



CITY OF BERKLEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023 | www.berkleymich.org | (248) 658-3300 | Facebook: [@CityofBerkley](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBerkley)



MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Matthew Baumgarten

Welcome to April, Berkley!

While April showers bring May flowers, April is truly the transition period between the cold, brittle, dark winter and the warm, bright, beautiful springtime.

Many of us look forward to the spring when we don't have to wear a coat outside or keep up with our gloves to tackle the snow. April is especially interesting because we are wearing fewer layers than in previous months but we are still looking forward to brighter days.

As we are transitioning to warmer weather and better times, our community is also transitioning through election law changes at the State level and a vote to change the city millage rate to maintain our city services. Despite the changes that we all may be feeling during this period, I want to remind everyone we are still a strong community that can hold our own weight, and that we are all in this together. Many residents have questions and concerns and my team is more than happy to explain the Headlee Override millage or the voting process. For those who are voting for the first time or the 100th time, accessibility to voting absentee has been enhanced and our City Clerk's Office is available to walk each of you through this process. For all Berkley residents including myself, understanding the impacts to Headlee and Proposal A may be a new and daunting topic and I am focused on ensuring we as the city are fully transparent about what this tax increase means for everyone and how the funds will be utilized pending the possible changes after the May election. I want all members of our community to be well-informed of what they are voting for on May 2nd.

With this, please do not be afraid to ask questions to gain more clarity when faced with issues that you may not be familiar with. We are asking our residents for a reinvestment in the city funds that Berkley has lost over the past decade-plus due to the State's Headlee Amendment (1978) and Proposal A (1994). This millage, if passed, would increase the city's millage rate to 3.4581 mills for our operating and police/fire (public safety) fund. This increase would mean each home paying more in property taxes but it would also mean more funding that would be directly invested back into our community services.

As an administration we cannot advocate for a specific outcome, however, we want voters to make a well-informed and educated decision that best suits themselves and their families. We will continue to maintain an open dialogue with you and our community members who have questions or concerns about this potential change. If you see outside information that you are unsure of please let us know so that we can give you credible and accurately sourced information. Again, our city staff, city council, and community are a team and despite all of the changes we are undergoing as a region, state, and nation, we still can rely on each other to remain Berkley strong. Whatever the outcome, we as an administration will embrace the change and continuously work to make Berkley the best place to live, work, and play.

– Matt Baumgarten

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)



2023 Elections ... #BerkleyVotes

The City of Berkley will be holding a special election on **May 2, 2023**. To learn more about what's on the ballot in May, please visit www.berkleymich.org/millage.

Anyone interested in becoming an election worker is invited to contact the City Clerk's Office via email at clerk@berkleymich.net, calling 248-658-3310, or stopping by City Hall during regular business hours.

- Registered voters in the State of Michigan are urged to apply along with students 16 and older.

Absentee ballots for the Special Election were mailed at the end of March. If you did not receive an absentee ballot or would like one, please contact the Clerk's Office. All voting precincts will be open on election day from 7 am to 8 pm on May 2nd.

New for the May 2 Special Election

With the passage of Proposal 22-2, return postage will be applied to outgoing election mail. Save your stamp if you are planning on mailing it in this election. Also, election mail can always be placed in our secure, 24-7 drop box at the entrance of City Hall.

For all election-related needs contact the Clerk's Office by calling 248-658-3310 or via email at clerk@berkleymich.net.

Learn more about voting in Berkley at www.berkleymich.org/vote.

BERKLEY'S HEADLEE OVERRIDE MILLAGE

Due to Michigan's state laws, specifically, Headlee and Proposal A, Berkley has lost the ability to levy 3.4581 of those mills over the past decade. The city has reached the point where we can no longer maintain service amenities with the current funding structure.

It is estimated that if the voters were to approve the Headlee Override at 3.4581 mills, it would raise approximately \$2.5 million within the first year for Berkley. This millage is to restore and specifically set up for the city's general operating fund. The general operating fund is what finances all of our departments, capital investments, and infrastructure.

If voters approve the Headlee Override millage, residents will see this on their Summer 2023 taxes. The tax dollars levied by restoring the millage will aid in continuing the full package of services residents experience now and the development of capital and infrastructure projects that have been delayed.

We want you to be able to see how this will individually impact you. Thus, we have developed a tax calculator using the latest tax assessments (provided by Oakland County).

Learn more at www.berkleymich.org/millage.

An advertisement for the Berkley Millage Calculator. It features a dark background with a blurred image of a person's hands. The text 'See how this directly impacts you.' is in orange. Below it, 'BERKLEY MILLAGE CALCULATOR' is written in large white letters. At the bottom, there is a white button with a right-pointing arrow and the URL 'www.berkleymich.org/millagecalculator'.

PARKS AND RECREATION

(248) 658-3470 | Email: parks@berkleymich.net | Facebook: [@BerkleyParksandRec](https://www.facebook.com/BerkleyParksandRec)



April Programs

Youth Programs:

- Drop in Play
- Crafts with Samantha
- Grandparent & Me Crafts
- Parent-Tot Playgroup
- Sanchin Ryu Karate
- Jump-A-Rama Gymnastics
- Tumble Tots

Adult Programs:

- Sanchin Ryu Karate
- Beginner Tai Chi
- PiYo
- Zumba, 5/1
- Yoga in the Park, 5/6

Spring Tennis:

- Youth tennis
- Adult tennis and pickleball

Senior Programs:

- Senior Fitness
 - Date: Tuesdays and Fridays - ongoing
 - Time: 9:30-10:30 am
 - Cost: \$2 per class, drop-in

Senior Trip:

- Honky Tonk Angels at Meadowbrook Theatre
 - Date: Wednesday, May 17
- Hollywood Casino
 - Date: Wednesday, May 31

Senior Event:

- A Hoppin Good Time BINGO
 - Location: The Community Center
 - Date: Tuesday, April 4th
 - Time: 12:30 pm
 - Cost: \$10 (Lunch provided)

For more information on all programs and to register, please visit recreation.berkleymich.org



Jaycee Park Update

The new playground installation at Jaycee Park is expected to begin in mid-May.

We are very excited about this project and we will continue to make updates regarding the process as they become available.

Those interested in learning more about the project visit www.berkleymich.org/inclusiveplay.



Summer Camp & Specialty Camp

For more information on Parks & Recreations summer/specialty camp schedules, pricing, and to register, please visit: recreation.berkleymich.org

#EVENTALERT Fam Jam Night Dance

Join us for our **FIRST-EVER** Family Jam Night Dance at the Community Center (2400 Robina) on Friday, April 28, 2023!

Featuring music by Miss Paula and the Candy Bandits. There will be face painting, dancing, and refreshments.

Registration is required.

- Date: Friday, April 28th
- Time: 6:00-7:30 pm
- Cost: \$5 per child (preschool - 5th grade)
- *Band will perform 6:30-7:30 pm*



FINANCE UPDATE

(248) 658-3340 | Email: treasury@berkleymich.net | Monday - Friday (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, closed for lunch from 1-2 PM)

Budget Season Is In Full Swing!

City staff has been working diligently on the City's July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, Fiscal Year Budget.

Our Finance team is currently reviewing each department's items to anticipate potential adjustments, cuts, and/or deferrals based on the projected revenues.

Once we have that data (provided to us by Oakland County and the March Board of Review), we will work on the next phase of the budget process.

The City Council will review and approve the budget in May.

Learn more at www.berkleymich.org/budget



PUBLIC WORKS SEASONAL REMINDERS

(248) 658-3490 | Email: publicworks@berklemich.net | Hours: Monday - Friday (7 AM - 3:30 PM)



Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste and compost pick up **BEGINS THIS MONTH** (April). This service includes **FREE** pick up of paper bags or cans **ONLY**. There is a 50-pound limit, and cans must be identified as containing 'yard waste'.

This does include branches **UNDER** 4 feet in length and **UNDER** 2 inches in diameter. Pick-up will occur on your regularly scheduled trash day. Learn more at www.berklemich.org/yardwaste.

Chipper Service

Public Works provides a monthly chipper route service that typically takes about a week to complete (weather permitting). **The chipper service is for branches over 4' in length and over 2" in diameter.** Residents should continue to contact the DPW if chipper service is needed at 248-658-3490. You can also sign up by filling out the [CHIPPER ROUTE FORM](#). Please note, it often takes a full week to get through the entire City.

Learn more at www.berklemich.org/chipper.

Chipper Route Service

This service is for branches specifically **OVER 4 feet** in length and **OVER 2 inches** in diameter.

HOW TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT SIZE BRANCHES

4 feet is equivalent to the height of your front door from the door handle to the floor OR about half the height of a Berkley garage.

2 inches is equivalent to the diameter of a glass door knob found in most Berkley homes OR the top of a soda can.

BERKLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Darlene Rothman, Executive Director
www.berkleychamber.com
PO Box 72-1253
Berkley, MI 48072
darlene@berkleychamber.com
(248) 414-9157

Get Your Berk Perk Discount Card Today!

The Chamber has a new Berk Perk discount card available for purchase at local chamber member businesses including Berkley City Hall and Berkley Public Library!

Cardholders are able to take advantage of exclusive discounts from their favorite spots around town using a QR code.

The cards are only \$30 and cardholders will be able to use the perks without limit through December 31, 2023. In addition, school groups and nonprofit organizations can sell these cards as a new fundraising avenue opportunity.

Visit www.berkleychamber.com for a list of discounts, locations where cards are available to purchase, and more information about fundraising opportunities!

A promotional graphic for the 2023 Berk Perk discount card. The card itself is white with a purple border and features the "berk perk" logo in purple and green, with "BERKLEY AREA CHAMBER" and "DISCOUNT CARD" below it. A purple starburst in the top right corner says "\$30 EACH". Below the card, the text reads "RECEIVE DISCOUNTS AT PARTICIPATING BERKLEY CHAMBER BUSINESSES!". At the bottom, there is a QR code, the text "Scan to view discounts from Woodward Corner Market & many more!", the Meijer logo, and "WOODWARD CORNER MARKET". The website "BERKLEYCHAMBER.COM" is at the very bottom.

2023
berk perk
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meijer
WOODWARD CORNER
MARKET

BERKLEYCHAMBER.COM

HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES



City Offices will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023, in observance of Good Friday.

As a result, most City departments will not be open.

Public Safety will continue to provide 24-hour operations and support to the community.

BERKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

(248) 658-3440 | www.berkley.lib.mi.us | Facebook: [@BerkleyPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BerkleyPublicLibrary)



EV Charges At The Library

Next time you visit the library, you'll see new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations available for use.

They are to the right as you pull into the library parking lot from Coolidge. There are four dedicated parking spots for EVs to charge

Get your car charging then visit the library or any of our wonderful businesses or restaurants within walking distance to the library!

Featured Library Service

If you need to send a print job to the library remotely, you can attach what you want to print to an email and send it to libraryprinter@berkleymich.net.

Stop by the adult reference desk and talk to the librarian to release the print job. We'll ring it up for you and release the print job.

MOBILE PRINTING UPDATE

Send mobile print jobs to
libraryprinter@berkleymich.net

See librarian to get your prints

A graphic with a teal background. It features a yellow speech bubble with the text "MOBILE PRINTING UPDATE" and a white printer icon. Below it is an orange speech bubble with the text "Send mobile print jobs to libraryprinter@berkleymich.net" and "See librarian to get your prints". A yellow megaphone icon is also present.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS APRIL MEETINGS

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

APRIL 3:

- 7:00 PM - City Council

APRIL 4:

- 7:00 PM - Millage Public Information Session @ City Hall (3338 Coolidge Hwy.)

APRIL 7: City Offices Closed in observance of Good Friday

APRIL 10:

- 7:00 PM - Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting

APRIL 11:

- 7:00 PM - Historical Committee Meeting

APRIL 12:

- 8:30 AM - Downtown Development Authority Meeting
- 7:00 PM - Millage Public Information Session @ City Hall (3338 Coolidge Hwy.)

APRIL 13:

- 6:30 PM - Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting - **CANCELLED**

APRIL 17:

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

APRIL 19:

- 7:00 PM - Library Board Meeting

APRIL 19:

- 6:30 PM - Environmental Advisory Board Meeting

APRIL 24:

- 7:00 PM - Tree Board Meeting

APRIL 25:

- 7:00 PM - Planning Commission Meeting

APRIL 26:

- 6:30 PM - Beautification Advisory Board Meeting