MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Matthew Baumgarten

Hello Berkley and welcome to February!!

While this may be a short month, you’ll see in this issue it is packed with so many wonderful things going on in Berkley to combat the winter blues.

It’s a month where we celebrate love, black history, and we’ll get to see who will hoist the NFL’s biggest prize.

This month also happens to be a personal favorite of mine as I was born in February, I met and married a wonderful woman who was born in February, and together we had two wonderful sons who were born in February. It’s a busy but fun time in the Baumgarten household. Throw Valentine’s day in there for good measure and it’s a 28-day celebration!

I hope you also enjoy this month and all the winter wonderfulness it brings. If not, take comfort in knowing that every snowy Michigan day brings us that much closer to Springtime and sunshine.

Have a great month Berkley!
**STRAIGHT FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE**

**License Issuance Reminders**

The penalty on all Pet Licenses continues to be waived while City Hall is closed to the public due to Covid-19. Anyone requiring a pet license may place the form, proof of vaccination, and payment in the secure drop box at City Hall. To download the form, visit [www.berkleymich.org/petlicense](http://www.berkleymich.org/petlicense).

The moratorium on issuing Peddler’s Licenses is in place through May 1, 2021. City staff will review the moratorium at that time.

Anyone interested in operating a commercial snow plow must receive a license to operate through the City Clerk's Office. Applications are available on our website under the Clerk’s section or by contacting our office.

**Questions?** Email clerk@berkleymich.net or call 248-658-3310.

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**FINANCE UPDATE**

**Online Payment Option Coming Next Month!**

We are excited to announce the official launch of our new online payment platform called Point & Pay which was unfortunately delayed due to COVID-19.

Be on the lookout for more information on our City website which will provide the new portal. Residents will be able to look up their water and sewer accounts, pay their bill using a credit card or a direct charge to your bank account.

**BILLING UPDATE**

The City of Berkley would like to inform residents, businesses, and commercial business owners that we will begin charging late fees or penalties on water bills beginning January 1, 2021.

Learn more at [www.berkleymich.org/treasury](http://www.berkleymich.org/treasury).

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

**Permit Application Updates**

Our Community Development department is currently updating our City’s permit applications and drafting development guides.

We are also working on a “How To Open A Business” brochure to assist developers and first-time business owners with their projects in our great community.

Learn more about our department at [www.berkleymich.org/communitydevelopment](http://www.berkleymich.org/communitydevelopment).
Thank You for Your Service

The City of Berkley and the Department of Public Safety wishes Sergeant Justin Frost a bittersweet farewell as he retired on Thursday, January 21, 2020, after 19 years of service. Sergeant Frost was hired as a Berkley Public Safety Officer on February 21, 2002.

During his time, Frost has served as a patrol public safety officer, was deployed to Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina, a Hazardous Materials Technician with the Oakland County Hazmat Team, EMS Coordinator, Fire Open House Coordinator, honor guard member, and field training officer (FTO).

On October 15, 2012, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant where he served as a patrol supervisor, FTO supervisor, special events coordinator, honor guard sergeant, and Oakland County Tactical Training Consortium (Oak-Tac) active assailant response (ASR) instructor.

Frost has been awarded one Departmental Commendation, two Director's Commendations, one Life-Saving Award, and one Unit Citation. He has also received numerous letters of appreciation.

Sergeant Frost served in the United States Navy from 1996 to 2000, the United States Naval Reserve from 2009 to 2015, and was deployed to the Persian Gulf in 2011 and Afghanistan in 2012.

Sergeant Frost has served our community with integrity, professionalism, compassion, respect, honor, and dedication. He will be missed by all of us, and we wish him well in his future with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Office.

Thank you for your service, Justin.

IMPORTANT DATES - HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES

The City will be closed on the following day(s):

- 02/15 - President's Day

Public Safety will continue to provide 24-hour operations and support to the community.
The office for the Department of Public Works remains closed to the public. DPW is still available via phone at 248-658-3490 during standard work hours (7 AM - 3:30 PM) or email at publicworks@berkleymich.net. All DPW team members are working.

**Chipper Service Reminder**

The branch chipper service runs once a month starting the 3rd Monday of each month. Please note the chipper service will only accept branches over 4’ in length and over 2” in diameter.

Smaller branches must be placed in yard waste bags/cans for FREE weekly pickup on garbage day. Residents can sign up using the online request form here: bit.ly/BerkleyChipper or they continue to contact the DPW if the chipper service is needed at 248-658-3490.

**Need a New Trash Bin?**

96-gallon trash toters are available for purchase for $60 each. These are wheeled cans with attached lids that are dumped mechanically by the City refuse hauler. Please contact the DPW for more details.

- **Please Note:** There are no changes to the garbage and recycling pick-up for the month of February. They will occur on regularly scheduled days.

**Traveling for the Winter?**

Any homeowners leaving the City during the winter months are encouraged to contact the DPW to temporarily change the mailing address for utility bills and shut off the water service at the curb to limit the possibility of pipes freezing.

**Questions?**

Please refer to the City website at www.berkleymich.org/dpw or call the Berkley DPW at 248-658-3490.
21 Days of Berkley Was a Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 21 Days of Berkley Promotion! We loved seeing you out and about supporting our beloved downtown Berkley businesses.

We will have another promotion and a Ladies Night Out event in the near future so please stay tuned for more information regarding those.

DDA Beautification Sub-Committee

The DDA is forming a sub-committee for beautification efforts on West 12 Mile.

If you're interested in being on that committee, please contact Brian at Zalman's Treasures, www.zalmanstreasures.com.

Downtown Development Updates

Berkley City Council and the DDA approved an Interlocal Agreement for the La Salette Project on Coolidge Hwy.

The developer intends to renovate the three-story former school building to create 54 apartment units.

This will turn an obsolete building into functional use, provide jobs, draw a new target audience to Berkley, and help to increase traffic to our downtown businesses and events. The impact of this project is huge!

To learn more about downtown Berkley, visit www.downtownberkley.com.
Berkley Public Library Curbside Pickup & Delivery Service

The library building remains closed to the public. However, curbside pickup and delivery in Berkley are available on the following days:

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM

To schedule a pickup or delivery, call the library at 248-658-3440.

Dive Into Our Digital Resources at Home!
We encourage you to visit our website (www.berkleymich.org/elibrary) to access our digital resources from home. You will need your library card number as well as your PIN. Your PIN is typically 1234 or the last four digits of your phone number.

Need to Connect to the Internet?
The library's WiFi is available 24/7 outside our building. You should be able to connect from the parking lot or around the perimeter of the building.

Need a Library Card?
Head over to www.berkleymich.org/librarycard to fill out an application and we will get you registered for a card!

Need something printed?
Send your print job to libraryprinter@berkleymich.net and we'll get it printed for you and notify you when it's available.

New Resource Alert!

The Berkley Public Library now provides access to Ancestry Library Edition for Berkley cardholders. You can access Ancestry's collection of genealogy, family trees, and family history records from home with your library card and PIN.

Get started at www.berkleymich.net/elibrary.
FEBRUARY PROGRAMS

- Requires Registration at http://berkleylib.evanced.info/signup/calendar or 248-658-3440.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Virtual Adult Book Club
Monday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
We’ll be reading and discussing *The Queen’s Gambit* by Walter Tevis. This title is available for curbside pickup, Berkley delivery, on Hoopla, and on Libby/Overdrive.

Ancestry Library Edition (Zoom)
Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
Join Sarah Hatter to find out how Ancestry, one of the biggest names in genealogy, can help you find out more about your family’s history. Included in Ancestry databases are census records, vital records, immigration records, and more from all over the world.

Afternoon Book Club
Tuesday, February 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
This month’s selection is *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean. This title is available for curbside pickup or Berkley delivery.

Ancestry Library Edition (Zoom)
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Zoom—Registration required.
Join Sarah Hatter to find out how Ancestry, one of the biggest names in genealogy, can help you find out more about your family’s history. Included in Ancestry databases are census records, vital records, immigration records, and more from all over the world.

Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire (Zoom)
Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
Discover the shocking true story of the 1973 arson fire at the Up Stairs Lounge bar in New Orleans, the largest mass killing of gays in American history prior to the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting. Author Robert W. Fieseler will give a Zoom reading from his book, *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*, which creates an indelible portrait of a closeted, blue-collar gay world that flourished before an arsonist ignited an inferno. He’ll also explore how the impassioned activism that followed proved essential to the emergence of a fledgling gay movement.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Book Match-Making
Monday, February 8 through Saturday, February 13

We’ll post the top ten most checked out YA books of 2020 and some read-alike suggestions on our social media on Monday, February 8.

Comment on the post with either which one that you’ve read is your favorite or which one you haven’t read but want to read by the end of the day Saturday, February 13 for a chance to win a Clark’s Ice Cream coupon!

Anyone is welcome to comment, but only teens will be eligible to win prizes.

Valentines from BPL
Thursday, February 11 through Saturday, February 13

Stop by during our curbside hours to pick up a little bag of Valentine’s goodies from the library!
No registration required.

Baking Take-Home Kit
Thursday, February 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sign up for a bag of baking-related activities!

Mac & Cheese with Elwin & Co.
Thursday, February 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Discover the history of Mac and Cheese and make this delicious dish with local baker Elwin from Elwin & Co.! Please provide your email address when you register so we can send you the Zoom link.
YOUTH PROGRAMS

Weekly Take-Home Activities
Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Stop by each week for a new activity to try at home. Activities will vary but may include a science experiment, a craft, a game, or other activity ideas. As supplies last. No registration is required.

Weekly Online Storytime
Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m.

Tune in on our Facebook page for a story, some fingerplays and songs, and a craft. Craft materials can be picked up each Wednesday, as supplies last.

No registration is required.

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PARKS AND RECREATION
(248) 658-3470 | Email: parks@berkleymich.net | Facebook: @BerkleyParksandRec

Upcoming Events
Oakland County Parks & Recreation- Oaks on the Road
Winter Wonderland in the Park
  ● Location: Community Park
  ● Date: February 18th
  ● Time: 4:00-6:00 pm
  ● Event Details: Axe Throwing station (inflatable & NOT sharp), Two Craft Stations, Nature Center station, and Snowshoeing
    ○ There will be staggered start times.
    ○ Masks are required for all participants and please continue personal distancing during the event.

Visit www.berkley.maxgalaxy.net for registration.

Senior Activities
Virtual Chair Yoga
Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
  ● Starts February (4 Week Session)
    ○ $28 - for all four classes
    ○ $7 - for drop-in

Share the Love with Berkley Seniors!
Berkley Parks and Recreation will be collecting Valentine’s Day cards to distribute to Seniors.

Guidelines:
  ● Please do not seal the envelope.
  ● If you would like the senior to respond, please provide a return address envelope.
  ● Homemade cards are encouraged but we will accept all kinds as we would like to get them to as many seniors as possible!

Dropbox Location:
You can drop cards off at the Senior Center entrance at the Community Center by Tuesday, February 9th.

**Do you know a senior who would like to get a card?** Contact the Parks and Recreation Department to get them on the list.

Senior Transportation
Senior transportation is now running Tuesday through Friday and is still limited to doctor appointments, grocery shopping, and pharmacy trips ONLY. As a reminder, masks are still required to ride on the SMART bus.

To reserve transportation please call the office at 248-658-3470.
Due to COVID-19 and the local State of Emergency, all governing and advisory boards & commission meetings will be virtual. Additionally, the advisory boards & commissions have moved to a bi-monthly schedule. Governing boards will continue with a monthly schedule.

Visit our calendar page on the website for more details and to stay up-to-date with our boards & commissions.

FEBRUARY 01:
- 7:00 PM - City Council Meeting

FEBRUARY 02:
- 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Work Session Meeting

FEBRUARY 03:
- 7:00 PM - Citizens Engagement Advisory Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY 08:
- 7:00 PM - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

FEBRUARY 10:
- 8:30 AM - Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Meeting

FEBRUARY 11:
- 7:00 PM - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 15: City Offices Closed in Observance of President’s Day

FEBRUARY 16:
- 7:00 PM - Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY 17:
- 6:30 PM - Technology Advisory Committee Meeting
- 7:00 PM - Library Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 22:
- 4:00 PM - Public Safety Pension Board Meeting

FEBRUARY 23:
- 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting