Mayor saluted for 25 years of public service

At a special meeting of the Grosse Pointe Park City Council on Monday, December 8, Mayor Palmer T. Heenan was honored with a surprise presentation and reception in recognition of his impressive leadership of 25 years as Mayor of Grosse Pointe Park.

Approximately 100 invited family members, friends and various City Commission members filed into the council chambers catching the mayor in a rare “off guard” moment.

Mayor Pro Tem Gregory Theokas delivered a brief but most comprehensive and laudatory speech regarding the mayor’s history as the city’s chief executive before presenting the mayor with a bronze plaque (see photo at right) and a swiss army watch, both engraved with Mr. Heenan’s achievement.

Several other congratulatory comments were made before those in attendance enjoyed a specialty decorated cake, cookies and coffee.

As the mayor, a Princeton ’43 graduate, was quoted recently in The Daily Princetonian, “as a young man I disdained local government, and where did I end up? Local government. And I’ve had a marvelous run”. It would be a titanic mistake to think that the “run” might be coming to an end anytime soon and better for Grosse Pointe Park if it doesn’t.

2009 Chilly-Fest
Saturday, February 7, Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Patterson Park & Windmill Pointe Park

This year’s Chilly-Fest will be on Saturday, February 7, 2009 from Noon - 3:00 p.m. There will be fun wintery activities at both Patterson Park and Windmill Pointe Park. Two horse drawn trolleys will transport residents from Park to Park throughout the entire event.

At Patterson Park there will be ice skating to music provided by our disc jockey; a snowshoe station where you can slip on a pair of snow shoes and walk around the park; a snowman building station with carrots, charcoal and twigs to liven up your snowman; an ice sculpting demonstration; a snowball target throw and a snowboard demonstration by Bikes, Blades and Boards.

At Windmill Pointe Park we will have “comfort” food for your hungry appetites in the Tompkins Center. Enjoy Julie’s Galley’s famous chili with all the fixings, chili dogs, chips, pop, coffee, hot chocolate, water, and candy in a warm, comfortable setting.

Face painters will be on hand to decorate your children’s faces or make a pine cone bird feeder to hang on a tree branch at home. Be sure to sign up to win one of our hand carved ice sculptures that we will deliver to your house on Monday after the Chilly-Fest.

New this year at Windmill Pointe Park is an ice fishing demonstration on Pier 1 and the opportunity to walk your leashed dog in the picnic area between Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars for this fun filled winter themed play day!!
Volunteers are always welcome and needed to pull off this big City event. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Terry Solomon at 313-822-2812 x 200.
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 Palmer Heenan
Mayor Pro Tem Gregory Theokas
Council Members Daniel E. Clark, Shirley J. Kennedy, James Robson, Daniel C. Grano

Gregory Theokas, Robert Denner
City Attorney Dennis Levasseur
City Manager Dale Krajniak
City Clerk/Finance Director Jane Blahut
Editor George Blair III/Mary Beth Hathaway

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 201

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
Inside Gate/Harbormaster Press 4
Outside Gate/Windmill Pte. 822-5155
Patterson Park Gatehouse 822-1681

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. We ask that you take a few minutes and read the following rules that we will be enforcing this year. It is extremely important that everyone complies with the rules so that we may all enjoy our parks.

- Park passes are required for all residents age 7 and older.
- Residents age 17 and under will be allowed 1 guest per visit and residents age 18 and older will be allowed 3 guests per visit. YOUR GUESTS MUST ACCOMPANY YOU WHEN YOU ENTER THE PARKS.
- Homeowners applying for passes for the first time must pick up their application for completion in the Public Service Department. Homeowners must show proof of residency i.e. driver’s license, bank statement or bills. ALL family members age 18 or older who are not the homeowner MUST show proof of residency. City ordinance requires no more than two unrelated persons receive passes for each address.
- Renters need to pick up an application to renew passes. Passes will be mailed back after the landlord has verified tenancy and the Public Service Department has verified that the Certificate of Occupancy for your address is valid.
- At anytime you may be asked for photo I.D. Misuse of your park pass may result in revocation. Drivers licenses and other forms of identification will not be accepted for entrance to the parks. Gate Guards will require you to produce your pass.
- Lost passes will be replaced ONCE per season through an adult person only at a cost of $5.00 each at the Public Service Department at City Hall. Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Telephone 313-822-4965.

Picnic Permits
Picnic Permits are issued at the Parks and Recreation office. Call 822-2812 ext. 201
- Permits are available for Windmill Pointe and Patterson Park
- You may apply for a permit Monday-Friday from 8-4 p.m.
- A maximum of 25 guests are allowed on a permit
- Charge for permits are $10 week-days and $20 week-ends
- Permits will not be issued Memorial Day, 4th of July or Labor Day
- There are picnic limits per day. Make your reservation early

GROSS POINT PARK COMMUNICATOR
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As I sit and look out the window, it is obvious that winter has no intention of leaving soon. Hopefully spring is around the corner, but with that comes a few areas of concern for the Department that I would like to share with you.

With the changing of the seasons we begin outdoor activities around the house. Cleaning up the yard, painting, new roofs and so on. These types of activities also invite people to the community that want to take advantage. Solicitors that want to provide you with a special deal may approach you. They may claim to be in the neighborhood working on a roof. They have some material left over and are willing to give you a great deal. Or, for those that have blacktop drives, they have extra sealant and can give you a great price. There is an old saying, “if it sounds too good to be true...” This is especially true in these types of offers. These solicitations know people look for good deals, especially when the economic times are poor. They prey on human nature. We have even had instances where people come to homes indicating they are from the water department or the building department. Their only intention is to obtain money under false pretenses. Any city employer will have proper identification and if you have any doubts just tell them you need to verify who they are first. Trust me, the Department will be happy to assist you.

There are also a couple of telephone scams that have surfaced that you should be aware of. One involves a party calling and indicating that they are security for a local bank. They indicate they have a teller that they believe is missing money and they need your help in catching him/her. They will ask for your account number. Never give out your account or social security numbers over the phone. Neither the police nor the banks will ask for this information on the phone. Another scam involves the elderly being called by individuals who claim to be with one of their grandchildren and they are in need of money for medical services. These individuals will indicate that it is an emergency and you need to send the money to a certain location. Again, never give any personal information over the phone. The Department will verify if it is necessary.

Lastly, a reminder about automobiles. We have been working very hard in the area of auto theft and we have seen some positive results. We still, however, receive complaints on items being taken from parked cars. Please take the time to bring laptops, IPODS, loose change, etc. into the house and if you have any doubts just tell them you need to verify who they are first. Trust me, the Department will be happy to assist you.

Safety when riding a bicycle is an absolute must. Wearing a helmet and other protective equipment can help to reduce injuries, but a rider should make every effort to avoid an accident from ever happening! Here are the most important considerations for avoiding an accident:

1. Get a flashing headlight, a flashing rear light, and a mirror. At night a headlight is required by law. A bright white flashing headlight attracts the attention of drivers. Even for daytime riding, a flashing white light makes you visible to motorists who might look right past you. If you are riding at night, you need a flashing red rear light. It is estimated that 80% of bike collisions are caused by cyclists riding at night without lights. You should always physically look back over your shoulder before moving left or making a turn, but having a mirror helps you monitor traffic without constantly having to look behind you.

2. Do not ride against traffic. Ride with traffic, in the same direction. Motorists who are making turns onto your street are not expecting bicycles to approach them from the wrong direction. They may not see you and the likelihood of a collision is high. If you ride on the wrong side of the road, cars will approach you much faster, at the sum of your speed and theirs, rather than at the difference of your two speeds. If you are biking at 15 mph, then a car passing you from behind driving 35 mph approaches you at a speed of only 20 mph. But if you are on the wrong side of the road, then the same car approaches you at 50 mph, which is 200% faster! Both you and the driver have less time to see each other and react. If a collision does occur, it will be ten times worse. Riding the wrong way is three times as dangerous as riding the right way and, for kids, the risk is seven times greater.

3. Do not move to your left without looking behind you first. Some motorists pass cyclists very closely, so moving to the left unexpectedly could put you in the path of a car. Practice holding a straight line while looking over your shoulder until you can do it perfectly.

4. Slow down. Make eye contact with drivers at intersections. Drive slowly enough so that you can stop if a driver fails to yield the right of way.

5. Wear something bright. Even during daylight hours, yellow or orange reflective vests and reflective leg bands make a big difference.

The Grosse Pointe Park Department of Public Safety registers bicycles for free. Just bring your bike or the serial number along with make, model, color, and size of the bike to the police department and they will register it. They will give you a sticker to put on your bike and they will keep your bike information on file. Registering your bike will help the police locate it if it is lost or stolen.

