MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Matthew Baumgarten

As the great poet Barry Manilow said, “Looks like we made it.”

2021 is here at last and we can put the previous year behind us. As I outlined in my December message, there are several projects slated for 2021 that will be a substantial investment for our quality of life in Berkley.

None of these projects could happen without the hard work and dedication of our City staff who create these opportunities. As it has always been, as well as, my continued theme for this year, our staff of public servants will continue to deliver on the promise of Berkley’s long-held motto of, “We Care.”

I hope there has been a program or service that has made life better for you in Berkley and that you’ll join me in thanking our staff who work tirelessly at Public Works, Public Safety, Community Development, the City Clerk’s Office, Berkley Public Library, Parks & Recreation, Finance & Treasury, or the Downtown Development Authority. On behalf of all of us, Happy New Year, and let us have a great 2021!
STRAIGHT FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE

The City Clerk’s Office Wishes Everyone a Happy New Year!

Be sure to check [www.berkleymich.org/clerk](http://www.berkleymich.org/clerk) to access updated COVID-19 information along with our library of forms, permits, applications, and licenses.

Licensing
The City Clerk's Office continues to waive penalties on dog licenses due to the pandemic. Dog licenses may be obtained by sending proof of vaccination, pet information, and payment through our secure dropbox (located at 3338 Coolidge Hwy.). We will then mail you your license.

If you need a dog license, please email clerk@berkleymich.net or call 248-658-3310 for more information.

A Note About Snowplow Licenses: The Clerk's Office will be rolling out a new application form for commercial snowplows. Stay tuned for the updated form on our website!

FINANCE UPDATE

Making Payments

With City Hall closed, we are continuing to encourage everyone to utilize the City Hall drop box for payments.

Payments being made through our secure dropbox can be made by check or money order, or by cash.

We ask that for all types of payments that you please place your payment and a copy of what you are paying in an envelope and place it in the dropbox located at City Hall (3338 Coolidge Hwy., Berkley MI 48072).

If you plan on paying cash we request the following:

1. Please place **the exact amount of your bill** along with the remittance copy of your bill in an envelope.
   - **A Note Regarding Our Procedure**: We will have a second employee witness the opening of the envelope to confirm its contents and then take a picture of the cash and coin in the envelope and have that for proof of what was placed in the envelope. **It is important that you pay the correct amount since we will not be able to make change for you.** As an additional protective measure, you can call the Treasurer’s Office at 248-658-3310 to confirm that you are placing cash in the dropbox so that we can look for it and acknowledge receiving it.

If you want a receipt, you can include a stamped self-addressed envelope in the envelope with your payment and remittance copy and seal the envelope. We will mail you a receipt. You may also include your email address and we will email you a receipt via email.

We will be releasing information on a new option for direct debit bank account and credit card payments online (Point & Pay) in early 2021. COVID-19 shutdowns, unfortunately, derailed our plans to release this Point and Pay option during 2020. Look for information on how to use Point and Pay in early 2021.

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

Berkley Business: Construction Updates
Construction has begun for Vibe Credit Union’s facade.

The Planning Commission also approved the parking lot redesign which includes additional landscaping and green areas on the site.

Berkley Master Plan
The development of the Master Plan continues! The Planning Commission will be having monthly work sessions to discuss a variety of topics in-depth, such as neighborhoods, transportation, green infrastructure, etc. We are on target to host a community event in February with a plan for adoption in early Fall 2021.

Have something to share with us? We have set up a voicemail box for any residents wanting to leave a message with their ideas at 248-658-3327, or email masterplan@berkleymich.net.

Learn more at www.berkleymich.org/masterplan.

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

Continuing with Holiday Tradition
The Berkley Department of Public Safety (BDPS) continued our tradition of assisting the less fortunate during the holiday season. Here are a few updates that we would like to share:

Berkley Goodfellows:
For over half a century, Berkley officers have given 100% of generous financial donations to Berkley residents in need during the holiday season.

The donations provide Berkley families, with children under the age of 18, with food, clothes, and gifts, to make their season just a little brighter.

Berkley American Legion Stanley J. Fons Post 374 “Christmas Food Basket Program for Needy Veterans”:
Once again, members of the BDPS provided food and monetary donations to help those who served our great country.
Winter Driving Tips

The chilly winter temperatures are setting in. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has provided some winter driving recommendations on what to do before you go, a vehicle safety checklist, safety tips, and what to do in an emergency so that you can keep yourself and/or your family safe this season.

Learn more at [www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips](http://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips).

**IMPORTANT DATES - HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES**

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

- 01/01 - New Year’s Day Holiday
- 01/18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 01/25 - All Staff In-Service Training

Public Safety will continue to provide 24-hour operations and support to the community.
Due to spacing constraints in the building, the office at the Department of Public Works remains closed to the public. DPW is 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.

Yard Waste Collection
The curbside leaf and bagged yard waste collection period has ended for the year. During the offseason, yard waste that is placed in paper bags may be taken to the SOCRRA facility on Coolidge at no charge.

- NOTE: An appointment may be necessary; Visit www.socrra.org to learn more.

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.

Christmas Tree Removal
DPW crews will be picking up Christmas trees after the holiday. Please make sure there are no plastic bags and all decorations, lights, stands, etc. are removed before placement at the curb.

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.

Trash Pick-up Notice
PLEASE NOTE: Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1 are both holidays for the City’s refuse and recycling contractor (Tringali). As a result, Friday pick up both weeks will be delayed by one day to Saturday. There is no change to the Tuesday pick up.

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.
21 Days of Berkley!

Shop and dine in Downtown Berkley this month and you'll earn Downtown Berkley Bucks. You can find more information here: www.downtownberkley.com/21-days-of-berkley.

**How does this promotion work?**

1. From January 4 to January 24, shop or dine at participating downtown businesses.
2. Submit receipts and your mailing address to marketing@downtownberkley.com by January 25 to get your Downtown Berkley Bucks.
3. Spend your Downtown Berkley Bucks at participating businesses by February 28.

**Winter Wonderland in Downtown Berkley**

Until January 18, come walk the streets of Downtown Berkley to see all the “winter wonderland” themed window displays. You can also vote for your favorite.

Check out the Facebook album for official voting rules: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=DowntownBerkley&set=a.10158887917088774.

**Downtown Winter Scavenger Hunt**

Our winter-themed scavenger hunt is a socially-distant fun holiday hunt that will allow you to explore our downtown on your own terms. Running until February 1, the first 3 individuals to successfully complete the hunt will receive $50 in Downtown Berkley Bucks.

**Virtual Mainstreet**

Downtown Berkley has a virtual main street. Shop select stores from the convenience of your home: shopyourmainstreet.com/oakland_county/berkley.
2021 Berkley-U Series
Berkley Area Chamber will begin its first Berkley-U Series of the year:

**Under Pressure: How to Identify and Manage Stress**
- Learn the signs of stress and burnout
- Identify effective coping strategies
- Practice stress management techniques that can be applied when overly stressed

This free virtual webinar is open to all and takes place on Friday, January 29, 2021, with networking at 8 am and the program beginning promptly at 8:30 am. Zoom link will be sent once registered. Register at [www.berkleychamber.com](http://www.berkleychamber.com).

The presenter of the program is Jason Kisser, Ph.D., a licensed clinical psychologist at Beaumont Hospital, working at both the Dearborn and Taylor locations. He specializes in neuropsychology and cognitive assessment for individuals with cognitive, behavioral, and psychological issues related to neurological illness and injury. He also treats patients through a value-driven psychotherapy practice for individuals with mood and behavioral adjustment difficulties.

He completed his doctoral degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and with a postdoctoral residency at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

This webinar is sponsored by Beaumont Health.

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**BERKLEY HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

**Did You Know?**
The holiday season is the busiest time of year for the Berkley Post Office. This December the lines extended outside of the building because of the need to keep a safe distance from each other.

Did you know that the post office opened its Berkley branch on December 6, 1948? In the picture that appeared in the paper right after it opened you can see that the door used to be facing 12 Mile. The entrance was moved decades later to the Wakefield side of the building.

