

Communicator

Quarterly Newsletter of The City of Grosse Pointe Park

Winter Issue 2022

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 Michele Hodges

Suffrage is defined as “the right to vote in political elections.” Throughout history it has been vigorously pursued and those efforts have fortunately been met with success, because all of us together, blending into one outcome on Election Day, is the purest form of quality decision making.

The right to vote has power, it has its own currency, it gives strength and stamina to individuals and groups, it ensures all are heard and contributing to the end result, making it a reflection of the whole. It is exquisite.

A notable moment in the pursuit of suffrage occurred in 1848 when Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott led the introduction of a “Declaration of Sentiments.” Their efforts had impact, and served as an advance on the continuum toward suffrage for all.

Today the City of Grosse Pointe Park is committed to full and complete access to voting on Election Day. Access is at the foundation of the formula for building trust, which equals acumen, plus ethics, plus voice, and there is no stronger voice than the one we exert on Election Day.

I hope that you trust this sentiment to be true and, if not today, then soon, because trust is built over time, and you will see that every action

of this administration supports it, especially on Election Day, that all important day when we give away something precious - our vote.

Beginning with the August 2nd Primary, the polling locations were moved to Windmill Pointe Park for the purpose of improving your Election Day experience. It is important that the move enhanced your ability to vote. I encourage you to reference the PowerPoint from the July 18th City Council meeting that summarizes the decision making factors informing the move. It will open your eyes.

So, I must ask, how did voting go for you on August 2nd? Was it easier? Harder? Do you have suggestions that will help our Clerk continuously improve the process (thank you to Jane Blahut and her team!)?

We want and we need your feedback so we can always be in partnership with you, and better for you. Please share it with me (hodgesm@grossepointepark.org) and anyone else on our team. I have worked closely with City Manager Nick Sizeland for quite some time now, so I can say with certainty he is committed to a professionally run city, and I’m not alone in this sentiment because now the American Society for Public Administration has awarded his professionalism. He is a rising star, and we are fortunate to have him leading the way.

Moving forward, let’s channel Elizabeth and Lucretia, for they wanted what I know we all want - every voice at the table, especially on Election Day. I declare not only that sentiment to you, but that conviction to you, that same sense of duty to you, that responsibility to you, that commitment to you that we will always strive for the best possible voting experience.

Contents

1 Mayor’s Update

3-7 Community

2 City Information

8 Parks & Recreation

Park Hours

Patterson Park
8:00 a.m. to Dusk

Ice Rink Hours

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sledding Hill Hours

10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Windmill Pointe Park

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 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.

- Park Pass Guest Privileges allow one guest daily for Residents age 17 or under and three guests daily for Residents 18 and older.
- 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 added Atrium adds to the Center's capacity and ambiance 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	Michele Hodges
Mayor Pro Tem	Tom Caulfield
Council Members	Brian Brenner, Tom Caulfield, Christine Gallagher, Martin McMillian, Vikas Relan, Max Wiener
City Attorney	Jake Howlett
City Manager	Nick Sizeland
City Clerk/Finance Director	Jane Blahut
Parks & Recreation Director	Chad Craig
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: delmegec@grossepointepark.org
Phone: 313-822-2812 ext 302*



Election - November 8, 2022

The City Clerk is responsible for administering all elections. For the most up to date information regarding registering to vote, absentee voting, polling locations, sample ballots and much more visit www.mi.gov/vote.

Reminder: We are always in need of election inspectors to help with elections. All election inspectors are paid for their time. If you are interested, complete the Election Worker Application online and contact Courtney Delmege at (313) 822-4380 or email at clerk@grossepointepark.org.

HELPFUL FAQ'S

Will the City require a Park Pass or any form of Picture ID to enter Windmill Pointe Park for voting?

- No, any registered voter in Grosse Pointe Park may enter without a pass.

Will the City Require a Park Pass or any form of Picture ID for candidates and supporters to campaign 100 ft. from the Precinct Locations?

- No, anyone may enter from any community.

Will the City schedule events in the Lavins Center the same day as the election?

- No, to assist in ensuring a smooth voting experience as possible all movies and activity classes taking place in the Lavins will be temporarily suspended.

Will the City have directional signage to show where precincts are located?

- Yes, signs will be placed in the Park for location purposes.

Where can I drop off my absentee ballot?

- At City Hall inside the Public Service Department, the brown drop box located outside of city hall and the black drop box inside the city link in between city hall and public safety.

Will City Hall be open on Saturday November 5th before the election?

- Yes, we will be open from 8-4:00 pm to assist in election inquiries.

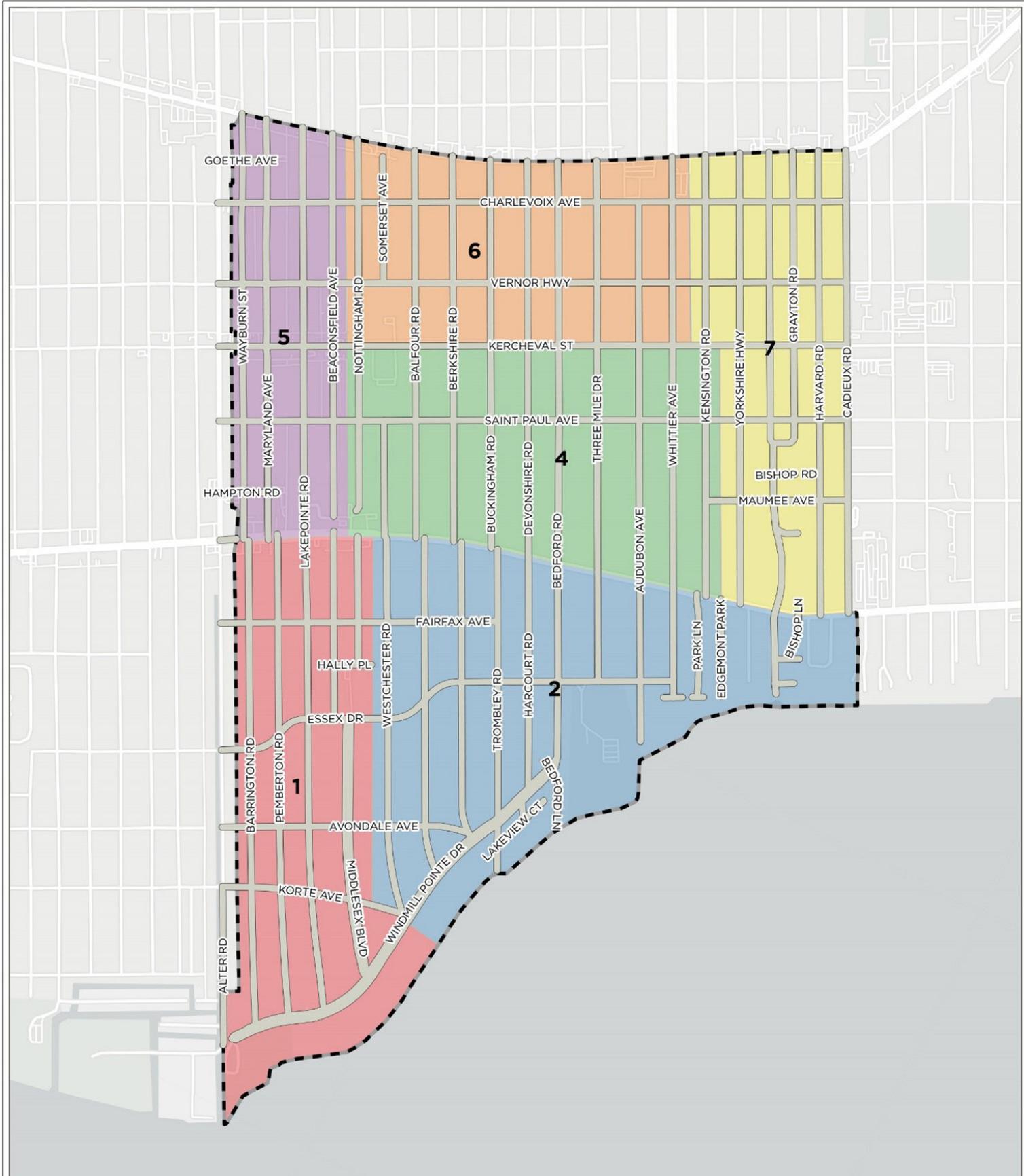
THINGS TO DO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

- Confirm you are registered to vote by going to www.Michigan.gov/vote or call City Hall at 313-822-4380
- Update your voter registration if your address or name has changed.
- Absentee ballot applications are available at www.Michigan.gov/vote or at www.grossepointepark.org if you are unable to vote on election day
- By law, every Michigan voter must present picture identification at the polls, or sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of picture identification.
- Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.
- Become acquainted with the candidates and issues on the ballot.
- Consider becoming a poll worker in your community. Call City Hall to learn more at 313-822-4380 or email clerk@grossepointepark.org.



All Election Polling Locations Have Moved To Windmill Pointe Park

(For questions involving polling locations, please call the clerk's office at (313) 822-6200



- Precinct Number
- 1 - Tompkins Community Center
 - 2 - Tompkins Community Center
 - 4 - Lavins Activity Center
 - 5 - Lavins Activity Center
 - 6 - Lavins Activity Center
 - 7 - Lavins Activity Center
 - Municipal Boundary



Grosse Pointe Park
City Precinct Map

0 1,500 3,000
Feet
1" = 1,500'

Source: Data provided by City of Grosse Pointe Park, Wayne County, State of Michigan, and Esti. OHM Advisors does not warrant the accuracy of the data and/or the map. This document is intended to depict the approximate spatial location of the mapped features within the Community and all use is strictly at the user's own risk.

Coordinate Systems: NAD 1983 StatePlane Michigan South FIPS 2113 IntlFeet
Map Published: April 11, 2022



City of Grosse Pointe Park 2022 Water/Sewer Millage Proposal

On November 8, 2022, Grosse Pointe Park voters will be asked to consider the following:

Proposal for Water & Sewer Improvements

“Shall the City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan be authorized to levy a new additional millage on the taxable property within the City not to exceed the annual rate of 2.5 mills (\$2.50 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of 10 years, beginning with the December 2022 levy and extending through the December 2032 levy, for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, replacing, and enhancing water and sewer systems and related infrastructure in the city? Projects may include work on water mains, lead service lines, sewer mains, pump stations, sewer pipe and manhole rehabilitation, improving sewer resilience and drainage, and upgrading public works water/sewer equipment and associated restoration. The estimated amount of revenue that will be collected in the first year that the millage is authorized and levied is \$1,758,292.00.”

O YES O NO

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND FAST FACTS

This millage allows us to fund the following activities and projects:

- Water Main Replacement
- Sewer Main Rehabilitation
- Sewer Resiliency Projects
- Separation of Alleys from Sanitary Sewers
- Lead Service Line Replacement
- Pump Station Enhancements

The Millage Cost To Residents:

The Average Taxable Value of a home in Grosse Pointe Park equals \$170,650. This homeowner would pay \$426.62 per year or \$35.55 per month. To calculate more closely, multiply your home's taxable value by the millage rate of 2.5

Example: Property Taxable Value= \$170,650
 $\$170,650 \times 0.00250 = \426.62

Why is a water/sewer infrastructure millage on the November 2022 ballot?

The City of Grosse Pointe Park is a mature city; the vast majority of its water/sewer infrastructure was built in the 1920s. Sewer and water mains, largely comprised of cast iron and vitrified clay, have an identified service life of approximately 80 years. Our community has experienced first-hand the challenges of aging infrastructure through frequent water main breaks, pressure issues while fighting fires, and a sewer system that struggles to handle major storm events. These events are only expected to increase in frequency. The City Council has heard the concerns of our community and is committed to investing in infrastructure. This investment is necessary to ensure our infrastructure can meet the needs of our community both today and one hundred years from now. The City cannot afford to continue to bear the financial and operational burden that comes from service interruptions and system failures.

If taxes are not used to currently fund the water/sewer systems, why are they being considered now? How much would water rates need to increase to generate the same amount of funds as the millage?

To address just the most critical infrastructure projects, a significant amount of new revenue is required. It is estimated that at a minimum a 30-40% increase in water/sewer rates would be needed to raise the equivalent funds as the proposed millage. This magnitude of a rate increase would disproportionately impact lower income residents, which would be compounded with the current environment of historic inflation.

Has the City used a millage for infrastructure before?

Yes, in 2014 the voters approved a road millage and subsequently extended it in 2018. The City's roads are rated using the PASER method. This is a numerical rating system where a road is assigned a value from 1 to 10, with 1 being a failed road and 10 is a newly constructed road. The City enjoys an average PASER rating of 7/10, which is considered “GOOD” condition. From just 2020 to 2021, millage funds were used to increase 3.49 centerline miles (6.98 lane miles) from “POOR” to “GOOD.” This is 9.5% of all roads within the City. The road millage has received strong community support and has proven to be an effective way of maintaining and enhancing our roadway infrastructure. The City intends to use the proceeds of the water/sewer millage just as successfully as it has the road millage.

If the millage is not approved, what will happen?

If the millage is not approved, the City will continue patching water mains instead of replacing whole sections of water mains. In the last 10 years, the City has lost over one million dollars due to water main breaks, and this will likely rise as infrastructure continues to age. Any proactive maintenance of sewers including lining, improvements to the Patterson Park Pump Station, and manhole rehabilitation will have to pause until other funding is provided. Significant increases to water/sewer bills of 30-40% will need to be considered to replace the City's aged water and sewer infrastructure and comply with the State's unfunded mandate to replace all lead service lines.

Why does the City have to replace Lead Service Lines?

The State of Michigan recently adopted new lead and copper rules that require cities to remove and replace lead service lines at public cost. The service line is the pipe that runs from the water main into the house. These replacements must be completed within 20 years as mandated by the State. Please visit Grossepointepark.org to look at the annual Water Quality Report.

Why aren't the taxes I pay enough?

Only 33% of the taxes paid by homeowners stays with the City. The rest is sent to the State, County, the local school district, and other entities. Currently, no taxes are used to support the water and sewer systems. Additionally, much of our capital needs stems from the age of our water and sewer systems, the vast majority of which were installed in the 1920s. Repair and maintenance work funded by water/sewer rates is no longer adequate to meet our needs.

What is the City of Grosse Pointe Park's current budget for water and sewer infrastructure?

Water and sewer rates generate approximately \$5.7 million in annual revenue. Of this, \$3.4 million or 60% is used to purchase water supply and sewage treatment services from GLWA. The remainder is largely dedicated to personnel, equipment, and repair costs associated with maintaining the water and sewer systems, including the pump stations. The City has reduced 2 members of staff to further assist lower personnel payments in the Water/Sewer funds.

Why not use the Water/Sewer Fund Reserves?

Currently the City has roughly \$1.8 Million in Water/Sewer reserves. The City has projects planned this year that will reduce that amount to roughly \$1.1 Million. This remaining balance will be saved for severe emergencies and represents 16% (or two months) of our annual water/sewer fund expenditures. Planned projects for this year include our annually required lead service line replacements, water main replacement on Mack Ave between Cadieux and Three Mile, water main replacement and sewer separation at St. Clare of Montefalco, and sewer separation in several alleyways, including behind the new Public Works building.

How much Water/Sewer Infrastructure do we have in Grosse Pointe Park to maintain and repair?

35.3 Miles of Water Mains, 95% from the 1920's

41 Miles of Sanitary Sewers

29.5 Miles of Storm Sewers

3 Lift Stations

366 Fire Hydrants

260 Gate Valves

950 Catch Basins

2,500 Storm and Sanitary Manholes

2,025 Lead Service Lines

For more information about the City Infrastructure, please visit grossepointepark.org and click on Infrastructure on the top right of the website.

Sewer pipe with debris (cleaning in progress)



Current 6" City Main - 100 years



Clean sewer pipe with lining installed



New 8" water main vs. current 6" main



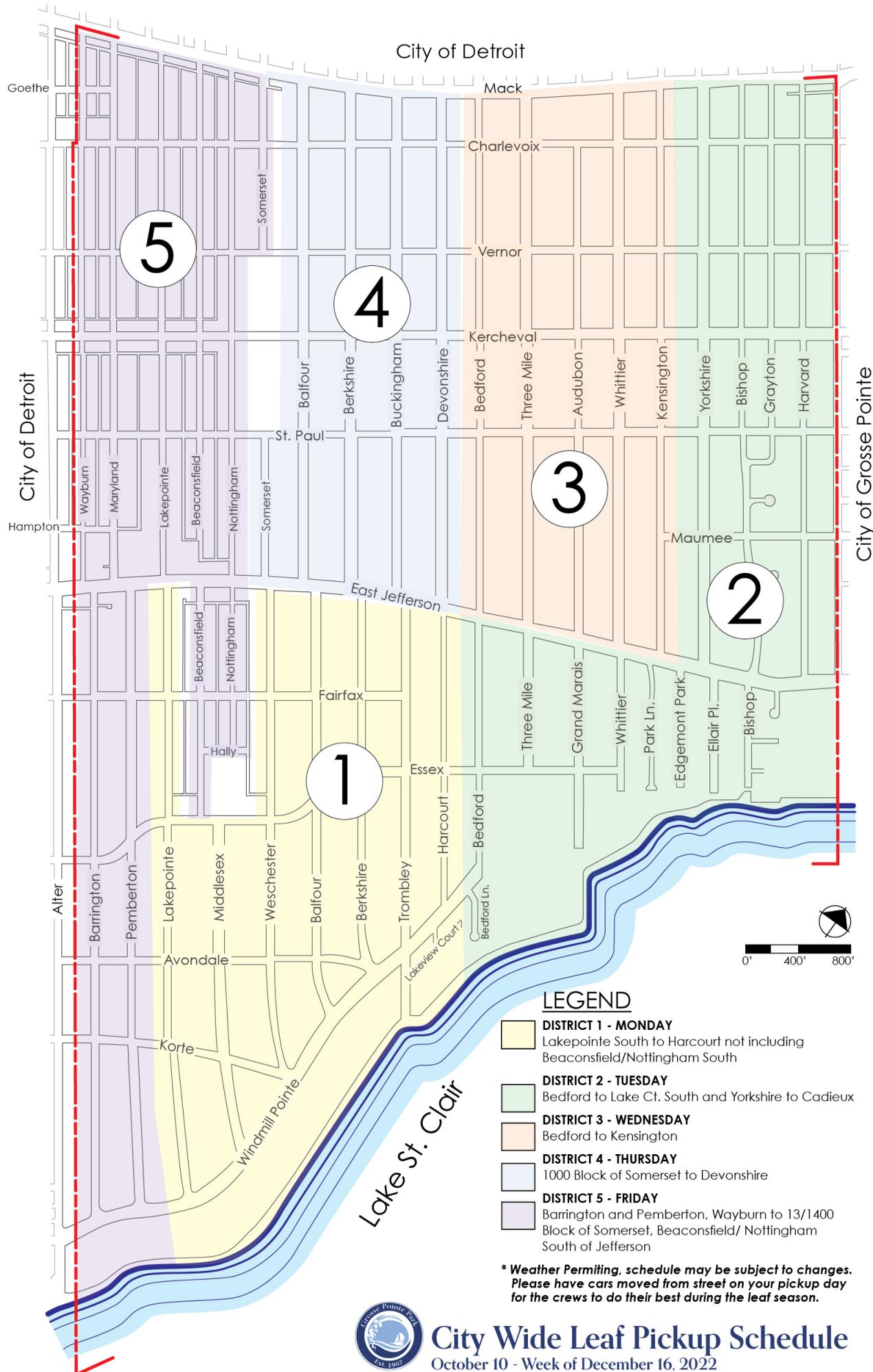
City Wide Curbside Leaf Pickup

This year we will be going to a weekly leaf pickup starting the week of October 10 and ending on the week of December 16.

Where do I put my leaves?

Have leaves in street or curb line right of way for pickup. Please put leaves as close to curb as possible. Leaves beyond 2ft. from curb line

will NOT be picked up. We appreciate your help in assisting the Department of Public Works as we look to improve from the two week leaf pickup turn around time. Please have cars moved from street on your pickup day for the crews to do their best during leaf season. Please note that all contractors/landscape companies are responsible for removing leaves. Placing leaves at curbside is not permitted by contractors. See the map for street pickup days and districts.



Lavins Activity Center

Looking for something to do? The Lavins Activity Center offers many recreational options for residents to take part in year round. Also located in the Lavins Activity Center are the Okulski Family Theatre and the Carol C. Schaap Theatre for an evening out at the movies!

Meade Fitness Center

Located on the second floor of the Lavins Activity Center, the Meade Fitness Center is a great place to burn a few calories and have a fantastic view of Lake St. Clair. The Fitness Center offers a variety of weight machines, free weights and state-of-the-art cardio equipment. Our Certified Personal Trainers on staff are available to provide complimentary assessment sessions to new members by appointment. Members may also purchase private Personal Training Sessions with our trainers for a more individualized weight training program.

Gym Rentals

The Golden Family Gymnasium is available for rental on a preregistration basis, no walk-ins. Reservations may be made by residents age 18 or older 72 hours in advance with prepayment or 24 hours in advance with payment at sign in. The court is available for pickleball, basketball, volleyball and running games. We now offer full court rentals as well as half court rentals. Park passes are required for access to the Park and the Lavins Activity Center under the usual 3 guests per pass guidelines. Minors must be supervised by someone age 18 years or older at all times.

Rental rates are as follows:

- Half Court Rental \$25 Per Hour
- Full Court Rental \$50 Per Hour

Holiday Membership Special!

Looking for a great place to work out this winter? Come see us at the Lavins Activity Center! We're close to home and we've got what you need to stay fit over the toughest months of the year – the Holidays!

Starting December 1 through January 31 we're offering a 25% discount to all NEW annual Meade Fitness Center members and returning members who have not had a membership with us in the last 12 months. Also, any current member who refers a friend for a new membership (Quarterly or Annual) will receive one free month on their current membership! Come take advantage of these great Happy "Healthy" Holiday Specials!!

Fitness Center Hours

- Monday-Saturday 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Membership Prices

Fitness Memberships provide access to the Meade Fitness Room!

	Quarterly	Annual
Adults (Ages 19-59)	\$135.00	\$400.00
Students (Ages 16 - 25)	\$100.00	\$300.00
Seniors (Ages 60 & Up)	\$100.00	\$300.00
Couple	\$200.00	\$650.00
Senior Couple	\$155.00	\$450.00
One Month - \$50.00		
Two Week - \$30.00		
Day Pass - \$10.00		

Personal Training

Personal Training Sessions can be purchased at the front desk of the Lavins Center. All trainers are certified.

Single Sessions	\$60.00
Three Session Packet	\$165.00
Six Session Packet	\$300.00

Windmill Pointe Park Theatres

Our theatres offer a variety of movies on the big screen. Call (313) 822-2812 and press ext. 1, to hear the current movie titles. Tickets are available for advance purchase on the same day. **We are excited to announce we will be offering online ticket sales in the near future!** Teens are advised to have their park pass and I.D. available for PG-13 and R rated movies. You can't beat the convenience of popcorn and a movie so close to home!

Ticket Prices for both the Okulski Family Theatre and the Carol C. Schaap Theatre are:

- Adults - \$10.00
- Seniors and Children - \$8.00
- Matinee - \$7.00