Have a great time on your bike!
**TINY TOTS**

Taught by Suzanne Piepszowski

Tiny Tots is a developmentally based gross motor class designed for children 18-36 months old. Along with their parents, the children learn how to move in fun and challenging ways while dancing to music and playing games with new friends.

**SESSION III**
- 6 weeks
- $48.00
- Tuesdays 10:30-11:15 a.m.
- Feb. 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**SESSION IV**
- 6 weeks
- $48.00
- Tuesdays
- April 7, 21, 28
- May 5, 12, 19

**PIPSQUEAKS, P.E.**

Taught by Suzanne Piepszowski

Pipsqueaks is a class for children 3-6 years old who are ready to move, dance and play independently from their parents. This is a great class designed to get their bodies moving in a fun and energetic way while learning new developmental skills. Enrollment is limited to 12 children per class. There must be at least 6 children enrolled to run a class.

**SESSION III**
- 6 weeks
- $48.00
- Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- Feb. 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**SESSION IV**
- 6 weeks
- $48.00
- Tuesdays
- April 7, 21, 28
- May 5, 12, 19

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**REGISTRATION FOR CLASSES AND EVENTS**

Please do not use for Karate

**Name:** __________________________  **Age:** __________

**Name:** __________________________  **Age:** __________

**Address:** __________________________

**Phone:** __________________________

**Class/Activity:** __________________________

**Amount:** $ __________

Please make check payable to and mail to:

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

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**It’s a Pajama Party!**

Golden Gymnasium at the Levine’s Activity Center

For ages 2 to 8 years and the young at heart. Wear your pajamas and a Happy Face. Bring a blanket to sit on and enjoy music, stories and silly fun by the “Merry Music Maker” $12.00 per family

Friday, February 13  Friday, March 13
Friday, April 3  Friday, May 8

All Pajama Parties are from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bedtime will never be the same!
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.

Beginners classes are for students ages 5 years to 8 years old that are new to Karate or have attained a Junior Ranking from Junior Yellow Belt to Junior Red Belt.

Advanced classes are for students 9 years old and up that are new to Karate or students that have attained the rank of 8th Gup Purple Belt and up.

Sparring class is for all students regardless of age or rank. Sparring class should be taken in conjunction with a Beginner or Advanced Karate class.

Black/Red Belt Class will focus on advanced level skills to prepare Black Belts for Black Belts and to give current Black Belts a chance to work very advanced skills on a regular basis.

Teen class is for all students born in or before 1995 regardless of rank.

Please Note:
Each 8 week session is $50.00 per student.
Parent/Child Class Pricing
Adult - $50.00
Child - Already in another class - Free
Child - Not in another class - $25.00

Gymnastics Class
Instructor: Barb Thomson

Tumbling skills including rolls, cartwheels, handstands, headstands, etc. will be taught according to the skill level of the class. Emphasis will be on coordination, strength and flexibility. With positive reinforcement the students will gain the confidence to learn new skills.

Boys apparel: Shorts and T-shirt
Girls apparel: Bike unitards preferably

SEASON III 6 weeks $60.00
February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28
SEASON IV 6 weeks $60.00
April 4, 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23

Ages 5 - 10 11:15 a.m. - Noon
Registration and classes will be held at the Lavins Activity Center.

Registration
Session IV Karate Registration day is Saturday, April 4.
Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Lavins Center.

Mondays - 4:30 p.m. Beginners Class - 4/6, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15
Mondays - 5:30 p.m. Advanced Class - (Ages 9 & up) - Same dates as above.

Tuesdays - 4:15 p.m. Sparring/Weapons Class - 4/7, 4/14, 5/5, 5/12, 5/19, 5/26, 6/2, 6/9
Tuesdays - 5:30 p.m. Parent/Child Class - Same dates as above.

Wednesdays - 5:30 p.m. Advanced Class (Ages 9 & up) - Same dates as above.

Thursdays - 5:30 p.m. Parent/Child Class - Same dates as above.

Karate Testing: Saturday, March 27, 2009
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Karate Demo Night: Saturday, March 27, 2009
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Parent/Child Pricing
Adult - $50.00
Child - Already in another class - Free
Child - Not in another class - $25.00
Want to get into shape, visit with friends, or just looking for a place to relax? The Lavins’ Activity Center offers many recre-
tional options for residents to take part in your round. Member-
ships to the Meade Fitness Center for a weight and cardio work-
out to get into shape, or a Class Membership to partake in over 14
different classes like Yoga, Tai Chi, and Body Sculpting, just to name a few. Or if you’re just looking for a place to relax, the McKeever
Lounge may be the place for you to sit back, relax, and enjoy over-
looking the park and watching the boats go by. Maybe you’re look-
ing for a “night out at the movies” The Okulski Family Theatre
offers movies on the big screen! All this is just minutes from your
doorstep!

MEADE FITNESS CENTER

Located on the second floor of the Lavins’ Activity Center is the
Meade Fitness Center. Membership in the Fitness Center (work-
out room) can be purchased at the front desk in the Lavins Center. The Fitness Center offers a variety of weight machines, free weights
and cardio equipment. It’s a great place to burn a few calories and
have a fantastic view of Lake St. Clair while you’re at it. Certified
Personal Trainers are also available to give you a complimentary as-
sessment and orientation. You may also make an appointment for a
Personal Training Session to obtain a weight training program designed
specifically for you.

The classes that make up the Fitness Class Membership are
voted. They run from Indoor Cycling to Zumba. If it’s your first time attending a class we strongly suggest that you arrive 10
minutes earlier than class is scheduled to sign up, meet the instructor
and find out the class routine. Fitness class memberships can be
purchased at the front desk of the Meade Center and classes are
conducted in the gym. A monthly calendar schedule is available in the
lobby for class days and times. Classes are ongoing unless otherwise noted.

Locker Rooms

The Lavins Activity Center has lockers to shower and change in if you choose. Locks for the lockers are available free of charge at
the front desk. Simply leave your park pass with the front desk while you use the lock. Please do not leave locks on lockers overnight as
these lockers are used by all for other Lavins Activity Center pro-
gams.

Gym Rentals

Occasional Half-Court gym rentals of the Golden Family Gymnasium are available. Reservations may be made up to 72 hours in advance (maximum for basketball, volleyball, bad-
minton and running games. The fee is $20 per hour for half the court. Park passes are
required for access to the park and the Lavins’ Activity Center. Park Passes will be asked
for at the reception desk to prove residency. Patrons can invite one non-resident per resident for gym rental activities. However, non-residents must arrive WITH residents; otherwise
they will be denied entry. Passes will be collected and held at the desk. The maximum
number of people in the gym is limited to 25 persons per pair.

Proper tennis or gym shoes are required and shirts must be worn. If you are under the age
of 18 you will need your parent/guardian to be in attendance while you play.

Water bottles are permitted in the gym, but no other food or drinks are allowed. Basket-
balls and volleyballs are available at the reception desk. A complete list of gymnasium rules
is posted at the front desk.

THE OKULSKI FAMILY THEATRE

The Okulski Theatre offers a variety of movies every day on the BIG SCREEN. Call 822-2012 and press Ext. 1, to hear the latest upcoming movie titles, times
and dates. The aroma of freshly popped popcorn and convenience to home are
surefire reasons to make it a date.

Ticket Prices:

- Adults $6.00
- Children under 12 $5.00
- Seniors over 60 $5.00
- Matinees (Movies starting before 5 p.m.) $4.00

Tickets are available advance purchase on the same day.

The guest policy is one non-resident guest to each attending resident and guests
must arrive with the resident to gain access to the park. Residents are encouraged
to arrive early as movies start promptly at listed times. Teens are advised to leave
their park pass available for PG-13 rated movies.
Lavins’ Activity Center

Fitness Class Membership Offerings

ATTENTION CLASS MEMBERS

Participation in classes requires a “Class Membership”. Classes are ongoing unless otherwise noted. See monthly schedule for days, times and possible changes. Park passes must be presented and swiped at the front desk when you sign in for class.

Toning With Weights (Taught by Jane Blahut)
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 6:00-7:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:30-11:00 a.m.
This class is beneficial to both men and women. You will tone all the major muscle groups to help you lose unwanted pounds and inches. Muscle is your “fat burning machinery”!

Body X-Cellence(TM) (Taught by Beverly Ruskus)
Monday & Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Saturday 8:15-9:15 a.m.
This class involves 20 minutes of low impact movements. The rest of the time is spent on weight training the arms and legs. Abdominal and back work is included followed by relaxation and stretch. Working at one’s own pace is encouraged.

NEW Core & More (Taught by Cristi Henderson)
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:30 a.m
This is a cardio conditioning class with emphasis on building core strength and stability. Open to all fitness levels.

Indoor Cycling* (Taught by Jane Blahut, Carrie Moore, Cristi Henderson & Mary Lutfy)
Tuesday & Thursday 6:00-6:45 a.m., 7:30-8:15 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30-9:15 a.m.
Saturday 7:00-8:00 a.m.
Sunday 8:30-9:15 a.m.
Our most popular class! We guide you through challenging rides that build endurance and leg strength. Come along for the ride! Be sure to arrive at least 10 minutes early, for bike setup and instruction. (NOTE: Due to the popularity of these classes, we recommend calling ahead to reserve a bike. Reservations will only be taken after Noon the previous day.)

Yoga (Taught by Mary Walsh)
Wednesday (in McKeever Lounge) 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Monday & Wednesday 7:40-8:40 p.m.
This class is physically challenging with flowing sequences of yoga postures. It is designed to enhance strength and flexibility, while reducing stress and invoking a sense of calmness and inner peace.

Power Yoga (Taught by Carrie Moore)
Tuesday and Thursday (in lounge) 9:15-10:15 a.m.
This class, while still using the flowing sequences of basic yoga, is more of a challenge. It too, is designed to enhance strength and flexibility, while inducing stress and invoking a sense of calmness and inner peace.

Mobile Body (Taught by Beverly Ruskus)
Tuesday and Thursday 11:30-12:30 a.m.
This class is for beginners and those who want to work at a lower intensity and strength. It's a complete workout that will encompass movement from mobility to slow stretch. It's an ideal class for seniors.

Tai Chi (Taught by Arlene Wetherby)
Tuesday (in McKeever Lounge) 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Tuesday (in McKeever Lounge) 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This is a famous tradition of "soft style" Chinese martial arts. This training concentrates on relaxed breathing techniques, looseness, coordination, stability and balance to generate power for self-defense applications.

Body Sculpting (Taught by Mary Walsh)
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-9:15 a.m.
This class is designed to strengthen the major muscles, stabilizers and ancestors of the body. It will help you create a balance of strength and flexibility necessary to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. All levels welcome!

Zumba! (Taught by Terry McCartney)
Monday & Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m.
The class combines high energy and motivating music with unique moves so you can dance away your worries! Zumba is a fusion of Latin and International music-dance themes that create a dynamic, exciting and effective fitness system.

Fitness Class Membership Offerings

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Second Annual
“Keep Your Resolution Challenge”

Want some help keeping that New Year’s Resolution? Come join our “Keep Your Resolution Challenge”! The basic idea of the challenge is for us to help you reach and maintain your fitness goals and have you ready for the pool deck by Memorial Day! The Challenge will run from February 23 through May 22. There is a $5.00 charge per participant, which will later be part of the First Place Winner’s Prize!

FIRST PLACE
Receives the CASH taken in from the Challenge.
ONE FREE MONTH added to their membership.
And a FREE T-SHIRT.

SECOND PLACE
Receives ONE FREE MONTH added to their membership.
And a FREE T-SHIRT and TOWEL.

THIRD PLACE
Receives a FREE T-SHIRT and TOWEL.

COME TO THE LAVIN’S CENTER FRONT DESK FOR MORE INFORMATION!
**Skating Lessons**

This is the last session to enroll in our outdoor skating classes held at the Hutton Ice Rink at Patterson Park. All of our classes are $45.00 for five 1/2 hour classes. Sign up early since class sizes are limited for more individual needs. All skaters must have single bladed skates and proper outdoor winter attire. Helmets are required for the Snowplow Beginners and Basic Skills Skaters.

### Snowplow Beginners

**TUESDAYS**

First time on the ice.

- Ages 3 - 6  4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
- **Session III**  Tues. Feb. 24 March 3, 10, 17, 24

### Basic Skills Skaters

**TUESDAYS ONLY**

Must be comfortable with the basic forward and backward glide, snow plow stop, rocking horse, dip, getting up, swizzles, jumping and march.

- Ages 7 - 10  4:30 - 5:00 p.m.
  - (the same session and dates as above Tuesday classes)

### Tweens thru Adults

**THURSDAYS**

First time on the ice.

- Ages 3 - 6  4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
  - **Session III**  Thurs. Feb. 26 March 5, 12, 19, 26

### Classes are taught by Sharon Nelson and Sue Watts who bring years of experience to the Hutton Ice Rink.

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**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 and video taping of each golfer will take place during each session. Golf lessons will be taught in the Golden Family Gymnasium accommodating up to 15 participants. Sign up early with your friends to reserve your spot!

**Tuesdays, 5 classes:** 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.  $65.00

**Session II**  February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10

**Session III**  March 24, 31 April 7, 14, 21

**Grosse Pointe Park “Mutants” Swim Team News**

The summer swim team, the Grosse Pointe Park Mutants, is open to all residents 17 and under. Competitive meets are held with the neighboring Grosse Points and St. Clair Shores. For 2009 registration forms and information, please go to the mutant webpage at www.gppmutants.org and go to registration and parent volunteers.

On Wednesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Okulski Theatre we will have our parents meeting where you can meet the coaches, learn about the swim team, and pick up registration forms.  On Wednesday, May 27 we will have tryouts from 4-6 p.m. at the pool. Mutant suits will also be available for purchase along with mutant wear.

Swim Team Fees are:  (please make 2 checks)

- 1 swimmer:  GPP Mutants $40  Grosse Pointe Park $40
- 2 swimmers:  GPP Mutants $56  Grosse Pointe Park $66
- 3 swimmers:  GPP Mutants $72  Grosse Pointe Park $80

**Instructor:** Matt Bodde, Golf Pro at the Country Club of Detroit
Calendar Hi-lites and other dates of note!
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.

February 7  Chilly-Fest  Noon-3:00 p.m.  Patterson and Windmill Pointe Park
February 13  Pajama Party with the Merry Music Maker  Golden Gym at the Lavins’ Center  7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
February 16  Presidents Day  City offices closed
March 8  Daylight savings time begins
March 13  Pajama Party with the Merry Music Maker  Golden Gym at the Lavins’ Center  7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
April 8  Egg Scramble  4:30 p.m.  Windmill Pointe Park
April 10  Good Friday  City offices closed
April 15  Marina opens for 2009 season

Camp Wind-Y-Mill
Saturday, May 16, 2009
Windmill Pointe Park

Get out of the house and "rough it" at an outdoor sleepover at Windmill Pointe Park. Check-in is on Saturday, May 16 at 2:00 p.m. Find your site, set your tent up and let the kids fish, play in the park and enjoy a camping experience minutes from home. Later in the evening we will have organized games and our popular campfire with the “Merry Music Maker” providing entertainment. No campfire would be complete without smores. All the makings to enjoy them will be provided.
Tape with the sun and with an appetite on Sunday and join us in the Tompkins’ Community Center for a wonderful breakfast. Check out time is 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.
Sites are limited, so be sure to come to the Parks and Recreation office during office hours (Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) to select your campsite, pick up your paperwork and pay the $25 campsite fee.

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This is a wonderful family event for those of you who enjoy being outdoors.

Visit the city web site at: www.grossepointepark.org for Tompkins Center and Lavins’ Center rental information and for movie listings and showtimes.
Landlords Take Notice:

Removal of property requires a Certificate of Occupancy permit and all landlords must, for the safety of the renters, acquire a C of O inspection. As in most industries, laws and regulations change periodically and for the safety of your renters retrofits and repairs must be made. Inspections and dates for inspections must be made in a timely fashion. All inspections will be AM or PM. No exact times will be given as our inspectors have many inspections and times vary greatly. No extensions will be granted. Be sure to schedule your inspection giving yourself time to complete your repairs and allow access for the inspection. A reinspection because of no access or not finished with repairs will cause a $50.00 reinspection fee to be charged to the landlord.

2009 Board of Review

Assessment notices will be mailed to all persons owning property in the City of Grosse Pointe Park approximately 10 days prior to March 17, 2009. Appeals will be heard on March 17 and 19, 2009. Appointments must be made no later than March 18, 2009. After that date, written appeals will be accepted postmarked no later than March 19, 2009. Based on a one year sales study (Oct. 1, 2007 through Sept. 30, 2008) values decreased an average of 5 percent. Petitioners must provide valid evidence that an assessment is incorrect. Hearings are scheduled at 10 minute intervals. Information presented should be concise and a picture of the property is especially helpful. Comparable properties should not differ from subject in size, location, age or sales period. Forclosures, bank owned or sheriff’s deeds, are not good comparables (they are excluded from sales ratio studies). The Board’s decision will be mailed approximately 30 days after the close of the Board of Review. To continue the appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, it must be done no later than July 31. Only assessments reviewed at the local board can be taken to the tribunal.

When The Board of Review Makes a Change to Value, Is That Change Permanent?

When the Board of Review reduces the assessed value of a property that reduced amount is used as the basis for calculating the assessment in the immediately succeeding year and only when the MTT hearing is held in the same calendar year as the year of the assessment being appealed. Therefore, if the MTT hearing for a 2008 assessment appeal isn’t held until 2009, the resulting 2009 assessment does not have to be used as the basis for the 2010 assessment. Petitioners must provide valid evidence that an assessment is incorrect. Hearings are scheduled at 10 minute intervals. Information presented should be concise and a picture of the property is especially helpful. Comparable properties should not differ from subject in size, location, age or sales period. Forclosures, bank owned or sheriff’s deeds, are not good comparables (they are excluded from sales ratio studies). The Board’s decision will be mailed approximately 30 days after the close of the Board of Review. To continue the appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, it must be done no later than July 31. Only assessments reviewed at the local board can be taken to the tribunal.

SUMMARY OF PROPERTY VALUES:

Each property will have three different values.

STATE EQUALIZED VALUE

(S.E.V.) 50% of “usual” market value

CAPPED VALUE

(C.V.) previous year’s taxable value increased by the amount of the Consumer Price Index (max of 5%) plus construction changes.

C.F.I. for 2009 is 4.4%

TAXABLE VALUE

(T.V.) the lesser of the state equalized value and capped value

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 (12) hours after it ceases to fall.

Snow Removal

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).

Sec. 21-50. Failure to clear sidewalk

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).

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).

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 cleaned 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 note: On your rubbish collection day Waste Management picks up one side of the street then the other. Please do not call until after 2:00p.m. with rubbish collection concerns.

Hazardous Household Products

Many products used in and around the home contain toxic ingredients. Here are some ways you can help:

1. Store all potentially polluting materials inside or under cover.
2. Take prevention and containment measures for leaks and spills from outdoor storage tanks, and during refueling.
3. Do not wash paintbrushes, scrub buckets, rags, etc. onto the ground or into a storm drain.

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3. Do not wash paintbrushes, scrub buckets, rags, etc. onto the ground or into a storm drain.
Putting Green Practice Facility

Dust off those golf clubs and start gathering your golf balls. The new golf putting green practice facility at Patterson Park awaits you! The gate attendant will post a sign indicating whether the greens are open or closed or you can call the attendant at 822-1681. We ask that all participants enter and exit the greens through the west gate. The putting green practice facility at Patterson Park awaits you! The gate attendant will post a sign indicating whether the greens are open or closed or you can call the attendant at 822-1681. We ask that all participants enter and exit the greens through the west gate. The putting green practice facility at Patterson Park awaits you! The gate attendant will post a sign indicating whether the greens are open or closed or you can call the attendant at 822-1681. We ask that all participants enter and exit the greens through the west gate. The putting green practice facility at Patterson Park awaits you! The gate attendant will post a sign indicating whether the greens are open or closed or you can call the attendant at 822-1681. We ask that all participants enter and exit the greens through the west gate. The putting green practice facility at Patterson Park awaits you! The gate attendant will post a sign indicating whether the greens are open or closed or you can call the attendant at 822-1681. We ask that all participants enter and exit the greens through the west gate. The putting green practice facility at Patterson Park awaits you! The gate attendant will post a sign indicating whether the greens are open or closed or you can call the attendant at 822-1681. We ask that all participants enter and exit the greens through the west gate.

DTE Concerns by Daniel Corrigan Grano

Last October, Governor Granholm and our Michigan Legislature re-regulated the energy market in Michigan. The new law ends customer-choice, gives DTE a guaranteed market share, restructured billing rates for business and residential customers (which is why our rates have gone up, even as the gas and electric prices have decreased nationally), and provides incentives to the utilities to produce green energy. The bottom line is that there has not been an energy policy that encouraged investment in aging infrastructure in the last 40 years.

What does this new law mean for the Grosse Pointes? Higher residential rates because utilities are no longer forced to sell energy to residential customers cheaper than business customers. The utilities continue to lack competitive incentives to replace or upgrade the aging power grid in the Grosse Pointes, which means more interruptions to our service.

What can we do about this infrastructure problem? The City of Grosse Pointe Park is mapping our power grid to identify problem areas. I urge each individual in our community to write the Public Service Commission and demand that DTE update its aging infrastructure in older communities. Each city should hire its individual city attorneys write the Public Service Commission on behalf of the local municipality outlining the community’s concerns. The Park’s City Council is investigating passing an ordinance similar to a recently passed ordinance in Madison Heights and Royal Oak, which limits DTE’s ability to respond to a down wire or other hazards. Finally, I am now acting as the City Council liaison to the administration for DTE problems. If you have any problems with DTE, please let the City know through me by emailing me at granod@grossepointepark.org.

Ultimately, I want the community to know that the Grosse Pointe Park City Council heard the concerns of our residents on this matter, and are actively trying to address them.

A Message From Our Mayor

“I would like to thank the many residents who have taken the time to congratulate me on the twenty-fifth anniversary of my election as Mayor. It has been a privilege to serve this remarkable community and I look forward to continuing to do so in the future.”

Twenty-five years ago there were many people who thought that our deteriorating commercial districts, lax zoning and increasing crime rates would spell the end for our city. But thanks to the devoted efforts of many people, we were able to turn that perception around. With much work, we implemented a Public Safety Department and new ordinances that helped to substantially reduce crime. We passed new commercial and residential zoning ordinances that helped us to control blight. We made a significant investment in buying standard commercial and residential buildings throughout the city and we rebuilt our sewerage system to save money and reduce our dependence on the costly Detroit water system. We created the Park Foundation, which has made a significant difference for our two waterfront parks. Those Parks are now the envy of our region.

In short, much as been done. But this success is not due just to the efforts of the Mayor and Council. There are many civic-minded professionals who have made this possible. City Manager Dale Krajniak and Treasurer Jane Blahut have kept a close watch over our finances and sought to run the City as efficiently as possible. Our Public Safety Director, Dave Hiller, has had a hands-on approach to crime prevention. Our Public Service Director, Chris Reimel, and our Recreation Department Director, Terry Solomon, have given us top-notch services and recreation facilities. We would, however, be much less successful were it not for the citizen volunteers who serve us in so many ways. Service on the Planning Commission, the Recreation Commission and the Beautification Commission are just a few of the ways that our citizens make a real difference to our community. And, of course, there are the many people who have contributed financially to our Park Foundation. Our success is really the product of a collective effort. The credit should go to all of our citizens.

On a related note, I am pleased to report that since the passage of our bond issue in November, 2006, we have acquired approximately 85 residential units which primarily consisted of blighted rental units. Further, the City has been successful in acquiring blighted commercial properties along our entryways, which we will seek to redevelop so as to enhance the same. In addition, we have removed and replaced approximately 867 trees in the last two years due to the Emerald Ash Bore disease and rebuilt 47 blocks of roads. All of this was due to your overwhelming support of the bond issue. Thank you very much.

West Park Farmer’s Market

The West Park Farmer’s Market will begin its sixth season on Saturday, May 16th providing city residents and our neighboring communities with farm fresh produce, fruits, plants, flowers, hanging baskets, craft items and the opportunity to shop the business district. The Market hours will again be from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. with extended hours for special event days scheduled throughout the summer. Look for the next issue of the Communicator for further information regarding dates, times and all special events.
**ANNOUNCING GROSSE POINTE PARK BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION’S 2009 TREE SALE**

Sale 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’ - 7’ tall.


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

**Princeton American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) Highly resistant to Dutch elm disease. Grows very fast. Large growing tree with majestic vase-like crown at maturity. A breakthrough in the long fought battle to restore American elms to the USA. Containerized approx. 3’ tall.

Orders must be in by Arbor Day, Friday, April 24 together with your check and a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE so you may be advised of tree pick-up dates. Don’t forget to include your phone number!

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

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<th>Plant Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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**TOTAL** $____

Pick up Saturday, May 16 from 10:00am to Noon at The West Park Farmers Market.

(Located on Kercheval)

Return to Brian Colter, City Forester, 15115 East Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230 together with your order form a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE so you may be advised of tree pick-up dates. Don’t forget to include your phone number!

No guarantees implied

**SPRING PERENNIAL PLANT EXCHANGE**

**Sponsored by The Grosse Pointe Park Beautification Commission**

Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m. - Noon Tompkins Community Center

Composting demonstrations. Master gardeners available to answer questions. Exchange planting ideas with fellow gardeners. No plants for exchanging? Gardeners happily share their extras.

Free Mulch courtesy of the City of Grosse Pointe Park will be at Windmill Pointe Park.

For more info visit www.grossepointepark.org or select “current information” at www.bcsem.org