

Communicator

Quarterly Newsletter of The City of Grosse Pointe Park

Fall Issue 2023

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



Greetings, community. I'm grateful for this opportunity to report a strong result since our last Communicator. This team has been working exceptionally hard, and my hat is off to them because we've been successful at tackling the biggest issues, and the momentum is growing.

Our number one priority has been financial stability. In FY 2023, fiscal responsibility took us from a \$1M deficit to a surplus budget, and we are continuing to review all cost savings measures and revenue opportunities to greatly reduce any impacts to quality of service. This is a major accomplishment which positions us to provide the Quality of Life amenities our residents expect. I'm also pleased to report we have a strong fund balance, and a solid bond rating, both of which further reduce the cost of government.

Public safety is also a priority. With the addition of MedStar, we've been able to increase our advanced life support abilities in a cost effective manner, experience long term savings, and improve morale by adding more officers on the road. The data shows that this community is well served, and we are making certain public safety has every resource it needs to succeed.

The first major water sewer projects in decades are now underway, including the Extreme Emergency Relief Valve, constructed responsibly to protect our environment which is further insurance that sewage won't end up in our basements. Infrastructure also includes lead service lines, alleys, parking lots, roads, sidewalks, our marina, and our parks, with progress to report on each.

Economic development initiatives are helping to grow our tax base. We have a new Master Plan in place, and a companion Zoning Ordinance is under development, which will help manage Redevelopment Ready Communities pursuits. A DDA campus plan and TIFA corridor plan are complete, or underway. We have parking studies to help inform decisions, and are constantly updating policies and procedures, such as demolition requirements that will help to avoid problems of the past.

Efforts to ensure our beloved Trombly is restored to a community serving asset are also important to mention, and that we are holding our GPPSS partners accountable in doing so. And we haven't forgotten about transparency, sustainability, diversity, our seniors, our business community, or our generous donor community. It's all being addressed in earnest and, to put it simply, that feels really good.

It is such an honor to serve with you, and thank you for working in partnership to achieve vibrancy for our community.

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Park Hours

Patterson Park

7:00 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

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:	313-822-6200
Public Works Garage:	313-822-5100
Voting & Elections:	313-822-4267
Tax Information:	313-822-6200
Building Department:	313-822-4365
Water Billing:	313-822-4380
Municipal Court:	313-822-3535
City Forester:	313-822-6200

Parks & Recreation
313-822-2812

Movie Theatre Information	Press 1
Lavins Activity Center/General info	Press 1
Tompkins Community Center	Press 2
Harbormaster	Press 3

Windmill Park Gatehouse
313-822-2812 ext. 301

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) 822-6200.

- 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.
- Current homeowner passes expire December 31, 2026.
- 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	\$500 from 1:00 pm – 12:00 am
Friday, Saturday, or Sunday Rentals	\$750 from 1:00 pm – 12:00 am
Weddings & Wedding Receptions	\$1,200 from 11:00 am – 12:00 am
Additional hour to enter facility	\$80
Additional 2 hours to enter facility	\$160

Grosse Pointe Park Communicator

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	Dan Kelly
City Manager	Nick Sizeland
Assistant City Manager	Warren Rothe
Finance Director	Ginger Moriarty
City Clerk	Bridgette Bowdler
Parks & Recreation Director	Chad Craig
Editors	Chad Craig Stedman Taylor

Editor's note - Any correspondence can be sent to:
15115 E. Jefferson
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Attn: Parks & Recreation

E-Mail to: craigc@grossepointepark.org



Recap of 2023 From City Administration

First and foremost the City would like to thank the contributions of City employees that retired from Grosse Pointe Park. Finance Director/City Clerk Jane Blahut, Holly Piche Deputy Treasurer, Diane Macconachie Building Administration, Donna Costa Deputy Clerk and Public Safety Officer Tom Gammichia. Almost 100 Years combined of dedicated quality and service to the residents of Grosse Pointe Park. The City in its place has hired Finance Director/Treasurer Ginger Moriarty, City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler and several new faces to the front office of City Hall including Makaiyah Jenkins-Moore, Lydia Williams and Kelly Poirer.

As you go to the polls this year on November 7th not only will you decide City Council and Mayor Seats there are several proposals to consider as well.

