

Property maintenance guidelines encourage healthy neighborhoods

Attractive neighborhoods and well-kept businesses are key elements in preserving an appealing community and healthy environment for all who live, work and visit Dearborn.

During the spring and summer season, it is important to remember the following property maintenance requirements:

- Property owners and residents must keep grass and weeds cut to six inches or less year-around. (This includes all fence and property lines). Anything over six inches is in violation.
- Yards must be kept clean of yard waste, litter, junk and animal waste.
- Weed trees, saplings, and other noxious vegetation that were not intentionally planted are prohibited from fence and property lines.



To keep Dearborn looking good, make sure grass is cut to 6 inches or less.

- Vehicles must be properly stored, and cannot be inoperable. Inoperable vehicles are cars and trucks that are on jacks; have flat tires, broken windows or doors; are in a state of disassembly; or otherwise cannot be driven.
- Storage of recreational vehicles, trailers, and boats on residential property is prohibited. RVs are defined as boats, recreational vehicles, snow mobiles, trailers or towable vehicles of any nature.
- Parking commercial vehicles, except for exemptions for some on-call vehicles, is prohibited in residential areas. Commercial vehicles are described as semi-tractors and/or trailers; dump, flatbeds, snow plow, tow and vending trucks; trucks used for commercial hauling; and taxis.
- City ordinance prohibits the parking of any vehicle on unpaved areas of residential properties.
- Never use an outdoor grill indoors, including garages. Keep grills 15 feet away from any structure. Never leave a grill unattended and keep a water bottle handy to reduce flare ups.

If property is not properly cared for, the City will perform services and bill the property owner.

Property owners who wish to dispute an invoice for services performed by the City as a result of non-compliance with property maintenance and sanitation guidelines may do so by filing a Property Maintenance Appeals Application at the Dearborn Administrative Center or download a copy of the application online at www.cityofdearborn.org.

To report an ordinance violation in your neighborhood or a business district, call 313-943-2161.

For the complete list of the City's property maintenance rules, download the City of Dearborn's Property Maintenance Guidelines and Sanitation Services Guide at www.cityofdearborn.org. ■

Public Service Days in effect for 2016 as of April 4, new regulations tighten parking fines, clarify holidays

Dearborn Public Service Days are in effect for 2016 as of the week of April 4 and continue through November.

An easy way to remember what to do is the motto: "Carts Out, Cars In."

That means that parked vehicles should be off the street on the day that residents set their trash and recycling carts at the curb.

For example, if a neighborhood's trash day is Wednesday, the Public Service Day is Wednesday. If the trash day is Thursday, the Public Service Day is Thursday.

It is the same pattern throughout each week.

Parking tickets will be issued to any vehicle left on the street between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on a neighborhood's regular trash day/Public Service Day.

There are exceptions to this rule. Specific holidays will delay trash pickup. If that occurs, the trash day in 2016 will change, but the Public Service Day in 2016 remains the same as the regular trash collection day.

In 2016, four holidays impact Public Service Days

The 2016 holidays that create a different trash pickup day from Public Service Days are Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. All districts are affected. For the Thanksgiving holiday, only the Thursday and Friday districts are impacted.

During these "trash holidays," parked vehicles must be off the street on the regular trash day, which remains your Public Service Day. You could be ticketed if your parked vehicle is on the street.



Residential streets should be clear of parked vehicles when Public Service Days are in effect.

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Frequently Asked Questions

The Department of Public Information fields plenty of calls from residents looking for answers about city services. Here are some of the ones asked routinely.

How do I get information about my water bill?

Call 313-943-2307. Bills may be paid by mail to City of Dearborn, Dept. 3101, PO Box 30516, Lansing, MI 48909-8016. Residents can also fill out a form to have payments automatically deducted from their checking account every quarter. They can also be paid in person at the Dearborn Administrative Center (DAC) at 16901 Michigan Ave., or via the secure drop box in the building and in the parking lot of the DAC.

I'm a senior citizen. Where can I find a contractor to keep my lawn cut or shovel snow?

The Senior Services Division keeps a list of contractors available for residents to hire for a fee. The names come from the Senior Alliance – Area Agency on Aging and contractors have had criminal background checks and provided references. For fees, providers offer a range of services, such as in-home haircuts, house cleaning, lawn mowing and more. Call 313-943-2412 to learn more or visit the Senior Center in the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave.

I'm worried about the welfare of a neighbor. What number should I call?

The Dearborn Police, upon request, will visit the resident and make sure they are safe. Call the non-emergency police number at 313-943-2241.

What do I need to know when I am selling my house?

Details about requirements for selling your home are available at www.cityofdearborn.org. Type the phrase "residential sales program" into the search box. You may also obtain information about setting up sales inspections and obtaining certificates of occupancy and more by calling 313-943-2120.



How do I register my rental property?

Details about registering a rental property are available online at www.cityofdearborn.org. Type the phrase "residential rental program" into the search box. There is no charge to register. More information is also available at 313-943-2120.

Public Service Days

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For example, during Memorial Day week, if your regular trash day is Wednesday, but your trash won't be collected until Thursday because of the holiday, you must keep your parked car off of the road on Wednesday.

This practice is in place because of the hundreds of signs across the city that stipulate that Public Service Days are on regular trash days.

Better street sweeping

In general, Public Service Days permit more efficient and safe collection of trash, recyclables and yard waste set at the curb, and allow crews to better manage tree-trimming and sewer and catch basin maintenance.

"Public Service Days allow us to sweep the streets curb to curb and provide other important maintenance work," said Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr.

"Residents across the city pay for services with their taxes and they deserve to have them delivered in their neighborhoods in a thorough and effective manner," O'Reilly said. "Keeping parked cars off the streets gives us that chance."

Parking ticket fines escalate

An ordinance amendment, as approved by the City Council in March, allows officers to impose the following parking tickets: the first violation is \$15 (or \$7 if paid within three days); the second violation in a calendar year is \$30; and the third violation in a calendar year is \$70.

If a fourth violation occurs in a calendar year, the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.

Under the changes, the first violation is the only one which receives a reduction within a calendar year, and only if paid within three days.

Tickets also will be issued to vehicles parked across sidewalks, on the easement or on lawns.

How do I report a vacant house?

To report a property you believe is vacant but isn't your own, call the Neighborhood Services at 313-943-2161.

For details on how to register your own property that is or will be vacant, type "vacant property" into the search box at www.cityofdearborn.org.

How do I report a streetlight that's out?

Report an outage via www.cityofdearborn.org. Type the word "streetlight" in the search box. Then click on "Report a Streetlight Outage." Residents may also call the Department of Public Works at 313-943-2075.

How do I obtain a veterans' I.D.?

The State of Michigan offers veteran designation for licenses and ID cards. More information about this program is on the Secretary of State website. You can also call the Driver's License Bureau in the Dearborn Police Station at 313-943-2468. Wayne County Veteran Services can be reached at 313-224-5045.

Where can I find out more about the history of the city?

Contact the Dearborn Historical Museum at 313-565-3000. Staff and volunteers are on-site Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They often help people who want to know more about a house they've just purchased, are looking for old city photos, or want to research their Dearborn family roots.

What do I do about a dead animal on my street or in my yard?

Report dead animals to the Animal Ordinance Officer by calling 313-943-2079. If you are comfortable doing so, residents can also dispose of small wildlife themselves. Place the carcass in a heavy plastic bag and put it in with the regular trash collection. Please do not put deceased pets or large animals into the trash. ■



Street sweepers can be more effective on cleared roads.

Never put trash carts in the road

Remember, trash and recycling carts should not be placed in the road at any time.

The City of Dearborn recognizes that keeping vehicles off the streets can be an inconvenience and suspends Public Service Days during the winter months when it is less likely that maintenance can be performed. This year, Public Service Days end on November 25.

For parking issues related to Public Service Days, call 313-943-2276. Parking hardship exemption applications are available at www.cityofdearborn.org or at the Dearborn Police Station. ■

Dearborn's drinking water is safe; levels of lead, copper well below established thresholds



Testing indicates Dearborn's drinking water is safe.

The City of Dearborn drinking water meets and exceeds all water quality standards.

Drinking water is defined as water that is used for the specific purposes of drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

The Dearborn Annual Water Quality Report describes the source of Dearborn's water, lists test results and contains important information about water and health.

The report provides consumers with an

understanding of their drinking water and heightens awareness of the need to protect precious water resources.

The most recent copy of the City of Dearborn Water Quality Report is available at <http://www.cityofdearborn.org/ccr/file>.

The action (or violation) level for unacceptable lead in the drinking water is 15 parts per billion. Dearborn's drinking water tested at only .4 parts per billion, well below any actionable levels.

The action level for unacceptable levels of copper is 1,300 parts per billion. Dearborn tested at 81.2 parts per billion, well below actionable levels.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) set water quality standards for Michigan communities. Regular testing for lead and copper is conducted in Dearborn and all the communities served by the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

When trace amounts of lead are found in drinking water, it is usually caused by the materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

The City of Dearborn is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials already present in residential home plumbing.

Prior to 1950, residential service lines containing lead were installed. Dearborn has approximately 33,000 service lines in the city, most of which were installed prior to 1950.

Residents can minimize any potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap, which means letting the water run for at least 30 seconds before using, especially if the faucet has been inactive for long periods of time.

When present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

The Flint drinking water crisis resulted from a myriad of factors, none of which apply to the City of Dearborn. ■

Residents can seek assistance for water bills

A special program designed to assist residents in Wayne County, including Dearborn, with water bills is available for households that qualify by income and meet other eligibility requirements.

The program is called WRAP for Water Residential Assistance Program. Please call 313-386-WRAP (9727) or visit www.waynemetrometro.org/wrap for more information.

The WRAP Program is funded by the Great Lakes Water Authority to help eligible low-income residential customers with bill assistance, water conservation measures and additional resources. ■

Individuals can protect the Rouge River; follow guidelines to reduce water pollution

Dearborn residents have an abundance of natural resources to enjoy, including the natural wetlands of the Rouge River Watershed.

For several decades, the City of Dearborn has worked as a primary partner in the cleanup, restoration and improvement of the Rouge River ecosystem.

While current levels of water quality have been drastically improved, there is still more we can do.

Keep in mind the rain that runs off your roof, lawn and driveway, along with any additional water from hoses or sprinklers, may eventually end up in the Rouge River by flowing over land and into storm drains.

It is important for all residents to practice environmental stewardship whenever possible.

Everyday behavior can protect the Rouge River

- Keep fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides off paved surfaces and out of drainage paths. If you do use fertilizer on your lawn, select a slow-release formula.
- Don't dump oils, chemicals, paint or any other chemicals in your yard or down storm drains.
- Direct polluted wash water away from streets and storm drains. Go to a car wash whenever possible to keep chemicals and detergents out of storm drains.
- Only repair vehicles in areas where leaks and spills cannot flow toward storm drains. If your car is leaking oil, have it repaired as soon as possible. Do not let oil leak toward storm drains.
- Clean up animal waste (before it rains whenever possible).
- Install a rain barrel to save money by watering your lawn, gardens and houseplants with rain water.
- Install a Rain Garden – a shallow dish shaped garden designed to retain rain water for up to 24 hours. Much of the rain water taken in by the plants is transpired back to the atmosphere or infiltrates deep into the ground. Properly designed rain gardens do not enable mosquito breeding.
- Do not use your hose as a broom. Do not wash or sweep debris, spilled or leaked materials into storm drains.
- Cover bare ground around vegetation with mulch to reduce erosion.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste and use non-toxic alternatives when possible.
- Use paving materials that are porous and/or sloped toward vegetated areas. These products allow rain water to permeate through the material rather than run off the landscape and into the river.
- Report any illegal dumping by calling the Rouge River Hotline at 313-943-4149.
- Participate in this year's Rouge Rescue on Saturday, May 21. Dearborn typically has three to four worksites for volunteers. Details at www.therouge.org.
- For more information on watershed conservation, visit www.therouge.org. ■



The actions of individuals can protect the Rouge River.

Curbside yard waste collection in effect until December 9, 2016

Dearborn's 2016 curbside yard waste program will last through December 9.

Until then, residents can put yard waste in properly marked containers at the curb on their trash collection day.

Residents are reminded to place the yard waste materials in the proper containers at least three feet away from their trash cart and recycling cart. Yard waste cannot be placed in the street.

Acceptable containers include yard waste paper bags or a resident's own 20-32 gallon container clearly marked with a yard waste sticker. These stickers are available for free at Dearborn Public Libraries and at the Dearborn Administrative Center, 16901 Michigan Ave.

Yard waste placed in plastic bags or cardboard boxes will not be picked up.

To arrange for a special pickup of unbundled or improperly bundled brush, or for more information, please call the Sanitation Division at 313-943-2433. ■

Important news for residents with lawn irrigation systems: testing required on backflow prevention devices every 5 years

The State of Michigan is mandating that cities implement a residential backflow program by identifying and monitoring the testing of all backflow devices. This affects residents with lawn irrigation systems.

The City of Dearborn requires that any home with an automatic lawn sprinkler be equipped with a testable backflow device, such as a pressure vacuum breaker or equivalent. The City requires the device to be tested every 5 years.

If your lawn irrigation system does not have a proper backflow device, you will be required to have one installed.

Homes that have been identified with automatic lawn sprinklers will receive a packet from the Backflow Prevention Division in the spring of the year their device must be tested.

This packet will include a letter explaining what needs to be tested, the deadline for the test, a list of licensed plumbers certified in backflow prevention, and a form to give to the hired plumber. The plumber must send the completed test form to the Backflow Prevention Division by August 1 of your testing year.

If you have questions, call the Backflow Prevention office at 313-943-4468 or email backflow@ci.dearborn.mi.us. ■

DPW Yard open for free drop off each month

The Department of Public Works Yard, 2951 Greenfield Road, is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. the third Saturday of each month for disposal of items not picked up at the curb. Residents are responsible for unloading their own vehicles. Proof of residency is required.

Items accepted at the DPW yard include furniture and other non-hazardous household materials from large move-outs; dirt, sod, sand, concrete and bricks; firewood, logs and stumps; bathtubs, laundry tubs, sinks and toilets.

A partial list of materials not accepted at the DPW yard includes: fuel, tires, ammunition, refrigerators, microwaves or other appliances.

Hazardous materials are not acceptable for disposal either at the curbside or at the DPW Yard. For more information, visit www.cityofdearborn.org. ■

Rules for safe and efficient collection of trash, recyclables and bulk materials

It is hard to remember all the rules every week regarding trash and recycling pickup, so use this handy guide.

General rules

- Take your carts out to the curb after 5 p.m. the night before collection day or by 7 a.m. on trash collection day. Remove your empty carts from the curb by midnight on your trash day.
- Trash must be bagged and placed inside the City-provided gray carts.
- Trash in cardboard boxes will not be picked up.
- Any bagged trash (maximum of 4 bags) placed outside of the gray cart will be reloaded into your cart.
- If this happens frequently, City ordinance requires the homeowners/occupants to lease an additional trash cart. Households that generate additional trash will be notified that they must call 313-943-2433 to arrange for the additional cart and pay the one-time lease fee of \$55.
- Seasonal décor such as hay/straw bales and pumpkins should be bagged and placed inside your trash cart.

Recycle these items in green carts

- Paper bags, junk mail, paperboard, newspaper, magazines, phone books, office paper, cans made of steel, tin and aluminum, kitchen cookware, household plastics (No. 1-7), plastic bags, and glass jars.

Rules regarding recycling cardboard

- Cardboard may be recycled, but must be broken down and placed inside the green recycle cart.
- If broken down boxes and other items still will not fit in your recycle cart, they must be bundled or tied in manageable pieces to be reloaded into your recycling cart. The driver of the recycling truck will reload the cardboard into the cart so the automated arm can pick up the cart.
- If this happens regularly, you may be required to lease an additional recycle cart for a one-time lease fee of \$55.

- Cardboard boxes and other recyclables will not be collected on non-recycling weeks.

Large or bulky items

- Place your bulk/oversize items for disposal at the curb before 7 a.m. on your trash pickup day.
- A separate truck will pick up these items.
- Households are limited to 5 bulk items per week and a maximum of 20 per year.

Acceptable bulk items

- Household furniture of a manageable size.
- Residential household appliances. Doors must be off refrigerators or freezers.
- Large tube televisions and large pieces of furniture/bulk items that cannot be reasonably lifted and contained within the bulk truck bucket will not be collected. Please take them to the DPW Yard, 2951 Greenfield on the third Saturday of each month. Or arrange for a special pick-up by calling 313-943-2433.

Call for a special pickup

- Arrange for a special pick-up of a large amount of bulk items by calling 313-943-2433. Fees apply.

Fees apply when trash is left out too long

- Fees will apply if the City must remove trash or other materials left on the curb when it is not your regular collection day.

2016 holiday collection schedule

- Trash will not be collected on the following holidays in 2016: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving Day. ■



Place carts correctly at the curb.

Recreation projects moving forward to add more options for leisure, fitness

Renovating, improving and supplementing the recreational and leisure-time facilities of the City is one of the ways in which the Dearborn Recreation & Parks Department addresses the needs of the community.

New splash pad, pool improvements

A pair of Wayne County Parks Millage Allocation Grants will fund the installation of the city's third splash pad at Whitmore-Bolles, along with stand-alone rest room facilities, pending approval of Dearborn's City Council. Splash pads were previously built at Hemlock and Crowley parks.

Plans are also underway for the replacement of Ford Woods Pool. Officials are currently considering the specific design, capacity and costs of the new facility before moving on to the next step in the overall process.

Dearborn's outdoor aquatic facilities have already been enhanced by the recently completed \$560,000 project at Dunworth Pool, which will extend its life by 15-20 years.

Playscape headed to Crowley Park

Two new outdoor features planned for the city are a playscape at Crowley Park and a dog park near the former Amtrak Station behind the Police Department.

The very elaborate playscape at Crowley Park, designed in part by members of the surrounding neighborhood, is scheduled to be erected this fall. The investment is triple that of most park playscapes.

Edison, Canterbury and Alber-Bingham Parks will see the replacement of playground equipment.

Dog park possible

The dog park, the first of its kind in Dearborn, will be constructed west of the former Amtrak Station behind the Henry Ford Centennial Library, and is expected to

include a fenced green area, benches, picnic tables and access to running water.

Other projects

The Crowley Park neighborhood will notice a new traffic flow later this year when access to the park's main parking lot will be restricted to Gully Road, instead of Westwood.

Work is also continuing this summer on the Rouge River Gateway Trail Project.

At Ford Field, the comfort station—which dates from the 1940s, will be razed and replaced by a \$250,000 facility.

With an eye to the future, a feasibility study is underway concerning the construction of an indoor soccer facility.



More resort cabins will be ready this summer at Camp Dearborn.

Camp Dearborn updates

At Camp Dearborn, two-thirds of the main beach parking lot will be converted back into green space, which will then be developed into picnic areas.

And, finally, at the Fishing Derby on June 12, Lake #4 will be dedicated as "Eppinger Pond," honoring the company for its longtime sponsorship of the annual event. ■

Dearborn Public Library great place for uplifting interactions, services

The Dearborn Public Library welcomes spring with a variety of activities and services for all ages. Visit www.dearbornlibrary.org.

Programs offered in spring, summer

The Classics Revisited Program continues with *The Rubaiyat* by Omar Khayyam on April 20 and *Ham on Rye* by Charles Bukowski on May 18. All sessions begin at 7 p.m. at Henry Ford Centennial Library and are open to the public. No registration is required.

The monthly Friends of the Library Used Book Sale offers a chance to pick up some real bargains. Stop by HFCL between 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on May 4, June 1 and July 6.

In addition, a special Preview Book and Media Sale will be presented on Tuesday, May 3 from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. This preview sale is open only to FOLD members whose dues are paid. Visit the library's website and check the FOLD link for membership prices and an application.

The Summer Reading Programs will be starting June 20 and run through July 29. Summer Reading is for all ages – from babies to seniors. Read books, keep track by logging them online or on paper, and enter into drawings for prizes.

Services enhance library experience

- Now when you search the library catalog, you can click on the Recommendations drop-down tab and find not only other titles that might be of interest to you, but also reviews and a list of titles in the same series.
- Book Club patrons soon will be able to review our list of Book Club kits and reserve the kit for a future date using our newly purchased Kit Keeper software. Visit the library website for more information. ■

City Council considers smoking regulations in Dearborn parks

The Dearborn City Council has received a recommendation for an ordinance amendment that restricts smoking tobacco within certain areas of 20 community or neighborhood parks and prohibits smoking in mini-parks with play equipment.

At deadline time for The Back Fence, the ordinance amendment was under consideration for approval by the City Council. Visit www.cityofdearborn.org for updated information.

The ordinance change, recommended to the City Council by a subcommittee of the Recreation and Parks Commission, is designed to protect children who are playing at city parks from inhaling second hand smoke.

As recommended, the ordinance amendment prohibits smoking within 15 feet of the outermost edge of any play structure that has been erected in a community or neighborhood park.

It also prohibits smoking in mini-parks, such as Cherry Hill, Dearborn High, Martha-Myrtle, Tannahill, Palmer-Jerome, Riverdale and Morningside that have play equipment.

If the ordinance amendment is approved by the City Council, violators will be subject to a \$50 fine, plus costs. Community service may be ordered in lieu of a fine.

More than 1,200 park systems nationwide are smoke-free. ■



A proposal would restrict smoking near play areas.

Customer service focus of reorganized departments handling property investments

People wanting to make improvements and invest in their homes and businesses in Dearborn will experience even better customer service with the reorganization of two critical city departments.



People wanting to invest in their homes will find improved customer service under a newly configured department.

Mayor John B. O'Reilly Jr., with approval from the Dearborn City Council, has moved forward with transforming the Residential Services Department into the Property Maintenance and Development Services (PMDS) Department.

The PMDS Department will continue to be responsible for inspecting homes that are for sale, and for inspecting and registering rental property.

Through its Neighborhood Services/Sanitation Division, the PMDS Department will also continue to be responsible for compliance of and education about property maintenance codes.

Change means comprehensive services

The responsibilities of the newly named department now also will include some services formerly housed in the Economic and Community Development (ECD) Department.

For instance, the PMDS Department will perform inspections when commercial buildings are re-occupied, as well as conduct interval inspections at commercial buildings.

In addition, the PMDS Department now will oversee plan reviews and issue building permits for both commercial and residential properties.

In order to provide stability and continuity of staffing in these important areas, 10 part-time positions gradually will be condensed into six full-time positions, among other personnel changes.

"We want to make it easier for our customers to obtain inspections and permits and reduce waiting time," said Nick Siroskey, director of the PMDS Department.

ECD will continue to oversee business recruitment, grant administration, the Housing Division; and activities designed to promote Dearborn's overall economic vitality. ■

Ordinance updates allow for modern fence styles

A proposed ordinance change updates Dearborn rules to allow for modern styles for semi-private fences and decorative tops.

The proposed change permits the use of semi-private fences with ½ inch gaps between the vertical slats. It also allows any decorative top pattern not exceeding one foot in height, with a solid top rail, and a minimum 50 percent clear open view.

These dimensions and options are in keeping with current industry standards for fences.

Another proposed amendment clarifies that a separate compliance certificate is not necessary when relocating a gate or a portion of the fence on adjoining property if the work is already approved.

Under the proposal, fees would also change to be in line with surrounding communities and to reflect the cost of city services. The fees will be revised from a total of \$107 to a total of \$125. ■

Drop boxes, online options for paying city bills

Customers paying water or tax bills can take advantage of drop boxes located at the Dearborn Administrative Center, 16901 Michigan Ave.

Boxes are located inside of the building to the right of the Treasury windows, as well as in the parking lot.

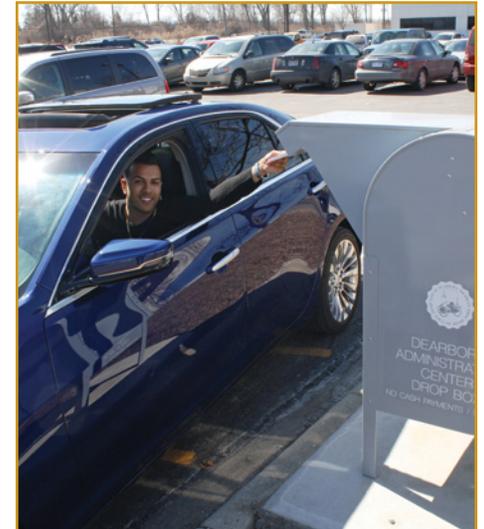
Payments placed in the drop boxes should include a check, money order, or cashier's check made payable to the City of Dearborn, along with the payment coupon no later than 5 p.m. on the due date.

Avoid the line, pay bills online

Property tax payments can be made online, by phone, through Automatic Clearing House Debit withdrawals, in person, and by mail.

Water bills can be paid through ACH withdrawal, by mail, and in person.

For full details on payment options, visit www.cityofdearborn.org. ■



Try paying bills online for the greatest convenience, but you can also avoid standing in line by using secure drop boxes.

Dearborn Public Schools engaging community to develop strategic plan for district's success



The following article is published as a courtesy to the Dearborn Public Schools.

During the month of April and May, the Dearborn Public Schools will, as a community, embark on a journey to create a new strategic plan for the district. For the plan to be successful it will require the input from community members, business owners, parents, students, and staff.

Together they will create the mission, vision, goals, and actions steps in the District's new strategic plan.

This dynamic team of about 40 to 50 people will share their expertise and work together to create a document that will define the major goals for the next four years.

The presentation of the new strategic plan to the Board of Education is tentatively scheduled to take place by early June.

Although membership on the Task Force has been established, anyone wishing to provide their suggestions or comments on the direction of the Dearborn Public Schools can visit www.dearbornschools.org and click on the Strategic Plan link.

The Dearborn Public Schools has a long tradition of engaging community members in order to bring the best possible learning opportunities to our students. The district is looking forward to the outcome of the Strategic Plan Task Force and their efforts to help create a learning environment where all students can and will be successful. ■

Healthy Dearborn seeks to boost active lifestyles, encourage better diet choices, improve access to medical care, and expand transportation options

Fun physical activities, better food and transportation, and healthier workplaces are all part of what a new coalition is working to bring to Dearborn.

The Healthy Dearborn initiative is a collaboration between Beaumont Health, the City of Dearborn and the Dearborn Public Schools, with input from numerous other stakeholders throughout the community.

"We are very excited about what it can do for our City and some of the things it has done already," said David Norwood, Dearborn's sustainability coordinator, who is spearheading the City's involvement in Healthy Dearborn.

Sara Gleicher, Beaumont Health's project manager for Healthy Dearborn, touted the unique three-way partnership between Beaumont, the City and school district.

"All are uniting around the idea of creating a healthier community by promoting healthy eating and active living in order to reduce high rates of chronic disease," she said.

Needs assessment shows four areas of concern

Healthy Dearborn is a result of a community health needs assessment conducted by what was then Oakwood Healthcare. The 2013 study showed four areas that need to be addressed: diabetes, cardiac care, obesity and access to health care.

While worrisome, the results were hardly surprising. Wayne County is said to be the unhealthiest county in Michigan.

Nationally, two-thirds of premature deaths are related to lifestyle choices such as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity and tobacco use.

Research has shown the best way to address needs such as those in Dearborn is to work within the community to make healthy eating and active living easier, safer and more accessible.

A Beaumont flier for Healthy Dearborn says, "Our vision is a thriving, diverse community that fully embraces a unified culture of health where everyone enjoys whole health (mind, body, spirit), with equal access to healthy foods, health care, green space and opportunities for safe, active living."

100 stakeholders working for changes

To drive such changes in the community, the coalition brought together more than 100 stakeholders within Dearborn, representing many different segments of the population.

Working subgroups are tackling issues such as transportation, the schools, healthy foods, healthy workplaces and healthy recreation.

Those interested in being involved in the committee or one of its sub-groups can call 313-421-0762 to learn more.

Healthy Dearborn hopes to have a plan finished by July. Residents should be able to see the group's influence at the Homecoming festival in August. ■



Residents enjoyed the Healthy Dearborn Family Bike Ride.

Volunteers needed for Meals on Wheels

The Senior Services Division is looking for volunteers to help with Meals on Wheels.

The program provides homebound seniors and disabled residents with nutritious meals delivered to their residence daily Monday through Friday.

Volunteers can help as little or often as they would like. They would need to be available starting at 9:30 a.m. for about an hour to deliver the meals.

All deliveries are made in Dearborn.

Volunteers need their own vehicle to make deliveries. Mileage will be reimbursed upon request.

Please contact Georgianna Hughes at 313-943-2009 to learn more. ■

Have a chronic problem with drivers in a certain area? Call the Traffic Bureau at 313-943-2275 for assistance

Dearborn residents concerned about bad driving habits in their neighborhood have a resource to call.

The Dearborn Police Traffic Safety Bureau will take information about areas with chronic speeders, stop sign violations, parking problems and other infractions.

Residents should call 313-943-2275 to report concerns.

Please provide the location of the problem, type of violation such as speeding, and the time of day when the problem occurs.

The complaint will be forwarded on to the patrol division, and officers will be assigned as available to do enforcement in those areas. Enforcement does not always stop drivers' poor habits, but it can at least lessen the problems.

As always, call 911 if you feel someone's driving is putting people in immediate danger.

Traffic Commission can assist

Residents who would like to see broader changes can contact the Traffic Commission at the same phone number.

The Traffic Commission studies, surveys, investigates and makes recommendations to the Mayor, City Council and Chief of Police relating to parking, traffic hazards, speed limits, and stop signs, among other issues.

Proposals can be brought before the Traffic Commission by completing petitions found in the front lobby of the Police Department. Petitioners are required to attend a Traffic Commission meeting, held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Police Department. ■



Dispose of tires at free May 21 event at DPW Yard

Residents may dispose of unwanted tires for free from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 21 at the DPW Yard, 2951 Greenfield.

There is a limit of seven tires per each vehicle visiting the DPW Yard for this disposal event.

No tires from commercial sources will be accepted.

This program is offered in conjunction with Wayne County. Tires dropped off at this event will be properly prepared for recycling.

Note that tires are not accepted at the curbside, nor during Hazardous Waste Day collections. This is the only time in 2016 that they will be accepted at the DPW Yard. ■

Mayor
John B. O'Reilly, Jr.

City Council
Susan A. Dabaja, President
Thomas P. Tafelski, President Pro Tem
Michael T. Sareini
Brian O'Donnell
David Bazy
Robert Abraham
Mark Shooshanian

Department of Public Information
Mary Laundroche, Director



City of Dearborn
Department of Public Information
16901 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1398
DEARBORN, MI

ECRWSS
To: Residential Customer

Free Shredding Day **8 a.m. – noon Saturday, May 14**

The City of Dearborn is sponsoring a free document shredding day for residents 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 14 at the City of Dearborn DPW Yard, 2951 Greenfield Road, south of Rotunda Drive.

This event is open to Dearborn residents only and proof of residency is required.

There is a limit per person of five office sized boxes of personal paper documents and a maximum weight of 50 pounds.

The DPW Yard will not be open for any other services on May 14.

For more information call 313-943-2433. ■

Free Household Hazardous Waste Day in Dearborn June 18, other dates offered by county

A free Household Hazardous Waste Day takes place 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 18 at Henry Ford College, 5101 Evergreen.

Proof of Wayne County residency is required.

On-site volunteers will collect the household generated hazardous materials, including (partial list): paints, stains, dyes, glue, carpet cleaner, furniture and nail polish, bathroom cleaners, stain removers, solvents, pharmaceutical waste, fertilizer, and lawn chemicals.

Also accepted will be antifreeze, motor oil, automotive and dry cell batteries, fluorescent bulbs, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, thermostats, computer monitors, CPUs, printers, keyboards, cell phones, and TVs.

Other Wayne County collection events:

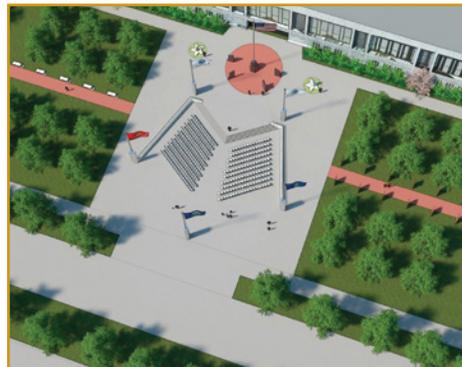
- Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Huron High School, 32044 Huron River Drive in New Boston
- Saturday, August 13, 2016, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Westland Shopping Center, 35000 Warren Avenue in Westland.
- Saturday, October 8, 2016, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Wayne County Community College, 21000 Northline Road in Taylor.

For information, call Wayne County at 734-326-3936. ■

Veterans Park and War Memorial set for Memorial Day dedication

Residents are invited to the dedication of Dearborn's new Veterans Park and War Memorial on Monday, May 30. The noon event will be held in conjunction with the Solemn Remembrance Ceremony that follows the 92nd annual Memorial Day Parade.

Accelerated construction on the site for the historic veterans' tribute began in March with the demolition of the inoperable fountain in front of Henry Ford Centennial Library.



All veterans, and those who died in service, will be honored with the construction of a park and memorial.

The new installation will include an eternal flame, battlefield cross, commemorative benches, etched glass panels, and flags from the five branches of the armed service.

Other key design components are memorial walkways and green spaces with 24 newly planted cherry trees.

War Memorial will be moved from City Hall Park

The four obelisks of the War Memorial, previously located at City Hall Park, will be featured prominently at the Veterans Park and War Memorial.

The development, made possible through a substantial contribution from AK Steel, will honor veterans and serve as an additional educational vehicle for all who visit the library.

Veterans Park honors all who served

"Almost 4,000 veterans currently live in Dearborn, hundreds more travel here daily to work or attend university," said Sean Green who sat on the planning committee and is commander of the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council.

"This site will honor and renew the stories of those men and women who throughout history have fought and sacrificed to protect our freedoms."

Mayor John B. O'Reilly, Jr. spearheaded the initiative. "This is an important milestone and demonstrates that the service of Dearborn's veterans is a crucial part of our community's history that should be preserved and shared with each generation." ■

Parade route travels in new direction in 2016

The 92nd Annual Memorial Day Parade will go in a new direction—literally—for 2016.

The parade will travel westbound on Michigan Avenue starting at Maple Avenue, and pass the review stand in front of Henry Ford Centennial Library, where the new Veterans Park and War Memorial will be.

The best viewing places will be close to the library.

The 92nd annual Dearborn Memorial Day parade begins at 10 a.m. Participants in the march must register online by Friday, April 22 at www.cityofdearborn.org. ■