
I am expecting great things for this year. We ended 2017 on a high note and I believe this is going to carry right through this coming year.

Work was begun and continues on Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium. We are hopeful for a spring completion and grand opening. This will be a beautiful addition to Grand Haven's waterfront experience thanks to the generosity of the three million dollar gift in memory of Lynne Sherwood. This stadium will always be a reminder of Lynn Sherwood and her heart for philanthropy and this community.

Before the end of 2017 the Catwalk Committee was successful in reaching the $1,000,000 goal for replacing the Catwalk. We are still adding to the total as Catwalk supporters continue to build our contingency fund to take care of future repairs.

The pier repair from shore to the inner light was completed by the King Company before winter. The section between the inner light and the fog house is slated to be done in the summer of 2018, but that timeline may be affected by today’s high water levels on Lake Michigan. Work on the pier, especially welding, cannot be done if the water is too high. The plan is to replace the catwalk starting from the fog house back toward shore so we will have to have a “wait and see attitude” about progress on the pier as conditions unfold.

In late 2017 Grand Haven was awarded two Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants for $280,000 each. One grant was to help in construction of Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium and the other to create more parking at Mulligan's Hollow at the former sight of the BLP tanks.

On the east side of town, the Salvation Army, part of our community for 100 years, kicked off their $1.1 million dollar campaign to enlarge their building and increase services. They are well over three quarters of the way to their goal to be better able to help the people of the community.

The City also received an Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement (ICE) Grant of $1,171,615 for the total reconstruction of Harbor Drive between Columbus and Franklin Streets. That project is being designed now and construction will happen in the fall. That should make for interesting detours at the west end of Washington Street, but there is never a convenient time to do these projects. They sorely need to be done; and, as a city, we are fortunate to be able to continue our commitment to renewing our aging infrastructure. These grants from the State of Michigan are a great help in that effort as the City does everything to stretch our local dollars.

At the other end of Harbor Drive, the Noto family, owners of Noto's Old World Italian Dining in Grand Rapids, bought the Bil-Mar Restaurant. Their remodel efforts have run into some interesting issues, but they plan to open in the spring for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The stage is set for many interesting happenings in 2018. Stay tuned.
**News Bulletin**

**Tax Bills & Postmark Policy**
The State of Michigan allows us to advance winter bills less than $100 to the summer statement; any winter amount over that limit requires a winter bill.

Winter tax bills are due Wednesday, February 14, 2017, to the City Treasurer’s Office. Postmarks from the United States Postal Service only will be accepted. Any payments made through bill pay, online banking, metered mail, as well as UPS and Federal Express will be posted the day it is received in the Treasury Department.

**Snow Plowing Services and Mailboxes**
Snow plowing is difficult work that is usually done under the worst of circumstances. City employees are professionals who take pride in their work, and mailbox damage due to direct hits from our plows are rare.

A mailbox hit by a plow will look demolished or have a clear indication of being struck by a plow blade. The City of Grand Haven pays damage claims or makes physical repairs to mailboxes and/or posts that have been directly hit by a snow plow blade or some portion of the plow truck.

If you believe your mailbox was physically hit by a plow, please call the Department of Public Works at 847-3493 and we will send a staff member to review it.

If there is no evidence that the mailbox was hit directly by the plow, you will be notified and instructed that the replacement of the mailbox is your responsibility.

If you are a resident who lacks the physical and financial ability to repair your mailbox and it is determined that your box was knocked down due to the force of heavy snow (not a direct hit), please call Love INC at 846-2701. The City partners with Love INC to get mail boxes repaired for residents who are physically and financially not able to do so themselves.

Please note that no portion of your mailbox should extend beyond the back of the curb and over the gutter pan/street. The U.S. Postal Service standards state that the front of your mailbox should be approximately 6 to 8 inches away from the edge of the street or the back of the curb if you have one. The bottom of the mailbox should be 42 to 48 inches above the surface of the street.

**Sidewalks, Snow and Safe Routes to School**
Please remove snow accumulations from your sidewalks this and every winter. We are working to improve the walkability of our town, and all residents can help by shoveling off the sidewalks. The Safe Routes to School program is designed to increase the number of kids who walk or bike to school; sidewalks free from snow and ice will help.

Many residents in our school neighborhoods have indicated that they may not be able to clear snow from their sidewalks following every storm. Rather than issue warnings, invoices and tickets, the City is appealing to all neighborhoods—please help clear a path, especially in school neighborhoods.

Leave the car in the driveway and take a walk this winter; but, first, grab a snow blower or shovel and join your neighbors in keeping our sidewalks clear and safe for everyone.

**City of Grand Haven Water Pipe Thawing Services**
The cold weather season is here, which is great for winter enthusiasts but not always so great for property owners with shallow water services. Property owners within the City of Grand Haven may contact the Water Billing Department at 616-847-4893 if they believe their water pipe is frozen. All reported frozen water pipes are investigated by City staff to determine if the frozen service line is the City’s responsibility to thaw or the property owner’s. If the problem is determined to be between the shut-off valve (a.k.a. curb stop) and the City water main, the City is responsible. If the problem is between the shut-off valve and the house/building it is the owner’s responsibility. The drawing below illustrates the two sections of an individual water service.

There is no cost to the property owner for City staff to provide one (1) water pipe thawing operation during the winter season. The property owner, however, will be charged on a time and materials basis (approximately $105/hour) for thawing a water service a second or more times in the same season.

**Protect our Watershed & Grand River Water Trail**
See the enclosed flyer regarding winter tips to protect our watershed and Grand River Water Trail and visit www.lgrow.org for more information.
Welcome Aboard: New Staff Join the Grand Haven Team
Please help us welcome our new full-time and part-time staff. We have hired Tiffany Bowman (Harbor Transit), Eric Law (Water Plant), Erica Neely (Harbor Transit), Derrick Neely (Custodian-DPW), Matt Dilley (Public Safety) and Mike Williams (Public Safety).

Affordable Housing Committee Formed
In December, Grand Haven City Council unanimously passed a resolution directing City Manager, Pat McGinnis, to form an ad hoc committee to study the issue of housing affordability in the City of Grand Haven.

The committee will be comprised of two council members, two Planning Commission members, the City Manager, the Community Development Manager or a representative, two to four Community Members and two additional recommended members appointed by the City Manager and affirmed by the committee.

Affordable housing is a national, state and local issue that the Greater Ottawa County United Way and Ottawa Housing Next Committee have researched and published a report about Ottawa Housing Next. The report identified a need for about 15,000 affordable units for the workforce in Ottawa County. Local governments have the ability to set policies that either streamline the development process or relax zoning ordinances to encourage affordable housing projects, or even advocate local employers to increase wages and working hours.

Findings presented by the Affordable Housing Committee may help communities across Ottawa County and ultimately help Ottawa Housing Next achieve its mission. Read more about Ottawa Housing Next at www.ottawaunitedway.org/ottawa-housing-next

Become Involved
Volunteers serving on citizen boards, committees, and commissions advise City Council on a variety of topics. Consider lending your knowledge, skills and attributes.

The groups work collaboratively with an assigned City staff member who serves as the liaison between the advisory group and the City Council. If you are interested in serving or want to read descriptions of each advisory group, then please refer to the City’s website www.grandhaven.org/City-services/boards-and-commissions/.

Welcome New Grand Haven Businesses
The Grand Haven Area Chamber of Commerce helped celebrate the grand opening of four new businesses in Grand Haven City limits. Incoming businesses are Sir Wellington Tea, located at 512 Washington Avenue; Sol+Sage, located at 1116 Washington Avenue, ReSolve Grand Haven Physical Therapy, located at 950 Taylor Avenue-Suite 180; and Cook’s Kitchen & Pantry, located at 124 Washington Avenue.

News Bulletin
Neighborhood Housing Service Expansion
Foreclosure Help! Are you experiencing a financial hardship that threatens your housing stability? Are you unable to pay your upcoming property tax bill? Neighborhood Housing Services can help.

Mortgage/property tax relief programs can be complicated. NHS can provide you with up-to-date information on your rights, your options, and program eligibility. Our foreclosure services are FREE, available to all Ottawa County residents, confidential, one-on-one, objective and judgment-free, informative, and supportive. Our office is located at 11 N. 6th Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Call today with questions, 616-935-3270 or visit us online at www.grandhaven.org/residents/housing-grants-services/

Republic Services Recycling Program
Grand Haven has adopted a recycling program to increase awareness. Republic Services accepts clean recyclable items, including newspapers, magazines, catalogues, clear glass, plastic bottles, and containers with the #2 symbol, tin, and aluminum cans. If you are a subscriber to Republic Services, you should have received an 18-gallon container. If you wish to increase your residential recycling and have room to store a 95-gallon recycling cart, contact the City Manager’s Office at 616-847-4888 to request a larger cart.

Household Hazardous Waste
The Ottawa County Health Department has a Resource Recovery Service Center for the collection of household hazardous waste located at 16850 Comstock Avenue (just west of 168th). For more information, call 616-393-5645 or visit www.miottawa.org.
City of Grand Haven
519 Washington Avenue
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: 842-3210
www.grandhaven.org

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
are held on the first and third
Monday of every month, at 7:30 p.m. Work Sessions may be
held prior to Council Meetings. Meetings of the City Council
can be viewed from our web site:
www.grandhaven.org.

Your Local Government:
MAYOR
Geri McCaleb
gmccaleb@grandhaven.org
844-0425 (home)
402-5620 (cell)
COUNCIL MEMBERS
Michael Fritz
mfritz@grandhaven.org
842-2409 (home)
846-5006 (work)
Josh Brugger
jbrugger@grandhaven.org
842-0259 (cell)
Robert Monetza
rmonetza@grandhaven.org
846-3027 (home)
Dennis Scott
dcsscott@grandhaven.org
638-9828 (cell)

CITY DEPARTMENTS
AIRPORT  842-4430
ASSESSING  846-8262
BLP  846-6250
BUILDING  847-3490
CEMETERY  847-3489
CLERK  847-4886
COMMUNITY CTR  842-2550
COMMUNITY DEV  847-3490
FINANCE  847-3493
HARBOR TRANSIT  842-3220
HOUSING SERVICES  935-3270
HUMAN RESOURCES  847-4887
LOUTIT LIBRARY  842-5560
MAIN STREET  844-1188
MANAGER'S OFFICE  847-4888
MARINA  847-3478
PUBLIC SAFETY  842-3460
PUBLIC WORKS  847-3493
TREASURER  842-3210
WASTE WATER  842-3215
WATER BILLING  847-4895
WATER FILTRATION  847-3488
ZONING  847-3490

City Calendar
The 2018 City of Grand Haven Calendar is now available! Grand Haven residents and business owners should have received a copy in the mail. This year’s theme is "100 years of Grand Haven's Historic Churches." Each month highlights a local church with a narration of interesting history and photos. If you did not receive a calendar, we have a few extra prints available at City Hall until supply is out.

Overnight Parking Reminder
Annual on-street parking regulations are in effect from December 1 through April 1, prohibiting any parking of vehicles on a public street within the City, between 2:00 A.M. and 6:00 A.M. Parking is not permitted on curb lawns or front-yard areas, and vehicles cannot obstruct sidewalks, nor can vehicles be parked to straddle curbs or in areas where curbs must be mounted to park vehicles.

Read more about this ordinance and other city ordinances on the City's web site at www.grandhaven.org under City Services.

Reimagine Imagination Station 2.0
The Imagination Station at Mulligan’s Hollow Park is in need of a facelift and you can help make it happen! A steering committee made up of area residents have come together to raise project funds to completely overhaul and transform the longtime playground into a universal play-space for all children. The goal is to raise $500,000.

There are several different ways to contribute to this unique fundraiser, including the purchase of custom fence pickets for the play-space at $100 each; the purchase of a Grand Haven-Opoly board game at $39.99, sponsorship of specific play-space components, or cash donations at variable levels. Visit the Reimagine website to learn more www.gh-reimagine.org.

SeeClickFix Citizen Reporting Tool
People in Grand Haven now have the ability to report issues they see around the City with just a click of a button. The new SeeClickFix app allows residents to submit a brief explanation of the issue along with pictures or a video directly to City officials. GPS mapping also assists City staff with finding the exact location of non-emergency issues quickly. City officials in Grand Haven say this is a way to build a stronger community and let the people of the City have a voice in keeping things up to standard.

Sign up for an account at www.seeclickfix.com and download the iPhone or Android mobile app to identify problems and places for improvement in your neighborhood.

For Special Event Listings
Contact the Grand Haven Area Visitor’s Bureau
www.visitgrandhaven.com or call 842-4499

Chamber of Commerce
www.grandhavenchamber.org or call 616-842-4910

Like us on Facebook: City of Grand Haven, MI
Follow us on Twitter: @GrandHavenCMO
Visit our Web Site: www.grandhaven.org

Sign-up to receive electronic newsletters to your e-mail account at: www.grandhaven.org. (Go to “City Services” then “Press Releases & Local Publications”)
PROTECT OUR WATERSHED

WINTER TIPS

SHOVEL
Shovel snow onto vegetated areas. Grass and plants will act as a natural filter once snow melts, reducing runoff that goes down stormdrains directly to rivers and streams.

PLAN AHEAD
Shovel and scrape early and often. De-icers work best when there is only a thin layer to remove.

USE LESS
A little salt goes a long way. Apply sparingly, and remove slush once the snow melts to prevent refreezing.

RECYCLE
Save money by reclaiming salt for re-use by sweeping or vacuuming the solids from the sidewalk after the storm.

STORAGE
Practice good housekeeping by storing salt or other de-icers under a roof or other cover to minimize polluted runoff.

VEHICLES
Winterize vehicles so that there are no leaks. Do not wash the car in the driveway - ensure that dirty washwater is not entering the storm sewer.

VISIT WWW.LGROW.ORG FOR MORE INFO