1. A Charter Amendment to allow Judge, Mayor and Council seats to all move to the November general election without a August Primary
2. A Charter Amendment to move Summer taxes to be paid by September 14th instead of August 31st as described in our City Charter
3. A Charter Amendment to allow two Marihuana establishments within the City limits of Grosse Pointe Park
4. An appeal of a city ordinance and establishing criteria for opening and operating Marihuana establishments in the City

Note the two Marihuana initiatives were that of a petition drive and not affiliated with the City of Grosse Pointe Park Council and Administration. Please be advised you may have recently received a letter in the mail with a heading saying Grosse Pointe Park Community Survey. This is not an official city document and that of a private organization called "Open Stores in Grosse Pointe Park Committee". The City cannot confirm nor deny the figures presented in the letter. If you would like to write to the organization please send to 18530 Mack Avenue #376, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or justvoteyesgrosspointe@gmail.com

Finance

The City is now gaining interest from several investments including but not limited to interest bearing accounts, MI Class a Government Investment Tool and is gathering interest off of CD's. The City has a new auditor, upgrades to city data and software making residents lives a little easier when visiting city hall for payments and reviewing internal policies and procedures to ensure we are moving forward as residents expect a quality experience.

Building

The Building Department worked with the City Attorney and Ordinance Committee to draft a revision of Chapter 7 of the City Code, which includes the Building Codes, International Property Maintenance Code, and Certificate of Occupancy process. This ordinance was adopted by the City Council at its May 8th meeting.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission began work on the comprehensive zoning ordinance rewrite. The Commission hopes to have reviewed and held the public hearing on the proposed ordinance by the end of the calendar year. As part of this work, the Planning Commission will hold a workshop on short-term rentals on October 12 at 7:00 PM.

DDA

The DDA worked with Jima Studios to create a Civic Campus rendering for a vision of the future of city hall, library and public safety. The City Hall parking lot reconstruction has been completed and you will notice several changes in landscaping improvements to City Hall. As well as the sculpture that was formerly at Wayburn/Kercheval is now in front of City Hall off of Jefferson.

TIFA

The TIFA has had a busy year with the successful launch of its Fiscal Year 2024 residential improvement grant program. In fall, the TIFA will complete a street-tree planting program which will see the planting of over 100 trees. Construction is underway on a new parking lot located between Maryland and Lakepointe, which will feature new pay-stations to improve the parking experience for all users. Last but not least, the TIFA started work with OHM Advisors to develop conceptual plans for streetscape improvements for both the Kercheval and Charlevoix business districts. Engagement for this project included an online survey and in-person booths at several of this summer's street parties. The TIFA will develop and review the concepts at meetings later this fall.

State of the Infrastructure Recap 2023

2023 has been an extraordinarily busy and productive time on the infrastructure front in Grosse Pointe Park and things are just getting started. If you look around this summer and autumn, you can see more construction going on than has been the case in years past. While this is exciting, there is a tremendous amount of work that will be ongoing for years to come. The priority has been upgrading and optimizing our sewer systems to reduce the risk of flooding which has been followed by long-term building out of our water supply infrastructure and maintaining our roads, all while working to implement better communications to keep residents informed of short-, mid- and long-term planning and construction. Below is a listing of some of the major developments that have been ongoing as well as the work that you can anticipate in the coming year

Water/ Sewer:

Water Supply: The first major water main replacement project since 1985 (Mack Avenue/and its lead line replacement) has been completed and the next prioritized water main projects have been identified. A section of Beaconsfield water main is going to be replaced in 2024, coupled with substantial lead line replacements.

Water Removal: Grosse Pointe Park received the permit from EGLE and is constructing the Extreme Emergency Relief Valve (EERV), identified as an anti flooding failsafe the city can provide residents. Downspout disconnection efforts, sewer separation at St Clare of Montefalco as well as separation of multiple city alleyways has reduced water infiltration, and this will be continued with the next separation project at Jefferson/Lakepointe slated for the coming year. Increased focus on Preventative Maintenance as well as pumping station upgrades have further improved our ability to remove water.

Roads, Alleys, and Surface Lot Paving:

Road Quality: Paser ratings for GPP continue to be strong and a continued focus on maintenance will keep it that way. A large portion of Kercheval (through a Wayne County Grant) and multiple alleyways have been re-paved in the past year. The City Hall parking lot is complete. Through cooperation with Grosse Pointe City, lower Cadieux will be repaved in the coming months and the Kercheval business district is undergoing substantial work and upgrades adding parking

Communications:

Information: Beginning in 2022, the infrastructure committee releases an annual state of the city infrastructure statement and there are now monthly posted infrastructure reports available on the city website. The upcoming state of the city infrastructure will have a breakdown of this year's water/sewer millage receipts and expenditures. The city website for infrastructure has been overhauled, with quick links to reports and further upgrades underway. The end goal is a more user-friendly website with easy access to information and the ability to report concerns. The Department of Public Works is posting more information on social media and strives for responsiveness, they can be reached at : (313) 822-5100 https://www.grossepointepark.org/departments/public_works/index.php

Sustainability:

Efficiency: The city has signed a contract to overhaul street lighting in the park (with some investment from ARPA funds). This will dramatically reduce energy usage, improve service to residents and the projected return on investment is less than 1.5 years, this should translate into annual savings of approximately \$120,000. The Mack water main was replaced, largely because it was identified as the greatest source of lost water to Grosse Pointe Park. Nearly century old inefficient broken windows in Jefferson pumping have been replaced, as well as various HVAC upgrades at city buildings. Parking Lots near completion on Kercheval have some elements of permeable pavers and rain gardens to hold rainwater and reduce impact to the stormwater system. The City Forester, DDA and Beautification Commission were recently awarded with a grant from SEMCOG to establish a rain garden in front of City Hall.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Since 2022 a large-scale effort of inventorying and assessment of the broader infrastructure (especially water sewer) has been underway. The end of 2022 saw the presentation of a broad-based capital improvement plan for Grosse Pointe Park, which identified the large-scale infrastructure needs and theoretical costs and timelines. The initial Capital Improvement Plan is now being reviewed by asset management studies, sewer scoping, engineering work and DPW reviews and most importantly with the millage funding, transition from theoretical to implementation. Large 2024 projects include Water main replacement on Beaconsfield, Jefferson Separation, and Sewer Maintenance.

The CIP development has two main focuses. First, large scale projects are mapped out; this creates shovel ready projects that can respond to market/financing forces allowing for acceleration and adjustment as the circumstances call. Second, a mapped targeted multi-year maintenance calendar so residents can better anticipate annual maintenance work.

Financing:

Grants: Grosse Pointe Park has aggressively pursued any support available. This year's Drinking Water Revolving Fund saw more project applications from GPP than all other Pointes combined, the City also applied for the Clean Water Revolving Fund. The City has been discussing the need for funding to our leaders in Lansing and Washington DC to identify methods that would allow communities like the Grosse Pointes to achieve funding status. We have also seen incredible support from the philanthropic community (over 1 million dollars in direct philanthropic support to water/sewer work in 2023). We are establishing a list of shovel ready programs so opportunities for support can be capitalized on.

Water/Sewer Millage: The millage as a financing mechanism has given the city the ability to engage in long-term planning. This helps in minimizing waste and maximizing overlap with projects, for example Lead Line Replacement and Water Mains are being bundled, we are working to ensure pavement planning coincides with water sewer planning and all with an eye to exploiting favorable marketplace fluctuations.

Grosse Pointe Park is a wonderful community, but it sits atop an aging infrastructure that will take time to update. We are pleased with the progress so far; this report being a condensed outline of major work being done. The actions being undertaken are bending the curve on our infrastructure and year by year things will continue to improve. With the aggressive push to upgrade our systems residents will experience better quality service and much of the money that was previously spent on simply maintaining things can be reinvested in further upgrades. The City will work to keep residents apprised of how their systems work and will always do so in a transparent, honest, and sober way. The work being done will take decades and it will not be cheap, however, by taking this head on and changing from a reactive to a proactive footing Grosse Pointe Park can continue to stand out as an incredible place to live.

Chief's Corner Jim Bostock - Director of Public Safety

I would like to take this opportunity to express just how humbling it is to be your Director of Public Safety. Thank you to the many residents, business owners and retirees who have reached out. As I am writing this, it has been three months since I took the oath of office to lead this storied department. I look forward to leading the great men and women of the department.

I would also like to thank Bryan Jarrell for his mentoring and leadership over the past two years. Many of the community outreach programs have taken place because of his vision. We are committed to continuing in those footsteps in the years to come. Events like Coffee with a Cop, Public Safety Open House, quarterly meetings with the Public Safety Advisory Committee will all continue. Community engagement is and has been a hallmark of your public safety department for many years. School events, station tours, parades, Safety Patrol lunches, Halloween in the Park, Kercheval and Charlevoix events give us the opportunity to engage and be a part of this wonderful community. We are committed to serving with integrity, compassion, professionalism, and empathy.

LOCK IT UP:

The Public Safety Department needs everyone's help in lowering the number of larceny reports. There has been a dramatic increase in larceny reports over the last year. Historically, the crime of larceny, the taking of another person's property without force, is a crime of opportunity.

Let's all pitch in and do our part by following these helpful tips:

- Don't leave valuable items in your vehicle, in plain sight.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Lock your car doors.
- Don't leave your key fob inside of the vehicle.
- Have a car alarm or an aftermarket anti-theft device (aka The Club).

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/gpppublicsafety

Stay Safe and be well.

Pumpkins in the Park

The third annual Pumpkins in the Park will be held on Saturday, October 28th starting at 4:00 p.m. Kercheval will be closed from 4-6 p.m. for foot traffic only while trick or treating take place at Park businesses. Cool cars and pumpkin decorating, live music/DJ from Ripe Records, live music at The Bricks from 4:30 - 6 p.m. There will be an official after party and Dia de los Muertos celebration at Red Crown with live music from 6-9pm and an after party at Cabbage Patch Saloon as well, that will also feature live music from 6-pm. This event is proudly presented by the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association, Grosse Pointe News, The Bricks Pizzeria, and Belding Cleaners.

Halloween in the Park

Halloween in the Park 2023 will take place on Saturday, October 21. Tickets went on sale online and in person on Monday, October 2nd at 8:00 a.m. To purchase tickets online, please go to recpro.grossepointepark.org or go to the Lavins Activity Center to purchase a physical ticket. Tickets are \$15.00 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!





Beautification Commission

The GPP Beautification Commission kicked-off their first Adopt-a-Garden season along the Patterson Park boardwalk garden beds. Commissioners, Mayor Hodges and a dozen volunteers cleaned up storm damage, weeded and mulched the length of the boardwalk during 3 community events. A major highlight is the ongoing work at the monarch butterfly and pollinator bed at the west end. We hope you walk by to take a look!



Marina

Just a friendly reminder, all 2024 marina contracts and the \$200.00 deposit are due by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 1st, 2023. All well holders are required to complete a new contract on an annual basis. For more information, please contact Tom at (313) 822- 2812 ext. 201 or marina@grossepointepark.org. All boats must be out of the marina by Wednesday, November 15th for the 2023 season.

Public Works

City Wide Curbside Leaf Pickup. The City Public Works Department will return with the weekly leaf pickup starting the week of October 16 and ending on the week of December 15.

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. ([reference citywide curbside leaf pickup map on page 7](#))

Snow Removal

Streets are our number one priority during snow events. Due to the cost of salt, the Department of Public Works will be spot salting at intersections and mid-way on all streets. During accumulating snow, streets will be salted and plowing will take place when accumulation is 3 inches or greater.

Snow Removal By Contractor

It is the contractor's responsibility to push the snow they are plowing back onto the homeowner's property, not the neighbor's property. The Police Department will issue tickets to contractors who violate this policy.

