



# ROOSEVELT PARK REVIEW

December 2023

## City Hall Closings

### **December 25th & 26th**

Closed in observation of  
Christmas

### **December 29th**

Closed in observation of  
New Year's Eve

### **January 1st**

Closed in observation of  
New Year's Day

## Upcoming Events

### **Water/Sewer Bills Due**

Tues. January 2nd

### **Blood Drive**

Tues. January 9th

### **Tax Bills Due**

Wed. February 14th

### **Full Service Saturday**

Sat. February 24th

### **Election Day**

Tues. February 27th



## **Manager's Message**

Whether we like it or not, the door is now closing on 2023 and we are about to open a new one with 2024. The snow started off in a hurry this fall with a historic Halloween blizzard, but hopefully we can escape this winter without too many storms like that. As we brace for the upcoming months of cold and snow, there are already several projects to look forward to during the approaching spring and summer months.

We have been able to complete several projects for this past year which included the rebuilding of Glenside Boulevard from Sherman to Broadway. This was a project that had been planned since 2019 and we are all excited to see it completed. Along with the Glenside project, the first capital improvement utilizing the voter approved 2022 Parks Improvement millage was completed and Wells Park playground has now been open to the public for several weeks. Both projects will be even better in the spring as the landscaping and final touches are completed.

While it will be nice to take a breath from road and community enhancement projects over the winter months, our team is already looking forward to beginning next years exciting projects. The City was awarded an MDOT local streets grant to rebuild Eastland from Glenside to Royal Oak along with a stretch of Royal Oak. 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 backbone for the previously mentioned four streets. Along with 2024 planned projects, the City was also awarded \$232,000 in state Transportation Improvement Program funds to resurface all of Maple Grove in 2025. There is lots of planning to be done and improvements to our City's roads to come.

Along with road projects, the Recreation and Parks Commission has started planning the next several fiscal years of parks improvements and recreational partnerships, including 9 new little library locations. Please keep an eye out for the next newsletter as it will undoubtedly have more information in relation to upcoming recreation and parks plans.

As the year ends, I also want to thank all the volunteers, community members, and all those involved in both the formal city boards and commissions and those that just spend their time selflessly helping our community and neighbors. Our residents continue to set a benchmark for teamwork, involvement, and volunteerism which undoubtedly continues to make our whole community better. Thank you.

I also would like to take this time to thank the entire 2023 Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony Committee as they spend all year planning the annual gathering and festivities. As always, I maintain an open-door policy here at City Hall and I welcome you to come in or call me to help address any issues or questions that you may have.

*Jared Olson, City Manager*

# DPW Dirt

## Winter is coming!

Did you know? That covering City owned sidewalks or roadways with snow is prohibited per section 3.26 of the City Charter. Please help us keep our streets and sidewalks safe for public travel by putting your snow on your property and not parking vehicles on roadways or over sidewalks.



You may see crew members placing plow markers in the right-of-way near your house. We mark these areas in advance to help avoid tearing up the shoulders of the road. Please feel free to mark your sidewalk on the house side to keep our guys on target while in your area. If you would like you can put markers on the shoulder of the road as well.

For our residents with street side mailboxes, this is the time of year to “shake your mailbox” to see if it can handle another brutal Roosevelt Park winter. Please take the time to get it tightened up to make it through the winter.



Have you noticed a new tree planted in your neighborhood? This year the City was awarded a grant from Consumers Energy for 12 trees to be planted in the right-of-way. If you are interested in getting on our tree planting list for your right-of-way please email [bvanhoeven@rooseveltpark.org](mailto:bvanhoeven@rooseveltpark.org) your request.

**RED ALERT! RED ALERT!** Get Signed up for our next Roosevelt Park Blood Drive on 1-9-2024 at the Community Center. Visit the Red Cross site at

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

Use Sponsor Code: Rooseveltpark



**American Red Cross**

Blood Services



*Ben VanHoeven, DPW Superintendent*

# Pointers from the RPPD

## Roosevelt Park Police Encourage Preparation for Winter Emergencies

With winter weather rapidly approaching your Roosevelt Park Police are encouraging citizens to make winter emergency preparedness a priority. We've already had our first taste of winter this year and we encourage everyone to take steps to ensure you and your family are ready for the winter season ahead. Severe winter weather poses health and safety concerns with extremely cold temperatures, freezing pipes, potential propane shortages, and power outages. Everyone should consider the following actions to be prepared for the upcoming winter months.

