MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER
Matthew Baumgarten

Hello, Berkley community,
I get to open this month’s newsletter with something that is not a surprise at all: Berkley School District is awesome! I realize that word gets thrown around a lot in our modern parlance but I am talking about Webster’s Dictionary definition of awesome which uses the words like “extremely impressive” and “inspiring great admiration.”

That may seem purely like a parent who is just happy the school year is starting (which I am and I definitely am) but it is more than that.

The district was kind enough to invite City administration to their opening day event at the end of August. There, we got to meet the dedicated teachers and staff who will make sure the children of Berkley, Huntington Woods, and Oak Park who attend our district schools have the best experience possible. While there, I had the chance to hear new Superintendent Scott Francis deliver his first welcome back speech and it was inspiring. As a longtime member of the district even before stepping into this new role, you could hear his respect for the district’s history, his peers, and his immediate predecessor, Dennis McDavid. His excitement and humor were contagious.

Over the past year or so, the City, Downtown Development Authority (DDA), and the School District have been partnering to create a public plaza on Coolidge. This month, we are seeing construction begin and the new space starting to take shape. School administration, specifically the great Larry Gallagher, has been leading the planning and development team. This space will be open to all and will grow into a hub of activity with seating, art displays, and the occasional food truck. The school has graciously dedicated this land to the betterment of our entire community and I could not be more proud to see the City and DDA join them as partners on making a lasting improvement to Berkley.

Working and living in our community, I have the pleasure of being doubly impressed by both the teachers and principals who instruct our children as well as by the district administration that partner closely with the City officials on special projects. They certainly inspire great admiration.

Here’s to a great school year and keep being awesome.
STRAIGHT FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE
(248) 658-3310 | Email: clerk@berkleymich.net | Monday - Friday (8: 30 AM - 5:00 PM, closed for lunch from 1-2 PM)

Election Season is Here!

Absentee ballot applications for the November 2, 2021, General Election were mailed to residents on the permanent list.

If you did not receive an application and/or would like to, please contact the Clerk’s Office at clerk@Berkleymich.net or call 248-658-3310. You may also visit www.berkleymich.org/vote.

Ballots will be sent out at the end of September.

As a reminder, for this General Election, voters will choose one mayor and three city council members.

Additional questions? Email clerk@berkleymich.net or call 248-658-3310.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
(248) 658-3310 | Email: building@berkleymich.net | Monday - Friday (8: 30 AM - 5:00 PM, closed for lunch from 1-2 PM)

Master Plan Update
City staff were at CruiseFest showcasing the draft Master Plan! If you didn’t make it to our booth, you can still view the draft Plan on the City website. Hard copies are also available for viewing at City Hall, Parks and Recreation, Senior Center, Public Safety, Public Works, and the Library.

Comments are welcomed and encouraged until September 23, 2021.

Feel free to submit a comment at any city facility or you can email masterplan@berkleymich.net.

Learn more at www.berkleymich.org/masterplan.

Tis The Season for Construction

The Community Development Team is working hard.

There are a lot of different construction projects happening throughout the City, which is refreshing to see. We are busy behind the scenes meeting with potential developers and processing the necessary paperwork to keep these projects on track.

As we mentioned last month, the Aqua Tots development is moving forward. The scheduled demolition should begin in early September.
**FINANCE UPDATE**

(248) 658-3310 | Email: treasury@berkleymich.net | Monday - Friday (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, closed for lunch from 1-2 PM)

Sidewalk Replacement Program Invoicing
The sidewalk replacement program continues and invoices will be mailed out after the program ends for those who had sidewalk(s) replaced on their property.

Anyone selling their home will need to pay the sidewalk invoice prior to selling their property, or work out arrangements with the Finance Department.

More information is available on the Berkley website at www.berkleymich.org/citysidewalks.

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**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA)**

Mike McGuinness, Interim Executive Director
www.downtownberkley.com
3338 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley, MI 48072
director@downtownberkley.com
248-658-3353

Downtown Berkley Receives National Recognition
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Downtown Berkley met the challenging performance standards required to receive national accreditation from Main Street America. This annual accreditation process recognizes a community’s exceptional commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach. Each community is evaluated in 10 categories where they must meet or exceed the requirements.

Mural Excitement
During the Berkley Street Art Fest, the mural on the rear of Folio Offices was expanded. Another mural will soon enhance the facade at Amici’s Kitchen & Living Room, which will be painted by local artist and DDA Design Committee Chair, Ash Guzman. Additionally, the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) is partnering with Berkley to create an epic installation at North Robina and Twelve Mile by artist Michael Polakowski. To learn more about the Berkley DDA Mural Program, including how businesses or artists can apply, visit our website with the application here: www.downtownberkley.com/berkley-mural-program.

Downtown Berkley Mural Bike Ride
MoGo has just launched a Downtown Berkley Mural Bike Ride that you can pursue at no cost, on your time frame, with your own bicycles, and at your leisure. Explore the public art throughout our downtown on this 3.6 mile round-trip bike ride. Check out the Downtown Berkley Mural Bike Ride today: https://www.totago.co/app/trip/85028.

Welcoming New Downtown Businesses
We had a blast joining Pinspiration Berkley for their Grand Opening celebration during the Berkley Street Art Fest. The next upcoming Ribbon Cutting for a new downtown Berkley business is on Sunday, September 19th at 3:00 pm: Amora Luxe Hair Restoration Center at 2550 Twelve Mile Road. Please help welcome this business to our dynamic downtown.
Berkley Art Bash Turns 12 Mile into an Art Filled Street Party

Check out hip handmade wares from over 90 artists and makers on Saturday, September 11 from 10 am to 6 pm.

This year’s Berkley Art Bash (the 19th one!) will be spread out on 12 Mile Rd. between Coolidge Hwy. and Buckingham Ave., allowing for plenty of social distancing fun!

This is a family friendly event complete with a kid zone area brought to you by Vibe Credit Union and Pinspiration. At the Chamber booth, children can pick up a craft kit to make at the festival or take it home. Children will also want to stop by the Pinspiration booth as they have some fun planned!

For more information visit www.berkleyartbash.com or email roseann@berkleychamber.com.

Want to Volunteer?
We are looking for volunteers to help set up (directing artists) and tear down (opening and closing barricades). Please visit www.berkleychamber.com to sign up if interested in volunteering.

HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 (LABOR DAY)

City offices will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2020, for Labor Day.

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Public Safety will continue to provide 24-hour operations and support to the community.
Construction Update
Several major construction projects have started around the City. For more details and the most current updates, please visit the City web page dedicated to these projects: www.berkleymich.org/constructionprojects.

Chipper Service Reminder
The branch chipper service runs once a month starting the 3rd Monday of each month, and it often takes a full week to complete. 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 can continue to contact DPW at 248-658-3490.

Yard Waste Collection
Yard waste collection information, including the full schedule, is posted on the City’s website here: www.berkleymich.org/yardwaste.

Friendly reminder: Free pickup of yard bags or labeled cans (50 lbs. limit) runs through November 26, 2021.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING PICK-UP REMINDER: Monday, September 6 is a holiday for the City’s refuse and recycling contractor (Tringali). Pick up that week will be delayed by one day (Tuesday moves to Wednesday and Friday moves to Saturday).

Grass Clippings Reminder
As a reminder, please do not blow or place yard clippings in the street. The grass clippings can negatively impact the sewer system and create a hazard for motorcyclists.

Curbside Leaf Pick Up
Curbside leaf pick up begins October 18, 2021.

Trash Bins
96 gallon trash toters can be purchased 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.

Questions?
Please refer to the City website at www.berkleymich.org/dpw or call the Berkley DPW at 248-658-3490.
Berkley Public Library Expanded Hours

Starting on September 7, the library's hours will be expanded back to its previous full hours before COVID:

- Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Afternoon Book Club ⚫
Tuesday, September 14 at 12:30 p.m.
Zoom—Registration required.
Olive, Again by Elizabeth Strout

TEEN PROGRAMS

Comic Book Magnets ⚫
During the week of September 20, sign up for a kit with everything you need to make magnets out of comic book art and add some flair to your locker! Kits can be picked up Monday through Saturday during our open hours, 9/20-9/25.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Outdoor Storytime
Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. at Jaycee Park (9/14, 9/21, 9/28)
Join us for stories, songs, and rhymes! Jaycee Park is located at Bacon and Webster. We'll meet under the pavilion. Registration is not required.

Fairy Door Kit ⚫
During the week of September 20, sign up for a fun craft kit to make your very own fairy door from Pinspiration, a new art and craft studio in Berkley! Kits can be picked up Monday through Saturday during our open hours, 9/20-9/25.

Zoom Book Club ⚫
Saturday, September 25 at 3:30 p.m.
Zoom—Registration required.
We'll be discussing Eventown by Corey Ann Haydu. This book is available in print from the library and as an ebook from Hoopla. Sign up to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.
2021 Lids for Kids AND Fire Open House
Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Berkley Department of Public Safety was forced to postpone our 2021 Lids for Kids that was scheduled for June.

We are pleased to announce a save the date for the first (and hopefully only) combined Lids for Kids and Fire Open House. Yes, we are combining our two popular events into one.

Please join us at the Berkley Department of Public Safety (BDPS) Station on Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 10 AM to 2 PM.

You can follow us on our Facebook page @BerkleyDPS for updates. We hope to see you there!

TREE BOARD UPDATE

2021 DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Award

The City of Berkley was among 26 Michigan communities to win a tree-planting grant from the DTE Energy Foundation. The application was prepared jointly by the Tree Board and DPW. The City was awarded $4,000, the maximum amount.

The grant will allow for the additional trees during our annual Fall Tree Planting Program. More residents will benefit from being able to plant a tree in their easement at no cost to them. A primary benefit, especially for our City, is the reduction in stormwater runoff that this will provide.

DPW will determine the appropriate species and location of the trees to be planted, taking into consideration factors such as, various utilities present and size of the easement.
Splash Pad at Oxford Park Update
The last day to visit the splash pad at Oxford Park for the 2021 season is on Sunday, September 12. The splash pad will reopen around Memorial Day 2022.

What a Great Summer!
As we head into the Fall season of programs and events, we are very thankful for all of the smiles, splashes, and joyful energy Summer of 2021 has given us. We look forward to updating the community with more updates soon.

Check out our newest online registration portal, RecPro!
The Department has updated its online program registration platform due to the old platform (MaxGalaxy) being discontinued. This new service update will start September 1, 2021. To learn how to set up your account, please visit the Parks & Recreation webpage here: www.berkleymich.org/departments/parks_and_recreation

SEPTEMBER PROGRAMS

**SENIOR PROGRAMS**
- Chair Yoga- virtual and in person
  - **Stay tuned for the Senior newsletter with upcoming trips and lunch outings beginning in October.**

**ADULT PROGRAMS**
- Dog Obedience- AKC Star Puppy, Intro, Intermediate, and Therapy Dog
- PhYo
- Sanchin Ryu Karate for Adults & Teens
- Yoga Blend
- Tai Chi- Beginner & Adult

**YOUTH PROGRAMS**
- Sanchin Ryu Karate for Kids- Grades K-8
- Sanchin Ryu Karate for Families
- Outdoor Lacrosse
- Mini Hawks Multi-Sport
- Skyhawks Soccer
- Tennis: PeeWee, Youth, Adult & Teen

To register for programs, visit recreation.berkleymich.org

mParks “Move So Everyone Can” Virtual 5K
The mParks Foundation is hosting a Virtual 5K (3.1 miles) in the month of September to raise funds for local recreation and park opportunities. You can run, walk, skateboard, stand up paddleboard (SUP), bike, surf or swim a 5K anytime during the month of September. Half of the registration fees are sent back to our community plus all donations will go toward picnic tables throughout our City parks.

To learn more, visit the City webpage here: berkleymich.org/mParkvirtualrace
Happy Birthday to Our Angell!
Angell Elementary School is 100 years old this year.

It is now the oldest school in Oakland County and is still providing an excellent education for our youth. The James B. Angell Elementary School is also older than Berkley itself. Berkley was originally part of the Royal Oak Township School District No. 7 and Berkley students first attended school in this area in 1840. Angell was completed in 1921 and by 1924 additions were already being added.

The Berkley Historical Museum is working with the school in planning a couple of ways to celebrate this anniversary. We hope you will be as excited about this as we are.

Learn more about the Historical Museum at www.berkleymich.org/museum.
BOARDS & COMMISSIONS SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Advisory Boards & Commissions have moved to a bi-monthly schedule, and meet in person. Governing boards will continue with a monthly schedule.

- Note: All governing boards meetings will be in person; however, the City of Berkley offers a hybrid option for residents to attend meetings virtually.

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

SEPTEMBER 06:
- City Offices Closed for Labor Day*
  *Trash Collection Delayed by One Day All Week

SEPTEMBER 08:
- 8:30 AM - Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Meeting

SEPTEMBER 11:
- Berkley Art Bash

SEPTEMBER 13:
- 7:00 PM - Tree Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 14:
- 7:00 PM - Historical Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER 16:
- 6:30 PM - Environmental Advisory Committee

SEPTEMBER 20:
- 4:00 PM - Public Safety Pension Board Meeting
- 7:00 PM - City Council Meeting

SEPTEMBER 22:
- 6:30 PM - Beautification Advisory Commission Meeting

SEPTEMBER 25:
- Lids 4 Kids & Fire Open House

SEPTEMBER 28:
- 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting