

SPRING 2026

the Parkscene

A SEASONAL MAGAZINE
FROM THE CITY OF
GROSSE POINTE PARK

Spring yard
waste guidelines

Important reminders
about spring safety
and voter information

PARKS & RECREATION
TAXES, DPW AND
CITY INFORMATION



City Hall: 15115 East Jefferson,
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Hours: Monday-Friday
Memorial Day to Labor Day
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

City Phone Numbers

911 - Emergencies Only
Municipal Offices -
Automated Telephone System:
Main Number
(313) 822-6200
0 - For the operator
1 - Public Service, Building Department
and Assessment
2 - Water & Sewerage Billing
3 - Public Safety
4 - Municipal Court

Direct Lines:

Public Safety: (313) 822-7400
Public Service: (313) 822-5020
Public Works Garage: (313) 822-5100
Voting & Elections: (313) 822-4267
Tax Information: (313) 822-4380
Building Inspector: (313) 822-4365
Water Billing: (313) 822-4380
Municipal Court: (313) 822-3535
City Forester: (313) 822-6200

Parks & Recreation

(313) 822-2812
Press 1: Lavins Activity Center and
Theatre Information
Press 2: Tompkins Community Center,
Picnic Permits and Lindell Lodge
Rentals
Press 3: Harbor Master
Press 4: Lifeguard Office and Pool
Information
Press 5: Inside Gatehouse at Windmill
Pointe Park
Press 6: Outside Gatehouse at
Windmill Pointe Park

Windmill Park Gatehouse
(313) 822-5155
Patterson Park Gatehouse
(313) 822-1681



<https://www.facebook.com/grossetepark>

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From Mayor Michele Hodges

Winter reminded me, as it always does, that community is built from small, steady acts. A shoveled sidewalk for an elderly neighbor, a volunteer who

delivered a hot meal, a child's mitten found and returned: these everyday gestures knit us together and are the true heartbeat of Grosse Pointe Park. Over the past months I've been moved by those quiet demonstrations of care and by the steady work of our city administration, staff and volunteers who keep our neighborhoods safe and welcoming.

Please join me in welcoming Councilmember Pat Gleason to the City Council. Pat brings energy and a deep commitment to neighborhood life. I'm excited to work with Pat on local priorities from supporting small businesses to improving quality at our parks and I hope you'll introduce yourself at one of our spring events so we can hear your ideas.

One neighborhood issue I've been personally involved with is Trombly School. I've been actively advocating with the school district to find a thoughtful, community-centered solution that honors educational needs, neighborhood character, and fiscal responsibility. My goal is a collaborative outcome: a safe, functional use that supports students and creates opportunities for community access. I'm pushing for transparent public conversations, joint planning between the city and the district, and a search for funding and grant options that would reduce the burden

on taxpayers. This is a conversation I want the whole community to shape. Please watch for upcoming meetings and bring your questions and ideas.

This winter City Hall focused on the kinds of targeted, neighborhood improvements that matter most: support for businesses that enliven our commercial corridors during the colder months, emergency response and planning for 2026. We used the quieter season to refine plans, pursue grant opportunities and prepare for spring work that will be visible and meaningful.

As the days warm, we'll ramp up volunteer programs and listening sessions. Transparency and collaboration are central to my approach. Your experience should guide where we invest. We have a tremendous City Council and I look forward to the work we have ahead in 2026. Thank you for showing up for one another and for making this city a place of welcome and care. I'm proud to serve as your mayor, eager to work with Councilmember Gleason and the entire council, and committed to partnering with the school district and residents to find the best way forward for Trombly School and our neighborhoods.

Warmly,
Michele Hodges
Mayor, Grosse Pointe Park

Contents

Parks & Recreation	3
Beautification Commission	4
Department of Public Works	5
Clerk's Office, Chief's Corner	6
City Manager, Municipal Court	7
Finance and Treasury	8

Mayor Michele Hodges
Mayor Pro Tem
Brent Dreaver
Council Members Thomas
Caulfield, Patrick Gleason, Tim
Kolar, Martin McMillan, Max Wiener
City Attorney Dan Kelly
City Judge Honorable John R. Parnell, Jr.
City Manager Nick Sizeland
Assistant City Manager Cindy Paparelli
Finance Director Ethan Hann
City Clerk Bridgette Bowdler

Parks & Recreation Director
Chad Craig
Public Safety Director Jim Bostock
Public Works Director Tom Jenny

Grosse Pointe Park Chilly Fest 2026

Sponsored by Brosnan Builders and O'Flaherty's

Save the date! The City of Grosse Pointe Park Chilly Fest is back, and will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.. in the business districts of Kercheval Avenue, Charlevoix Street and Mack Avenue.

The event will include retail raffles, samples, the annual chili cook-off at Cabbage Patch Saloon, carriage rides, Mt. Everest Climbing Wall, Frozen

Ropes Mobile High Ropes Course, live wood carving demonstrations, s'mores stations, our third annual Bed Races, Frozen Fish Fling and much, much more!

Please check the city website, www.grossepointepark.org, for more information on how to register for the chili cook-off, bed races, a list of business participants, activity locations and bus route.

Chilly FEST
grosse pointe park
Parks & Recreation

JOIN THE FUN!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES
Activities | Raffles | Samples | Chili Cook-off

WHEN:
Saturday, February 28, 2026

WHERE:
Kercheval, Charlevoix & Mack

TIME:
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sponsored By:

www.grossepointepark.org



After 6 on Kercheval

Mark your calendars for our three After 6 on Kercheval summer series event dates:

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Saturday, August 22, 2026

After 6 on Kercheval is located on Kercheval between Nottingham and Wayburn and goes from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Events include food, live music, shopping and fun family-friendly activities/entertainment. If you are interested in being a sponsor, vendor or hosting the fundraiser dunk tank, please email Chad at craigc@grossepointepark.org or visit www.grossepointepark.org for more details.



Marshmallow Drop

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Registration for The City of Grosse Pointe Park Marshmallow Drop at Matthew C. Patterson will begin Monday, February 23 at 8 a.m. You can register online at <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/grosse-pointe-park-mi/catalog> or in-person at the Lavins Activity Center.

Tickets are \$15.00 per child. Event attendees will be required to show their electronic ticket on their mobile device to be scanned at the event check-in table.

Ages 1-5 will start at 10 a.m. and ages 6-10 will start at 11 a.m. If a family has children in both age groups and only

wants to participate in one of the time slots, younger children will only be able to move up to the older age group time slot. Older children will not be allowed to move down to the younger age group.

Please make sure you arrive at the drop zone (sledding hill) 10 minutes prior to your drop time.

There will be goody bags for all participants, pony rides, a petting zoo, photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny and 5 golden eggs per time slot. Golden egg winners will receive a special prize.



Park Pass Applications

A friendly reminder to all renters and commercial business owners to complete your park pass application for 2026. Renters must show proof of residency via driver's license/ID or rental/lease agreement, and commercial owners must show proof of business license. You can complete your application at the front desk of the Lavins Community Center or online at <https://www.grossepointepark.org/179/Park-Pass-Info>.

Beautification Commission

Our annual **Spring Plant Exchange at the Tompkins Center** will take place on

Saturday, May 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please bring your extra plants, bulbs, seeds, houseplants or enthusiasm to share with fellow gardeners! Clean plant pots, gently used garden tools and

current gardening books are also welcome. This event is free and open to the public, and will happen rain or shine!

Please note: Invasive jumping worms are on the rise in Michigan and damage our soil. Keep a lookout, and if you see these worms please don't bring plants. Learn more under the Alerts section of the Beautification Commission's page on the city website.

Volunteer steward work days at Patterson Park

will return in the Spring and run monthly throughout the season. No experience is necessary and all ages are

welcome! Water, gloves and tools will be provided. We are also able to certify hours served for a school or organization. Check the city calendar for dates or contact beautification@grossepointepark.org to be added to our volunteer list. Enjoy the outdoors while giving back to this local gem in



our community!

Our Spring Native Plant sale fundraiser

will be held outside City Hall on Saturday, May 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Native plants are essential to building healthy, sustainable communities. Not only do they support pollinators, they sequester carbon, protect soil health, can help manage stormwater runoff and more! Experts with Michiganense Natives Nursery and Wild Ones



Wayne County Chapter will be on site to help answer questions and offer free

Marina Updates with Tom

Marina Supervisor Tom Fraser has some important information for all well-holders:

- Final payment for the 2026 season is due by March 15, 2026. There is a 10% fee for all payments received after March 15.
- The West Seawall reconstruction project will start in mid-March.
- Update plans for the Marina are moving along. Permits have been applied for and approved as well.
- We currently have a handful of 8'6" x 29' wells available and are working from the waitlist to fill.

literature. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale will go toward adding more native plants to community gardens.

An Update from the Department of Public Works

Yard Waste (leaves, twigs, branches, grass clippings, and plants)

Yard waste will be collected from March 30 through December 11 by Priority Waste, the City's contractor.

Priority Waste will collect up to 15 bags of yard waste on your scheduled trash day.

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.

All yard waste must be in paper bags or in 32-gallon containers (no lids) with handles that have a red and white yard waste sticker on them. If you choose to use containers, you may pick up stickers for your containers in the Public Service Department. Containers can be no larger than 32 gallons. Toters are not acceptable for yard waste containers. Please do not place sticks, brush or weeds, on the top of your trash container. Improperly contained yard waste will be left at the curb.

Snow and Ice Removal Policy

Street Salting and Plowing

- Snow accumulation of 2 inches or less:

The City salts all main and local streets during light snow events. If extended cold weather is forecasted, all streets will be salted. If conditions are expected to improve, the City will perform spot salting, fully salting east-west main streets and spot salting north-south local streets and intersections (2-3 houses before and after stop signs).

- Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more:

The City salts all streets first, then plows. Streets may be plowed multiple times as needed. Snow roll-off may block driveways; the City does not plow private driveways. Residents are asked not to push snow into the street and to use easements or side yards when clearing snow.

Sidewalk Clearing

- Snow accumulation of 2 inches or less:

The City clears sidewalks only on main

streets, including Cadieux, Mack, Charlevoix, Vernor, Kercheval, St. Paul, Maumee, Jefferson, Fairfax, Essex, Avondale, Korte, and Windmill Pointe. Residents are required by ordinance to clear sidewalks adjoining their property within 12 hours after snowfall ends.

- Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more:

The City plows all sidewalks, often more than once. Sidewalks must remain clear of obstructions; blocked sidewalks may result in a ticket from Public Safety.

Additional Information

- Snow removal contractors:

Contractors are responsible for proper



snow placement. Snow may be moved from the street only onto the homeowner's lot or easement. Pushing snow onto neighboring properties or across streets may result in tickets.

- Environmental considerations:

Spot salting is used when practical to reduce salt runoff into Lake St. Clair, in accordance with guidance from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE).

Trash and Recycling Pickup

Priority observes the following holidays:

New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day

How do I report a missed pickup or a

damaged cart?

Fill out a form at Prioritywaste.com or call (855) 927-8365.

What are acceptable recyclable materials?

Paper: Newspaper, junk mail, flattened cardboard and box board, magazines, mixed paper. Metal: Empty cans and aerosol cans, aluminum, tin. Plastic: Bottles, jugs, storage containers, tubs.

What are NOT acceptable recyclable materials?

Plastic bags or film, plastic cups, styrofoam, food waste, storage bags, soiled pizza boxes, Pyrex or ceramic, bubble wrap, plastic utensils, metal or plastic hangers.

Can I throw away a mattress?

Yes, but the mattress must be completely wrapped in plastic for sanitary purposes.

How many bulk items are allowed for pickup?

Priority will collect one bulk item per scheduled pickup day. Residents who are moving or cleaning out a property must rent a dumpster for disposal.

CRWC RiverSafe/LakeSafe

The City continues to be a good steward of Lake St. Clair and encourages every citizen to practice stewardship in day-to-day activities. Here are some suggestions:

- Be aware that anything that enters the storm drains goes directly to Lake St. Clair.
- Report any observations to the City of polluting materials entering the drainage system.
- Never pour soapy water, paint, thinner, oil or any polluting material down a storm drain.
- Keep leaf litter, grass clippings and pet waste away from drains.
- Utilize community Household Hazardous Waste days.
- Recognize Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development as responsible building practices.
- Report any commercial, industrial or institutional contributions to pollution.
- Participate in the RiverSafe/LakeSafe program at www.crowc.org/riversafe-lakesafe

Clerk's Office

Important Dates for the State Primary Election August 4, 2026:

- June 20, 2026 - UNCOVA Ballots will be emailed or mailed out.
- June 25, 2026 - Absentee Ballots will be mailed out.
- July 20, 2026 - Deadline to register to vote by mail or on-line and to be eligible to vote in the August Election.
- July 21, 2026 - Deadline for candidate to file for Local School Board.
- July 25, 2026 - Begin period of Early Voting (9 Days). Located inside Grosse Pointe Park City Hall at 15115 E. Jefferson Lower-Level Lobby from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
- August 2, 2026 - Last day of Early Voting
- August 3, 2026 - Voters may obtain an absent voter ballot in-person, vote and submit ballot in the Local Clerk's office until 4 p.m.
- August 4, 2026 - Primary Election Day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Important Dates for the State General Election November 3, 2026:

- September 19, 2026 - UNCOVA Ballots will be mailed out.
- September 24, 2026 - Absentee Ballots will be mailed out.
- October 19, 2026 - Deadline to register to vote by mail or on-line and to be eligible to vote in the November Election.
- October 24, 2026 - Begin period of Early Voting (9 Days). Located inside Grosse Pointe Park City Hall at 15115 E. Jefferson Lower-Level Lobby from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- November 1, 2026 - Last day of Early Voting
- November 2, 2026 - Voters may obtain an absent voter ballot in-person, vote and submit ballot in the Local Clerk's office until 4 p.m.
- November 3, 2024 - General Election Day 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, August 4, 2026
General Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Voting precincts will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the following locations for the 2026 State Primary Election and 2026 State General Election:

Precinct 1 - Tompkins Community Center 14290 Windmill Pointe Drive	Precinct 5 - Lavins Community Center 14290 Windmill Pointe Drive
Precinct 2 - Tompkins Community Center 14290 Windmill Pointe Drive	Precinct 6 - Lavins Community Center 14290 Windmill Pointe Drive
Precinct 4 - Lavins Community Center 14290 Windmill Pointe Drive	Precinct 7 - Lavins Community Center 14290 Windmill Pointe Drive

A new secured Ballot Drop Box has been installed at the drive-thru in front of Grosse Pointe Park City Hall. The state-funded secure drop box may be utilized immediately by Grosse Pointe Park voters to return all election materials, such as ballot applications, voter registration forms and ballots to the city clerk's office 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during election seasons.

Ways to Register to Vote:

- In-person at City Hall
- Online at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/register/voter>
- At your local Secretary of State Office
- By mail 15115 E. Jefferson Ave., Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

Chief's Corner

by Director of Public Safety Jim Bostock

Spring Safety Tips: Staying Safe as Grosse Pointe Park Blooms

I'm excited to welcome the arrival of spring. With warmer weather, blooming flowers and longer days, our community comes alive with outdoor activities. However, this seasonal shift also brings unique safety challenges. From increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic to other potential hazards, it's essential for all residents to prioritize safety. I would like to take this opportunity to outline key tips to help you and your family enjoy spring responsibly.



Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety: Sharing the Road Responsibly

Spring means more people are out walking, jogging and cycling, taking advantage of our beautiful parks and waterfront sights along the water. This surge in foot and bike traffic can lead to higher risks if we're not careful. Public Safety offers these reminders:

For Pedestrians: Always use crosswalks and sidewalks where available. Make eye contact with drivers before crossing streets and avoid distractions like phones or headphones. If walking at dusk or dawn—common in early spring—wear reflective clothing or carry a light to increase visibility.

For Cyclists: Obey traffic laws just like vehicles: ride with the flow of traffic, signal turns and use bike lanes when possible. Helmets are a must, especially for children. Check your bike after winter storage—ensure brakes, tires and lights are in good working order.

For Drivers: Slow down in residential areas and near schools and parks. Be extra cautious at intersections, yielding to pedestrians and cyclists. Remember, Michigan law requires drivers to give at least three feet of space when passing bikes. Avoid distractions. Put the phone away and keep your eyes on the road.

Our department will increase patrols in high-traffic areas to ensure the rules of the road are being followed.

By following these tips, we can all contribute to a safer Grosse Pointe Park this spring. Let's embrace the season with caution and community spirit.

Stay safe out there!

From the desk of the City Manager

As we move from the quiet of winter into the promise of spring, I'm pleased to share a short update on what your city government has been working on and what to expect in the coming months.

Our winter months were focused on keeping the city safe and functioning through snow and cold, maintaining essential services, and making steady progress on long-term projects that will improve daily life in Grosse Pointe Park.

Looking ahead, spring brings a familiar burst of activity parks and recreation ramping up, infrastructure work resuming in earnest, and the return of community gatherings that make our city special.

Winter highlights

- **Reliable services:** Public Works and our contractors worked hard all winter to keep streets clear and utilities operating, address water main breaks in the extreme cold and emergency response coordination.

- **Progress on infrastructure:** Winter is often when crews finalize planning and permitting so full construction can begin when weather allows.

- **Staffing and service continuity:** We've been focused on recruitment, training, customer service and personnel plans so our departments remain strong and responsive; hiring and internal transitions continued through the season.

What to expect this spring

- **Parks & recreation reopenings:** Our parks team will shift from winter care to spring activations with the parks inspected and prepped, facilities readied for use, and seasonal programs relaunched for all ages.

- **Capital work and street projects:** As temperatures rise, you'll see an uptick in construction and resurfacing projects across the city. We continued moving forward with water-system planning for Beaconsfield, Patterson and a section of Wayburn and Kercheval improving our water reliability and removing lead service lines. The City will start in the Spring and Summer its Sewer relining



Photo by Daniel Beever

which will comprise of targeted sections of City sewer for relining and purchase of new smart water meters for every home. Also we are excited to start in the spring the Charlevoix Streetscape project which will last until the late fall transforming our business district.

- **Community events & volunteer opportunities:** Spring traditionally brings opportunities to gather cleanups with the beautification commission, host family events at the Parks and enjoy the warmer weather

- **Public engagement and planning:** Expect community meetings, updates on the Parks & Recreation Plan and other long-range efforts, and invitations to weigh in on priorities for future budgets and capital investments.

A final note

Our winter work laid the groundwork for a busy, productive spring. I'm grateful to city staff, our contractors, and the many volunteers and residents who keep Grosse Pointe Park running smoothly year-round. If you'd like more detail on any project or program, please contact my office — we appreciate your partnership in keeping our community safe, beautiful, and welcoming.

Nick Sizeland
City Manager

Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court Amnesty Program

The Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court is holding an Amnesty Program for delinquent cases. The program provides individuals an opportunity to settle old outstanding financial obligations while saving money. In addition, the program helps courts clear a backlog of files.

PLEASE VISIT US TO CLEAR UP YOUR OUTSTANDING BALANCE

1. The program will run Monday, March 2, 2026, through Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

2. For parking tickets, civil infractions and adjudicated misdemeanors only.

3. Must be paid in full.

If you have any questions, please contact the court at (313) 822-3535. The court is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Finance and Treasury

As of March 2, 2026, per State law, all 2025 property taxes will become delinquent and no longer be accepted at the City of Grosse Pointe Park Treasurer's office and are payable to the Wayne County Treasurer at The International Center building located at 400 Monroe Street, 5th Floor, in Detroit, Mich. Wayne County Treasurer can be contacted at the Tax Department at (313) 224-5990.

To ensure that taxes do not become delinquent, payments can be made online through our third-party provider Invoice Cloud.

Once you click on "Online Payments" through the main Grosse Pointe Park website (grossepointepark.org) in the middle of the home webpage, it will direct you to choose from "Make a Water Payment" or "Pay Property Taxes".

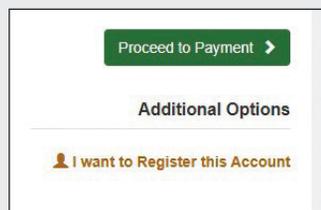


Once you choose either, you will be taken to BS&A. After typing in your information you, will be directed to another page to confirm your amount and you will click on "Make Payment."

A screenshot of the "Utility Billing Online Payment Service" search page. The page has a blue header with "Step 1: Search" and "Step 2: Select Record" and "Step 3: Make Payment". Below the header, there is a "Getting Started..." section with a welcome message. There are four search methods: "Search by Account Number", "Search by Name", "Search by Address", and "Search by Record Number". Each method has a text input field and a "Search" button.

Once you connected to Invoice Cloud's portal you may simply "Proceed to Payment" or "I want to Register this Account."

Once registered you may set your payments up for a future date or set yourself up for autopay through their online portal to make sure to have everything paid in a timely manner.



*Please note that there is a 3.25% convenience fee when paying with card, and \$2.25 flat fee when paying via ACH.