



Harbor Lights

City of Grand Haven

"Coast Guard City, USA"

Inside This Issue:

General Information	2
Parking on Streets & Downtown	2
Tax Payment	2
Postmark Policy	
Grand River: Yours to Protect	3
Winter Tax Distribution	3
Rental Registration	3
Assessing & Property Appraisal Matters	3
Events Calendar	4
Contact City Officials	4

Message From Mayor McCaleb

It is an honor to be elected Mayor of the City of Grand Haven. I am looking forward to serving the people of the community as Mayor and working with the City Council in tackling the issues that will come before us in the days ahead.

There is much in a name. A Haven is a safe harbor, a place of refuge, a place of protection. We are not just an ordinary Haven but, rather, a Grand one. That is a lot to live up to, but we who call this city home, know that it's an apt description.

In walking the neighborhoods of the city, I see how much pride the people of Grand Haven take in their homes, yards, gardens, and places of business. Their pride shows by the way that they care for their piece of Grand Haven real estate. I ran on the theme, "taking care of basics, moving forward responsibly." That's a challenge to keep our city services at top level, to keep the city looking good and working well for the families, businesses, and industries that make up our community and keep it healthy and thriving.

As we go forward, challenges lie ahead; but working together we can overcome any obstacles in our way and live up to that name Grand Haven.



Geri McCaleb
Geri McCaleb, Mayor

City Hall Hours

Monday-Friday
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Holiday Closing Hours

Christmas

December 23 - Closed
December 26 - Closed

New Year's Eve (Obs.)

December 30 - Noon

New Year's Day (Obs.)

January 2 - Closed

Good Friday

April 6 - Noon

Memorial Day

May 28 - Closed

Drop Boxes are available at the front and back entrances of the City Hall building for payments.



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.

General Information



Streetlights and Traffic Signals

Please call 846-6250 to report problems with street and traffic lights.



Parking on Streets and Downtown

Parking on streets is prohibited from December 1–April 1, from 2:00 AM to 6:00 AM for street maintenance. Violators will be ticketed. Parking in municipal parking lots downtown without a Downtown Parking Permit is prohibited from 3:00 AM to 6:00 AM. Violators will be ticketed and towed. New this fall to our downtown is a self-serve parking kiosk located at the NW corner of First Street and Franklin Avenue. For just \$5 you may purchase an overnight parking permit for downtown municipal parking lots. This is a great option for late night visitors/guests to downtown and for those who wish to be responsible. Violations can be costly, so protect your wallet with an overnight parking kiosk permit and remember to be responsible; never drink and drive.



Dog Licenses

Ottawa County began a new program for renewing dog licenses. Licenses will need to be renewed in the MONTH in which the dog's rabies vaccination was given and will be available year-round.

Dog licenses can be purchased from the City Treasurer's Office, the County Treasurer's Office, the Harbor Humane Society and some veterinarians, if they have opted into the program. Visit the City's Web site www.grandhaven.org for complete information on dog licenses and policies regarding dog-related issues.



Ottawa Conservation District Tree Sale

Plan ahead for spring! Each year in mid-April, the Ottawa Conservation District holds a tree seedling sale fund-raising event. This year's fund-raiser date has not been confirmed, but it will most likely be Saturday, April 14, or Earth Day, Saturday, April 21. All tree seedlings and shrubs are pre-ordered, with some availability of certain species the day of pickup. There is a wide variety of trees native to West Michigan for use in landscaping, reforestation, or windbreaks. This a great way to support the Ottawa Conservation District while we assist landowners in conserving, maintaining and improving the natural resources of Ottawa County. Order forms for the fund-raiser and descriptions of the trees available will be posted on our website in early spring at www.ottawacd.org. You can also request to be added to our mailing list through our website. For more information, call 846-8770 (Ext 5).



A Reminder for Allied Waste Services

Customers who travel away from home during the winter months (or any other time) should call Allied Waste Services at 877-698-7274 prior to leaving to have their account placed on "vacation hold." You will not receive an invoice for the time you indicate to them you will be away.



Nixle–Community Information Service

Nixle is completely free (standard text message rates apply). The service is simple to use, reliable and trusted.

Stay connected to your world, from important public safety alerts, to neighborhood advisories, and other valuable community information. You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, e-mail, or just simply over the web.

Sign up at www.nixle.com. It is quick and easy. If you have any questions or need help, please contact Captain Rick Yonker at the Department of Public Safety at 842-3460 or e-mail him at ryonker@grandhaven.org.



Christmas Tree Pick-Up

The Grand Haven Area Jaycees Christmas Tree Pickup will be on Saturday, January 7, 2012. Please have your tree at the curb side by 7:00 AM that morning.



Don't Flush Unwanted Meds!

... instead, safely dispose of your personal medications at the health department during regular business hours.

Grand Haven: 16820 Ferris St. 846-8360

Please remove pills from the pill bottles and place them in a plastic bag before dropping them off at the Ottawa County Health Department of your choosing. If you have questions about the Ottawa County's unwanted medication collection program, please call 393-5645.

Clean Up Our River Environment

www.COREmichigan.org



Tax Payment Postmark Policy

The City of Grand Haven will accept postmarks from the United States Postal Service only. 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.

The Grand River: Yours to Protect

When it rains, storm water flows over lawns, streets, and parking lots carrying with it road dirt, fertilizers, oil, and grease into storm drains.

Storm drains carry this storm water to the Grand River without any type of treatment. Follow these steps to keep storm water clean and help protect the Grand River.



Your Home

Protect your family's health. Dispose of unwanted medications, paints, solvents, and cleaners at your county collection center.

Pump your septic system every three to five years to avoid costly system overflows.

Your Lawn and Garden

Avoid scorching your lawn. Use slow-release types of fertilizer only two to three times per year. Non-phosphorus fertilizers are best for the environment.

Plant native plants in your garden. Native plants naturally need less water, fertilizers, and pesticides saving you time and money.

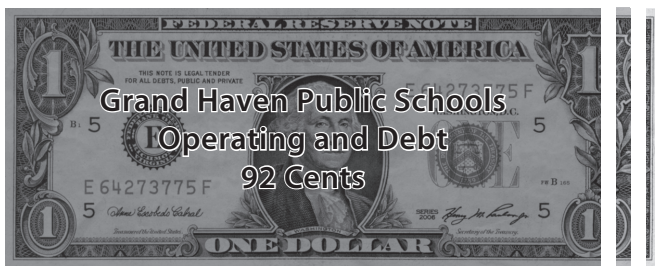
Your Vehicle and Garage

Recycle used oil and automotive fluids. Just one gallon of used motor oil dumped down a storm drain can contaminate one MILLION gallons of water.

Wash your car at a commercial car wash or on your lawn. Otherwise, dirty, oily water on your driveway will flow to your storm drain and eventually to the Grand River.

For a complete list of state approved storm water best management practices check out the link: http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714-118554--,00.html

Where Your Winter Tax Dollars Go



- 92 cents ■ Grand Haven Public Schools
- 7 cents ■ Ottawa County
- 1 cent ■ Loutit District Library

* If this property is your legal homestead, it is exempt from local school operation (LSO) millage. Total homestead winter millage is 2.6065. Total non-homestead winter millage is 11.6065.

How Your Winter Tax Payment is Distributed

Your winter tax bill is the second installment of the 2011 property tax obligation on your property. Your winter tax payment will be distributed to other public agencies; i.e., Grand Haven Public Schools, Ottawa County, and Loutit District Library. The illustration to the left shows how much of every dollar collected in property taxes is distributed to each public agency.

The amount you owe is equal to the total of levied "mills" times the taxable value (TV) of your property. To calculate your tax, multiply your TV by .0026065 (homestead) or .0116065 (non-homestead).

Your winter tax bill is due on February 14, 2012. You may pay your tax bill at the City Treasurer's Office, Grand Haven City Hall, 519 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417. Drop boxes are available for payments at the front and back entrances of the City Hall building.

Rental Registration

If you own residential rental property in the City of Grand Haven, it must be registered with the City of Grand Haven Planning & Community Development Department. The rental program is designed to help protect the safety of the tenants as well as the owners and improves and maintains the quality of our neighborhoods. Landlord cooperation is critical to the success of this program.

Rental Property Registration is required in accordance with the City of Grand Haven Code of Ordinance Section 9-201. The fee is \$35 for parcels with less than nine units, and \$25 for parcels with ten or more units, due by February 15 of each year. There is a \$10 per property late fee if the form and fees are not received by February 15. Inspections are conducted every three years and a Certificate of Compliance is issued based upon compliance with the requirements of the Property Maintenance Code.



Assessing Division

The City's Assessing Division is managed by Ottawa County Equalization employees through a contractual relationship between the City of Grand Haven and Ottawa County. The Ottawa County Equalization Department will serve City residents more directly in these matters at less overall cost. Joshua Morgan is the main contact and is available by appointment at City Hall. Call 846-8262 for assistance on assessing and property appraisal matters or to set up an appointment.

