Newest addition to Patterson Park

nears completion

The new warming house at Patterson Park will be dedicated soon and ready for this year’s skating season. It is another wonderful project funded by the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation and by the generosity of Carlton and Verna Lindell.

It will feature three beautiful bay windows with window seating. The windows overlook the rink so you can stay warm while watching your young skaters. There will be a corner fireplace with a flat screen television overhead, cubby’s to store your shoes while skating, a unisex bathroom and overhead music. A cappuccino/hot chocolate machine will be serviced by a park employee on Saturdays and Sundays and during some school breaks. Also, muffins, cookies and brownies will be available making this facility a warm and comfortable refuge from the frosty winter weather. Skate guards will be required to track back and forth from the ice rink to the lodge.

Additionally, the refrigeration system is being upgraded and should provide skaters with an improved ice surface even during moderate weather conditions.

Make sure that if you don’t already have skates that you put that on the top of your Santa list so you can join in on the fun!

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV. 8

HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING SCHEDULED FOR WED. NOV. 30

The Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting a Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6:30 p.m. on November 30 at Windmill Pointe Park. Mayor Palmer Heenan will be present to switch on the lights of this super-sized tree that will be located behind The Tompkins Community Center and to present the Key to the City to Santa Claus who is also in our community to attend “Lunch with Santa” on Sat. Dec. 3 at the Tompkins Community Center. The Good News Singers Quartet will lead a sing-a-long.

Cookies & hot chocolate will be provided and a “free” holiday movie will be shown at the Okulski Theater immediately following the ceremony. For more information call 822-2812 ext 200.
**General Park Rules**

No dogs are allowed in the parks unless going on a boat, in which case the dog must be on a leash.
No loud music.
No rollerblading permitted in the parks.
No open fires.
No liquor (beer in cans is permitted to those of age)
Fishing is permitted only off main pier on lake side.
No swimming is permitted in the lake or marina.
No bicycles on the boardwalk at Patterson Park.

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**CITY PHONE NUMBERS**

911 - EMERGENCIES ONLY

**Municipal Offices-Automated Telephone System:**

Main Number...................... 313-822-6200
0 - For the operator
1 - Public Services, 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
Voting & Elections: 313-822-4380
Tax Information: 313-822-4267
Building Inspector: 313-822-4368
Water Billing: 313-822-7650

Municipal Court: 313-822-3535
City Forester: 313-822-6200 (ext. 271)

**Parks & Recreation**

313-822-2812

Okulski Theatre Information  Press 1
Lavins Activity Center  Press 2
Park Office / Tompkins Center Press 3
Outside Gate / Windmill Pte.  822-5155
Patterson Park Gatehouse  822-1681

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**2005/06 PARK PASS UPDATE**

Remembers park passes are needed year round to enter both parks.
They do not expire at the end of the year. Owner passes continue to be valid as long as there is no change of address. Renters (with no change of address) passes issued in 2005 are valid until June 15, 2006.

Guest cards are not issued annually, and are valid until they are completely punched out at which time a request for a replacement can be made. New guest cards will be issued only upon presentation of the exhausted card. There is a limit of one guest card per household per season.

Lost passes are replaced for a fee of $5.00 each.

New residents can apply for park passes in the Public Service Department.

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Telephone:** 313-822-4365

**PLEASE NOTE:** Driver’s licenses and other forms of identification will not be accepted for entrance to the parks. Be certain that you and your family have valid park passes for 2005/06.
Millage proposal on the ballot Tuesday, November 8

The City of Grosse Pointe Park is experiencing a deficiency in its general operating fund. This is due in part to continued reductions of State Revenue Sharing and increases in health and pension benefit costs. The city has taken measures to limit these cost increases by requiring greater employee contributions.

This Millage Proposal requests the restoration of a part of the city’s rolled back maximum millage authorization to address the operating deficiency.

The city’s original Charter authorized a maximum of 20 mills. This has been rolled back to a current maximum of 11.52 mills as a result of a state mandate known as the “Headlee” amendment. This Proposal will restore a portion of the rolled back authorization to a maximum of 14 mills. It will also permit the immediate levy of one half (.50) mill of this restored authorization to address the current deficiency. In 2005 this will result in a total current levy of 12.02 mills and generate approximately $288,828.

A home with a taxable value of $150,000 would experience an annual tax increase of $75 as a result of the additional one half mill (.50) levy. The proposal will allow continuation of services and improvements which have been curtailed due to the deficiency. This would include the following:

- Removal and replacement of diseased ash trees.
- Street resurfacing.
- Tree trimming.
- Revitalization and parking improvements in the city’s northwest sector.

The Grosse Pointe Park Community Foundation has provided private financial support for many community enhancements. This support supplements the city’s finances. These projects include the Lavins Center (theater, fitness facility and gym), the Hutton Ice Rink/Reflecting Pond, the Helms Boardwalk, the Tompkins Community Center, the splash pad and recently, the soon to be dedicated warming house for skaters.

The Mayor and members of City Council unanimously voted to place this millage Proposal on the November 8, 2005 ballot.

Wayne County to host third Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Wayne County’s Department of Environment is hosting its third Household Hazardous Waste Collection for 2005 which will be offered to all county residents. The collection is designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal and electronics (i.e. computer monitors, printers, scanners, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines and TV’s) for recycling from residents. The first two collections in April and August were very successful. The third collection is scheduled for Saturday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Downriver Community Conference located at 15100 Northline Road, Southgate. Items that will be accepted include household paints, stains, floor care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze and old computers. Items that will not be accepted include commercial waste, industrial waste, smoke detectors, radioactive material, ammunition, asbestos, fire extinguishers, household trash, tires, refrigerators and microwaves.

In addition, residents are encouraged to bring in mercury fever thermometers for disposal. Mercury is a toxic substance and can cause serious health effects if released into a home or the environment. Residents who bring in a mercury thermometer will be given a safe mercury-free digital thermometer as replacement. For more information, please contact Wayne County’s Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.
WINTER OUTSIDE

Our Parks

Grosse Pointe Park has two beautiful lake front parks. Outdoor activities change with the season, but many of the indoor activities continue throughout the year.

Patterson Park is located at the foot of Three Mile Drive and Essex and Windmill Pointe Park is located at Barrington and Windmill Pointe Drive. Admission to the parks is limited to Park residents and their guests. Residents are reminded that park passes will be checked year round at both parks so keep your passes handy.

The Lavins Activity Center will also be open year round for classes, work outs, and movies at the Okulski Theater.

Valentine’s Day Skate Sat. Feb. 11

The Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a special Valentine’s Day Skate on Saturday, February 11 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. at the Hutton Ice Rink at Patterson Park. This one hour will be exclusively for the Valentine Day Skate participants. All ages of skaters are welcome to come and participate in this free outdoor activity. We encourage parents to come along with their children to join in the fun! Please arrive promptly. We play games and skate to music. Cookies and hot chocolate will be served in our new warming house.

Tot Skating Lessons

We are pleased to offer you a fantastic outdoor skating program! Our tot lessons will focus on basic skills such as standing, falling properly, marching and pushing to create momentum. The instructors will bring their enthusiasm of skating to Patterson Park to share with their students. The class will follow the guidelines of the United States Figure Skating Association. “Tot students” must wear the following attire to class: thinsulate gloves, a hat to cover their ears and hair, waterproof pants or a snowsuit and a hockey helmet. Parents, please make sure the children’s skates are sharp and properly fitted – no double runners. (Helpful hint: have the children’s gear on before arriving at the rink. Skate guards will protect the blades.)

Tuesdays Noon – 12:30 or 12:30 – 1:00 pm 3-6 year olds 5 weeks $40.00
Session I December 6, 13 (off Dec. 20 & 27) January 3, 10, 17
Session II January 24, 31 February 7, 14, (off Feb.21) Feb. 28

VISA/MASTERCARD USAGE

The City of Grosse Pointe Park is now accepting Visa and Mastercards for your convenience in making payments. You can now make payments at City Hall for taxes and water bills and at Windmill Pointe Park for Lavins Center memberships, classes, boatwells and Tompkins Center Rentals. A convenience charge will be added to your credit card charge. For more information call the Parks & Recreation office at 822-2812 ext 201.

WINTER INSIDE

The Tompkins Community Center is located at Windmill Pointe Park. The Center’s main function is to host parties. The Center’s capacity is 129 people, and can comfortably seat 100 people. It is available for Park residents to rent for various family functions.

