



ROOSEVELT PARK REVIEW

March 2024

City Hall Closings

March 29th

Closed in observation of
Good Friday

May 27th

Closed in observation of
Memorial Day

Upcoming Events

Blood Drive

March 5th

Spring Forward

March 10th

Board of Review

March 13th & 14th

Easter Egg Hunt

Sat. March 16th

10:00 am

Community Center Park



Manager's Message

Please Excuse the Dust...

Spring 2024

I hope we can all breathe a sigh of relief with some of the brief and fluttering signs of spring that Mother Nature has been sending our way. This winter has certainly been one for the record books with unseasonable warm spells and below average snow events throughout the community. However, the warming sunshine and short rising temperatures throughout the city continue to give hope for the warm days and green grass that are on the horizon.

I felt drawn to the title of this article for the spring publication as there are several projects on tap throughout the community for this upcoming summer along with even more undertakings on the schedule for 2025. Nearly all residents will begin seeing continued progress and improvements in the coming spring and summer seasons.

Over the last six months the undertaking and ultimate completion of the Glenside Boulevard streetscape creation has been quite a heavy lift for the City and our partners, however it continues to pay dividends. The City was notified in the last few weeks that we were successful in our request for state grant funding to tear down and clean up the warehouse property along the east portion of the Glenside trail. With the \$440,000 awarded, a strong and swift remediation of the site is now possible and will be a welcome addition and will truly transform that corridor for generations to come.

Also on the agenda for the summer of 2024 is the street reconstruction of Eastland and a portion of Royal Oak. The City was awarded an MDOT local streets grant to rebuild Eastland from Glenside to Royal Oak along with a stretch of Royal Oak which will serve as the backbone of all future neighborhood improvements. While it is not a significant project in length, it will be the basis for a long-term rebuilding of the four blocks of Brookfield, Rockland, Royal Oak, and Glenside. The grant allows the installation of a full storm drain system which will act as the collector for the previously mentioned four streets.

As we look forward to current projects, the City and the Downtown Development Authority was also awarded \$404,000 in state Transportation Improvement Program funds to resurface all of Maple Grove and the two blocks of the Broadway streetscape in 2025.

Manager's Message

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Along with infrastructure projects, the Recreation and Parks Committee continues to work on the next several fiscal years of parks improvements and recreational partnerships. This summer will see the renovation and upgrading of Post Road Park into a truly safe and enjoyable play site for our younger kids and families while H.D. Carsell Park will be getting a facelift and upgrades to its playground and infrastructure. Both projects will bring the parks up to current safety standards and also bring increased use and inclusive play for all our residents and visitors.

On a similar page, the tennis courts at the Community Center Park are slated to be completely resurfaced along with the transition of one tennis court into full blown pickleball courts. As one of the fastest growing sports in the country, the hope is that we will see increased use of all the courts at the park.

The Recreation and Parks Commission is also busy working on another awesome movie night, programing partnerships, and other opportunities for our community. The board meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 o'clock and would love to have visitors and residents attend!

Be sure to check out the first event to kick off the year which will be the Easter Egg hunt on March 16th at the Community Center Park at ten in the morning. This year promises to be the biggest and best egg hunt yet!

As always, I maintain an open-door policy here at City Hall and welcome you to address any issues or questions that you may have.



Jared Olson, City Manager

Information for our senior residents.

As the calendar year begins at City Hall, so does the responsibility of planning and utilizing the Muskegon County Senior Millage funds that have been allocated to our community for 2024. There are several great programs and projects that Roosevelt Park remains involved in to benefit our senior community.

We are continuing our partnership with helping to fund and operate the **Muskegon County Senior Taskforce** based within the County prosecutor's office. This program devotes specialized investigators and team members to assist with crimes or scams aimed at our senior population.

Senior Power of Produce: Access to fresh fruits, vegetables, and produce is vital to the health of our senior population. The City will again partner with the Muskegon Farmers Market to help fund the Senior Power of Produce program which provides weekly funding for those 62+ for produce purchases at the Farmers Market downtown Muskegon. Hundreds of Roosevelt Park seniors have utilized this program in the past to assist in obtaining healthy produce. Keep an eye out at the farmers market and our next newsletter for additional details.

Activities and Fitness Events: For several years we have partnered with Senior Resources and provided funding for the Senior Activities in the Park Program and other activity programs at Tanglewood including Zumba, Tai Chi, and other physical activities. Look for information on upcoming programs and events.

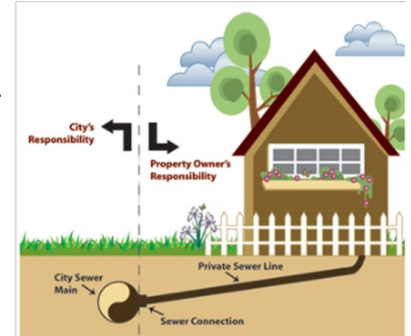
Sewer Backup Mitigation: Over the last several years, one pressing need identified by Roosevelt Park staff was the need to have an immediate measure in place to provide senior homeowners with sewer back up relief. In the time of a sewer backup emergency, the days or weeks that other avenues make take, hinders the ability to call in a professional team to clear a sanitary drain and alleviate an ongoing back up. If you are a senior homeowner in our community and find yourself in the unfortunate position of having a sewer backup, please reach out to our DPW for investigation and to utilize this possible funding source.

While these are some great programs, there are even more projects to come so please keep your eye out for more updates and a newsletter mailing in your mailbox!

DPW Dirt

Are you experiencing a sewer back up or noticing slow moving drains?

If it is during regular business hours (8am-5pm Monday through Thursday or 8-noon Friday) call City Hall at 231-755-3721. After hours call 1-231-722-3524. Crews will be sent out to check sewer lines in your area to determine what steps will need to be taken.



Plowing Damage

The snow will soon be melting. With that, your attention will hopefully turn to spring cleanup. You may notice that our sidewalk plow created damage to your yard. If this is the case and damage has occurred please reach out to the DPW superintendent at bvanhoeven@rooseveltpark.org or by calling City Hall. Crews will come around to restore the area as time permits. If you are willing to help us fix our mistakes by picking up the loose sod and setting it back in place or putting it in a pile, let us know and we will come by and dispose of it and reseed if needed.

Brush Chipping

Brush Chipping will begin on Monday April 1st, 2024, weather permitting. Chipping will be done on Mondays. Please be aware that if you see City workers out taking care of fallen branches or brush before that date, that does not mean chipping has begun. The Department of Public Works often has cleanup they must do after the snow melts before they can begin chipping for the residents.

As chipping resumes please remember a few things:

- ⇒ Keep all cut ends facing the same way.
- ⇒ Stack in multiple piles with cut ends facing the roadway
- ⇒ We do not pick up stumps or tree bases, our chipper can only handle smaller limbs.
- ⇒ Brush pickup is for residents doing general trimming not complete tree removal.



Lead Service line Replacement

We are required to verify water service line materials as part of our record keeping and replace services that are believed to contain lead components. Last year we replaced 39 residential water service lines. We are asking all residents that have easy access to their water meters to send us a photo for our records (see example).

Please send the photos by email to bvanhoeven@rooseveltpark.org with the subject line reading: Water meter photo for Your Address. After recording the data, we will reach out to those homeowners that still have a

steel line or are believed to have a lead service line to get the replacement scheduled. If you have further questions or concerns, please email the address above.



Ben VanHoeven, DPW Superintendent

Pointers from the RPPD

Roosevelt Park Police Prioritizing Community Engagement in 2024

Community Relations

I know this will sound backward, but I want to stop using the terms “politically correct”, trust gaps, police transparency, police reform, or whichever trending term you want to use. Instead, here at the Roosevelt Park Police Department (RPPD) we’re just going to go out and continually show you, our community members, that we are doing these things.



Our position is, if you say you’re going to be transparent, then show you are. Even when things don’t make your agency look good.

For years law enforcement agencies have told our communities we were going to do things and failed to show them. The frustration in some communities is warranted when we say we are doing something or going to do something, but community members fail to see the connection between our words and our actions.

We need to talk.

This is serious.



2024 should be a year of demonstrated action for law enforcement. As the saying goes, “Actions speak louder than words.”

Police Transparency

Dialog and deep conversations are the bedrock to true transparency. Telling you, the public we serve, “what” and “how” you do something does not equate to transparency. Instead, we want to proactively foster and create opportunities to have a true dialog with our community stakeholders; from those who support us and those who don’t.



Public Perception

Right now, law enforcement officials are living through a pivotal moment in our nation’s and profession’s history. The perception of law enforcement by Roosevelt Park citizens, businesses, and visitors are of vital importance to us now and for future generations to come. At RPPD our philosophy toward improving public perception is simple:

We encourage empathy and understanding among the members of our department.



We embrace transparency and are willing to have difficult conversations with our community.

We promote unity, and avoid the “us vs. them” mentality that has historically plagued law enforcement and public relations.

Our viewpoint at Roosevelt Park PD is that we have a healthy community-police relationship. In 2024 we want to seek out and encourage stronger communications networks with the formal development of an ongoing community-police dialogue.

We ask that you let us know how you would like to enhance capacity, community participation, and bring us together for dialogue and outreach. Ideas on how to promote a deeper understanding of community values, expectations, and building connections are very much desired. Together we can then create action steps toward improving our services provided to you and develop sustainability for years to come.

Shawn Bride, Chief of Police

231-755-3721

Shawn.bride@mcd911.net

C LERK'S CORNER



ELECTION NEWS

How many voters in Roosevelt Park vote *before* election day?

Back in the day there were only two ways to vote:

1. At the polls on election day.
2. By special absentee ballot. However, you had to have a good reason with proof! Such as scheduled surgery or a vacation out of the area.

Fast forward to 2024 and we now have 3 very convenient ways to vote:

1. [Absentee voting](#)
Previously a voter needed a documented reason why they could not make it to the polls on election day, now every voter can choose vote from their living room couch!
2. [Early in-person voting](#)
Early in-person voting starts 9 days prior to an election. However, this is only mandatory for certain elections. Contact the clerk, or click the link above for more information on if this option is available and where it is taking place.
3. [At the polls on election day](#)
Tried and true, you can come in person, on the day of the election from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Roosevelt Park Community Center and cast your ballot.

Roosevelt Park has 3430 registered voters. 1350 are on the permanent absentee voter list. A hand-full took advantage of the new 9-day in-person early voting option. So, in answer to the first question, over 40% of our voters actually vote before election day. I predict this percentage will increase as we get closer to the November election. Who does show up at the polls on election day? From my observations it is mostly new voters and those who have voted in person all their life and are accustomed enjoy the tradition of placing their vote in the ballot box directly. We have also noticed, the weather, the type of election and the number of proposals etc. on the ballot all play a factor in voter turn out. For those of you who wish to vote in person on election day Roosevelt Park residents are all voting together at one precinct located at the Community Center 3106 Roosevelt Road. Which ever way you wish to vote, we look forward to serving you and making your vote count!

BUSINESS OWNERS PLEASE NOTE:

An annual business license is required to operate your business in Roosevelt Park. If you have a new business, please stop in City Hall to obtain this license. If you have an existing license and are closing up shop or selling to a different party, we ask that you contact the City Clerk to notify us of these changes so we can update our records or you may still be liable for business property taxes and license fees.

Ann Wisniewski, City Clerk

TREASURER'S TIDBITS



Hello March! Winter is in the rearview, spring is upon us and we are headed into those blissful summer months! Speaking of summer, we have so many events happening this spring and summer. City Manager, Jared Olson, spoke about the Recreation and Parks - Movies in the Park nights and the many programs and events utilizing our senior millage dollars but wait, there's more!

Our annual Roosevelt Park Day event is scheduled for Saturday September 7th and planning is underway. Roosevelt Park's own Two Dudes in Flip Flops will be performing again for us this year, along with the Steve Rivers Band. If you were there last year, you already know there is going to be fantastic music at the beer garden stage! We are going to have the arts and craft show again, and I'm looking forward to some delicious food truck eats. If you know any vendors, or are one yourself, who is interested in having an arts & crafts booth or food truck at the event, give us a call or check the events page on www.rooseveltpark.org for applications. Stay tuned for more information on the event as the event nears and reach out with any questions or suggestions.

Are you one of our many residents taking advantage of our e-billing option and receiving your newsletter via email? If you are, you may have noticed we have hyperlinks built into some of our stories for your convenience! Are you one of our residents who is missing out on the emails? Well, here is a link to get you hooked up! Click [here](#) now to enroll in e-billing! Did I mention it will save you \$1.00 on your water bill? Automatic payments are available too, and you guessed it! Enrolling in ACH Autopay will save you another \$1.00, plus you don't have to worry about your check getting lost in the mail or forgetting to pay your bill on time!

If you are having difficulties making your water bill payments, don't wait until your water has been turned off! MDHHS may be able to assist. For details visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/assistance-programs/low-income-households-water-assistance-program-lihwap> Resources are also available through Mid Michigan Community Action Agency to help with utility and delinquent tax assistance. Go to <https://www.mmcaa.org/howwehelp.html> for more information.

We have lots of convenient ways for you to do business at City Hall without making a trip into the office, but if you do decide to stop by, say "hi" to the top dog in the office! No, I don't mean Jared, I mean Dodge. Here's a picture of him under the office Christmas tree. He loves playing tug of war, and snores like a freight train, but other than the snoring he is a quiet fella and rarely makes a peep. It's a ruff life being the office dog!

The March Board of Review is scheduled for the 13th and 14th. If you have questions about the valuation of your property taxes for 2024, schedule an appointment with the Assessor. There is more information on the next page about how property taxes are determined, and that may answer some of your questions, but if not we are here to help you!



Kate Dibble, City Treasurer

From the Front Desk

Spring is right around the corner! Don't forget to spring forward and set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10th. With that extra hour of daylight, some residents may be starting those projects around the house. If you are adding or replacing a fence, deck or shed at your home you must contact City Hall to make sure it meets the zoning requirements and if required, submit a permit application with your \$35.00 application fee. If you are planning on doing any other work such as siding, windows, roofing, plumbing or electrical - you will need to obtain a permit through the Building Department at the City of Norton Shores. Any questions you may have please call us at Roosevelt Park City Hall.

Spring cleaning may also have residents wondering what large items can be set out with the garbage for Republic Services to pick up. They will pick up mattresses, box springs, doors, windows and toilets but the toilets must be taken apart with the back detached and set out separately. Republic also picks up sinks, wood or metal furniture and carpet. The carpet must be cut into sections no longer than four feet and must be tied. Construction materials, such as drywall and 2x4s are not allowed.

For those residents who have not been into City Hall lately, we now have an office dog! Our beloved Dodge is a French Bulldog and belongs to our treasurer, Kate. He is at work most days and is an absolute sweetheart. He loves everyone and he's so quiet you might not realize he's here! Everyone have a wonderful Spring and we look forward to seeing you at the front desk.

Cheryl and Sue

ASSESSING FAQs

Uncapping Residential Property Taxes.

In 1994, Michigan Voters passed Proposal A, which limits the growth in property taxes to the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, but only until ownership of the property is transferred. Once ownership is transferred, the property's taxable value is uncapped and increases to the same level as the assessed value in the year following the sale. In most cases, buyers will see a substantial increase in property taxes depending on the gap between the taxable value and the assessed value of the property.

The formula under Proposal A ensures a property's taxable value does not grow as fast as the property's assessed value, which should be at or near 50% of market value. However, once the property is sold, the taxable value is uncapped and increases to the assessed value for the year following the sale.

For example, a new home is purchased for \$200,000 (market value). The assessed value is \$100,000 (50% of market value) and the previous taxable value was \$75,000. The gap between the assessed value and the taxable value depends on how long someone has owned the property. Once a purchase happens, the taxable value rises to match the assessed value and thus the "uncapping" of the taxable value occurs. For the following years of ownership, the taxable value again falls under the rate of inflation or 5% cap.

While this is only a brief overview of the current 1994 statute and examples of how it operates, if you have additional questions or would like further clarification on the topic, please feel free to contact the Assessing Department at 231-799-6806.

City of Norton Shores/City of Roosevelt Park/Fruitport Township Assessing

p 231-799-6806

f 231-798-0399

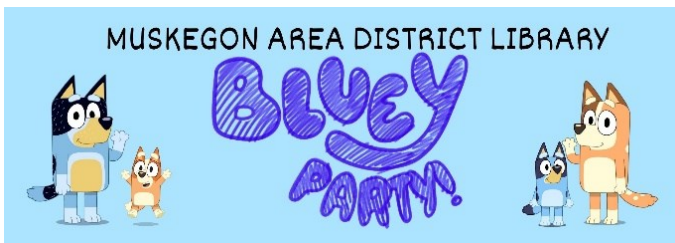


Library Low-Down

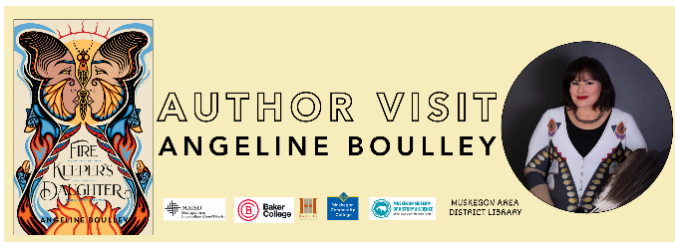
Did you know that Roosevelt Park is part of the Muskegon Area District Library (MADL) service area? While the closest MADL library is the [Norton Shores Branch](#) at 705 Seminole, you have access to the services, programs, and collections at all 11 of our locations as well as our bookmobile. Check out some of the programs coming this spring!



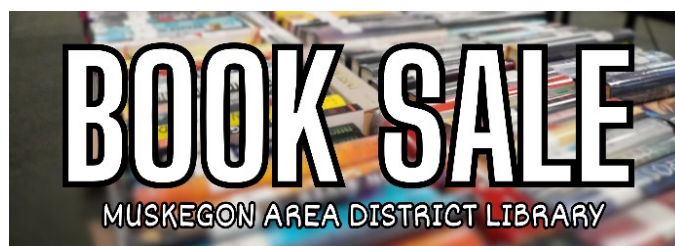
Planning a spring break stay-cation? We've got you covered with MADL at the Movies. Beginning March 26, you can show your MADL library card at any MADL Branch to pick up FREE tickets for a special showing of *Luca* at Cinema Carousel on April 2. Tickets will be available ONLY to MADL card holders. Don't have a library card? Stop in at the Norton Shores Branch with proof of address (like a driver's license) to get one.



Do you have any *Bluey* fans at home? They'll be excited to celebrate with us at our Bluey Party at the Norton Shores Branch on April 3 at 5:30 pm. We'll have the whole family dancing, singing, and playing games based on everyone's favorite down under show! Save your spot at [MADL.org/calendar](https://www.madl.org/calendar)



All MADL branches are excited to welcome Angeline Boulley, the 2024 Great Michigan Read author. She'll be stopping at the Orchard View High School Auditorium on April 17 to discuss her book, *Firekeeper's Daughter*, offering insights into the modern Native experience, addressing historical injustices, and celebrating community. Save everyone a seat at [MADL.org/Calendar](https://www.madl.org/Calendar).



Show your support for the library and snag some second-hand books at the Friends of the Norton Shores Library Used Book Sale. The sale runs Friday, May 3 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday, May 4 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

And that's just the beginning! Dive into a world of music, games, storytimes, crafts, and more every month at MADL. Check out the full calendar at [MADL.org/Calendar](https://www.madl.org/Calendar) and sign up for monthly emails at [MADL.org/SignUp](https://www.madl.org/SignUp).

We'll see you at the library!

Muskegon Area District Library

[MADL.org](https://www.madl.org)



Roosevelt Park Awarded State Funds for Property Remediation and Redevelopment

Partnership between Roosevelt Park, Muskegon, and Muskegon County Land Bank Results in Large Blight Elimination Grants for Community

The Muskegon County Land Bank has been awarded two Blight Remediation Grants from the Michigan State Land Bank Authority (SLBA) in their latest round of funding. One of the grants that was awarded to the Muskegon County Land Bank is a \$440,000 windfall for the demolition and remediation of a long-shuttered industrial building located on seven acres at 1367 W. Sherman Blvd in Roosevelt Park. In 2022 the former owner donated the site to Roosevelt Park for the purpose of redevelopment, but the existing building and its costly removal have proven a barrier to interested developers. Recent years have included proposals for residential development as well as the potential for commercial investments such as luxury storage condos and retail bays, but due to the high costs to clear the site development has been put on hold.

The City and its Downtown Development Authority have recently made large investments to the Sherman/Glenside Blvd. corridor completing a \$1,500,000 project to rebuild and improve Glenside Blvd. Decorative streetscaping and a parkway were added to make it a more welcoming entrance to the City. Removal of the blighted industrial building will make way for new growth in the City which is a vital next step in the development process according to City leaders. "We are excited to continue the redevelopment of the Glenside Boulevard area and these grant funds will undoubtedly help to truly transform the entire corridor and build upon the past several years of improvements," shared Roosevelt Park City Manager Jared Olson. The City plans to release a request for proposals to developers on the site following completion on the project in the coming year.

The success of this application means a lot to the local area, and the cooperation in completing the applications and gathering necessary information is not lost on the people involved. "The City of Roosevelt Park is beyond appreciative to partner with the State of Michigan and the Muskegon County Land Bank," said Roosevelt Park Mayor Aaron Langlois. "We look forward to the demolition of the current building and the reinvigoration of the property into a cornerstone development in our community."

Visit us online for updates and news

The official website is www.rooseveltpark.org Find up-to-date information regarding events happening in the City, City Council meeting minutes and other important documents such as the City budget. You can also keep in touch with what is happening in the City on our official "Roosevelt Park Michigan" Facebook page. Have suggestions? Contact City Hall.

City of Roosevelt Park Council Members and Staff



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alanglois@rooseveltpark.org



Mayor Pro-Tem
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Kate Dibble, City Treasurer

755-3721 opt. 5

Shawn Bride, Chief of Police 755-3721 opt. 1

Ben VanHoeven, DPW Superintendent

755-3721 opt. 4

Ann Wisniewski, City Clerk 755-3721 opt. 3

Cheryl Christensen & Sue Degen, Front Desk

755-3721 opt. 2

CITY HALL/POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs 8:00 - 5:00, Fri 8:00 - 12:00 Phone 755-3721

Non-Emergency Water/Sewer After Hours: 722-3524