant. Email the Beautification Commission at beautification@grossepointepark.org for more information and to sign up.

Volunteer Gardening at Patterson Park: Saturday, September 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bring your loves, water bottle and your favorite gardening tools (though we will have some available).

Annual Plant Exchange: Saturday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Tompkins Center at Windmill Pointe Park. This is a fantastic opportunity to share your extra plants, seedling, and divisions with fellow gardeners and to discover new additions for your garden.

Michiganense Natives - Native Plant Sale: Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Hall. Support local ecosystems and beautify your yard. Native plants are essential for supporting local wildlife and often require less water and maintenance once established.

Weeding Wednesdays: Join the Friends of Patterson Park Garden Club for Weeding Wednesdays. Bring gloves and weeding tools if you have them.

Arbor Week Poster Contest Tradition Continues



This past April, the Beautification Commission held the 42nd Arbor Week Poster Contest with area fourth grade students. Defer School swept the awards. The winning poster came from Una O'Keefe and featured one large tree and several smaller ones growing from a half globe of the earth surrounded by birds, butterflies and flowers. She included the slogan: "To plant a tree is to plant life." Runner up Kolter Zellen's poster had a beautiful large tree, with worms in the soil and an expansive crown in which a squirrel and bird were sitting. He included a quote by Theodore Roosevelt: "To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state, and to live as people, WE MUST HAVE TREES." Second runner-up

William Fogel's poster was a nighttime scene of an owl with captivating eyes perched on the branch of a large tree. His slogan read: "Plant a tree to make a forest grow."

Each of these students were recognized at the June 9 City Council meeting and presented with certificates of recognition, vintage beautification stamps and a Park t-shirt. The winner also received an award of \$50.

Over 100 students created posters which were put on display at City Hall and local businesses. Thanks to the students, our city, the schools and local businesses for their support in this program.

Above left, Kolter Zellen and Una O'Keefe; above right, William Fogel and family

Friends of Patterson Park Garden Club, as part of the Commission's Adopt-a-Garden Program, install Children's Garden



This spring, the Patterson Park Garden Club received a Keep Michigan Beautiful Foundation Mini-Grant, as well as a donation from Friends of Patterson Playscape. These funds allowed volunteers to create a new children's garden around the entrance of the playscape at Patterson Park. Local Girl Scout troops also painted and donated pavers to mark the new pathways. The project not only beautifies the space and supports wildlife but invites curiosity and discovery for all those who visit. We can't wait to watch it grow and be enjoyed by the young, and young at heart, for many years to come!

Election Reminders

Local Election - November 4, 2025

The City Clerk is responsible for administering all elections. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Michigan Voter Information Center website.

You are qualified to vote in Michigan if:

- You are a citizen of the United States.
- You are at least 18 years of age by election day.
- You are a resident of Michigan and at least a 30-day resident of the city or township where you are applying to register to vote by election day.

The Saturday before each election, the clerk's office will be open for 8 hours, also posted on Michigan Voter Information Center website.

September 20, 2025: UOCAVA Ballots will be mailed out.

September 25, 2025: Absentee Ballots will be mailed out.

October 20, 2025: The deadline to register to vote by mail or online and to be eligible to vote in the November Election.

November 4, 2025, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.: Local Election Day

How to Register to Vote

- Download and complete the Michigan Voter Registration Application (PDF), and return it to the City Clerk in-person or by mail.
- Visit any Secretary of State branch location.
- Register online at the Michigan Voter Information Center.
- Within 14 days of an election, those who wish to register to vote or update their voter registration must do so in person at the City Clerk's office.
- Michigan allows for same-day voter registration, meaning that qualified electors can register and vote up to and on Election Day. Voters may register or update their voter registration in person at the City Clerk's office on Election Day.

Full text of the ballot, including the proposals, may be obtained at Michigan Voter Information Center website. All electors who are registered with the Clerk in which they reside are eligible to vote at this election. Sample ballots can also be found at the Michigan Voter Information Center website. To comply with the Help America Vote Act, voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining these alternative formats can be made by contacting the City Clerk. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

All registered voters have the option to vote absentee. If you would like to receive an absentee ballot, please contact the City Clerk's office at (313) 822-6200. If you are interested in serving as an Election Inspector, complete the Election Worker Application (PDF) and return it to the Clerk's Office.

Voting precincts will be open on **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**, from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the following locations:

Precinct 1 - Tompkins Community Center, Windmill Pointe Park
14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

Precinct 2 - Tompkins Community Center, Windmill Pointe Park
14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

Precinct 4 - Lavins Activity Center, Windmill Pointe Park
14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

Precinct 5 - Lavins Activity Center, Windmill Pointe Park
14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

Precinct 6 - Lavins Activity Center, Windmill Pointe Park
14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

Precinct 7 - Lavins Activity Center, Windmill Pointe Park
14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

Chief's Corner

by Director of Public Safety Jim Bostock

As your Director of Public Safety, I would like to emphasize the importance of fire safety to protect you, your family and your home. These simple steps can make all the difference in preventing a tragedy.

Change Smoke Detector Batteries Regularly

Smoke detectors are the first line of defense against a fire. To ensure they are in good working order when you need them:

- Replace the batteries bi-annually. Public Safety suggests changing batteries in the spring and fall when we change our clocks for daylight savings time.
- Test monthly
- Replace old detectors. The typical lifespan for smoke detectors is 10 years. Check the manufacture date and replace outdated units.
- Install strategically. Place detectors in every bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level of your home, including the basement.

Create and Practice an Escape Plan

A well-prepared escape plan ensures everyone in your home knows what to do in case of a fire.

- Map out exits. Identify two ways out of every room, such as a door or window. Make sure windows are easily accessible and are in good working order.
- Establish a meeting point. Choose a safe location to meet outside, like a neighbor's yard.
- Practice, practice, practice. Both day and nighttime scenarios, aiming for everyone to be out of the house within 3 minutes. Fire can double in size every 5 minutes.
- Safety tips. Stay low to avoid smoke and heat, check doors for heat before opening.

Having a plan and practicing can ensure a swift, safe evacuation. Fire safety begins with prevention and preparedness. By maintaining smoke detectors and having a clear escape plan, you are taking vital steps to protect your loved ones. If you need assistance, Public Safety can provide you with a smoke detector at no cost through the State of Michigan's Fire Safety Grant.

Stay safe,
Jim Bostock
Director of Public Safety



From the Desk of the City Manager

As the summer heat winds down in Grosse Pointe Park, we're just as excited as you are for the crisp air, cozy flannel shirts, vibrant fall colors from our beautiful trees, and of course Thanksgiving just around the corner!

We have some exciting news and upcoming events to share with you:

Schaap Center for the Performing Arts Opening Fall 2025

Located at Maryland and Jefferson, this incredible new venue will bring world-class performances and art to residents and visitors from across the region. We can't wait to welcome you!

Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan – We Need Your Input!

For the first time ever, the City is creating a five-year Parks and Recreation Plan, and your feedback is essential. Tell us what you love about our parks and share your vision for the future!

Windmill Pointe Park Baby Pool Upgrades

Exciting changes are coming to the baby pool area! The Recreation Commission approved a new rendering that includes a nautical-themed sensory play area, improved sightlines, and the removal of the central fountain. This project, supported by the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation, is slated to open in 2026.

A Huge Thank You to Our Volunteers

We are so grateful for the dedicated volunteers and board members from the Friends of Patterson Playscape, Patterson Garden Club, and Beautification Commission. Your passion and hard work have truly made our parks more beautiful and enjoyable for everyone.

City Hall Summer Hours Wrap Up

Thank you to everyone who visited City Hall during our extended Monday-Thursday hours (7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) this summer. These hours concluded after Labor Day. We hope this schedule provided flexibility for your busy days and allowed our team some well-deserved time off on Fridays. We'd love your feedback on how the summer hours worked for you!

First Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic

We held our inaugural employee appreciation picnic this August at



Chipping Schedule

September	October	November
Week of 9/8/2025 Week of 9/22/2025	Week of 10/6/2025 Week of 10/20/2025	Week of 11/3/2025 Week of 11/17/2025

The city chipper will operate twice a month on your designated trash day during the first and third week of each month. **If the week includes a holiday, chipping will be moved to the following week.

- The city pickup service will collect branches ranging from 1 to 4 inches in diameter.
- Priority Waste will continue weekly yard waste collection on your designated trash day, accepting small sticks (under 1 inch), brush, and grass.
- Branches should only be placed out on your scheduled pickup days. Unfortunately, we're unable to accommodate special pickups, so anything set out in between collection days will not be picked up. However, in the event of a storm, we will make arrangements for cleanup as needed. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

The Tompkins Center. Thanks to our generous sponsors, staff enjoyed lawn games, a selfie station, delicious food, and great camaraderie. A special shout-out to City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler for organizing this fantastic event!

Charlevoix Streetscape Project Update

This exciting transformation is moving forward! A new dedicated water main will be installed in the business district this fall, with full streetscape construction beginning in spring/summer 2026. Thank you to everyone who shared feedback during the After 6 event it's helping shape a vibrant future for our community.

As always, if you need assistance or have ideas to share, the City is here to support and



serve you.

Here's to a wonderful fall season in Grosse Pointe Park!

Nick Sizeland
City Manager

A Thank You to Honorable Judge Jarboe



Honorable Judge Jarboe,

As you close this remarkable chapter of your career, we, your staff, want to express our deepest gratitude and admiration for your years of service, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to justice.

Your leadership has not only shaped the court but has also left a lasting impact on each of us. You have led with fairness, compassion, and integrity — qualities that inspired us daily and set the highest standard for public service.

While we will miss your presence in the courtroom and chambers, we celebrate this well-earned retirement with you. May this next chapter bring you the peace, joy, and fulfillment you so richly deserve.

With great respect and appreciation,
Your staff

Winter 2025 Treasury Updates

Winter taxes are due to begin collection at City Hall on December 1, 2025, and are payable to the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

- February 14 falls on a weekend day in 2026, making all winter taxes payable without interest (on the next business day) if received at City Hall by 4:30 p.m. on or before February 16, 2026.

Various payment options have been provided to ensure payment is able to be made timely:

- By using our online services with the use of a credit card or ACH by visiting the link or QR code
- U.S. mail service delivery must be no later than February 16, postmarks are NOT accepted.
- In person at the City Treasurer's Office cashier counter or the city payment drop box by 4:30 p.m.
- If using your banking institution's Online Bill Direct pay service (which is no cost to the customer), be sure to use your parcel number as the account number when making payment.

An additional 3% penalty will be added to all unpaid amounts remaining on the tax roll on February 16, 2026.

- Each month past due tax bills, beginning on the first of each month while the bill remains past due, interest will compound receiving an additional 1% each month through the end of February.

- Summer and Winter taxes can be paid at the City of Grosse Pointe Park's Treasurer's office through February 27, 2026.

- On March 1, 2026, all delinquent real property taxes will no longer be accepted at the City of Grosse Pointe Park Treasurer's office and can be paid to the Wayne County Treasurer at The International Center building at 400 Monroe Street, on the fifth floor, in Detroit.

Make payments by credit card, debit, ACH, or pre-paid card by visiting bsaonline.com or scanning the QR code:



Summer Tax Deferment

Application for the Deferment of Summer Taxes for applicants that meet the qualifications under MCL 211.51(3) can be found on the City's website under the Department of Treasury.

- Applicants can populate the State fillable application online or pick up the State of Michigan application at the City Treasurer's office.
- Application cannot be made by phone.
- Applications MUST BE signed by the principal resident or their power of attorney.
- Applications MUST BE returned to the Treasury's office with their signed and filed 2023 State of Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit &/or 2023 IRS 1040 Income tax return

no later than 4:30 p.m. on September 16th to be applicable.

- Applicants must meet the requirements of form 471:
 - o Income does not exceed \$40,000.
 - o Property is your Principal Residents (where you live).
 - o You meet one of the six criteria under the Principal Residents section, or you meet section two (2) of the application.
- If you need a State of Michigan application mailed to you, contact the Treasury office.
- Eligible applicants will have until February 14, 2026, to pay the summer balance without interest or incur interest.
- Applicants who do not meet all the eligibility criteria will be denied.
- If applicants submit the form and do NOT meeting the eligibility criteria and/or have NOT provided the proper supporting documentation for "total" household income (all sources) not exceeding \$40,000 making the summer taxes due on or before the September 15, 2025, since September 14 falls on a Sunday this year.

Past Due: Summer and Winter 2024 Property Taxes

February 28th 2025, was the last day the City of Grosse Pointe Park collected either of the 2024's Summer or Winter Taxes.

- The Wayne County Treasurer's Office is now collecting 2024 delinquent taxes on real property located within Wayne County.
- The City of Grosse Pointe Park cannot accept payments for last year's real estate tax bills.
- Property taxes not paid to the local Treasurers office by the last day in February (February 28, 2025) have been surrendered to Wayne County, on March 1, 2025 (as prescribed by law).
- Past due 2024 Summer and Winter taxes are both due and payable to the Wayne County Treasurer's office.
- Residents may get their past due balances from Wayne County by visiting their website at <https://pat.waynecounty.com/Home/>
- To reach the Wayne County Treasurer's office, call (313) 224-5990 during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).
- Residents can look up their current balance owed to Wayne County by searching for their property address or Parcel ID number.
- Wayne County provides residents with the ability to make payment online, by using their mobile application, or by using one of their kiosk's locations.
- Having trouble paying your past due summer or winter taxes, Wayne County also offers

payment plans. On the website, click on "Payment Options" and the links provided to find out more about their payment plan information.

Water & Sewer Utility Billing

Each location throughout the city with a water meter receives a bimonthly invoice containing user-charges for water, sewer, and recycling collection fees.

- Invoices are created for the billing cycle on the 10th of the month.
- Residents/customers have a month to make payment without penalty, by the 10th of the month following the invoice date (30 days).
- Customers have various options available to them to make timely payments.
- Payment methods not only include making your payment at the Treasury office during normal business hours, but also using the city hall payment drop box or one of many different electronic payment options now available.
- The city's authorized fee schedule includes a \$30.00 insufficient fee for any draft checks returned to the city for bad checks and will be assessed to the customer's invoice to cover costs.

Electronic Payment Options

Residents/customers are now able to access not only their invoice information using our online services, but also make electronic payment.

- Bsaonline.com
- Enroll in the ACH option @ \$2.25 per invoice processed or \$13.50 annually for utility billing & \$4.50 annually for the summer & winter tax payments.
- Credit card/Digital Wallet @ 3% merchant service (fee retained by the merchant not the city) with a minimum fee of \$2.95 reduced from the prior merchant vendor with a minimum fee of 3.5% (and above based on the payment balances) up to 7%.
- Text to pay options.
- Scheduled payment options.
- Paperless enrollment for Utility Bills and Tax Bills; however, tax bills will still be sent out in the mail as required. Notify the City Assessors Office of any changes to your mailing address.
- Online invoice enrollment provides our customers with invoice reminders and past due notifications.
- Online Bill Direct payment (no charge) through your personal banking institution by using your invoice four digit "Account Number" not the location identification number on your invoice for the water bill and the Parcel Identification Number for Summer and Winter Taxes.