Rental rates for 2006 are:
Monday - Thursday (daytime or evening function) $200
Fri., Sat., & Sun. 1:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. $300
Wedding Receptions $500
Monday - Thursday hourly rate (up to 3 hours maximum) $50 per hour

Co-ed Recreational Indoor Volleyball

Games will be played on Friday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Golden Family Gymnasium. There will be 8 regular season games: Jan. 13, 20, 27 Feb.10, 17, 24 March 10, 17 then a single elimination playoff game. We can take up to 8 teams. Maximum team size is 10 players with a minimum of 50% park residents. Players must be at least 19 years of age to participate. There will be no officials, similar to our summer volleyball league. There will be a captains meeting so that all teams may be apprised of the rules. Cost per team is $100. Applications may be picked up at the Lavins Center Reception Desk for those interested and must be turned in by Friday, Jan. 6, 2006.

Dodge Ball for Kids

Sign your children up for an hour of play in running, ducking, catching and throwing in an assortment of dodge ball games in the Golden Family Gymnasium. This popular game is the newest craze and went over so well last year that it’s back! Players don’t need to worry about getting hit because all the balls that are used are soft coated foam balls. We will have our personal trainer explain the rules, monitor the games and set up the teams. Sign up and pay at the Lavins Center Reception Desk by Wed. Dec. 21st.
Saturdays 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. 5 - 10 year old girls and boys
5 weeks $15.00
Session I: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 Feb 4
Session II: Feb. 11, 18, 25 March 4, 11
Participants need to wear gym shoes and comfortable clothes.

ELECTION DAY IS

TUESDAY, NOV. 8
Lunch with Santa
Saturday, December 3, 05

Santa called—he’s making his plans early this year, so we thought we would too! Santa is scheduled to have lunch with the children from Grosse Pointe Park on Saturday Dec. 3. Lucky for us he is willing to stay all afternoon, so we have scheduled three different times for lunch, pictures and crafts.

We can only accommodate 25 children and their parents for each lunch time. We will take registration until December 2nd or until capacity is reached. More information to follow! Make reservations by sending in the registration form along with the fee.

Lunch Times: 10:30-11:30 a.m.  12:00-1:00 p.m.  1:30-2:30 p.m.
Fee: $5.00 per child, $3.00 per attending adult (this includes lunch for all, a craft and photo with Santa for the children)

It’s a Pajama Party!
Featuring the Merry Music Maker and special guest Kitzee Coo Coo

Friday nights - January 6, February 3, and March 3  7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Lavins Activity Center at Windmill Pointe Park
$12.00 per family
For 2 - 8 year olds and the young at heart. Wear your pajamas and a smiling face and bring a blanket to sit on.
Be entertained with music, dancing, stories, puppets and silly fun. Bedtime will never be the same so mark your calendars for this fun event.

Adult Golf Instruction
This class is designed for beginners and for those of you who need to brush up on your skills. You will need to bring 4 clubs to the first class. A wood, 7 iron, pitching wedge and a putter. Practical hands-on instruction during each session. Golf lessons will be taught in the Golden Gymnasium accommodating up to 12 participants. Sign your friends to reserve your spot!

Tuesdays 5 classes 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. $60
Session I January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Session II February 7, 14, 21, 28 March 7
(this class will be taught outdoors weather permitting)
Instructor: Matt Bodde, Golf Pro at the Country Club of Detroit

Attention:
All Grosse Pointe Middle School students

The Grosse Pointe Parks and Recreation Departments have put together an All Pointes Youth Recreation Group. Once a month there is a meeting for all teens to attend that involves planning future outings and activities. Below are the dates of the meetings and scheduled events. In order to attend the events, all teens must show a school I.D. from a Grosse Pointe Middle School.

Scheduled Events

Monday, Nov. 7, 7:00 p.m.  Movie: To be decided, Free popcorn  Grosse Pointe Park Lavins Center

Friday, Dec. 16, 7-10:00 p.m.  Teen Night: open gym, walleyball snacks, disc jockey, dancing, ice skating (weather permitting) Grosse Pointe Woods Activities Building

Wednesday, Dec. 28, Noon-1:30 p.m. Teen Meeting: decide on spring events, brainstorm, fund raiser Grosse Pointe Farms Community Building

Friday, Jan. 20, 7-10:00 p.m.  Teen Dance: Disc jockey, snacks, karaoke Grosse Pointe Farms Community Building

Friday, Feb 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  Ice Skating: Music, snacks Patterson Park 3-mile & essex Grosse Pointe Park

If you are interested in participating in the All Pointes Youth Recreation Group please submit your
Name, address, phone no., parents name, school and grade to:

Terry Solomon, Parks & Recreation Director
15115 E. Jefferson Ave.
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
313-822-2812 ext. 200
Fax: 821-0922
E-mail: solomont@grossepointepark.org
**Lavins Activity Center**

**New**

**Lavins Activity Center**

**RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Gym Rentals**
- **Personal Trainers**
- **Fitness Classes**
- **Movie Theatre**
- **Kid's Care**
- **Parks**
- **Tennis Courts**

**Weekly Class Schedule**

- **February 2006**
- **March 2006**
- **April 2006**

**Special Notice**

- **Tiny Tots**

**Mini Camps**

- **March 11-15**
- **March 18-22**

**Lavins Activity Center**

**Capacity**

- **Ookinji Theater**
- **McKeever Lounge**

**Power Point**

- **Monday**
- **Tuesday**

**FEES**

- **Movie theater rental**
- **Teens**
- **Membership**

**REGISTRATION**

- **In-Person**
- **Phone**

**IN-PERSON**

- **Monday**
- **Tuesday**

**Phone**

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- **Tuesday**

**MAIL**

- **Monday**
- **Tuesday**

**ONLINE**

- **Monday**
- **Tuesday**

**PARKS**

- **McKeever Lounge**
- **Ookinji Theater**

**LOCKER ROOMS**

- **The Lavins Activity Center**

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- **March 11-15**
- **March 18-22**
Karate for Kids  
Instructor: Lisa Santi

This popular martial arts program continues another season of learning, skill development and advancement. The “Turn of the Tide”, Martial Arts program works to teach students to gain confidence in themselves and their abilities. These classes are ongoing and new students are always welcomed. Classes are held in the gymnasium in the Lavins Activity Center. Class sizes are limited.

Karate for Teens

A teen karate class is now being offered that is designed just for you. Designed by teens for teens, each class will start with a fun warm up to music and then the traditional karate training enhances the physical skills of strength, fitness, balance, coordination, and flexibility with the mental skills of focus, patience, courage, confidence, perseverance, respect, discipline and dedication being applied. Issues that teens face today and self defense techniques will also be woven into this specially designed class. Sensei Marino Santi a teen himself will be co-teaching this class.

Karate schedule continued:

Session IV

Mondays - 4:15 Beginners Class - 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 6/5, 6/12
Mondays - 5:30 Advanced Class ages 9 & up. Same dates as above

Tuesdays - 4:15 Beginners Class - 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 6/6
Tuesdays - 5:30 Advanced Class ages 9 & up. Same dates as above

Wednesdays - 4:15 Beginners Class - 4/12, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10, 5/17, 5/24, 5/31, 6/7
Wednesdays - 5:30 Advanced Class ages 9 & up. Same dates as above

Thursdays - 4:15 - Weapons Class Must be a Green Belt or above and be in an advanced karate class.
Thursdays - 5:30 - Teens Class must have a 1993 Birth Year and older.

Karate Testing  
Saturday, Dec.17, 2005
11:00 a.m.  
Golden Family Gymnasium

Kids Karate Olympics  
February 4, 2006
11:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  Lavins Activity Center  
Golden Family Gymnasium

Competition in this exciting event is open to all current Karate students age 5 and up of Grosse Pointe Park’s “Turn of the Tide Martial Arts”. Students get to compete in 6 different martial arts events from “Highest Kick” to “Most Punches in 30 Seconds”, all in a friendly, fun atmosphere where each olympian is a winner for doing their best. Hundreds of ribbons are awarded along with many gold, silver and bronze medals. Sign up for this event through Instructor Lisa Santi. There will be a student registration fee and healthy snacks will be provided.
The Lavins Center Holiday Schedule.

Thanksgiving Day **closed** November 24

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day **closed** - Dec. 24/Dec. 25

The Meade Fitness Center only will be open on Mon. Dec. 26. Noon - 8:00 p.m. (No classes scheduled)

New Years Eve will close at 4:00 p.m. Dec. 31, 2005
New Years Day **closed** Jan. 1, 2006

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**Acting Out**

Thursdays 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
Ages 3 - 6
Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
$72.00
Instructor - Cathy Shah

Your creative preschooler or kindergartener will love this energetic, fun acting class. The children will learn the basic skills of performing, training with the tool they carry to class each week; voice, body, mind and emotion!

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**A Slice of Time**

Brian Colter, City Forester, has displayed a cross section of an American Elm, *Ulmus americana*, in the lobby at city hall. Despite years of fungicide injections, this tree succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease. This tree was approximately 90 years old when it was felled and a number of significant historical dates are positioned on it’s growth rings.

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**Calendar Hi-lites & other cool stuff!**

A reminder of pertinent dates & events coming up in our city. Please note the dates that may be of interest to you or your family.

**Nov. 8**  City Election

**Nov. 11** (Veterans Day)
City offices closed

**Nov. 24** (Thanksgiving Day)
City offices closed

**Nov. 25**
City offices closed

**Nov. 30**
Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
Windmill Pointe Park

**Dec. 3**
Lunch with Santa
Tompkins Community Center

**Dec. 7**
Taste of Grosse Pointe 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Tompkins Community Center

**Dec. 23 - 26** (Christmas)
City offices closed

**Dec. 31** - Jan. 2 (Happy 2006!)
City offices closed

**January 16** (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
City offices closed

**February 11** (Valentines Day Skate)
Patterson Park 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**February 20** (Presidents Day)
City offices closed

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**VOTE**

Election Day is Nov. 8
News and Notes from the Public Service Department

Recycling
Put your bin, when full, at the curb or in the abutting alley by 7:00 a.m. on your weekly rubbish collection day or no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the preceding day.

Checklist for Preparing Recyclables
- Items must be clean and uncontaminated. Dirty, improperly prepared or unacceptable materials will not be collected. Remove plastic tops and lids from containers and dispose of kitchen oil in your regular rubbish.
- Glass, tin cans, plastic number 1 and 2 only and aerosol cans may be placed together in the bin. Please rinse all recyclables and flatten cans and plastics if possible.
- Segregate news print, glossy inserts and magazines. Tie in bundles or put them in brown grocery bags; place in the bin or alongside it when you set the bin at the curb.
- Place AAA, AA, C, D and 9-volt batteries in a clear plastic bag and put in your recycling bin.
- Telephone books and cardboard are NOT collected. Local newspapers inform residents when and where to take old telephone directories during the annual collection period. Put cardboard out with your regular rubbish.

Garbage
It is the duty of every owner of every lot or property to keep their lot or property free of rubbish and debris.
Grosse Pointe Park City Code Section 12-1 states suitable garbage and rubbish receptacles shall be provided and used by the owner, tenant, lessee or occupant of the premises.

Containment of Refuse
Watertight metal or plastic containers equipped with tight fitting lids and handles sufficient to keep out water and to prevent disturbance by animals should be used.

Refuse
Refuse is defined as animal and vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of foods and all other organic matter subject to rapid decomposition, as well as cardboard, paper, cartons, boxes and ordinary wastes for residential and business establishments. It shall also include items too large for regular pick-up such as discarded furniture, appliances, toys, clothing and other similar materials. The Department of Public Works picks up the large items.
- Concrete, brick pavers, stones, logs etc. are the homeowners responsibility.

Hazardous Waste
Hazardous wastes need to be disposed of properly. A hazardous waste product can be toxic, flammable, corrosive or react with other substances to create harmful fumes or explosions. These products are labeled with DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION, CORROSIVE or FLAMMABLE on the container.

Yard Waste
Yard waste is defined as garden, lawn or tree trimmings, leaves and dead garden plants from the normal household. It shall not include rubbish from the work of a landscape gardener or private companies. Continue to separate yard waste from regular trash until December 2, 2005.

Chipper Brush
Chipper brush is defined as tree and shrubbery trimmings not exceeding one inch in diameter. Chipper shall be cut into 4 foot lengths and tied in bundles no larger than 18 inches in diameter.
- Do not mix brush with yard waste. Only grass clippings can be mixed with leaves at the curb.

Building Materials
It shall be the duty of the owner, contractor or other person responsible for construction work to maintain the site clean and free of excess debris during construction and to remove excess material from the premises within a reasonable time after the completion of such construction work.

When can waste containers be put out?
Waste containers shall not be placed out at the curb line for collection prior to 6:00 p.m. preceding the day of collection.
- Please have receptacles out by 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection. After receptacles are emptied, they shall be removed from the street on the same day that collections are made.

Holiday Trash & Recycling Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Special Collection Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Nov. 24, 05</td>
<td>No pick-up on this date. Remainder of week’s pick-ups delayed by one day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Dec. 25, 05</td>
<td>No pick-up Monday. Collection one day behind Tuesday - Saturday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Years Day</td>
<td>Jan. 1, 06</td>
<td>No pick-up Monday. Collection one day behind Tuesday - Saturday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LEAF PICK-UP

Curb side pick-up of leaves will begin the week of October 17, 2005 & will continue (weather permitting) until December 16th. Residents are reminded that leaves are to be placed between the curb & sidewalk where they will be vacuumed. They should not be put in the street.

Due to weather conditions or equipment breakdown, there is no set schedule. Once the truck has been on your street, it will be approximately a 2 week turnaround before it returns.

SNOW REMOVAL

As a courtesy to homeowners, snow and ice is cleared from sidewalks. In the event that the city is not able to do so, the occupant and or owner of every lot adjoining any street shall clear all ice and snow within twelve (12) hours after it ceases to fall.

NICE NEIGHBOR PROGRAM

Have you ever wanted to thank that neighbor who shovels your snow, cuts your grass or picks up your mail while you’re on vacation? Here’s your chance. The City of Grosse Pointe Park is starting a Nice Neighbor Program. The program will honor homeowners who do what they can to improve the city’s quality of life. Recipients will be recognized in a following issue of the Communicitor.

Include the nominee’s name, address, telephone number & the reason(s) you are submitting them for a Nice Neighbor award.

Send your nominations to:

PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT
15115 East Jefferson
Grosse Ponte Park, MI  48230
ATTN: Diane Vandenboom or
E-mail to Vandenboomd@grossepointepark.org

AND

Our nice neighbor for this issue is:

Anne Berschback of Park Lane nominated Bill Sheahan.

Bill takes in their mail, newspapers, etc. and watches the house when they are out of town. He will also keep a listing of phone numbers and locations the Berschbacks may be reached if needed.

Mrs. Berschback also writes that it’s great living on Park Lane, with wonderful neighbors who also participate in a summer garden walk and Christmas walk together.

Editors note:
It sounds like Park Lane is a neighborhood with an abundance of “Nice Neighbors” Let us know about your “Nice Neighbors”.

Branching Out!

Striving for an allergy friendly urban forest

Trees send billions of spores of pollen into our atmosphere annually. By considering which species are the “worst” pollinators and choosing species that are pollen free, we can modify our environment to a significantly healthier one.

Pollen from trees is the main culprit of allergies in humans. Allergy reactions are worse now than ever. 870,000 people in Michigan alone suffer from asthma, up 15% from just a few years ago. Physicians are reporting more allergy related illnesses too, with annual health care cost for the state at $460 million. Thomas Ogren, author of the book Allergy-Free Gardening, calls it an “Epidemic of Allergy.” He places part of the blame on the over planting of male trees, like the ‘Marshall Seedless’ green ash, which were widely planted because of their absence of fruit litter. In his book, Ogren ranks the worst and the best trees in regards to pollen. The widely planted ‘Autumn Applause’ white ash and ‘Autumn Purple’ white ash both rank a 9 out of 10 as pollinating polluters. On the contrary, female cultivars, such as the beautiful ‘Red Sunset’ red maple rank 1 out of 10, or the best to plant if you want to limit pollen.

Grosse Pointe Park has a very high population of ash trees, much higher than the advised ten percent which is the limit foresters have put on any one species to be represented in a landscape. This is all going to change, however, as the emerald ash borer epidemic sweeps through our community leaving up to 1,200 dead city ash trees in its wake. This epidemic, ironically, is creating a unique opportunity for foresters in SE Michigan to improve their urban forests. For example, in Grosse Pointe Park we have the goal of replacing all trees removed due to this foreign beetle. We hope to replace the dying ash with a diverse variety of desirable trees with emphasis on species with little or no pollen output.

When the city or homeowners replace our dying ash trees, we must keep in mind to plant the right tree for the right spot. We don’t want to plant a large growing tree under utility wires, for example. Nor would we plant a large growing tree too close to our home or in a very narrow tree lawn. Also, since epidemics usually are species specific, we want to be sure to diversify so when the next epidemic comes we won’t lose such a large percentage of our canopy all at once. Now, it also seems prudent that we should consider which trees pollinate the most and try to avoid planting those species in our urban forest.

By Brian Colter

Brian Colter, City Forester, may be reached at 313-822-5020 or e-mail at arbor2000@aol.com
Whether you’re “roughing it” at Camp Wind-Y-Mill....

or shopping at the West Park Farmers’ Market....

or “Trick or treating at Halloween in the Park, there have been lots of fun things to do in our community this fall.