Before this location was built, the post office was first housed in buildings located at 2494 Coolidge, then 3354 12 Mile, and then back to 2494 Coolidge. The first customer at the post office on December 6th was Mrs. Robert Pierce who lived on Sunnyknoll. She earned her place in history.
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](http://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 a Library Card?

Head over to [www.berkleymich.org/librarycard](http://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.

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.
JANUARY PROGRAMS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

**An Introduction to Mindfulness Meditation**
Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
Most people tend to live their lives with a wandering mind, worried or consumed by past or future events. This introduction to meditation tries to open up a world of the present moment, the most important time of our lives. We will start with a short introduction followed by a 30 minute guided, sitting meditation, then close the session with questions, answers, and interesting experiences. Session led by Greg Sherburn.

**Afternoon Book Club**
Tuesday, January 12 at 12:30 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
This month’s selection is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. This title is available for curbside pickup or Berkley delivery.

TEEN PROGRAMS

**Snow Day Take-Home Kits**
Thursday, January 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sign up for a bag full of snow-themed activities for some at-home winter fun! Kit pickup will be from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**LEGO Build Challenge**
Friday, January 22 deadline

Get creative and build a masterpiece out of Legos—the only rule is that it has to be your own design, not a pre-packaged kit. (If you don’t have Legos, you can still participate, just build out of something else—clay, K’nex, tinker toys, sticks, rocks, whatever you want to build with.) Send a picture of your creation to youth@berkleymich.net by Friday, January 22 and we’ll post them the following week.
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. On January 18 & 25, the library will be closed, but the activity will be available on Tuesday instead.

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.

Snow Day Take-Home Kits
Thursday, January 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sign up for a bag full of snow-themed activities for some at-home winter fun!

Kit pickup will be from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Book Club
Saturday, January 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Zoom—Registration required.
Join us for a discussion of The Science of Breakable Things by Tae Keller. The book is available from Overdrive/Libby and in print from the library via curbside pickup.

LEGO Build Challenge

Friday, January 22 deadline

Get creative and build a masterpiece out of Legos--the only rule is that it has to be your own design, not a pre-packaged kit. (If you don’t have Legos, you can still participate, just build out of something else--blocks, K’nex, tinker toys, Duplos, sticks, rocks, whatever you want to build with.)

Send a picture of your creation to youth@berkleymich.net by Friday, January 22 and we’ll post them the following week so you can see what other kids built!
PARKS AND RECREATION
(248) 658-3470 | Email: parks@berkleymich.net | Facebook: @BerkleyParksandRec

Adoption of the Five Year Recreation Master Plan!

The adoption of the Five Year Recreation Master Plan was slated for the City Council meeting on December 21, 2020.

We are happy to announce it was approved by City Council! Residents wanting to learn more can head to www.berkleymich.org/2020recmasterplan.

January Scavenger Hunt
Do you like solving riddles and puzzles? This self-led scavenger hunt throughout Berkley Parks will begin on January 8th. Sign up and details will be available soon! Visit www.berkley.maxgalaxy.net

Senior Activities
Virtual Chair Yoga
Mondays, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
● Starts January 4 (4 Weeks Long)
  ○ $28 - for all four weeks
  ○ $7 - for drop-in

Senior Transportation
Until further notice, senior transportation will only be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Transportation will also be limited to grocery shopping or doctor appointments 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 will be moving 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.

JANUARY 01: City Offices Closed in Observance of New Year's Day

JANUARY 04:

  ● 7:00 PM - City Council Meeting

JANUARY 05:

  ● 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Work Session Meeting

JANUARY 11:

  ● 7:00 PM - Tree Board Meeting
  
  ● 7:00 PM - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting - CANCELLED

JANUARY 12:

  ● 7:00 PM - Historical Committee Meeting - CANCELLED

JANUARY 13:

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

JANUARY 18: City Offices Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JANUARY 21:

  ● 6:30 PM - Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

JANUARY 25: City Offices Closed for In-Service Training Day

JANUARY 26:

  ● 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting