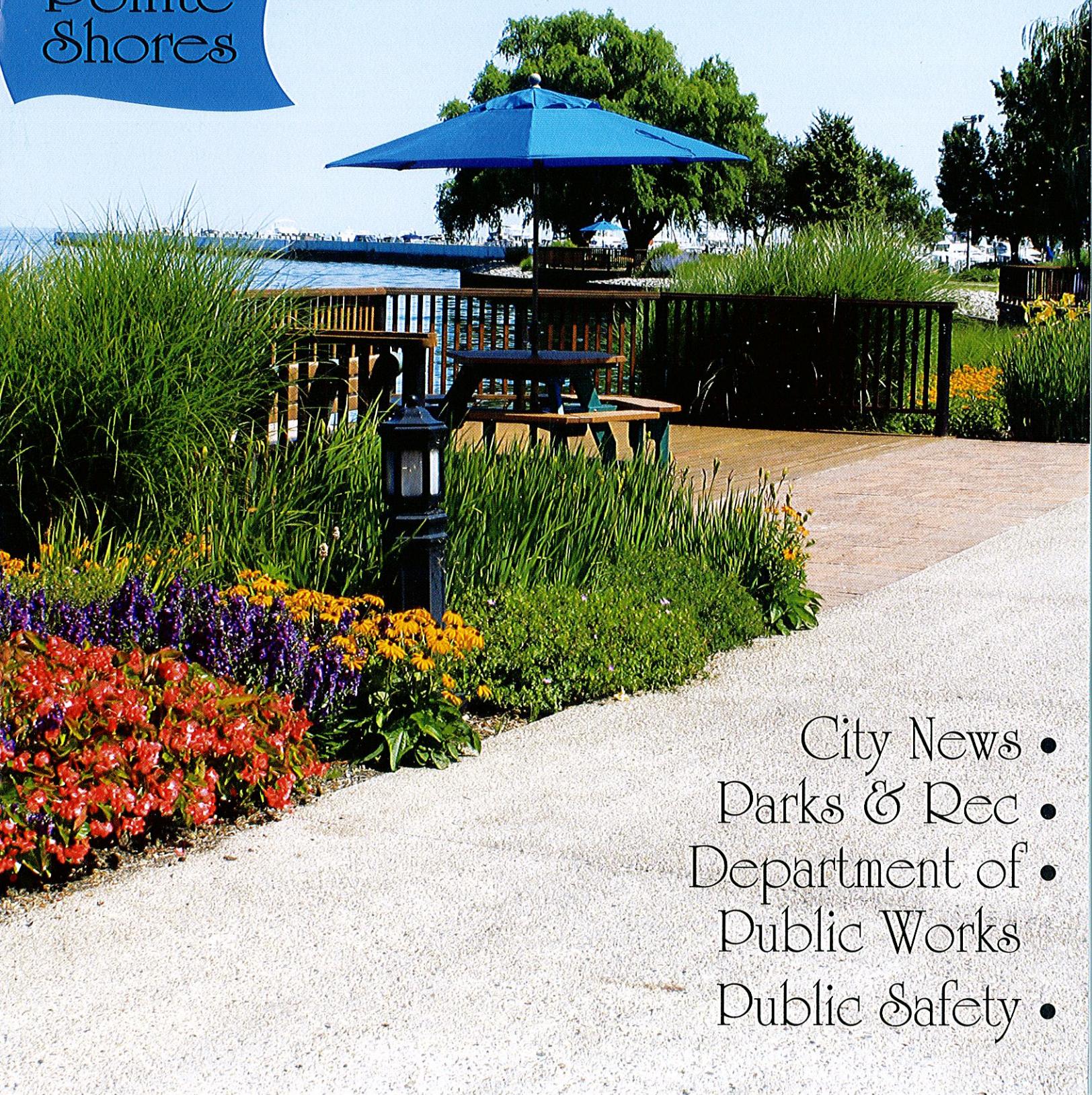


Summer/Fall 2013



Village Of
Grosse
Pointe
Shores

Shorelines



City News •
Parks & Rec •
Department of •
Public Works
Public Safety •



Village Of
Grosse
Pointe
Shores

Greetings

On behalf of the Mayor and my fellow Council members I bring you greetings from City Hall. We are very fortunate here in GPS to have a community of involved citizens who regularly attend, and contribute to our City Council meetings. For those of you without that opportunity, we are happy to provide this newsletter as a quick review of highlights of our recent activity.

The highly anticipated repaving of Lochmoor, Sunningdale and Hampton has been completed, and on budget.

An extensive re-wiring of our antiquated lighting and electrical systems is currently underway. This is a multi-million dollar project, but will result in considerable savings to the City due to the increased efficiency of the new system and decreased repair costs of the old equipment. This project will pay for itself very quickly. As part of this endeavor, surveillance cameras will be installed at various critical points of the City for increased safety.

As a response to the concern generated by moving dispatch to the Farms, City Hall will now be staffed on a 24 hour 7 days a week basis. We continue to monitor dispatch services, and will respond appropriately to any possible deficiencies.

Our annual tree trimming service is resuming, which will beautify Lake Shore and provide reduced occurrences of loss of electricity in the event of inclement weather.

The budget for the current year was approved, which included a 0.5 mil decrease in the tax rate. Along these same lines, a water and sewage rate increase by the City of Detroit and Wayne County was passed on to residents. Please keep in mind that Detroit will charge a significant penalty if our water use exceeds a certain level on the day of highest water demand as noted by the City. The long and short of it is; please do not water your lawn between 4am and 9am on weekdays!

A splash pad for Osius Park has been approved by city council, as provided by the Grosse Pointe Shores Improvement Foundation. In addition, we are considering proposals to provide food and beverage services on weekends at the Park, as a great many of our residents have conveyed this desire to us.

We have worked to resolve the Marina decking problem. Replacement will start after the Labor Day holiday weekend.

As you can see your Mayor and Council are hard at work on your behalf. It is a pleasure and privilege to serve our wonderful community. All residents are encouraged to join us the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm. You may also view the meetings on Community Access Channel 12 at noon and 6:30pm. You can also visit our web site: www.gpshores.mi.gov/ for further City information. Enjoy your summer!

Alexander Ajlouni



Village Of Grosse Pointe Shores

The Wayne County Assessment & Equalization Division ("A&E") reviews and analyzes real estate market activity throughout the year. The analyses conducted by A&E corroborate conclusions reached by independent data gathering agencies such as Standard & Poors, developers of the residential-based Case-Shiller Index.

The regional markets in Michigan are looking up after five years of declining real estate values. The Detroit area ranks as one of the fastest recovering markets of the 20 major metropolitan markets researched by Case-Shiller. The recent spike in housing values has been led by high-quality suburban neighborhoods.

A&E reports that in 2012 twenty-two of the forty-three Wayne County cities and townships experienced growth in residential values, far surpassing the four communities showing growth in 2011. Review of monthly sale data through the first quarter of 2013 shows the trend continuing. Analysts at A&E are hopeful that low mortgage interest rates and balance in supply and demand will work together to generate a sustained recovery.

Water Leaks

On many occasions, residents may question the dollar amount of their water bills as being higher than normal. In the majority of the inquiries that our Water Department looks into, there is a toilet that is leaking within the home. Dye tablets are available through our Water Department and in the Administrative offices to help homeowners detect water leaks within their toilets. They are simple to use and if a leak is detected, will save the homeowner money.

Back-Up Sump Pumps

Many homes within Grosse Pointe Shores are equipped with back-up sump pumps that are activated when there is a power outage. Several of these back-up systems use water. If your electricity should cease within your home, even if it is just for a few seconds and your home is equipped with a back-up sump pump, please make sure to check on your sump pump system when power is restored to make sure that the sump pump system has reset correctly.

There have been a few instances where the homeowner was unaware that their back-up system (that uses water) was still functioning full time adding hundreds of dollars to their quarterly water bill.

Tax Bills

Summer tax bills are due Monday, September 16th without penalty or interest. Please check your PRE (principal residence exemption) status on your tax bill to make sure that our office has the correct status. If your tax bill indicates "PRE/MBT %: 100", our office is showing that parcel of property as your principal residence. The PRE only affects your winter tax billing in Grosse Pointe Shores.

Winter tax bills are normally mailed to the property owner the last week of November. They are due December 1st and payable through February 14th without interest or penalty. On March 1st, all unpaid tax bills are deemed delinquent and the information is forwarded to the County Treasurer for collection.



Village Of
Grosse
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City News

Important Voter/Election Information

October 7, 2013 - Last Day to register to vote in the November 5, 2013 General Election.

Please note registering to vote does not make you a candidate as a prospective juror.

November 2, 2013 - Last day to obtain a regular absent voter ballot.

City Offices open at 8:30am to 2:00pm

November 5, 2013 - General Election Day; Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

This will be the first time GP Shores residents will be able to vote for Municipal Judge.

The three Council Member incumbents, Alexander Ajlouni, Robert Barrette and Bruce Bisballe have filed for re-election with no challengers.

GPS Shred Day

OSIUS PARK
Parking Lot

Saturday, Oct., 26th
10:00am to 1:00pm

\$5 - Limit of 5 Bankers Boxes

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all the beautification members who volunteered their time planting flowers at Osius Park and around the Municipal Building on Flower Planting Days - May 22nd and 23rd.

PAATS provides door-to-door transportation service for Grosse Pointes/Harper Woods seniors and the handicapped of all ages. Call the POINTES AREA ASSISTED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES at (313) 343-2580 for fare and schedule information.

SOC SERVICES FOR OLDER CITIZENS is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping older citizens maintain their lives in independence and dignity. The services provided by SOC greatly assist in relieving some of the anxieties experienced by many seniors. Call (313) 882-9600 to get more information about all of SOC's services and programs.

Sponsor A Garden

The Grosse Pointe Shores Beautification Committee invites you to sponsor a garden.

Your donation will help purchase annuals and bulbs for one of the many gardens in the Village. The garden you sponsor will be planted with you recognized as its sponsor for a full year's growing season.

For more information, contact the administrative office at:
(313) 881-6565





Village Of Grosse Pointe Shores



Marina Decking

Residents may have read about or saw the deterioration of much of the decking on the main walkway in the marina at Osius Park. It was installed when the marina was upgraded in 2007. Discussions were undertaken last year with the contractor and material supplier. City Attorney, Brian Renaud was able to secure from the original supplier of the decking material 50,000 lineal feet of replacement decking with no cost to us, and a financial contribution from the contractor to assist with the complete replacement on the main walkway. A different contractor will start the replacement after Labor Day this year as we didn't want to interfere with the summer boating season. You may notice plywood sheeting in a few places bridging over some of the cracked decking boards. We are paying for the new contractor to remove and replace the boards with monies from the Marina Fund.

Building Department Information

Permit/variance requests, along with the appropriate number of plans, must be submitted to the building department 20 days prior to a Planning Commission meeting (check the GPS municipal calendar or cable TV Channel 12 for date) - Meetings are normally held at 8am on the fourth Tuesday of the month (Call the Village Administrative Office to check for date or time changes).

When planning construction of new homes, plans showing storm water and footing drains connected to the sanitary sewer will be rejected--The drains CANNOT be connected to the sanitary sewer. The Village's requirement is to have ALL footing drains disconnected from the sanitary sewer lines.

Street Lighting Project

We will begin our street lighting upgrade project in mid-September. Please be advised there may be areas without lighting for up to 4 weeks. Thank you for your continued patience during these projects.

Honeywell Project

Honeywell was approved by City Council to complete an energy efficient project for all of the City buildings. This process began by collaborating with the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores and its staff to define their needs and requirements. Using Honeywell's expertise and broad energy performance contracting experience, a thorough audit of the city's utility operations was conducted; including electrical, lighting, heating, cooling and water to determine how much money can be saved. The project is an energy efficiency program to help update the outdated City-owned buildings through installment purchase financing. Honeywell completed the study and is overseeing the contracted work together with staff from the Department of Public Works and has guaranteed the City savings on their energy and equipment repair bills. This project includes new HVAC systems, efficient lighting, exterior LED lighting, generator installation, building envelope tune-up, etc. The construction began in July of 2013 and will likely be completed by April of 2014. The City expects to save over two million dollars over the 15 year period that this contract term will be paid through reduced energy costs. Should the savings fall short of the guaranteed amount, Honeywell would write the City a check for the difference in the actual and guaranteed amount.



Village Of
Grosse
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Shores



Public Safety

The following items are reminders that will assist your Public Safety Department:

Chief John J. Schulte
Director of Public Safety

- Remember there is no parking on the street between 2am - 5am. If you or your guests need to park on the street, please contact the Public Safety Department. This will assist the officers and avoid unnecessary parking violations.
- Avoid crimes of opportunity, lock your vehicle at all times. Remove all items of value, such as computers, cell phones, wallets and electronic devices from your vehicle overnight and whenever your vehicle is unattended.
- If you hire a contractor for your leaves, the contractors may not leave them in the street for removal by the Village. Snow must not be plowed into the street or left to block driveways. Permits are required for snow plowing contractors and are available at the Public Safety desk. Proof of insurance is required prior to purchase.
- The Public Safety Department has hired part-time clerks to staff the Public Safety desk 24 hours a day on a 1 year trial basis. These employees will perform administrative and clerical duties for Police, Fire and EMS. With the enhanced phone capabilities, residents will soon have the capability to direct their non-emergency and administrative calls to the appropriate personnel or department within the Village. 9-1-1 emergency calls will continue to report directly to the dispatch center.
- If you plan to be on vacation or away, please notify the Public Safety Department to put your home on our watch list by calling our non-emergency line at 881-5500.
- Do not leave your clothes dryer or the dishwasher running while you are away. Lint can ignite in the dryer or plastic in the dishwasher.
- Battery smoke alarms **SAVE LIVES**, replace the batteries at the start and the end of daylight savings time. Smoke alarms should be installed at the top of each set of stairs, in the furnace room, and near the bedrooms.

- Please notify our Public Safety Department immediately anytime day or night if you observe anything that seems out of the ordinary or suspicious.
- The Court Office on the first floor of the Municipal building hours has the following hours:
Monday through Friday: 8:30am to 5:00pm
The office is closed daily between 12:30 to 1:30pm.
The office is closed on Saturday and Sunday.
The court office phone number is (313) 881-5503.

Be Responsible

Instruct your children to never go with, or talk to strangers. **ALWAYS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND WHO THEY'RE WITH.** If you see any suspicious activity/persons in your neighborhood, **DO NOT HESITATE** to call the police at any time, day or night.

DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES

The Department of Public Safety's non-emergency number is 881-5500

Bike Riders:

PLEASE, use your bells/horns to warn pedestrians well in advance of your approach.

Permits are required for the following:

Garage Sale; Fee is \$25

Limit one sale per household per year.

Parking of recreational vehicle

(in driveway); Fee is \$25 for 48 hours
Call 881-5500

Pet News

Now is the time to get your 2013 pet license tags, now available at the police desk:

🐾 \$7 for neutered/spayed pets

🐾 \$10 for pets that are not

🐾 2013 tags expire on **December 31st!**

Remember that dogs must be confined to their own yards or be on a leash when walking.

MAKE YOUR CAT AN INDOOR PET!!



Village Of Grosse Pointe Shores

Chief John J. Schulte
Director of Public Safety

PSO/Paramedic James Tassie and Sgt./Paramedic Ron Coste demonstrate the new USCG approved officer rescue vests recently purchased by the Public Safety Department. Along with the vests, two cold water rescue rings and two 75' rescue throw lines were added to the department's safety equipment. All officers are to receive basic training with the new life safety gear.

On May 19, 2013, the above two officers, along with Lt. Ken Werenski, responded to a person in the water. The officers pictured entered the 50 degree water and with the assistance of an individual on a jet-ski, the victim was brought to safety. The Public Safety Department would routinely receive the assistance of the St. Clair Shores Coast Guard and the Sheriff, however some rescues close to the break wall require immediate action from our officers. Sgt. Coste and PSO Tassie have both been recommended by their shift commander for life saving awards.





Village Of
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Parks and

Park Pass Info

-  2013 park pass applications are available at city offices or online at gpshoresmi.gov under the park page.
-  If you have submitted a park pass application for processing, passes are available for pick up at the park gate house by an adult.
-  Park passes are issued to all residents 8 years and older.
-  Replacement park passes cost \$5 and can be obtained at city offices.

Osius Park Info

-  Pool Office: 884-2305
Gate House: 884-7018
-  **Park Hours:**
Memorial Day - Labor Day: 7am to Midnight
Pool opens for season with limited hours:
Weekdays 4:00pm to dusk
Weekends 10:00am to dusk
Full hours begin in June
Open everyday 10:00am to 9:00pm



2013/2014 Calendar of Park Activities

September 2, 2013

Labor Day - Pool closes for season

October 23, 2013

Halloween "Boo-Fest" GPS Park
6:00 - 7:30pm



November 15, 2013

Harbor closes for season

December 1, 2013

Lighting of the Village 6:00pm
GPS Municipal Building



February 2014

Begin accepting applications for pool and maintenance staff positions (available at the Administration Building)

February 15, 2014

Marina Well Fee 1st Installment Due

April 1st, 2014

Begin accepting picnic reservations & mailing of Park Pass Applications

April 15, 2014

Harbor opens for season
Well balances due

May 24, 2014

Pool opens for season with limited hours:

Weekdays 4:00pm to dusk
Weekends 10:00am to dusk
Full hours begin in June
Open everyday 10:00am to 9:00pm



Village Of
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Recreation

Early Morning Swim

Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 10:00am
\$40 Summer Season

Water Aerobics

Mon, Wed, Thurs 6:00pm to 7:00pm
\$15 for 10 Week Session
For registration information call 884-2305



The Sharks swim team enjoyed another successful year! The team continued to grow in size as more new families joined. The team was 106 swimmers strong with 11 new families joining. The swimmers enjoyed various themed cookouts following the weekly meets as well as a bowling night and a late night swim. The swimmers and their parents rallied together to host this year's swim team prelims and finals held at the Grosse Pointe South pool where the team placed 4th overall.



2013 Swim Team



Village Of
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Go Green

Grosse Pointe Shores wants to remind you to help keep the watershed clean!

Many items found in homes, garages, and yards can cause serious stormwater pollution if they are washed into the storm drains and allowed to flow untreated into the Clinton River. Everyone can prevent stormwater pollution by taking simple steps, such as, taking household cleaning or pesticide materials to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event. We also remind you to make sure to put all pet waste, and household trash in the garbage. Compost yard waste at home or send to your waste collector separate from trash. Remember if you wouldn't put it directly into the river, do not put it in the storm drain.

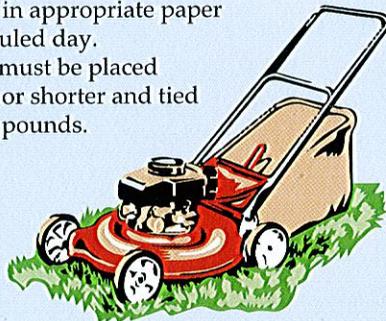
Helpful tips for keeping the watershed clean:

- Never dispose of paint or paint-related products into the gutters or storm drains. This is illegal dumping.
- Do not blow, sweep, hose or rake leaves or other yard trimmings into the street, or storm drain.
- For one time use items, only buy what you need, so storage or waste will not be a problem.
- Oil-based paints should be cleaned with paint thinner. Paint thinner can be filtered and reused. Used thinner can be set aside in a closed jar to settle out paint particles and can be stored in a well-ventilated location.
- Choose earth friendly landscaping. Use non-toxic products for your garden and lawn whenever possible. Use pesticides sparingly.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Practice good car care.
- Conserve water.

Please refrain from outdoor watering between 4:00am and 9:00am

Collection of Yard Clippings and Garden Rubbish:

A seasonal service beginning on the Monday closest to April 1, ending on the Friday closest to November 30. These must be placed at the curb in appropriate paper bags for collection on your scheduled day. Tree limbs and branches (brush) must be placed at the curb in lengths of four feet or shorter and tied in bundles weighing less than 50 pounds.



30 Gallon paper bags for yard clippings and garden rubbish are available at the Grosse Pointe Shores Department of Public Safety in packages of ten for \$5.00.

Collection of Leaves:

This (curbside) service begins when needed in Autumn, and ends on the Friday closest to November 30, coinciding with the end of the yard clippings and garden rubbish collection. The leaf vacuum takes the leaves left at the curb by residents raking their own leaves - contractors are responsible for the removal of leaves from their clients' properties.

Recyclables:

In addition to metal, glass and plastic containers, Rizzo Sanitation also picks up household batteries (in plastic bags), and magazines (in bundles) separate from newspapers placed in your red recycling bins before 7:00am.

Large recycle bin containers are available for purchase at the City Offices for \$60

Rizzo Sanitation Services
1-888-877-4996





Village Of Grosse Pointe Shores

Riparian - A person who owns a parcel of land which borders a natural body of water within the boundaries of the State of Michigan.

Riparian Responsibilities

Riparians have a special responsibility to prevent pollutants from entering the lake or stream. Some common pollutants include: lawn fertilizers, runoff from driveways, roofs and walkways, lawn clippings and leaves, soil from the shoreline or streambank, lawn & garden pesticides, oil & gas from autos (and boats), and septic system effluent.

What you can do to prevent pollution from entering the waters:

If you have a septic system -

- * Have your tank pumped out & inspected at least every 3-5 years
- * Consider installing an effluent filter (talk with you septic service technician)
- * Spread out laundry loads - doing many consecutive loads can overload the system
- * Practice water conservation - a good rule for everyone whether their home is served by a septic system or sanitary sewer
- * Fix leaks - one drop per second from a leaking faucet can add up to 113 gallons of water wasted each month!
- * Dispose of hazardous household chemicals properly - not down the drain
- * Keep accurate records of maintenance and location of septic system
- * Divert roof & footing drains and surface water away from the septic system
- * Do not use commercial septic tank additives
- * Keep antibiotics and antibacterial soaps out of system - your septic tank is a place where you actually want bacteria to live!
- * Do not use a garbage disposal - grinded food from a garbage disposal decomposes more slowly than liquid waste and adds to the solids in the tank

Practice healthy lawn and garden practices -

- * Maintain a minimum 15-foot no-mow, fertilizer-free buffer area adjacent to water body.
- * When using fertilizer, choose a slow-release nitrogen and no-phosphorus formula (depending on the results of the soil test).
- * Mow grass high- a 2 1/2 to 3 inch blade is optimum for water conservation and promoting root growth.
- * Avoid weed-n-feed products - combination products often add unnecessary herbicides to the environment. A better approach is to identify the weed of concern and selectively spot treat the weed(s) with appropriate herbicide.
- * Dispose of yard waste properly per Village requirements or try home composting -
NEVER DUMP YARD WASTE IN WATERCOURSES!



Village Of
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and Clean

Are you in the habit of applying fertilizer or paying someone to fertilize your lawn every spring?

Did you know that when fertilizer is applied improperly it may pollute the Clinton River, its tributaries and Lake St. Clair? Though we all want to have green and luscious lawns this spring and summer, we also need to be aware of the potential hazards our lawn care practices may cause.

When too much fertilizer is applied it washes off easily and becomes very harmful to the environment. This is especially true when a rain storm comes. Rain can wash fertilizer straight into the storm drain. Most storm drains empty into our lakes, rivers and streams.

Some tips to keep in mind:

- Mow at least 3" high.
- Return clippings to recycle nutrients and sweep or blow clippings from walks and driveways onto the lawn.
- Taller grass crowds out weeds and promotes deeper roots. Deeper roots help the lawn survive droughts.
- Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn.
- Be patient in the spring - wait until May to fertilize. Don't fertilize if the ground is frozen or saturated with water.
- Don't guess, soil test for proper fertilization recommendations.
- Choose lawn fertilizers with low or no phosphorus (the middle number) and follow the directions. For a list of watershed friendly fertilizers visit: <http://www.crowc.org/stormwater-protection/>
- Maintain a NO APPLICATION zone near lakes, rivers, streams and storm drains.
- Never discharge clippings near lakes, rivers, streams or drains.
- Sweep fertilizer granules from walks and driveways onto the lawn.
- Don't soak your lawn and avoid night watering. Watering should not produce puddles; lighter, more frequent watering is best.
- Brown lawns are OK; dormancy is a natural response to drought, however, some water may be necessary during an extended drought of more than a month.

- For home lawn care tips visit: <http://turf.msu.edu/home-lawn-articles> or <http://www.healthylandscapes.com/>

- For a list of lawn professionals who participate in the Healthy Lawn Care Program for Watershed Protection visit: <http://www.landscape.org/healthylawncarepro.html>

- For more information on the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair visit www.crowc.org.



Village Of
Grosse
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Shores

City Directory

Attention Residents

Please remember to visit the Grosse Pointe Shores website at gpshoresmi.gov. It offers a variety of information useful to residents such as:

-  Recent News
-  Tax and Assessing Information
-  Building Information
-  Ordinances
-  Meeting Dates
-  Web Calendar

Important Reminders

Look for your summer tax bill in the mail at the end of June

-  Payment Due July 1st, 2013.
-  Payments will be accepted without penalty through 9-16-13. (with 9-16-13 U.S. Post Office Postmark!)
-  Delinquent Taxes will be taken to the County on 3-1-2014.
-  Water bills are mailed quarterly. Mailing is December, March, June and September. They are due the first week in January, April, July and October.

Ted J. Kedzierski, Mayor

Daniel Schulte, Mayor Pro Tem
Alexander Ajlouni, Council Member
Kay Felt, Council Member
Bruce Bisballe, Council Member
Robert Barrette, Council Member
Robert Gesell, Council Member
Bruce Nichols, City Clerk

Mark Wollenweber, City Manager
Rhonda Ricketts, Finance Officer and Treasurer
John Schulte, Public Safety Director
Brett Smith, Dept. Public Works Director
Harold Michaux, Grounds Supervisor
John Fodell, Parks & Recreation Director
Brian Renaud, City Attorney

GPS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Fri 8:30am to 5:00pm
DPW: Mon - Fri 7:30am to 4:00pm
GPS website: gpshoresmi.gov

GPS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY:

City Administration: 881-6565
Dept. Of Public Safety: 881-5500
Court Office 881-5503
Dept. Of Public Works: 886-0020
Municipal Park - Gate: 884-7018
Pool Office: 884-2305

EMERGENCIES ONLY: 911

TDD Unit (for the hearing impaired): 343-0666