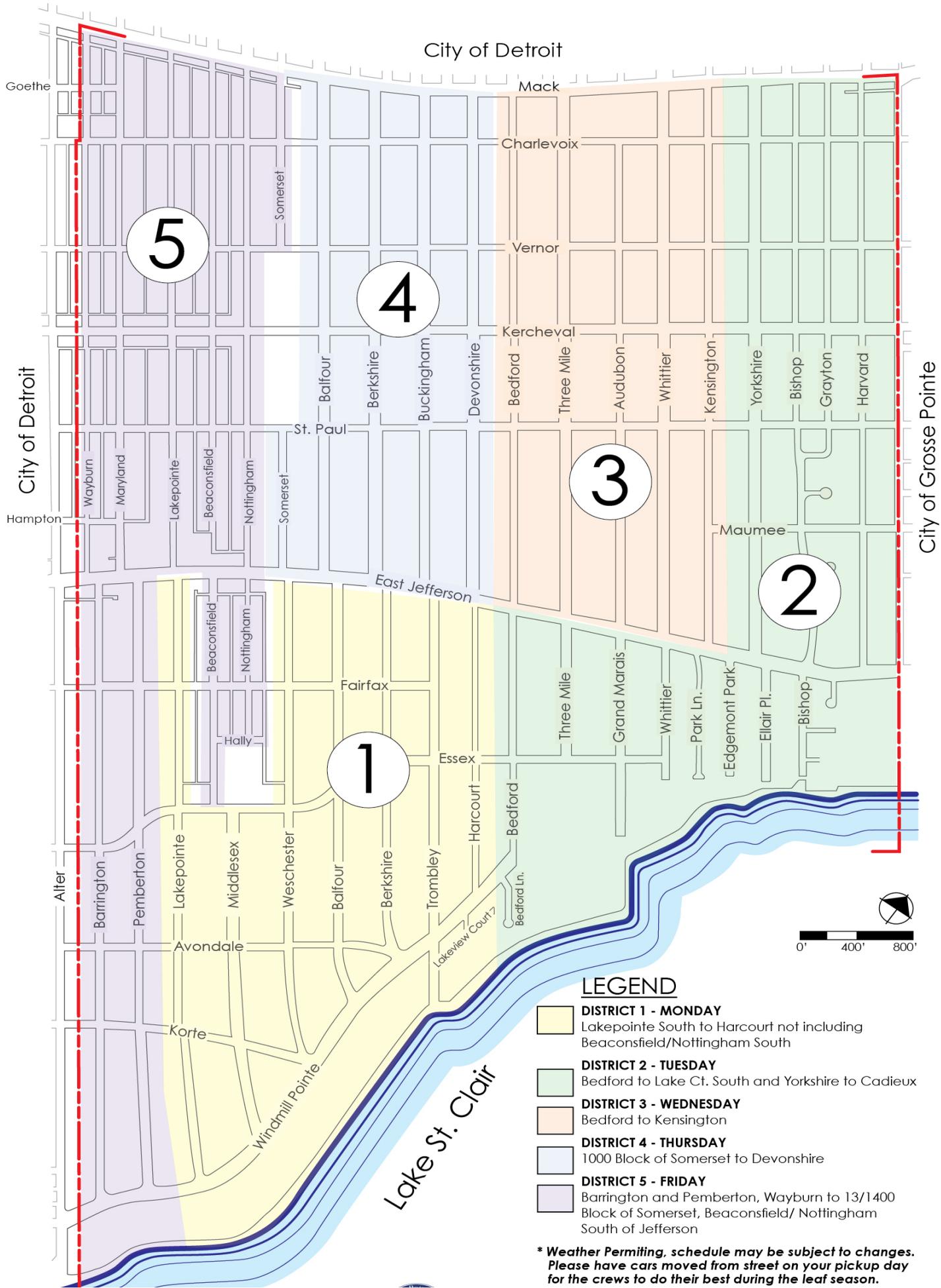
Sec. 21-52. Sidewalks to be cleared

The occupant of every lot or premises adjoining any street, or the owner of such lot or premises, if the same are not occupied, shall clear all ice and snow from sidewalks adjoining such lot or premises within the time herein required. After any snow or ice shall cease to fall, such snow or ice shall be cleared from the sidewalks within twelve (12) hours of such cessation (code 1957).

Sidewalks

As a service to homeowners, snow and ice is cleared from sidewalks. In the event that snowfall is very limited or ice build-up occurs, residents are asked to clear their sidewalks within 12 hours of such occurrences. Grosse Pointe Park City Code states as follows:

Sec. 21-53. Failure to Clear. If any occupant or owner shall neglect or fail to clear ice or snow from the sidewalk adjoining his premises within the time limit, or shall otherwise permit ice or snow to accumulate on such sidewalk, he shall be guilty of a violation of this article and in addition, the Director of Public Service may cause the same to be cleared and the expense of removal shall become a debt to the city from the occupant or owner of such premises, and shall be collected as any other debt to the city. (Code 1957). Please remove vehicles from street during snow storms.



Curbside Citywide Leaf Pickup
Schedule October 16- December 15

City Election Tuesday, November 7, 2023

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 Bridgette Bowdler at (313) 822-6200 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 Center 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 linkin between City Hall and Public Safety.

Will City Hall be open on Saturday November 4th before the election?

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

All Election Polling Locations - Windmill Pointe Park
For questions involving polling locations, please call the clerks office at (313) 822- 6200

November 3 - Last day absentee ballot can be mailed from City Hall at 4:30 p.m. (City Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

November 4 - City Hall will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to issue absentee ballots.

November 6 - Absentee ballot may be obtained until 4:00 p.m. and vote must be cast at City Hall.

November 7 - General Election. Polls open 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

November 7 - Emergency ballot may be obtained due to an unforeseen circumstance until 4:00 p.m.