To prepare your home for winter:

- Weatherproof your home by installing weather-stripping, caulking, and insulating walls, doors, and windows.
- Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls, so pipes are less likely to freeze.
- Lock in a propane rate now and have a backup heating plan, such as a generator, wood stove, or fireplace.
- Have gas or oil furnaces inspected by a qualified professional and change the air filter.
- Have your fireplace and chimney cleaned and inspected. Contact your local fire department for a referral or look for a local inspector online.
- Install battery-operated carbon monoxide (CO) detectors near every sleeping area. CO poisoning is most prevalent when furnaces are turned on to fight cold winter temperatures, but commonly occurs after winter storms and accompanying power outages, when people tend to rely on portable generators for electricity.
- Clean gutters to prevent ice dams from forming. Roof ice dams can cause water to build up, leading to interior damage.
- Clear storm drains along the curb to enable water to drain. If plugged, water has the potential to go into low-lying areas and flood basements.
- Have an emergency preparedness kit stored safely in your house that includes water, non-perishable food, a first aid kit, extra batteries, a battery or hand-crank powered radio, emergency lighting or flashlights, extra blankets, and warm clothing.

To prepare your vehicle for winter:

- Have your radiator system serviced before winter and make sure to replace windshield wipers and wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture that will not freeze.
- Replace any worn tires and check air pressure regularly.
- Have your brakes, brake fluid, oil, car battery, heater, and exhaust checked to make sure everything is running efficiently.
- Keep an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle stocked with batteries, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, flashlight, windshield scraper, jumper cables, mobile phone charger, shovel, blankets, first aid kit, non-perishable food, and bottled water in the event you get stranded or stuck.

*Shawn Bride, Police Chief*



# CLERK'S CORNER



Another successful election in the books! With every election we learn new things! Here are some interesting things I learned this time around:

- \* With each new election more and more of our voters are choosing to vote absentee ballot. We have 3329 registered voters in Roosevelt Park and just over 600 have opted to vote by absentee ballot.
- \* There was a total of 130 walk-in voters at the polls for this last election.
- \* The majority of our walk-in voters choose to vote at 7am or early evening. So, if you are voting in person and want to minimize your wait in line, come in between 9 am and 3 pm.

A few years back, absentee ballots were only given to voters who would not be able to vote in person for a specific reason. Now we have “no reason” absentee voting. I am not sure why but 10% of absentee ballot voters choose to wait until election day to return their ballot, and of those, 8% carry the ballot all the way into the clerk’s office! If you are able, consider voting in person instead.

When an absentee ballot comes into the clerk’s office, I must match your signature on the front of the envelope with the signature we have for you on record. Unfortunately, if the signatures do not match, I must reach out to the voter and have them come into City Hall with their ID and sign in front of me. Most of the time the unmatched signatures are because people don’t know this process and they quickly scribble their name down. So bear with me if I call you for verification. These steps are in place to protect the entire voting process.

What’s coming in 2024? We are planning on four elections: February, May, August, and November. A new voting option, 9-day early voting will be implemented and a new permanent absentee ballot issuing process will be put in place. It will be a very busy Presidential election year. Happy Holidays to all!

*Ann Wisniewski, City Clerk*



## TREASURER’S TIDBITS

And just like that, 2023 is nearing the end. If you haven’t received your winter tax bill yet, you should be soon! Winter tax bills must be paid by 2/14/24 to avoid penalties. Past due summer and winter taxes can only be paid at City Hall until 2/29/24, after that payments must be made to the Muskegon County Treasurer’s office. Wondering where your tax dollars go? For a homeowner with 100% Principal Residency, out of each dollar paid, 39 cents goes to school related taxes, 38 cents go to City related taxes, 19 cents to County related taxes, 3 cents to our District Library and 1 cent goes to MCD 911.

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>

*Kate Dibble, City Treasurer*



## From the Front Desk

October ended with an unexpected bang that we definitely were not prepared for. We received about 10 inches of snow which weighed down tree branches causing fallen limbs and power outages. All of this and most people had not even started their leaf pick up yet. It was tough for a lot of people, but we got through it! We appreciate your patience and understanding. It took a great deal of time to clean up that mess! The Roosevelt Park DPW team did a great job getting limbs moved, roads plowed and clean-up done as soon as they possibly could.

The holidays are almost here and there is so much to plan for the season. Roosevelt Park will have the toys for tots boxes in our entry way of City Hall again this year. We appreciate all the donations that are given, so many children will wake up Christmas morning to presents because of your generosity.



When you come into City Hall you will see that the front office has been updated. The desk and work space have been moved around and it gives the office a much larger look. The desk is next to the window now so we can enjoy the views and sunshine. The remodel allows us to walk up to the window to greet residents and helps us to get our steps in! Everyone have a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you soon.

*Happy Holidays!*

*Cheryl and Sue*

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## 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*





## Visit us online for updates and news

The official website is [www.rooseveltpark.org](http://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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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 OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Thurs 8:00 - 5:00, Fri 8:00 - 12:00 Phone 755-3721**

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

**POLICE DEPARTMENT HOURS: M/W 8:30 - 3:30 T/TH 8:30-5:00 Fri 8:30-12:00 Phone 755-3721**