

Communicator

Quarterly Newsletter of The City of Grosse Pointe Park

April 2021
Summer Issue

CITY HALL 15115 EAST JEFFERSON GROSSE POINTE PARK, MI 48230 PH: 313-822-6200 M-F 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.



Report From Mayor Bob Denner

The past year has been unlike anything any of us have experienced, with the last pandemic having been over 100 years ago. It has been truly challenging and I want to thank our residents

for their patience, adherence to safety measures and continued support for our community and local businesses.

This is an abbreviated summer issue of the Communicator. The uncertainties of the pandemic have made it nearly impossible to plan events more than just days in advance. As a result, we have relied heavily on email blasts, the City website (grossepointepark.org) and the City's official Facebook page. In spite of the difficulties, your Parks and Recreation Department was able to support many programs over the past year, albeit with special guidelines and protocols. I hope that you and your family were able to take advantage of some of these events and programs.

As we enter summer, the administration is working to provide as close to normal programming as possible, with this Communicator being a step in that direction. Although we are now experiencing a slight increase in COVID-19 cases, the vaccines are rolling out and the City recently partnered with Wayne County to provide a vaccination site in our community at the Lavins Activity Center. The event was a huge success and resulted in vaccinations for 1,400 residents of the Grosse Pointes. Please continue to do your part. Get vaccinated, observe safety practices and be respectful of your neighbors as we work

toward more normal activities, including expanded operations at our restaurants and bars.

A few notable updates on City business. You will notice construction activity on Mack Ave. between Maryland and Wayburn for the City's new Public Service (DPW) facility. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the fall and will result in an attractive, state of the art facility to support this essential City service, replacing the outdated current facility on Jefferson at Wayburn. After the City has moved operations to Mack, construction is expected to begin on the long anticipated Schaap Center on Jefferson between Maryland and Alter. To learn more about this art center, which is a project of the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation, visit their website at schaapcenter.com. The City is also in the process of hiring a new Director of Public Safety. Former Director Steve Poloni has moved on to become City Manager of Grosse Pointe Shores. Lieutenant Jim Bostock is serving as Interim Director during this process. The City Manager is conducting a thorough hiring process, with the assistance of (EMPCO) to screen candidates and perform background checks, including a final interview board with an experienced Public Safety Director from Oakland County and a City Manager/Police Commissioner. We all look forward to supporting our new Director.

Finally, I hope you have a terrific and healthy summer. Please continue to support our local businesses. Many have struggled mightily during the pandemic and appreciate your support so that they can continue to serve our wonderful community. As always, send comments to me at dennerb@grossepointepark.org.

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Park Hours

Patterson Park
7:00 a.m. to Dusk

Windmill Pointe Park
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 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:	313-822-4380
Tax Information:	313-822-4267
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

Okulski Theatre Information	Press 1
Lavins Activity Center	Press 2
Park Office / Tompkins Center	Press 3
Inside Gate / Harbormaster	Press 4

Windmill Park Gatehouse
313-822-5155

Patterson Park Gatehouse
313-822-1681



Grosse Pointe Park's Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/grossepointepark>

Park Pass Information

It is the goal of the City of Grosse Pointe Park to continue to provide to you, the residents, the best possible service and recreational facilities. It is extremely important that everyone complies with the Park Pass rules so that we all enjoy our Parks.

Lost passes will be replaced ONCE per season, through an adult only, at a cost of \$20.00 each at City Hall. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding Park Passes, please contact Public Service at (313) 822-4380.

- Businesses & Tenants are required to renew park passes annually.
- Homeowners must renew every four years (current pass expires December 31, 2022).
- Landlords are required to have a valid rental C of O (Certificate of Occupancy), current business license and must verify all tenants before tenants can obtain a park pass.

Tompkins Center

The Tompkins Community Center offers residents an unique and picturesque venue for hosting a wide range of functions. There is a full-service catering kitchen along with updated restrooms and lighting fixtures in the banquet room. The Center is air conditioned and heated and also offers a gas fireplace. The newly added Atrium adds to the Center's capacity and ambience by providing patrons a beautiful view of the lake while dining.

The Center's seating capacity is 134. However, the Atrium now adds standing room capacity of up to 150. We provide tables, chairs, coffee pots, a sound system, 65 inch TV, wireless microphone, wifi and podium.

Please Note: Reservations may be made one year in advance from the current calendar date. Only weddings and wedding receptions can be reserved further in advance.

Monday – Thursday	\$400 from 1:00 pm – 1:00 am
Friday, Saturday, or Sunday Rentals	\$500 from 1:00 pm – 1:00 am
	\$750 (Memorial Day – Labor Day)
Weddings & Wedding Receptions	\$1,000 from 11:00 am – 1:00 am
	\$1,200 (Memorial Day – Labor Day)

Grosse Pointe Park Communicator

The Park Communicator is published four times a year - February, May, August and November by the City of Grosse Pointe Park. The Park Communicator is the voice of the City and City Council.

Mayor	Robert Denner
Mayor Pro Tem	James Robson
Council Members	Aimee Fluitt, Michele Hodges, Darci McConnell, Lauri Read, Vikas Relan, James Robson
City Attorney	Jake Howlett
City Manager	Nick Sizeland
City Clerk/Finance Director	Jane Blahut
Parks & Recreation Director	Chad Craig
Editor	Mary Beth Hathaway
Assistant Editor	Chris Delmege

Editor's note - Any correspondence can be sent to:

15115 E. Jefferson
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Attn: Parks & Recreation

E-Mail to: hathawaym@grossepointepark.org
Phone: 313-822-2812 ext 302



GROSSE POINTE PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**TOMPKINS COMMUNITY
CENTER PATIO**

WINDMILL POINTE PARK

14920 WINDMILL POINTE DR, GROSSE POINTE PARK, MI 48230

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

&

5:30 PM - 7:30 P.M.

YOU'RE INVITED!

JOIN US AT THE COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Recently, a survey was released in order to learn about your goals and priorities for Grosse Pointe Park. Join us on Tuesday, April 27th during our Community Open House event to see a summary of the survey results and continue to give feedback and ask questions about the Master Plan Update. The Community Open House will take place outside at the Tompkins Community Center Patio (weather depending, the event may be held inside at the Community Center). Due to COVID-19, this event will take necessary precautions (i.e. practice social distancing, masks are required at the event, etc.) to ensure a safe event for all in attendance.

**WE
NEED
YOUR
INPUT!**

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The City of Grosse Pointe Park is currently updating its Master Plan in order to establish a clear vision for the City. The Master Plan will help provide realistic and strategic recommendations to achieve that vision. The plan will create policies and recommendations on land use, redevelopment and capital improvements. This is the guiding document to help the community make decisions for the next 5-10 years. The planning process is anticipated to last about a year.

Please visit the project website for more information and to stay up-to-date on the Master Plan throughout the process: www.gppmasterplan.com

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:



Please contact Nick Sizeland, Grosse Pointe Park City Manager
(313) 822-6200 | citymanager@grossepointepark.org

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES
WILL ALSO BE
AVAILABLE AT THE
EVENT!**

New Department of Public Works Facility

The City of Grosse Pointe Park is expected to complete a new Department of Public Works Facility in the Fall of 2021. In December of 2019, the City Council approved the development of a new Public Works facility. In early 2020, the City, along with its engineers OHM Advisors, engaged in discussions about a proposal to replace the existing DPW property with a new DPW facility located near the corner of Wayburn and Mack Avenue on the City's northwest side. The Public Service Committee then met in June 2020 to discuss the new DPW facility and The Planning Commission reviewed and approved the site plan in September 2020. TIFA then authorized a bond of \$4 million and other related project costs supported by the TIFA in November of 2020. Primary access to the facility will be off of Mack with a side entrance for light duty vehicles off of Maryland. The site will provide

for a neighborhood buffer space, a privacy wall around the yard and landscape screening. The site will be larger than its current location on Jefferson at 17,565 sq ft. Stucky Vitale are the architects for the project with Roncelli acting as the construction manager approved by the TIFA.

The goal of this new facility is to provide a building that will improve staff satisfaction, safety and work efficiency, as well as create an improved aesthetic that the City of Grosse Pointe Park is proud to showcase on the northwest corner of Mack Avenue. Did you know the current Public Works building was built in the 1920's and was originally a dealership bump shop and that Public Works has never been in a building designed and built just for DPW? The TIFA, City and Public Works Department would like to thank you for the support of our Public Works Department as it continues to provide the quality service you expect as residents of our community.



PROPOSED: MACK AVENUE & MARYLAND ST.



PROPOSED: MACK AVENUE VIEW / FROM NORTHWEST CORNER



PROPOSED: "VIEW FROM WAYBURN" / SOUTHWEST CORNER

DDA/TIFA COVID Business Grants

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting economic pressure placed upon the City's commercial districts, including restaurants and businesses shutting their doors or limiting capacity for some time, the Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Boards created grant programs with City Administration to support and sustain local businesses located within the TIFA and DDA districts. (The DDA boundary is on Jefferson Avenue from the Detroit boundary at Alter to Westchester/Somerset and the TIFA boundary includes Mack Avenue to Jefferson Avenue from the alley between Beaconsfield and Nottingham to the alley between Wayburn and Alter).

From August 2020 to the present, the TIFA and DDA COVID-19 Reopening Grant program has provided funding to fifteen businesses including The Bricks Pizzeria, Cellar 313, Cornwall Bakery, Excalibur Park, Marge's Bar and Grill, O'Flaherty's, Park Place Market, Rustic Cabins, The Charlevoix, Cabbage Patch Café and Catering, Cabbage Patch Saloon, Red Crown, Belding Cleaners, City Cleaners, Mimi's Bistro, and Grosse Pointe Park Partners.

The DDA and TIFA have worked closely to ensure the grant process is efficient, smooth and can immediately help the businesses that were impacted. Some of our businesses were very creative in evolving with

COVID-19, for example Red Crown turned their parking lot into an outdoor dining space with a tent; O'Flaherty's constructed a parklet on Charlevoix and had heat for customers sitting outside; Cellar 313 created an outside dining greenhouse that kept customers warm while enjoying a glass of wine; and The Charlevoix created an outdoor dining and hangout spot for their customers adjacent to their business. These are just a few examples of the creativity of Park businesses and we look forward to seeing more of this in the future!

Businesses have also utilized their grant funding to buy outdoor furniture and supplies, install plexiglass barriers, expand online ordering capacity, and install upgraded air purification systems. A total of \$87,584 has been provided to local businesses through the programs so far with a third round of funding recently approved of \$75,000 for the TIFA district. The TIFA and DDA Boards plan on continuing the programs and will explore future grant opportunities post COVID-19. The City has also interviewed local businesses for business spotlight interview posts on the City Facebook page, which will include the history of businesses and facts that make the GPP businesses the unique and special places they are. We hope you continue to watch the City Facebook page for more business highlights in the weeks to come. Thank you for shopping and dining in the Park, and continuing to invest in our community. We appreciate all of your support!

New Department of Public Works Assistant Supervisor

Tom Jenny is the City's new DPW Assistant Supervisor and comes to the position with many years of experience. Tom worked for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods for 27 years in their Water Department and Department of Public Works. It was a combined department that also handled all areas of service for the City, which gave Tom a tremendous amount of experience. He was also a City Council member for the City of Harper Woods for 4 years which gave him a different perspective into City matters which proved valuable as well.

Tom lives in Harper Woods, is married and has three children. His oldest son is in Navy Boot Camp, his second oldest son attends North High School, and his daughter is in middle school. When Tom retired from the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, City Manager Nick Sizeland sought him out for the position with Grosse Pointe Park. Tom felt the position was the next right step for him, especially since he had known the head DPW Supervisor Pat Thomas for many years. He appreciates the opportunity to work with Pat and plans to stay in the position as long as possible. He hopes to bring new ideas and experience to the department long into the future.



Rock Steady Boxing Program For People Living With Parkinson's

Join us for this comprehensive fitness program designed specifically for people with Parkinson's taught by Head Coach Nick Henderson. Improve your quality of life through this non-contact boxing-based fitness curriculum. Classes are fun and emphasize gross motor movement, balance, core strength and rhythm. This combination improves range of motion, flexibility, posture, gait and makes activities of daily living easier. The program is adapted to all fitness levels, including those needing walkers or wheelchairs.

Our next 8 Week Session starts on Monday, May 17th and runs through July 9th. (Participants may sign up for two day or three day per week options.) We need and appreciate volunteers as well. If interested, contact the Lavins Activity Center at (313) 822-2812, ext. 300.

Location: Lavins Activity Center Golden Gymnasium.
Days: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
Time: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
Two Days: \$160
Three Days: \$220

Shredding Day

ShredCorp. will be at Windmill Pointe Park on Saturday, April 24 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. to shred all of your personal papers such as bills and tax returns for \$5.00 per box (5 box limit). Staples and paper clips DO NOT have to be removed. The only items that will NOT be accepted are hazardous waste, newspapers, x-rays, binders, and computer discs. Please have your papers in a banker's box.

**PROTECT YOURSELF AND
THE HEALTH OF OTHERS**

MASK UP
MASKS PROTECT YOU AND THOSE AROUND YOU

BACK UP
CONTINUE TO PRACTICE SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING

WASH UP
WASH HANDS WITH SOAP FOR 20 SECONDS

GROSSE POINTE PARK
POINTE OF DISTINCTION

2021 Summer Karate Camp Schedule

Week #1 June 21, 22, 23, 24, 25
Week #2 August 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Tiny Turtles ages 4-5

Mon. – Fri. 1:00 to 1:30pm 30-minute class

Little Dragons ages 5-6

Mon. – Fri. 1:45 to 2:35pm 50-minute class

Mighty Vipers ages 7-9

Mon. – Fri. 2:45 to 4:00pm 1 hour 15 minutes class

Peaceful Warriors ages 10 & up

Mon. – Fri. 4:00 to 6:00pm 2-hour class

Martial Arts Sparring ages 7 & up

Mon. – Fri. 6:15 to 7:30pm 1 hour 15 minute class

Tiny Turtles Camp – For new and returning students ages 4 & 5. Four- and five-year old's love playtime and physical activity. In this 30-minute class students will work on the skills and coordination needed to kick, punch, block, fall, and roll. Through fun games and drills students will gain the readiness needed to be successful in karate and other sports. Each student will get to break a karate board during this week.

Little Dragons Camp – For new and returning students ages 5 & 6. Basic self-defense, kicking, blocking, and striking skills will be covered along with karate games geared at building confidence, coordination, and balance. Each student will get the opportunity to break a karate board during this week of training.

Mighty Vipers Camp – For new and returning students ages 7, 8 and 9. Basic self-defense, kicking, blocking, and striking skills will be covered along with karate games geared at building confidence, coordination, and balance. Each student will get the opportunity to break a karate board during this week of training.

Sparring Camp - For ages 7 and up. Students must have their own sparring gear consisting of hand, foot, and head gear. Sparring gear should be purchased ahead of time and can be purchased at centurymartialarts.com. Sparring on its simplest level can be compared to a game of tag, tagging before getting tagged. On a much higher-level sparring can be compared to a strategy game such as chess, planning moves well in advance. Sparring students at Turn of the Tide Martial Arts exchange energy in a positive way. Both practitioners can learn from each other in a supportive way. Sparring is not fighting. There are many levels of sparring taught here at Turn of the Tide Martial Arts. We will cover the basics in each form of sparring during this camp.



Arbor Week Poster Contest Tradition Continues

This year will be the 38th anniversary of the Arbor Week Poster Contest sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission. Locally we are celebrating April 25 to May 1. The contest is open to 4th grade students in our Park area schools.

Last year we made several adjustments to the contest due to the impact of the Coronavirus. While we were in the middle of our contest preparations, schools closed. We enlisted the help of teachers to select a winning poster from their classrooms. We had 6 winners from the following classrooms: McKenzie Andrews from Mr. Gross's class at Maire; Matteo Canavari from Mrs. Moir's class at Maire; Savvas Zingas from Mrs. Howey's class at Trombly; Cole Parlangeli from Mrs. Gout's class at Defer; Pablo San Miguel from Mrs. Nugent's class at Defer; and Helena Trudel a student of Tine Nader at St. Clare. All posters were proudly displayed on the front door or window of each student's home as well as on the Grosse Pointe Park website. Each winning student was given a certificate from the City in addition to a gift of \$10.

This year we hope to resume our traditional contest with posters being judged by the Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission members and then displayed at City Hall and throughout the Park business community. Winners will be recognized at a City Council meeting if health protocols allow. Our thanks to the schools, teachers, students and the City of Grosse Pointe Park for partnering with the Beautification Commission in helping us celebrate the value and benefit of trees.

2020 Annual Beautification Awards

Business Huntington Bank, Red Crown
Parklet O'Flaherty's, Rustics, The Charlevoix
Civic Award Larry Deck - awarded posthumously for 30 + years of dedicated service as a Commission member's spouse.

2020 Century Awards - New Category - homes over 100 years old

1147 Beaconsfield
 1018 Bishop
 1251 Devonshire

2020 Residential Awards

Balfour	1046
Barrington	858
Beaconsfield	941, 965
Berkshire	1385
Bishop	830
Buckingham	1025
Devonshire	1311, 1321
Grand Marais	731, 863
Grayton	1393
Harvard	1036
Kensington	1205
Lakepointe	927, 1442
Maryland	1135
Middlesex	529
St. Paul	16775
Trombly	797
Westchester	853
Whittier	827, 1178, 1245

2020 Holiday Awards

Though it's long past the holiday, this is our first opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the community in decorating during the holiday season. It's always so nice to see the Park community aglow with lights and decorations, but especially this past year when we were all feeling the need for an uplifting respite to COVID 19. Thank you to all the homeowners who took the time to decorate for the Christmas season. The Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission members would like to commend the following addresses for the exceptional job they did in decorating with lights, trees, wreaths, inflatables, ornaments, nativity crèches, window displays, winter scenes, soldiers on guard, Santa and his reindeer and the like. Special thanks go out to the 1300 block of Audubon who came up with a creative way to stay connected as neighbors with a daily Advent Calendar window reveal. All of these homes will be recognized with certificates for their outstanding displays. Once again Devonshire represented the street with the most awards (6).

As always, we regret any errors or omissions due to the difficulty in reading house numbers at night or viewing when lights may not have been on. Give the Commission a call if you would like us to check your house in 2021. We challenge you to think of a creative way for your block to participate in a group event next holiday season. Luminaries would be beautiful!

Audubon	1051, 1256, 1398
Balfour	850, 1001
Barrington	523, 844
Beaconsfield	1140, 1161/1163, 1229, 1303, 1339
Bedford	746, 771, 1006
Berkshire	947, 1417
Bishop	825, 865, 1109, 1347
Buckingham	1021
Devonshire	1000, 1052, 1170, 1224, 1321, 1333
East Jefferson	16638
Edgemont Park	910
Ellair Place	835
Grand Marais	924
Grayton	1220
Harcourt	772/4
Harvard	1017, 1173
Kensington	1105, 1205, 1222, 1381
Lakepointe	505, 608, 720, 773, 1066
Maryland	1017, 1050, 1253/1255
Nottingham	1303, 1398
Pemberton	506, 513, 566
Three Mile Drive	935, 1015, 1020, 1323, 1336
Trombly	845
Wayburn	1113
Westchester	615, 798, 986
Windmill Pointe	15444, 15725
Whittier	1046, 1269
Yorkshire	1010, 1350

Announcing Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission's 2021 Tree Sale

(Tree sale is for Park residents only. Supplies are limited and orders will be filled on the basis of date and time received at the Park Municipal Building.)

Snowdrift Crabapple (*Malus 'Snowdrift'*). Profuse pink buds become white flowers in spring, then glossy green foliage turning yellow in fall. Ornamental 3/8" yellow fruit persists into winter and is attractive to birds. Grows to 20' H x 20' W. Containerized 6' tall.

Robinson Crabapple (*Malus 'Robinson'*). Crimson buds open to deep pink flowers, bronze/green foliage. Upright spreading, rounded shape to 25' H. 3/8" red fruit. Containerized 6' tall.

Weeping Cherry (*Prunus*). Attractive flowers. Weeping branches structure. Beautiful small ornamental. Containerized approx. 5' tall.

Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*). Grows very fast. Large growing shade tree reaching 50'. Green leaves turn a brilliant red in the fall. Containerized approx. 7' tall.



Snowdrift Crabapple



Robinson Crabapple



Weeping Cherry



Red Maple

Orders must be in by Friday, May 14, 2021

Return to: Brian Colter, City Forester
15115 East Jefferson
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Along with your check, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and your phone number so you may be advised of tree pick-up dates.

Make check payable to the City of Grosse Pointe Park in the full amount.

Order No. _____

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Snowdrift Crabapple _____ at \$50.00 = \$ _____

Robinson Crabapple _____ at \$50.00 = \$ _____

Red Maple _____ at \$70.00 = \$ _____

Weeping Cherry _____ at \$70.00 = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NO GUARANTEES

Spring Perennial Plant Exchange

Sponsored by The Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission
Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Tompkins Community Center

Composting demonstrations. Master gardeners available to answer questions. Exchange planting ideas with fellow gardeners. No plants for exchanging? No problem, gardeners happily share their extras. Free mulch, courtesy of The City of Grosse Pointe Park, will be available at Windmill Pointe Park.

For more information, please visit the website at www.grossepointepark.org,
or select "current information" at www.bcsem.org.