Tax Assessment

You will receive a "Change in Assessment Notice" in mid-February. If you believe the tax assessment of your property is incorrect, you may appeal to the Board of Review. The board meets March 19-21 at City Hall; please schedule an appointment or appeal by mail. Contact the City Assessor's Office at 846-8262.





City of Grand Haven
 519 Washington Avenue
 Grand Haven, MI 49417
 Phone: 842-3210
 Fax: 842-0085
www.grandhaven.org

Your Local Government:

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 on Channel 97 at the
 following times:

8:00 PM Wednesday
 10:00 AM Thursday
 8:00 PM Thursday

MAYOR

Geri McCaleb
 gmccaleb@grandhaven.org
 844-0425 (home)

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Fritz
 mfritz@grandhaven.org
 842-2409 (home)
 846-5006 (work)

Robert Monetza
 rmonetza@grandhaven.org
 846-3027 (home)

John Hierholzer
 jhierholzer@grandhaven.org
 846-5863 (home)

Dennis Scott
 dcscott@grandhaven.org
 846-1353 (home)

CITY DEPARTMENTS

ASSESSING	846-8262
BUILDING	847-3490
CLERK	847-4886
COMMUNITY SERV	847-4889
FINANCE	847-4893
HARBOR TRANSIT	842-3220
HUMAN RESOURCES	847-4887
MANAGER'S OFFICE	847-4888
PLANNING	847-3490
PUBLIC SAFETY	842-3460
PUBLIC WORKS	847-3493
TREASURER	842-3210
WASTE WATER	842-3215
WATER BILLING	847-4893
WATER FILTRATION	847-3488

For a complete listing of
 contacts, visit our Web site:
www.grandhaven.org

Harbor Lights

Winter/Spring 2011–2012 Events Calendar

November 18–December 10

Deck the Halls
 Tri-Cities Historical Museum

November 28–December 24

Nativity Scene
 Waterfront Stadium

December 2-3

*GHAAC Christmas
 Arts & Craft Show*
 Grand Haven Community Center

December 3

Jingle Bell Parade
 Downtown Grand Haven

December 3-4

Classic Holiday Home Tour
 Tri-Cities Historical Museum

December 7-23

Kiwanis Club Santa House
 Downtown Grand Haven

December 10

Holiday Creations
 Grand Haven Community Center

December 10

Happy Elves Craft Show
 White Pines Middle School

December 10

A Kid's Christmas
 Tri-Cities Historical Museum

January 26–29

Winterfest

February 18

Soup & Slider Festival
 VFW–20 N. First Street

February 18

Shop for a Cure
 Grand Haven Community Center

February 24-25

WGHN Home & Garden Show
 Community Center

March 3

Indoor Spring Garage Sale
 Community Center

March 10

*W. Michigan Nursery Landscape
 Assoc. Garden Show*
 Community Center



April 7

Easter Egg Hunt
 Central Park

April 20

Earth Rock Concert
 Grand Haven Community Center

April 21

Green Earth
 Grand Haven Community Center

April 21

Earth Day Fair
 Grand Haven Community Center

April 21

Katty Shack 5K & 10K
 First Presbyterian Church

May 19-20

Great Lakes Kite Festival
 State Park Beach

May 25-26

Memorial Day Rib Fest
 VFW - 20 N. First Street

May 28

Memorial Day Parade
 Franklin St—Waterfront Stadium

May 31

*St. Jude Children's Hospital
 7th Annual Fishing Tournament*
 Chinook Pier

June–October

*Wednesdays & Saturdays
 Farmer's Market*
 Chinook Pier

June –August

Tuesdays in the Park
 Central Park

June –August

*Wednesdays
 Dancin' on the Grand*
 Waterfront Stadium

June 1-3

Grand Haven Offshore Challenge
 Chinook Pier

June 9

Lakeshore Pregnancy Walk

June 9-10

Feast of the Strawberry Moon
 Harbor Island

June 14

Flag Day

June 16

Beach Survival Challenge
 Grand Haven City Beach

June 23

*McDonald's AGA Cup
 Skateboard-BMX Championships*
 Grand Haven Skate Park

June 23

Sand Sculpture Contest
 Grand Haven City Beach

June 23-24

Grand Haven Art Festival
 Downtown Grand Haven

*For More Information on These and Other Events
 Visit the Grand Haven Area Visitor's Bureau
www.visitgrandhaven.com Or Call 842-4499*